

**George Oels**

George passed away December 23rd at his home in Portola. He lived most of his life in Plumas County and, after service aboard the USS Carter Hall during WWII, returned to his job as a railroad engineer with the Western Pacific. Mr. Oels was one of the engineers who gave FRRS founder Norman Holmes his orientation trips through the Feather River Canyon. George retired in 1987 after 44 years of service.

George was a volunteer engineer at the museum in the mid 1980's and also served as our first Road Foreman of Engines at the

museum, qualifying many of our early engineers.

He was a good trainer of young, inexperienced brakeman as well. On one occasion, while working with Mr. Oels on the WP 608, a volunteer forgot to close the air valve before cutting the engine away. The engine dynamited and the volunteer reached in to close the angle valve. Mr. Oels taught that young man a very important lesson that day. "Kid" he said, "we can sit here and pump up more air all day. But I can't grow you a new arm if that glad hand flies up and catches you in the elbow".

**WP 165 FUNDRAISER**

The FRRS is now on its way toward achieving the first stage of restoring 0-6-0 165 to operation. Donations are coming in fast and furious for the remediation and inspection work that is required. As of December, 2006, we have received just shy of \$7000! Thank you to everyone who has contributed so far!

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