

# Feather River Railroad Days

By Norm Holmes

The thirteenth annual Feather River Railroad Days is history. The event almost did not happen. Everyone connected with previous years' planning and participation, except Skip Englert, were burned out. Everyone wanted the event, but no one wanted to do the work necessary to have it happen. (Skip helped with planning and made the engine, box car and caboose trophies for parade awards.) Portola's new city administrator, Mel Zernow, with the cooperation of the City Council, felt the event was important enough to the community to pledge the City's staff and financial support and to hire a promoter to handle the publicity and details. Fran Roudebush, area Supervisor, donated county funds and our organization donated a substantial amount to make it happen. This event is our largest weekend of the year both in number of visitors and income. It is important to us to have Railroad Days.

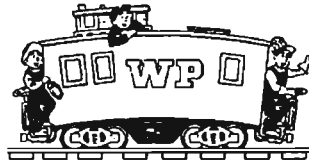
The parade on Saturday morning featured one of our M60A3 military tanks, which stole the show and took first place in the "truck" division. Bruce and Sue Cooper, Norm Holmes, three of Steve Habeck's daughters along with Janis Peterson's son Eric rode on the tank. (Bruce drove!) Lolli Bryan's California Zephyr van also entered the parade ridden by Steve Habeck's oldest daughter and driven by his wife Mary. On Saturday and Sunday there were the usual craft booths, food and games in the City Park. At our museum we had four operating model railroad layouts: Donner Pass Gandy Dancers from Carson City and Thunder Mountain from Sacramento, both large HO gauge layouts. Lake Tahoe, Truckee and Northwestern Garden Railway Society brought a G gauge layout from Truckee and a small N gauge layout was brought up from Sacramento by Jim Druckmiller. On Saturday, Marv Dunn, UP Train Manager, and a CHP officer gave out information on Operation Life Saver. The country music group, Country Satin, played 2 hours both Saturday and Sunday. Allen Wiebe brought a Yogurt machine and a freeze machine. A cup of Yogurt or peach or strawberry freeze sold for one dollar. Over 450 cups were sold and all proceeds came to the museum. Merrill Turpin dispensed most of the treats.

As usual, cleaning, rearranging equipment and general getting ready went on all week before the event. Two passenger trains were run from 10 AM to 5 PM both days and although the number of passengers riding the trains seemed a little less than on other years, ticket sales were only 10% down from last year. The lack of early publicity may have affected the attendance. WP 921D pulled our two former VIA coaches, while 608 on Saturday and 707 on Sunday pulled our regular five car caboose train. The Beanery served a pancake breakfast on Saturday and Sunday which did very well this year. Also the regular fare of hot dogs, hamburgers, etc. took care of the lunch crowd. New this year was a BBQ rib lunch served from a "locomotive" rib cooker. T.O. and Nancy Hagen from Rocklin brought up the cooker for the event. Jack Hathaway drove down from Butte, Montana to open the Gift Shop Annex in the UP baggage car, this was in addition to our well stocked Gift Shop.

So many members did so much and often in more than one capacity, listing who did what would be a formidable task. The following are names of those helping. If anyone is left out, please accept our apologies and we want all to know their help was greatly appreciated.

Marty Anderson, Don Borden, Pat & Linda Brimmer, Lolli Bryan, Bob Carr, Don Clark, Kerry Cochran, Bruce and Sue Cooper, Terry Decottignies, Dave and Linda Dewey, Edna Ede, Skip Englert, Paul Finnigan, Mark French, Jim Gidley, Sr., Bob Gordon, Tom Graham, Steve, Mary & Donna Habeck, Jack Hathaway, Norman & Barbara Holmes, Ellen Housen, Ken & Missy Iverson, Jim Ley, Clyde & Linda Lip-

pincott, Hap Manit, Melissa McGrath, Judy McGrath, Lorna Miner, Don Nelson, Vic Neves, Jack Palmer, Jeff Palmer, Ken Roller, Kent Stephens, Hank Stiles, Merrill Turpin, Ed Wagner, Gordon Wollesen.



## Caboosing

### With Hap Manit

June 25, 1995 Tom Graham and Dave Anderson worked on SN 146 engine, Hank Stiles, Ken Iverson and Dave Anderson worked on air compressor SP 2873, Wayne Monger serviced cooling system on back hoe, Clyde Lippincott continued to work on the shower car.

June 26, 1995 Art Bergman, Norm Holmes, Ken Roller and Hank Stiles unloaded Vic Neves' SP caboose from truck to rail. Doug Morgan and Peter Lyman worked on problems with ALCO MRS #24.

June 29, 1995 Bruce Cooper hauled six loads of gravel to parking lot. Norm Holmes removed rail from DODX car.

July 2, 1995 Bruce and Sue Cooper ran Army tank in Graeagle parade.

July 10, 1995 Bruce Cooper maintained dump truck.

July 16, 1995 Dick Hulbert worked on trouble shooting ALCO FPA-4 and MRS locos.

July 29, 1995 805A, 925C and 921D were MU'd for Lolli Bryan to operate for a birthday present. Also ALCO MRS #24 was used for the first time in train service.

July 30, 1995 Doug Morgan and Dave Dewey cleaned and painted battery compartment on WP 707. Norm Holmes and Ken Roller worked on new turnout for ramp track.

Aug. 5, 1995 Peter Langdon replaced brake shoes on WP caboose 428. Clyde Lippincott used his tractor to mow weeds and brush around balloon track at request of USFS. Charlie Lix cleaned oil etc. from SN 146.

Aug. 9, 1995 Tom Graham built end grates for Santa Fe caboose 197 to prevent kids from falling onto coupler.

Aug. 10, 1995 There was a tour by Toy Train convention people; they went for a train ride and rented a locomotive, plus they had lunch in the Beanery.

Aug. 11, 1995 A handicapped group from Paradise went for a train ride.

Aug. 12, 1995 Hank Stiles did maintenance work on WP 608, 921 and 1857.

Aug. 16-17, 1995 Don Borden used Hotsey pressure washer to clean engines 512, 608, 707, 921D and 1857.

The above represents only a small fraction of the work going on every day at the museum. The following worked regularly or occasionally in the listed categories:

Beanery: Sue & Bruce Cooper, Edna Ede, Ellen Housen, Lolli Bryan, Linda Lippincott, Linda Dewey, Missy Iverson, Julie Anderson, Lorna Miner. Building and shop maintenance: Gordon Wollesen, Ken Roller, Norm Holmes, Steve Habeck, Hap Manit, David Dewey, Doug Morgan, Clyde Lippincott, Janis Peterson, Julie Anderson, Clifford Green. Gift Shop: Barbara & Norman Holmes, Hap Manit, Lolli Bryan, Gordon Wollesen, Skip Englert, Karena Wollesen, Missy Iverson. Locomotive maintenance: Hank Stiles, David Dewey, Steve Habeck, Norm Holmes, Ken Iverson, Tom Graham, Doug Morgan, Peter Lyman, Dave Anderson. Track work: Ken Roller, Norm Holmes. Train Sheet and membership: Ed Warren, Norm Holmes, Steve Habeck. Locomotive Rental: Skip Englert, Bruce Cooper, Mardi Langdon, Jack Palmer, Norm Holmes, Pat Brimmer, Jim Gidley, Sr. Train and engine crews will be listed at the end of the season.