

FEATHER RIVER SHORT LINE NEWS

By Betty Boynton

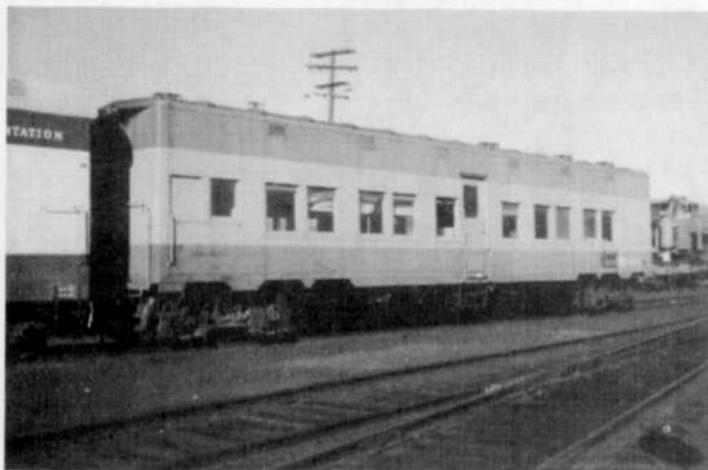
In September, Jim Boynton, John Marvin and I got Engine No. 8 ready for the winter. The very important draining of the boiler and all the parts that could freeze took nearly a full day's work. Jim also did a pit check and oiled many parts under the engine. I gave #8 the final cleaning of the year. The engine had a busy summer with a regular running schedule, an appearance on Bay Area TV and her first participation in Railfan Day.

Jim and John have been able to get in work days and have installed the new cab doors that were made by Iver Gregory. Jim stained the inside of the framework to match the woodwork on the cab ceiling. Iver will be making a window for the fireman's side and new armrests are planned for both the fireman and engineer's sides.

Jim and John have done electrical work on the dynamo and also on the sanding valves. They have installed a new oil pipe line between the hydrostatic lubricator and air compressor and cleaned and flushed the hydrostatic lubricator. Future work days depend on the weather.

On Nov. 15, 1989, Engine 8 celebrated her 82nd birthday. The well-known huge colored picture taken in 1962 by Carl Gus Haggmark was on display at the Plumas County Museum in Quincy, and video tapes of #8 were shown. The ever-growing popularity of the little "puffer" is evident in the many newspaper and magazine articles published about her this year. Radio stations KPCO and KHSL broadcasts featured news and sounds of her in action.

Continued restoration plans and activities for #8 in 1990 are now under consideration and will be made available later.



DIESEL DOINGS

Larry Hanlon, Dave McClain and John Ryczkowski resumed work on 805A's prime mover. Several cylinder liners were leaking water into the crankcase and will have to be resealed. The threesome expect to work on the unit regularly during the winter months. It is stored inside the diesel shop to make work a little easier. Ken Roller is working to remove most of the old paint and rust from the car body. Much body work and "Bondo" will be needed before it is painted.

Hank Stiles removed some grill panels from 2001 for sand blasting. 2001 and 805A will be repainted in 1990.

Gordon Wollesen is keeping our battery chargers busy to preserve the life of our large number of batteries.

MORE LAND

At our request, Union Pacific has increased the limits of our leased property. The City of Portola, holder of the lease, approved our request for additional land to allow us to construct a new entrance road, making it easier for visitors to find us. We are looking for someone to donate some bulldozer and grader work to rough in the new road.

RAIL TO TRAIL FESTIVAL

To assist Susanville's Rails to Trails Festival, our Rail Society loaned a number of historic railroad items for display including lanterns and models. The artifacts were displayed in the former SP Susanville depot during the October 14-15 festival.

Hand car races were the main attraction which brought hundreds of enthusiastic spectators and participants to the event. Thirty-five teams entered with several coming from Sacramento and Roseville. Sierra Pacific Industries sent up its former SP TR6, No. 1100 for display.

Earlier in the year FRRS loaned our ancient hand car for a parade in Susanville. We are pleased other groups in our area are preserving railroad heritage. We're glad to help in any way we can.

Left - our new Pullman Troop Sleeper No. 8300 shortly after its arrival in Portola, December 5, 1989.