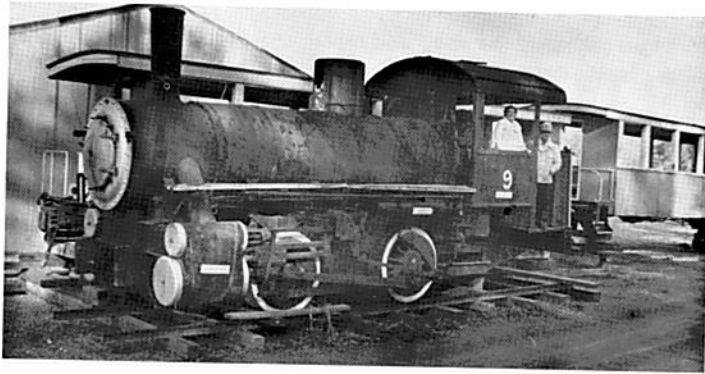


Building a Railroad



MAY, 1979: With tracks laid for loading, engine and wheels are placed on truck (above) at the locomotive's longtime resting place at Burnsville, N.C., in Yancey County. At right: Completing a route selected by the N.C. Department of Transportation to avoid low-hanging bridges, the dismantled locomotive arrives at Denton Airport.



Later in 1979, Margaret Tucker of High Point stands in cab (left) after winning a \$50 prize in a contest with her selection of the name "Handy Dandy Railroad." Denton Airport is in the Handy community (once Handy, N.C., with a U.S. post office), and is reached from Highway



109 via Handy Road and Cranford Road. At right: In 1980, moving under its own power for the first time in three decades, the locomotive ran back-and-forth on a 200-foot straight section of track in the present area of the train shed.



1981: A passenger car was added; length of track was increased to 1,500 feet; and a water tank was erected.



1982: Engine got face-lift with sand pots, bell, light and steam dome cover; tender car and second passenger car were added; and 1½-mile track was completed.



1983: Third passenger car became part of scene reflected in lake.



1984: Tender car was decorated with name.