



Coast Mail

News from the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum



Volume 12, Number 2

San Luis Obispo, California, Spring 2011

www.slorm.com

Visiting Locomotives Stars of 2011 Roundup



James Sabin on his MEG steam locomotive Uncle Sam waves to the Ann Marie as she pulls a Disney coach into the station.

photo by Mike Massee



Visiting locomotives Ann Marie on the left and Deanna, center, join Pacific Coast Railroad's 1897 Porter locomotive in the yard at Santa Margarita Ranch.

photo by Mike Massee

Two private steam engines, the Ann Marie came from the Bay Area and the Deanna came from Southern California for the Railroad Roundup. They provided rides for attendees along with the Pacific Coast Railroad's 1897 Porter 2-6-2 steam locomotive and visiting speeders.

The Ann Marie is an 0-4-0, Porter Steam Tank Engine. Built for Cortez Mines of Cortez, Nevada in 1890, it was a working steam engine from 1890 until 1905. Gary Smith and Tom Gazi restored the locomotive at Gary's shop in Hayward, California and it is now a true coal burning engine.

The Deanna is a 36-inch narrow gauge Baldwin 0-4-2T, oil-burning steam locomotive built by the Baldwin Locomotive Works in May, 1891. This engine, originally named "The Doctor," ran from 1891 to 1941 for the Kahiki Sugar Company in Hawaii, hauling sugar cane, and then until 1944 for the Waimanalo Sugar Company. Its owner George Thagard purchased it in 1979, renamed it "Deanna" and then had it restored at the O'Connor Engineering Shops in Costa Mesa, California, which also maintained the Disneyland steam engines.

Reported by Curtis Reinhardt

Volunteers Make Roundup a Success

Museum Vice President Karl Hovanitz organized the engineers, firemen and conductors. They included Jeff Badger, Jarret LaRose, Bill Rust, Harry Harlow, Dennis Thurman, Tom Gazi, Gary Smith, Jeff Tolan, Kevin Tolan, Virlon Smoot, George Thagard, Brooke Rothers, John from Disneyland, Aron Kahn, Lynne Maddy and Patti LaRose.

John Marchetti organized the many volunteers that sold, collected and punched tickets, worked as crossing guards and manned the Museum table.

They included Howard Amborn, Angela Burkart, Dyer Campbell, Tom

Cooper, Ed Deleonardis, Ralph George, Tom Grozan, Chris Hurd, Arnold Jonas, Charles Jordan, Hilding Larson, Don Maddy, Dan Manion, Diane Marchetti, Roland Pautz, Duane Powell, Bill Pyper, Curtis Reinhardt, Gary See, Richard Terry, Jim Thornburg and Bob Zilkey.

American Red Cross, Santa Lucia Chapter, provided first aid, paramedic and ambulance service for the event.

Eagle Energy, owned by Linda Shultz, donated 280 gallons of scrap oil which was mixed with diesel and used to fuel the PCRR Porter.

More on page 4

A BitterCreek Winner!



Photo by M. Solorio

Emiliano Solorio, age 7, left, with John Marchetti and Brad LaRose, was the lucky winner of the train set given away at the BitterCreek Western Train Festival fundraiser on April 3rd. Emiliano lives in Lompoc.

His father says, "He enjoyed the event and could not wait to get home to set up his new train. He loves trains and has his own O-gauge and G-gauge train setups and lots of train items. Thanks for putting on this fun event, see you next year."



Mission Statement

The San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum, founded as a non-profit, public benefit educational museum, will preserve the railroad history of California and the Central Coast by collecting, restoring, displaying and operating historic railroad equipment.

SAN LUIS OBISPO RAILROAD MUSEUM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Brad LaRose *President*
- Karl Hovanitz *Vice President*
- Aron Kahn *Secretary*
- David Rohr *Treasurer*
- Arnold Jonas, John Marchetti,
Andrew Merriam, Duane Powell,
Gary See

Telephone 805-544-6531
 e-mail: info@slorrm.com
 web site: www.slorrm.com
 Mail to: P.O. Box 13260
 San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
 Bill Pyper, *Newsletter Editor*
 rrbill10@comcast.net

TIMETABLE

The following is a list of future meetings of the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum. Business meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at the Quality Suites Hotel, 1631 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo. They begin at 6:00 p.m.

