

Feather River Rail Society

Preserving "The Feather River Route"

The FRRS, a tax exempt public benefit California Corporation, is the HISTORICAL SOCIETY for the WESTERN PACIFIC RAILROAD and operates the PORTOLA RAILROAD MUSEUM in Portola, Calif.

Formed in February, 1983 with the purpose of preserving railroad history in general and Western Pacific Railroad history in particular. With 22 locomotives, 7 cabooses and over 45 different types of equipment at the Portola Museum the FRRS is a outstanding society. Steam service is provided by the Feather River Short Line Railroad.

The WP LIVES in Portola.....

Single membership dues are \$15.00 per calendar year, and Life memberships are \$300.00

Our Mailing address is.....

FRRS POST OFFICE BOX 8 PORTOLA CALIF 96122

Our information phone number is.....

916-832-4131 or call 916-832-4737

"THE TRAIN SHEET" is edited by John J Ryczkowski and assisted by Mary S Ryczkowski.

Articles/Info please write, The TRAIN SHEET Post Office Box 1663, Sparks, Nevada 89432

The Feather River Rail Society is not supported by, nor affiliated in any way, with the Western Pacific Railroad.....

FRRS tax ID number is 68-0002774



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THE TRAIN SHEET

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From the PRESIDENT'S DESK

Norman Holmes

As we enter our third season some of you may wonder as to the direction the museum is heading regarding equipment acquisitions. With the arrival of the Alaska F7 units and now a Long Island FA, and a Milw. U25B it look like we are abandoning the WP. Not so. Our primary focus is still on WP and will continue to be on the WP. The group purchase of 805A for the museum represents the last major piece of WP equipment still available. WP's U23B's, GP35's, and GP40's probably will not be accessible to us because the railroad does not own them. They are/were owned by leasing companies who probably wouldn't be interested in donating. We have most of the WP freight cars we need and there are very few WP passenger cars

left, although some of these would be nice to have.

Regarding "foreign" locomotives, to continue old and create new interest in the museum we now have been acquiring a few locomotives that are of a type no longer in existence on western roads. These can be painted to represent western railroads. The museum is evolving into one of the largest collection of first and early second generation diesel power in the nation. If we had started 30 years ago we would have steam engines. As it is we are fortunate to have one steam engine in the museum. Steamers that have escaped the scrappers torch are, for the most part, unavailable. Either they are rusting away in parks or are in the hands

of operating groups. Efforts on our part to acquire another steam engine for our museum were met with; "It's ours and even if it rots, it's going to stay here." So it looks like our destiny is to become one of, if not the, outstanding diesel locomotive museum in the country.

Equipment notes

The Western Nebraska Technical College has donated a former Milwaukee U25B to our museum. Our Society has purchased a former L&N Alco FA from the Long Island Railroad for a very reasonable price. Details regarding these newest additions to our collection will be printed in the next Train Sheet.

So much has been done recently that it is hard to keep track (no

pun intended). Besides the work weekend reported elsewhere, John Marvin hooked up two much-needed toilets, Ken Roller extended track seven so parking space is now available for the Burro crane. Hap Manitt, Jim Ley, and Norm Holmes relocated a large amount of misc. parts etc. to a box car and, yes, several loads of junk to the dump. Doug Jensen and Steve Milward worked on the shower car, lounge car, business car, and diner in preparation for the work weekend. Also assisting in various activities were John Walker, Dean Hill, Ken Roller, Mat Parker, Gary Cousins, and possibly others. If we missed your name, we're sorry, and thanks for your efforts.

Roger Hepkema did engineering work on the turnout location for the rip track switch and is doing an updated layout for our entire property.

OUR MEMBERSHIP

We are sorry to report that nearly 20% of our membership have not renewed for 1987 (about 180 members). A final note will be sent out to try to encourage their continued membership. This dropout percentage is a little high, but not unusual. Most organizations and publications have a certain percentage of non-renewals.

But we got over 200 NEW members, so it seems that our membership is stable at just under 700 members.

We cannot be all things to all people, but we try to do the best we can. We hope that all of our members will share our enthusiasm in our endeavor to preserve the FEATHER RIVER ROUTE.

