

Feather River Shortline Update

By Betty Boynton

April is the official month for taking engine 8 out of the "mothballs" and preparing her for the summer running schedule. This year the operating weekends are:

May 12-13, 1990
June 9-10, 1990
July 14-15, 1990
and Railroad Days:
August 25-26, 1990

We strongly recommend that visitors call in advance (916-283-0334) to confirm the schedule, especially anyone travelling a long distance.

On April 11, 1990, Jim Boynton, John Marvin and I dusted off the equipment and the men prepared Engine 8 for the boiler hydrostatic test. As soon as additional equipment is obtained, this important work will be done. The wash-out plugs were replaced and a complete pit check was made under the engine. I started the painting of the engine's smokebox which will be completed next workday. Jim and John took an evaluation of the projects to be done so all will be set for May 12-13, 1990.

Even though weather prevented us from doing much work "on location" on Portola this winter, detailed work was done here in Quincy. This enabled us to go right to work when we got the opportunity. In replacing the oil pipe between the hydrostatic lubricator and the air compressor, the non-standard fitting at each end of the old pipe had to be cut off. Expert welder Mark Kratz of Quincy donated his services and brazed the fittings on to the new oil pipe. (It has now been put back in its proper place.) Several worn-out valves will also be replaced.

The plans and materials for the completion of the woodwork and windows on the fireman's side of the engine cab are now in the shop of Iver Gregory. We hope to have them ready for installation shortly. They will be stained and painted here in Quincy to save work time in Portola.

Our "main men" in the cab, Engineer Jim Boynton and senior fireman John Marvin, are looking forward to our efficient "trainees" who travel up during the summer for running time on #8. We hope to greet many steam lovers this summer. STEAM FOREVER!

CALENDAR CHANGES

Please note the following changes on your museum calendar:

- Season Opening is May 26-27-28, 1990. Activities will include diesel train rides, and all other museum activities. There will also be a Legion breakfast served at the Museum on Sunday, May 27, 1990 starting bright and early. Everyone is welcome.
- There will be a Rotary breakfast at the museum on June 10, 1990. This breakfast is open to F.R.R.S. members and the general public as well; and it begins at 7:00AM. This was changed from August 5.
- Diesel instead of steam train rides on August 11-12, 1990.

VISITORS

Union Pacific United Employee Club (formerly Union Pacific Old Timers) General Committee visited the Portola Railroad Museum March 31, 1990. The Portola club put on a dinner at the Calpine Lodge Friday night and brought the visitors to the museum on Saturday. We awoke WP 921D from its winter nap, coupled up the Santa Fe diner and the

F.R.R.S.

New

Union Pacific Business car to make a train to show off the museum in style. Nina Christensen and Nancy Dickinson

made crab sandwiches and a salad to be served aboard the train. Everyone had a chance to operate the 921 and received an "Engineer's" certificate.

Our motive in doing this, besides just being nice guys, was to promote our museum as a side trip for the club members attending the annual convention being held this year in Sparks, Nevada September 29-30, 1990. Hank Stiles and Gordon Wollesen were in charge of the train operation.

MORE NEWS NOTES

•We will have a table at the Great Pacific Railroadiana Show and Sale in Sacramento June 24, 1990.

•About a dozen people showed up at the museum on April 8 and 14, 1990 for the operating rules examination and crew training. Everyone passed the exam and we now have about a dozen new student train crew members.