The Program Meeting locations and times will be announced in advance. All meetings are open to the public.

- July 12 *Business Meeting*
- August 9 *Business Meeting*
- September 13 *Business Meeting*
- October 9, Sunday**
BitterCreek Western Fundraiser
- October 11 *Business Meeting*

BY-LAWS AVAILABLE

Every member in good standing is entitled to have a copy of the By-laws. In the interest of economy, we have not automatically distributed them to all members. To get a copy, send a #10, self addressed, stamped, envelope to SLORRM, Post Office Box 13260, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406.

2

Become a Member

Membership in SLORRM provides an outlet for any person interested in railroad history, train travel, railroad oriented entertainment and the value of railroading to the community.

Membership is designed for those who love trains and wish to educate others, young and old, and who share the dream of building the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum in the 1894 SP Freighthouse, at the San Luis Obispo railroad station.

Single members pay \$36 per year. A family can join for \$60 annually, and a sustaining member pays \$100 per year. Mail to SLORRM, P.O. Box 13260, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406-3260. On-line go to slorrm.com to download an application form.

Life Members receive an embroidered patch, enameled pin, the Coast Mail newsletter, and have voting rights for one person for life. *Use current age to calculate amount due.*

0-17 years	\$1200 or 5 payments of \$280
18-39	\$900 or 5 payments of \$220
40-61	\$600 or 5 payments of \$160
62 and older	\$300 or 5 payments of \$100

Family Life Members receive two enameled pins, two embroidered patches, the Coast Mail newsletter, and voting rights for life for two people residing at the same address. *Use the age of youngest family member to calculate amount due.*

0-17 years of age	\$1800 or 5 payments of \$420
18-39	\$1350 or 5 payments of \$330
40-61	\$900 or 5 payments of \$240
62 and older	\$450 or 5 payments of \$150

If making payments, the life membership card will be sent upon receipt of the final payment. Until such time as the life membership is paid in full, the member will receive a yearly membership card. All payments made toward a life membership are non-refundable and failure to make a scheduled payment by the due date will result in forfeiture of all funds paid toward the life membership. Payment plans include yearly member dues.

Company Store

The San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum has a variety of items for sale for your enjoyment and to raise money for the Museum. T-shirts in both adult and children sizes, baseball hats, belt buckles, coffee mugs, enamel pins, embroidered patches and engineer hats are all available by going to the Museum website, www.slorrm.com and click on **Company Store**.

New Members John Benson has joined SLORRM since the last Coast Mail was published. David Olenik, MD, is a new sustaining member.

The Barcelona and Clouard families have joined as family members.

Individual Renewals

Bill Barbour, Warren Bebout, David Bruns, Tom Cooper, Ray Craig, Brian Dunn, Mark Evans, Bruce Hebron, Shirley Herbel, James Holmes, Charles Jordan, Hilding Larson, Mike Marple, Guenther Mayer-Harnisch, Mike Palmer, Roland Pautz, Diana Rheinisch, Iran Spradley and James Taylor have all renewed their membership in SLORRM.

Family Renewals

Tom and Debbie Grozan, the Hendrickson family, Craig and Cheryl McCollum, Ron and Louise Milot, and Michael and Virginia Orcutt-Clenard have all renewed their Family Memberships.

Donations Vera Gould, Pauline Harrigan, Jim and Betsy Hawkins and Curtis Rheinhardt have all made donations in memory of Joe Burns. Marian Gregory has made a donation to the Museum in honor of Gail and Arnold Jonas' 50th wedding anniversary. John Benson has made a monetary donation to The Museum.

San Luis Garbage Company donated the use of a dumpster for the Museum work day in April.

