



Many have no doubt heard of the big washout on the former WP's Highline between Keddie and Bieber. For a while it looked like this might be the end of this historic line. But the UP just needed a few days of good weather to let the area dry out before attempting any repair. Union Pacific began repairing the washout on the Highline between tunnels one and two on Monday, January 30, 1995. A private company did most of the work with UP acting in a support role. The resulting hole left by the washout was filled with dirt taken off of tunnel two that had been stored since that tunnel was repaired after the arson fire two years ago. This dirt has been stored at the site of the old roundhouse in Keddie. The dirt was loaded into dump cars (four cars to a train) and backed up to the hole and dumped. A pair of bulldozers then shoved the dirt into the hole where another tractor compacted the fill material down. Two trains were used, running on about forty minute round trips down Track 3 (the remaining yard track) to the west end of Keddie, onto the NCE (Northern California Extension) and through Tunnel 1 to the end of rail. One train was powered by an SD40-2 and the other was powered by another SD40-2 and UP 5024, an SD50 (yeah, it was a little overpowered)! The two trains met at the west end of Keddie Yard. For rail photographers, this was a rare opportunity to photograph trains coming out of the Keddie end of Highline Tunnel #1 at Keddie because it is so rare to see anything except MofW equipment use that leg of the wye. There was a third ballast/rip-rap dump train working the Canyon during February cleaning up after the floods. This one was at Camp Rodgers where the tracks were washed out in several places. UP GP40 669 was at the head end of a string of ballast hoppers and side-dumps in the siding there along with an entire track gang working in the area. Tragedy struck the canyon's MofW crews on February 9, 1995, when Walter Steppe, a UP heavy equipment operator, lost his life in an accident while working near Pulga. We extend our deepest sympathy to Walter's family and friends. Although I only knew him briefly, I enjoyed every minute of his friendship. Caption and photo by John S. Walker.

**FEATHER RIVER RAIL SOCIETY  
PORTOLA RAILROAD MUSEUM  
P.O. BOX 608  
PORTOLA, CALIFORNIA 96122**

Address Correction Requested

Non-Profit Org.  
U. S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Portola, CA  
Permit No. 32

Dated Material, Please Do Not Delay

Member  
of

**TRAIN**  


Tourist Railway Association Inc.