So Long No. 8...

We received notice from Jim Boynton, V.P. & General Manager of the Feather River Short Line that their operating agreement with our museum was to be terminated effective September 30, 1990, and all of their equipment will be moved out of our facility by the end of the year.

On Wednesday, October 17, 1990, a large rigging and trucking crew arrived at our museum to remove steam engine No. 8 and its tender; and to take it to Virginia City, Nevada. Crews from FRSL, FRRS and from the Virginia and Truckee RR all helped with the move. No. 8 was switched from inside our enginehouse to End-of-Track at the east end of our yard. The chain-link fence was rolled out of the way. Temporary track was put in place to extend our End-of-Track up onto low-bed truck trailers -- first to a small trailer for just the tender, then to a larger trailer for the No. 8 itself.

The weather in Portola on this day got cloudier and windier and colder, but the number of spectators saying their last good-byes never diminished.

We all deeply regret seeing No. 8 go; and we all wish FRSL well on their future plans.

FRSL's Jim Boynton (left) and Hap Manit (right) chat as No. 8 is about to be moved away.

History of No. 8 at Portola

When our museum was first getting started in 1984, we invited Jim Boynton to move the FRSL steam engine, caboose and ordinance car from the Plumas County Fairgrounds to Portola. The equipment had been on display at that location since 1962 and had suffered from the effects of exposure to weather and vandalism. Members of FRRS assisted FRSL in making the move to Portola with the equipment arriving in June 1984. Former Clover Valley Lumber No. 8 was placed inside our diesel shop along with the former WP caboose. FRSL people, assisted by FRRS volunteers worked on No. 8 to restore her to operation. On April 25, 1987, a fire was lit in No. 8's firebox and steam made its appearance at the Portola Railroad Museum. Regular steam operating weekends were scheduled in 1988, 1989 and 1990 much to the delight of our visitors.