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THE TRAIN SHEET
FEATHER RIVER RAIL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 8
PORTOLA, CALIFORNIA 96122

A "TRUE TALE OF THE RAILS" from Joe Way

Your "Tale of the Rails" reminded me of another incident which occurred on the same Santa Fe tracks in San Francisco when I was working the S.F.

Switchman's Extra Board in 1973 or '74. Many of the switches in the streets were of a weird single-point design, and were nearly worn out. We were making our customary 4 or 5 mph down the street and over one of these switches. The front truck of our nearly new 1500 series switcher went down the straight rail, but the rear truck picked the switch point and started to turn out. We ended up with the front and rear trucks on different tracks and the switch engine nearly 90 degrees to the rail. The first car and the front truck of the second car were out in the street, but we were still together and the air still in the trainline. The power cables and independent brake lines were pulled loose, though, so the engine was completely disabled.

The Las Plumas ferry was dispatched across the bay to Oakland for another switch engine. When it arrived several hours later we ran up to the rear end of our train, coupled on, and slowly pulled everything right back onto the rail in one pull and with the trainline still made. We didn't turn anything over, but the incident still made the TV and print news.....

