

FEATHER RIVER SHORT LINE

by Betty Boynton

In late April Jim Boynton fired up #8 to check out the engine after the winter shutdown. Assisted by Mel Moore and John Marvin, Jim put #8 through test runs and she checked out in fine shape and raring to go. Participating in the event was Portola Mayor Sandi Waterhouse and her son who were very much impressed by the ride on a steam engine. With the resumption of the regular Wednesday and Saturday work schedule, Jim plans to operate #8 two Saturdays a month and on special occasions. Work had been going on for several weeks before the steam up. The engine boiler had been washed out and Jim inspected the inside of the firebox and cleaned the burner. Jim, Mel and John have been working on the engine's air brake system. Mel and Jim repacked the main driver journals. Mike Attama and Jim installed a new lubrication line between the hydrostatic lubricator and the right steam chest. Jim, Mel and John cleaned up materials and equipment around the FRSL caboose and stored the surplus items in the caboose and ammo car. John reports good progress on the woodwork in the engine cab. The new engineer's seat is in and Charlene Marvin is making the cushion. Arrangements are underway to paint the Shortline name on the left side of the tender and change the print on the right side. The new logo will also be put on, the first time since 1959 a logo has been on the equipment. STEAM FOREVER!

MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG!

One of the biggest projects of our just past work weekend was the moving of the paint booth. And of course such a large project could not have been done without many weeks of preparation by the dynamic duo of Hap Manitt, Jim Ley and Jim's horse trailer. Two weeks ago Jim and Hap trucked in the planks to put under the paint booth so it could be moved to the south side of the engine house. On Sunday Jim Ley got everyone (including your editor) rounded up to get this project moving? With the help of Vic Neves, Renee McComb, Mike Falzone, Matt Parker Fred James, Jim Gidley, Mark French, Brian Challender, Steve Hieb, Norm Holmes, Jim Ley, Debbie Joyner, Barbra Holmes and of course Hap Manitt, we got the planks under the booth with little damage and used the old Egyptian method of rollers to move this huge wood and plastic green house. The moving of the paint booth was not the only work that was done during the weekend. Janet McCormick cleaned both the bathrooms and the refrigerators that we use during the season to store members food not to mention our own hamburgers and hot dogs. There was also a crew doing track work and work on the 2001 to ready it for paint. I hope that I got all the peoples names who worked on the movement of the paint booth, If I did not I am very sorry. Please remember that you hard work is always needed and appreciated.