Additional life members:
 Andy Carlson
 R.G. vonPrittwitz
 Ruedi Muller
 Robert Haynes
 Errol Spangler

"WORK WEEKEND ONE"

Doug Jensen

Work Weekend One, simply stated, was a great success. 44 people showed up and earnestly put in a lot of sweat and labor. In 2 days we accomplished what would normally seem to take a year and it felt so good....

Jobs accomplished; Several people volunteered to go with Norm to Maybe with trucks and load ties that the UP had donated to us.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Our second annual Feather River Rail Festival (Railfan's Day) will be held July 11 at the museum.

This all day photo session will give people an opportunity to take pictures of our equipment and operations. We had 250 people in attendance last year and this year promises to be even better!

The Festival is a fund raising event (last years profits went towards construction of the new sidewalk on the SE entrance to the museum), thus the museum will be closed to the general public. Entrance to the festivities will be \$5.00 in advance or \$7.00 at the gate. The operating crews will earn free passes for the day otherwise all will be asked to pay the entrance fee.

There are plenty of positions open on the operating crews; we need tour guides, car monitors, gate people, security, snack bar, and gift shop volunteers as well as train crews. There is a sign-up sheet in the museum, or contact me: John S. Walker, 1130 Galaxy Dr., Yuba City, Ca., 95991.

Make plans to join us that day, there will be plenty of great photo prospects, train rides, movies, slide shows, a raffle, and a night photo session.

Approximately 420 ties were loaded and moved to the museum with one small casualty. Doug Peterson from Lodi broke a finger when he got it caught between two ties. He was more upset that he couldn't do any work at the museum than about his finger.

Wayne Monger and John Walker painted "RAILROAD MUSEUM" in big, bold black letters on the hiway side of the diesel shop and it's already attracted people to the museum.

Dave McClain, Brian Challender, Renee McComb, Dave Waters, Ski, and Doug Jensen steam cleaned the 921, 1506, 1508, and 1517, and they look much better for it. Rose Hersted cleaned the cabs and windows of many of the locomotives. Steve Habeck attacked the "silver" caboose and cleaned it from vestibule to vestibule including the toilet system.

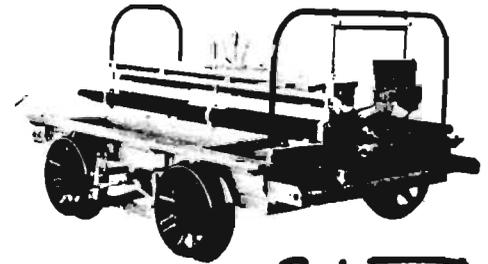
Gary Cousins took the lead and with the help of Ron Bitler, (who with Dave Waters did a minor overhaul of our operating speeder) George Crandle, and Jack Palmer, cleaned out the tool room, electric room and built shelves and organized parts and equipment in and around

July 4-5 Operating Weekend
 July 11 Railfan Day
 Aug 1-2 Motor Car Races
 Aug 22-23 Railroad Days

And remember we operate the last weekend of each month and have a work weekend every 3rd weekend of the month. Come on up we would love to have you and meet with you.

The operating dept is always looking for new members to join in in the operations.....

Please check your yellow 1987 calendar for all the events in Portola, if you need one or an extra please drop us a note.....



Fairmont

The national Track Motorcar Championship Races will be held in Portola on August One.

Please plan on attending this growing and exciting event....

For more information and car registration packets write to:

Motor Car Races
 Ron Butler
 19969 Portola Dr
 Salinas, Calif 93908
 or call 408-455-1475
 work number 408-757-2036

SEE YOU IN PORTOLA?????

the old boiler area. Things are where we can find them now and it looks great.

Steve Milward organized the grounds crew and with "Veector" Neves, L Rimici, Gary Reich, Roger Hepkema, and Dave Waters with burro service from Jim Ley, they went from one end of the yards to the other raking up debris and picking up spikes and rails. This was a two day job in the hot sun that also saw a celebratory removal of the Pinto to the dump. Luckily it was "free" week at the dump!

Larry Hanlon, Pete and Sue Solyom, John Hatchet and Steve Heib took some great pains to put windows in the 2001. As they were cut just a little over size and had to be tirmed to fit.