

**PRESERVING "THE FEATHER RIVER ROUTE"*****WP Lives, in Portola!*****Mission Statement**

The mission of the Feather River Rail Society is to preserve the history of the Western Pacific Railroad. The secondary mission is to preserve the history of the subsidiary and interchange railroads within the territories it served.

**Mission Goals**

To preserve and interpret the history of the WP, the "Willing People" as a vital link in the development of the rail industry on the West Coast, including the steam and diesel evolution, WP's influence in the passenger tourism industry, the impact of freight competition between neighboring railroads. WP's influence in the lumber, mining and agriculture industry from Plumas County throughout California, Nevada and Utah.

**Railfair 99**

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doing to preserve this history. Information was also presented explaining the functions of the Western Pacific Railroad Historical Society and the Portola Railroad Museum. We also promoted Plumas County as a tourist destination. WPRRHS personnel under the direction of WPRRHS Administrator John Walker designed the exhibits for this booth. A limited selection of specialty items from the museum Gift Shop were also sold at the booth. Norm and Barbara Holmes with the capable assistance of Jack Hathaway reported brisk sales during the event. Second, and making more of a visual impact on the attending public, was our fully operational EMD GP-20, Western Pacific 2001. This was just one of a handful of historic diesel-electric locomotives invited to attend Railfair 99. Like several other locomotives invited to attend, the FRRS participated in the Locomotive Pageant on a rotating basis.

FRRS personnel assisting with the display of 2001 included Wayne and Linda Monger, Hank and Janet Stiles, Jim Gidley, Sr., Ed Wagner, Jack Palmer, Vic Neves, Frank Brehm, John Walker, Doug Morgan and Eugene Vicknair.

- Wayne Monger

**VIA Units Sold to Grand Canyon**

The Grand Canyon Railway has purchased our VIA units FPA-4 6776 and B-unit 6860. This brings the GCRY total to five cabs and two boosters. This additional power is primarily for a second train the Grand Canyon plans to be running by the spring. After an inspection in Portola CMO Franzen stated the pair are in very good shape, but that they do need some work and paint. A work crew from GCRY were in Portola during the first week of June to prepare the units for the trip to Arizona and their new home on the GCRY. This preparation included removing any easily pilferable items, making protective covers for all cab windows and welding the doors and electrical cabinets shut. The units were transferred to the UP on June 17th and arrived at the Grand Canyon on July 7th. Work is now underway on the units with an expected in-service date of March 2000.



Prior to shipment to Arizona FPA-4 6776 basks in the warm Portola sunshine.  
- Frank Brehm