



Feather River Short Line #8 on the balloon track at Portola with her new friend, Santa Fe caboose #999197.

November 1987. Photo by Errol Spangler of the "Santa Fe Boys"

FEATHER RIVER SHORT LINE
by Betty Boynton

Opening day, May 28....entering Portola from the west on Highway 70, steam drifting up from behind the box cars at the museum announced that Jim Boynton had #8 fired up. The warmth from the boiler made the engine cab a popular place for it was a winter-like day.

July 2 and 3....#8 proudly displayed her Bennington flag for the holiday and Jim operated the train for two days.

WORK PROGRESS REPORT..John Marvin has installed the cab roof ribs on the engine as part of a large wood work project. Charlene Marvin has completed the cushion for the engineer's seat, a most welcome addition. Steve Jackson, John and Bob Rohwer did sealing work on #8's jacket and painted the smoke box. Gordon Wolleson and Jim worked on the air brake system. Mike Attama

and Jim installed a new lubrication line to the right hand steam chest. Jim Ley adjusted the turbo generator governor and electricity is now available to the locomotive.

A caboose stove, crated and in excellent condition, has been donated to the Short Line by Frank Davis of Quincy. The stove was used in outfit cars in the Feather River Canyon on the W.P. It will be a welcome addition to our caboose.

Jim will now be preparing the surfaces of the tender for a new lettering job to be done by Kevin Bunker of Sacramento. Kevin was long associated with the California State Railroad Museum and will be using a new lettering style on the name and introduce the new logo on the tender. Friends of #8 in the Senior Citizen Complex on the hill area above the museum have long requested the name be painted on the left side of the tender so they can see it.

FEATHER RIVER SHORT LINE CONTINUED

"FOLLOW HAPPY TRAILS & SILVER RAILS TO RAILROAD DAYS" is the theme of this year's Railroad Days parade August 20 and 21. The theme was suggested to the committee by the Feather River Short Line and recognized the accomplishments of Arthur Keddie, Jim Beckwourth and many pioneers who opened the trails and laying of the rails in our area. We hope when visiting the Portola Railroad Museum everyone will stop by and say "Hello" to #8.
STEAM FOREVER!

SEASON OPENING MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND by Norman Holmes

Our loyal operating crew rose early on Saturday, May 28th to have a train ready for Union Pacific Chairman, Drew Lewis. Mr. Lewis visited our museum May 7th and wanted to come again. We started WP 921D and UP 849 at 6AM, had a caboose warmed and took Mr. Lewis and family for a ride around the balloon track and showed them through our museum including the Gift Shop! Mr. Lewis presented us with a substantial contribution from the Union Pacific Foundation, which is greatly appreciated. His special train stayed overnight in Portola to afford the passengers a daylight trip down the canyon. Crew members were Ned Crary, Steve Habeck, Norm Holmes, Jim Ley, Hap Manit and Gordon Wolleson. After our crew had breakfast some cars were spotted on Rip #3, first time this track was used, to clear other tracks for our passenger operations. At 11AM we started service with a trip around the balloon every half-hour or so. Soon a few drops of rain fell, then a few more, finally a full rain storm developed. The vista flats were exchanged for cabooses and train rides continued. Visitors continued to arrive despite the weather. After operations ended Saturday night, an impromptu BBQ was held in the diesel shop. Food was shared among all present and a nice social hour was enjoyed.

Sunday morning - we awoke to a white world. A light snow fell during the night, but the skies showed some blue. This was, however, not going to be a sunny day. Although there were some periods of sunshine, there were also some periods of snow, wind and rain. The Portola Rotary Club was ready to serve breakfast at 7AM. From 7 to 11AM about 400 Portola residents and visitors enjoyed pancakes, eggs and sausage washed down with orange juice and coffee. This is the second year the Rotary Club has put on a breakfast for us as a benefit for our diesel shop roll-up door repair fund. A free train ride was available for all breakfast diners. At 11AM regular operations commenced and despite the weather a fair number of passengers were carried.

Monday - the weather cleared and operations continued. It was a slow weekend so this was a good opportunity to do some crew training. R. Rohr, Peter Solyom, Dave Waters, Bill Rose, and Fred James participated. Regular crew members were Steve Habeck, Vic Neves, Matt Parker, Gordon Wolleson, Mark French, Gary Cousin, Larry Hanlon, and John Walker as trainmen. Jim Ley, Dave McClain, Matt Parker, Ned Crary, Mark French, Steve Habeck, Vic Neves, Steve Milward, Vicki Krois and Bruce Cooper were enginemen. While the above list seems excessive for crew members and indeed sometimes there were more crew than passengers as it was on the "real" railroad some time ago, all were not on duty at the same time. We really appreciate the loyalty of our operating crew to show up when needed.

HEADLINES AND DEADLINES

The next deadline for the September/October TRAIN SHEET will be September 17, 1988. Please submit all articles to: THE TRAIN SHEET c/o Feather River Rail Society, P.O. Box 8, Portola, CA 96122.