Election Results

SLORRM By-Laws require that an election for the Board of Directors be held every two years. Each election is for half of the Board, who serve two-year terms. The election is conducted by mail. This year 71 of the 200+ members re-elected Brad LaRose, Arnold Jonas, John Marchetti and Duane Powell.

Renew your membership

The last line of your mailing address on the envelope states the current expiration date of your membership. Please check this date each time you receive a mailing from SLORRM. If the date is within a month or so of your receipt of the mailing, your remittance of the appropriate amount to renew your membership will be greatly appreciated. Any changes to your contact information should also be included. This will help assure that your membership is always current. Should your mailing address or e-mail address change, prompt submittal of updated information will help achieve this same goal. Thank you for your diligence and cooperation.

Joe Burns



Joe Burns entertaining passengers on the 2006 Railroad Roundup ride.

Photo by Jamie Foster

Joe Burns was born in Chicago in 1946 and passed away in San Luis Obispo March 30, 2011.

Joe was a prolific contributor of ideas and suggestions for the betterment of the museum. He made many good suggestions for the Master Plan, and helped with publicity.

On July 10, 2002, Joe produced the Museum's first *Program Meeting* at the Embassy Suites Hotel. It was a great event featuring music and skits and a guest appearance by *Barry Howard*, designed of the *California State Railroad Museum*.

Joe brought together his experiences and created a visual history of all the rail systems at Disneyland in his own publication "*Disneyland Railroad Digest*." The sales of this unique two-sided poster, displaying meticulously crafted custom illustrations of each piece of rolling stock, benefit the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum.

Joe Burns began his love affair with railroads working the old Mine Train at Disneyland. Joe started hopping freight trains across the USA to visit his parents while attending film school at USC. He became an assistant engineer and hostler for the Santa Fe Railroad and turned power for Amtrak at Union Station in Los Angeles. A challenging part of that Santa Fe job was avoiding rocks thrown from "the projects" while engines were turned on the wye.

As a writer/producer, Joe worked for Disney, ABC, CBS and Universal. Joe has produced 3,000 TV spots and 2,000 radio spots. In one three-year period, he was nominated for six CLIO awards.

Continued on page 4



Art Laidlaw waves to a passing Amtrak train from the trestle on his live steam railroad at his Santa Margarita home in this 1994 photo by Karl Hovanitz.

Art Laidlaw

Art Laidlaw, 79, Railroad Engineer, Life Member of the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum and past member of the LA Live Steamers passed away on June 10, 2011, in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Art grew up in the Palm Springs area. After serving in the Korean War, he moved to San Luis Obispo in the early 1950's.

He hired on with the Southern Pacific Railroad and worked as a switchman in the San Luis Obispo yard. The San Luis Obispo Railroad museum has a kerosene can that Art used to refill switch stand lanterns in that yard.

Art wanted to work on engines and was promoted to fireman. He worked on steam locomotives and diesels, finally being promoted to engineer. He retired after 50 years of service.

Through the years he took many photographs of the SP operations. Author John Signor and others, have used Art's pictures in numerous books about the Southern Pacific Railroad. Frequently, Art took his photos from Terrace Hill, overlooking the railyard. This offered a panoramic view of the entire yard, roundhouse, passenger station and freight house (now the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum).

Art was an early operator of 7 1/2" gauge live steam locomotives in San Luis Obispo County. He built a Pacific Electric "Red Car," and operated it along with live steam locomotives on his private miniature railroad, which circled his Santa Margarita home.

He was also a long time collector of railroad artifacts. Prior to moving to Pahrump, Nevada, he made a large

Continued on page 4



Art Laidlaw in the cab of the Roger Linn at Santa Margarita Ranch in 2000.

Photo by Phil Gould

Thais M. Rees

Thais M. Rees, 93 passed away Saturday, April 2, 2011. She was born in June 1917 and raised by her grandparents in a Section House at No.1 Railroad Avenue, Southern Pacific Railroad in San Luis Obispo. She was proud to be directly descended from a pioneer railroad family and became a career railroader. She worked for Southern Pacific from 1939 to 1955 in San Luis Obispo when she was transferred to San Francisco SP headquarters. She retired in 1986 after more than 49 years with the SP. She was a life member of the SLO Railroad Museum. She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Jack and Sadie Lynch; parents, Mary Ellen and Otis Rees; and sister, Nadine Rees Hemen. Private services have already been held. The family asks that in lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum, P. O. Box 13260, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406, or Marian Hospice of Santa Maria.

