



# Feather River Rail Society

Preserving "The Feather River Route"

The FRRS, a tax exempt public benefit California Corporation, is the HISTORICAL SOCIETY for the WESTERN PACIFIC RAILROAD and operates the PORTOLA RAILROAD MUSEUM in Portola, Calif.

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Our Mailing address is.....

FRRS POST OFFICE BOX 8 PORTOLA CALIF 96122

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Our information phone number is.....

916-832-4131 or call 916-832-4737

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"THE TRAIN SHEET" is edited by John J Ryczkowski and assisted by Mary S Ryczkowski.

Articles/Info please write, The TRAIN SHEET Post Office Box 1663, Sparks, Nevada 89432

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The Feather River Rail Society is not supported by, nor affiliated in any way, with the Western Pacific Railroad.....

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FRRS tax ID number is 68-0002774



member

# TRAIN



Tourist Railway Association Inc.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Norman Holmes
- John Marvin
- Wayne Monger
- John J Ryczkowski
- John Walker
- Dave McClain
- Jim Ley

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|                                   |                |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Associate Membership (non voting) | \$15.00 yearly |
| Active Membership (voting)        | \$25.00 yearly |
| Family Membership ( 1 vote )      | \$30.00 yearly |
| Life Membership (voting)          | \$300.00       |

Dues are paid for 12 months from time of receipt

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### PRESIDENT'S DESK

With winter in full force in Portola, little activity is going on at the museum. Membership renewals are coming in at a good rate and this is encouraging. It makes us pleased to know so many think we are doing a good job. This time of the year is a good time to plan next summer's activities. Our restoration program must go forward to show our visitors we mean business in preserving railroad equipment. We have a very valuable collection and more pieces will be added. All will require care. We would like as many members as possible to spend a little (or a lot) of time helping in any way they can.

From the Membership Officer-

The implementation of the new membership renewal system is proceeding nicely, but a few questions have come up. Husband-and-wife members who joined at different times of the year will receive renewal notices at different times. Confusion on this point is compounded slightly by the new membership categories. We can offer several alternatives for the convenience of "dual" members.

Two-member couples may choose to renew as separate Associate (non-voting) members for \$15 each, \$30 total. Or, they may renew as separate Active (voting) members for \$25 each, \$50 total. They may also renew as one of each. Another option is a Family membership with one vote for \$30. Those "dual" members who sent in \$30 before receiving renewal notices have been renewed as Family memberships. Anyone may, at any time, upgrade their membership by paying the additional dues or may separate a Family membership into two Associate memberships. We can also accommodate dual members who joined at different times and wish to have a Family membership. We will extend the earlier membership so it expires with the later one. Just write and tell us, or indicate on your renewal notice when you get the first one. The month and year of

*contd....Sheet Two*

### FRRS CALENDAR FOR 1988

- February 20 Social Meeting
  - February 27
  - Winter Rail, Stockton, CA
  - April 16 Social Meeting
  - May 21-22
  - Spring Work Party
  - May 28-29-30
  - 3rd Anniversary of Grand Opening-Operations
  - June 18
  - Annual Membership Meeting
  - June 25-26 Operations
  - July 2-3-4 Operations
  - July 9-10
  - Rail Featival Weekend
  - July 30-31 Operations
  - August 6 (Tentative)
  - Motor Car Races
  - August 13 Social Meeting
  - August 20-21
  - Railroad Days-Operations
  - September 3-4-5 Operations
  - September 24-25 Operations
  - October 22 Social Meeting
  - December 10 Social Meeting
  - December 17 Santa Train
- Every third weekend each month members meet together and work on museum projects.....
- SEE YOU IN PORTOLA.....

expiration of your membership is on the mailing label.

We have been in the habit of printing Train Sheet mailing labels for only one member to save on mailing costs. This means that the second member to join (usually the wife) will not know when her membership expires till she gets a renewal notice. If you would like to know now, or if you want your own issue of the Train Sheet, or if you have other questions, let us know.

We would like to extend a special Thank-You to George Comer, who was the sole respondent to our earlier query for help with our computer problems. Mr. Comer, even though not a computer person, was able to offer suggestions which resulted in the temporary solution of our data storage dilemma. We'd still like to hear from anyone who might be able to help the Society obtain better equipment, however-- this difficulty will face us again in the future.

Joe Way

#### LAST AND NEXT MEETING

Last Meeting: On December 12, Bob Larson showed a fine slide collection of early (and some late) passenger trains. Twenty members were present who enjoyed the program and refreshments provided by Deborah Canino and Barbara Holmes.

Next Meeting: A social meeting will be held February 20 at 7:30 p.m. in the Portola City Hall. This is our fifth anniversary of our organization. Chris Skow will show a one hour sound film on his recent trip to Argentina where he chartered a narrow gauge steam train among other railroad adventures. Refreshments will be served.

