

# Circle the Wagons

Less than 30 days remain before our giant Tenth Anniversary event. There are still a lot of details to be completed, but we are working diligently trying to remember everything. At this time we have two units coming from California State Railroad museum, F7A WP 913 and E8A SP 6051; a privately owned E3A will probably be coming from Wisconsin, and Nevada State Railroad Museum is sending their 4-4-0 steamer. We may have one or two other units, one or two dome coaches and other equipment.

The pageant is coming along with Jim Beckwourth and Arthur Keddle being represented. There will be cowboys, Indians, a hobo, one or more horse drawn wagons and others. This event will be held at 1:00 PM on Saturday and Sunday, July 2 and 3, 1994. We are still a little short on food service people, but this should be worked out OK. We will need help with parking, crowd control, food service, clean up, etc. Our sleeping space in the museum equipment (caboose, Pullmans etc.) may be tight, so if you have a camper vehicle, space in our balloon parking area will be available. All volunteer worker vehicles will be parked in this area at least for Saturday and Sunday. Please, if possible, let us know if you are coming up to help, so we can assign jobs.

## Feather River Special Trains

As previously reported, the Westwood turn July 9, 1994 is sold out. However all other runs: July 1 Fremont to Portola, July 2-3 Portola to Keddle and Reno Jct., July 4, Portola to Fremont, Fremont to Oroville July 8, and Oroville to Fremont July 10, all have seats available. Probably not dome seats, but coach seats are available. We are also selling short segments such as Fremont to Sacramento or Oroville to Portola. Check with us or Pacific Limited in SLC for more information.

### *Conclusion of Can You BEET This*

By Vic Neves

the UP picked the three beet gons and brought them into South Sacramento yard where they sat until December 27, 1993. Because of a lack of paperwork, the UP returned the cars back to Haggin thinking they were destined for the SP. WRONG! After a few phone calls to Omaha, the cars again returned to South Sacramento yard on the 28th where they sat for at least 4 days. They were later picked up and arrived at Portola on January 4, 1994.

These beet cars that the museum received represent three variations of composite wood gons. The extensions were added in the sixties to increase capacity. USGX 60 is the former SP 358262 built 5/48 and has the inside plank/outside frame extension. USGX 149 is ex SP 358646 built 10/49 with the outside plank/inside frame extension. USGX 322 was the ex SP 359246 built 11/49 and has the plywood extension, the last style modification done to these cars. Other variations include different locations of the hand brake and different styles of end sills. The composite sugar beet gondolas that survived countless decades of reliable service were an anachronism in today's railroading. Their dedicated service will be missed but not forgotten. Three will be remembered at our museum and it's a sure bet that one of the trains at this year's Railfan Photographer's Day will be a sugar beet train.

### *Conclusion of Car Restoration Report*

By John S. Walker

paring the exterior for a new Silver & Orange paint scheme. The construction of WP 614 poses some interesting questions. We have found four different shades of green on the interior of the caboose (Was the WP a little short of paint on the day they built this car?). There are lots of 1/2 inch holes drilled into the side of the car and filled with wood plugs. These holes do not serve any apparent function! You may also note that there is no "plug" where the old boxcar door use to be on these cars (They were rebuilt from boxcars). In fact, the new exterior of the caboose is composed of single boards that stretch the entire length of the car! In addition, the interior of WP 614 reveals an imprint of what appears to have been a WP metal herald! At this point, I can only conclude that when these cabooses were constructed, the old boxcars were stripped down to the metal frame and rebuilt using some pieces of wood from the original car(s)! Do any of our members have information about how these cars were built?

The WP 614 should be painted inside and out and moved to the museum for mounting on trucks, installation of brakes and (Quick-somebody hold me back!) another new roof (after the roundup) by the time you read this in the newsletter. Hopefully we will have a silver & orange caboose to match the 2001 and 805 by Railfan's Day in September!

## ***New in the Gift Shop***

The long awaited Diesel Builders, Volume Three "Beautiful Baldwins," by John Kirkland, will soon be available through our Gift Shop. The book contains 359 rare black and white and 20 color photographs previously unpublished. 296 pages - \$59.95 Shipped postpaid (Calif. res. add \$4.35 tax).

We have on hand 5 each Overland brass WP F7A and F7B models in HO scale. This is a special purchase which we can sell for \$225 each. Shipped post paid (Calif. res. add \$16.30 tax).

Once again name badges are available. The badges are green metal with gold letters. Your name and Feather River Rail Society are on front with a pin type back. Send \$3.00 to Jack Hathaway, 1190 Williams Ave, Reno, NV 89503. Pick up at the museum or include \$1 extra for mail orders.

### ***Winning ticket drawn on April 24, 1994***

By Chris Skow

We are pleased to announce that Feather River Rail Society member Jim Atkins of Sacramento won the 6th Annual Fund Raising drive sponsored by Trains Unlimited, Tours and the Feather River Rail Society.

Jim has won a free trip on the Rocky Mountaineer Ralltours "Rocky Mountaineer" passenger train which operates between Vancouver, British Columbia and Jasper National Park and Banff in the Canadian Rockies. His tour package includes lodging, food and even roundtrip air from California on Canadian Airlines.

Jim is a signal maintainer for the Union Pacific and takes care of the Feather River Canyon up to Portola. Jim has been a Society member for many years and we congratulate him as our 6th winner in this worthy cause.

The Feather River Rail Society was able to raise close to \$2700 on our 6th Annual Fund Raising Drive for the Portola Railroad Museum. Within the next few months, Trains Unlimited, Tours and the Feather River Rail Society will announce the 7th Annual Fund Raising Drive and drawing. We thank everyone that supported this project by buying tickets.