

## 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 Mani 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.