#### DONATIONS

Since December member donations totaled \$1,780, most sending a little "extra" along with their dues. Our restoration program requires a great deal of money for tools and supplies. We really appreciate your financial assistance. The 805A fund received \$55 during this period.

#### FREE TRIP OFFERED

The Feather River Rail Society and Trains Unlimited, Tours is proud to announce that some lucky person will receive a free trip for six days to Guatemala leaving on December 8, 1988.

The winner of our drawing will join Trains Unlimited, Tours trip to this spectacular and fascinating Latin country just below Mexico for six days of charter train riding with steam locomotives, visiting railroad shops, yards, depots, sightseeing or just relaxing.

Free airfare will be provided from anyplace within the United States to Guatemala City, round trip. Also included will be lodging in first class hotels, all charter trains, all charter buses, airport transfers and some meals.

Raffle giveaway valued in excess of \$1,000.

This is a fund raising drive to help build the Portola Railroad Museum's Visitors Center and Depot. This building will house many artifacts and displays, the gift shop and ticket office. We hope to break ground on this building sometime this spring. Raffle tickets for the free trip are \$2 each or 6 tickets for \$10. Let us know how many tickets you want and we will send them to you. Then you can fill out the stub with your name and address and send back to us with payment to:

Feather River Rail Society  
P.O. Box 8 (Trip)  
Portola, CA 96122

Help us out and sell tickets for us or buy some for your friends. We will be glad to send you as many blank tickets as you feel you can sell. Drawing to be held on September 15, 1988.

#### AROUND THE MUSEUM

Norm Holmes and Dean Hill drove to Sacramento December 22 with a pickup load of junk batteries to exchange for a set of good used batteries from scrapped SP locomotives. An agreement was made with LMC Corp. to exchange the batteries pound for pound. We appreciate LMC's cooperation. Each battery weighs 400 pounds and it takes 8 to power a locomotive. While at LMC, we were given permission to remove windows and other small items from a SP SD-45 unit being scrapped.

On December 28, a repeat trip was made exchanging another set of junk batteries for a good used set. Jim Ley and Hank Stiles also went along, in Jim's truck, picking up a gas engine and transmission from Purdy Co. in Ewing as spare parts for our Burro crane. We will need at least one more battery set for our operative locomotive roster.

#### SANTA TRAIN

Our second annual Santa train was operated December 19. Again our hamburger flipper Emery Godard donned a red suit and white whiskers and passed out candy canes to about 50 children. Train rides were free, but adults were encouraged to visit our well stocked gift shop. Two caboose and 608

#### FUND RAISING BEGINS FOR DEPOT

1988 finds the Feather River Rail Society kicking off its fund-raising drive for a new combination depot and visitor center. The drawings for the proposed building have been recently completed by our volunteers. The depot will be a recreation of the Western Pacific depot that used to stand at Pleasant Grove, California (north of Sacramento). Included in the two-story structure will be a new interpretative center for the visitors to the museum, offices of the Feather River Rail Society, and proper climate-controlled storage area for our vast quantity of historical documents from the Western Pacific Railroad. The plans call for the depot to be built to the west of the current museum parking lot, on the north side of our current "main line" at the museum. Once completed, the new visitor center will relieve some of the pressure on the engine house to serve as a multi-purpose building for both visitors and rebuilding projects.

It is true that there are some legal details that must still be straightened out between your society, the City of Portola, and the Union Pacific Railroad before construction can begin. The FRRS Board of Directors realize that it will take at least two years to raise sufficient funds for this project. Of the few monetary grants available to your society for such a project, many are strictly "matching fund" grants for specific, pre-planned projects. **We need to begin to raise money NOW so we can be successful!**

The first big fund-raising project for our new depot/visitor center has been started by member and Gift Store operator Chris Skow. Chris is now working for a travel agency in Oroville putting together railfan tours of South American steam railroads. He has graciously donated a free trip (all expense paid give-away including airfare) for his Guatemala Steam Adventure of December 8-14, 1988. This trip is a \$1,000 value. Raffle tickets for this excursion are on sale for \$2.00 each, or six for \$10.00, and are available to both members and non-members. Tickets are for sale through both mail and at the museum. The address for tickets is:

Depot Raffle - FRRS  
P.O. Box 8  
Portola, CA 96122

Make sure all checks are made payable to the **FRRS Depot Fund**. The raffle for the winning ticket will be held on September 15, 1988.

The second part of the fund raising will follow the lead of the Illinois Railroad Museum. In the December 1987 issue of *Railfan and Railroad*, a news item mentioned that the museum had raised around \$3,000 by collecting aluminum cans for the purchase of a locomotive. We will be starting a similar drive at the Portola Railroad Museum. Beginning this spring the ballast hopper WP 10649 will be positioned on Track #2 at the east end of the engine house. Our aim is to **FILL** this car with aluminum cans by the end of this coming