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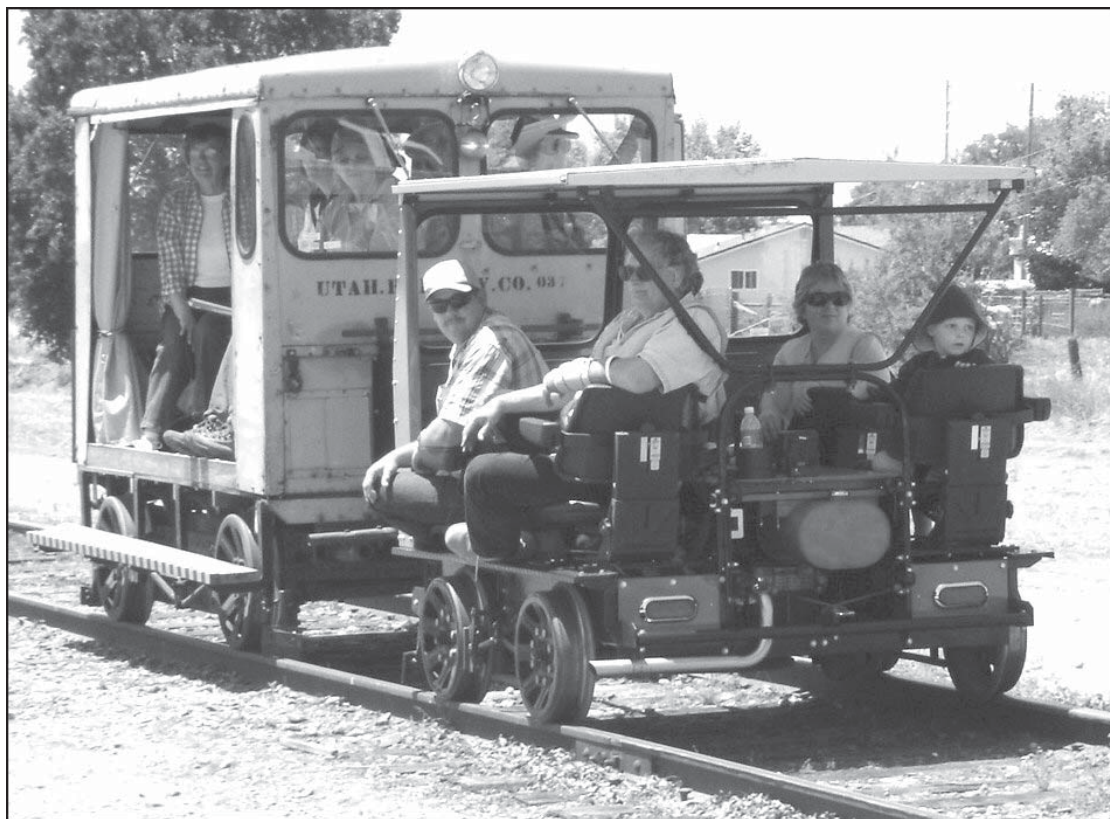
FREE

4th Annual Ione Rail fair and Vintage Motor Fest

By Julie Phillips
Guest Reporter

This year was our first experience at the 4th Annual Ione Rail fair and Vintage Motor Fest held on Saturday & Sunday, May 23rd & 24th. Our 6 year-old grandson Aaron just loves trains, so when I read about the rail fair at the *Gold Country Times* website, we decided it would be a great Memorial Day event to attend. The Rail fair offered rides on the "Skagit" \$3 per person, or you could propel yourself down the track on a "Handcar" for the same price. Also offered were free miniature train rides, a hit with all of the kids!

But the main attraction, we found out, was riding the "Motor car", a 3-hour, 20-mile ride down the tracks to the town of Martell - it felt like you were going back into history, and for only \$20 per person. Tickets were sold at 8am on the day of the event - so we thought arriving at 8:10 am we'd have no problem getting tickets. This is when we found out that



Doug (L) and Aaron (R) ride Motor Car #31, a Canadian rail car original at the Ione Motor Fest on Memorial Day weekend. Photo by Julie Phillips of Granite Bay, CA

the motor car ride was the most popular ride they had. There were maybe 10 others in line already in front of us. When it was our turn, every seat was filled but one car; it only had room for 2 passengers so my husband Doug and my grand-son Aaron went for the 3-hour ride.

Note: You must have on long pants and closed-toe shoes to ride this motor car. We did see some get turned away due to wearing shorts and sandals. My granddaughter Sarah and I got tickets to ride the "Skagit", a 30-minute train ride. First there was a safety meeting with all of

the drivers who were cautioned about the dangers of rattlesnakes that hide in the rocks and around the tracks. This is the reason why they want you to wear closed-toe shoes and long pants! My husband Doug & Aaron got car # 31 owned by Frank and his lovely wife. They

welcomed Doug & Aaron and then offered ear plugs; it could be quite noisy on the trip. Aaron was strapped in and with only a few delays, they started out at about 9:30 am. The motor cars had to be on their way before the 'Skagit' could load their passengers and go on its run.

The motor car my husband was in was a Canadian rail car original. Going down the old tracks felt like you were going back into time, in the days when only horses and trains were the main transportation.

The cars swayed back and forth - clicky clack, clicky clack! All of the cars stayed together as a team and if one broke down, they would either tow it or push it back or get it running .

On the trip to Martell there was only one breakdown and it was pushed into Martell, the turn-around spot, also the restroom stop. There was a little store where you could buy something to eat or drink. The weather was perfect and the scenery was beautiful! Along the way Doug & Aaron saw a King snake; it came right out of the tracks. It was huge! Horses, cows, wild turkeys - we even ...

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ROP students from Argonaut and Amador High Schools. Photo courtesy to the Gold Country Times

Sutter Amador Hospital Honors ROP Students

Jackson, CA (May 22, 2009) – This past school year, local students found out that not all learning takes place in the classroom. Amador County teens from both Argonaut and Amador High Schools in the Regional Occupational Program (ROP) received health care work experience firsthand at Sutter Amador Hospital (SAH).

Eighteen of these young adults were honored at SAH's Student Appreciation Day Breakfast on Wed, May 20, 2009 in the community conference center in the Sutter Amador Out-patient Services Center.

Barbara Wells, SAH Education Manager, opened the program by welcoming everyone and introducing the ROP

health instructor from the Amador Unified School District (ACUSD), Linda Critchfield, and special guests Dick Glock ACUSD Superintendent and Pat Miller, ACUSD Board Member.

Tamara Harding, RN, MS and staff educator for SAH demonstrated to the students how health care can touch one individual in so many ways throughout their lifetime. With over 40 years of experience in various areas of health care, Tamara was able to share her extensive knowledge in a captivating illustration. She encouraged students to hold on to their passion for healthcare and to consider the many opportunities available to them.

Wells and Critchfield followed by presenting certificates to each of the students who participated. Department directors and staff directly responsible for

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Langetwins Gets Nearly \$1Million subsidy From PG&E

At a ceremony at LangeTwins Winery earlier this year, Randall Lange, President of LangeTwins Winery & Vineyards, was presented with a check for \$968,137 from PG&E. This sum represented the total rebate to which the winery was entitled after the various qualifying energy-saving projects which LangeTwins had completed recently.

The ceremony was attended by over 60 invitees from the wine industry, the Wine Institute of California, California Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance (CSWA) and PG&E. "California wineries are demonstrating real

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