3

The Central Coast Railroad Festival will be held Friday, October 7 through Sunday, October 9, 2011. Watch for the next issue of Coast Mail and check www.ccrf.com for announcements of featured events and displays.

Volunteers *Continued from page 1*

Rod Azsman, Museum member and railroad artist, donated a print "SPRRR Coast Mail Train out of Dunsmuir" to be raffled off. It was won by Ariana Falkenburg of Creston.

The Lions Club of San Luis Obispo sold Tri-Tip sandwiches, hot dogs, soft drinks and bottled water.

KSBY-TV ran our promotional spot 52 times on KSBY and 20 times on CW, a value of approximately \$7,500.

Miller Event Services of San Luis Obispo was hired by the Museum to run the parking. They did a great job.

Art Laidlaw *Continued from page 3*

donation of artifacts to the Museum, including the original SP Repair In Place (RIP) Track office building from the SP yard in SLO. The Museum plans to place it next to the freight house, and refurbish it to house the Museum's SP speeder. In 2009 Art donated many more railroad artifacts to the museum. Included were a Daylight locomotive throttle and reversing quadrant, lanterns and a wig-wag signal. Art was awarded SLORRM Honorary Life Membership for his support and contributions to the museum.

Art was a friend to many generations of railfans, a pioneer of live steam railroading in San Luis Obispo County, and a resource for historical information. He was a personal friend to many museum members and he will be greatly missed.

Information provided by Brad LaRose, Bob Hintze and Peter Arnold.

The next BitterCreek fundraiser will be held on Sunday, October 9, 2011, in conjunction with the Central Coast Railroad Festival. Check the website www.slorm.com for the availability of tickets.

Joe Burns *Continued from page 3*

Recently Joe created the *Great American Railroad Show*. This live stage performance featured videos, films, historical 3-D images, humor and melodrama to showcase American history as entertainment. Joe's ideas were realized by his partner, Curtis Reinhardt, show director Jake McGuire and the cast and crew, to whom he was most grateful.

Contributions may be made in Joe's memory to the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum, P. O. Box 13260, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406-3260.

Written by Joe Burns and Curtis Reinhardt and severely edited by Bill Pyper. Joe Burns' complete CLOSING CREDITS can be found in the April 8, 2011 San Luis Obispo Tribune.

Remembering the Daylight and the SP



As a neighbor of various Southern Pacific Lines throughout my life, I've often wished that I had taken more photographs. This one, taken in the Spring of 1966, is one of my favorites.

It shows the Los Angeles-bound Coast Daylight at Santa Barbara. In my view, the scarlet and gray was not as classy as the Daylight or Black Widow colors, but the paint is fresh and the diesel's flanks are clean. The conductor and his assistant have that

4 old-school formality. And a close look will reveal a carman up on the hood where he's been cleaning the windshield. This was not

due to a one day gathering of seagulls or butterflies along the Gaviota coast; it was routine. I thought the carman's job would be a fine one.

Conventional wisdom was that the friendly Southern Pacific had grown indifferent to passengers, if not downright unfriendly. I recall a conductor insisting that we remain in assigned seats on a train with at least three-quarters of the seats empty and my dad making a face in response to a very stale sandwich from a vending machine. But I guess the new policy had not been taken up by everyone.

- Contributed by Glen Matteson

Railroad Notes.

The clipping below, from the September 30, 1902 Tribune, was sent to the Museum by Mr. Ralph Parker of Vancouver, Washington. His grandfather, John Maurice Howland, had been a Southern Pacific engineer, but had to quit because of the smoke in the tunnels. Mr. Parker reads Coast Mail on-line, and would appreciate receiving any information that anyone may have about his grandfather's railroad career in San Luis Obispo.

ING. SEPTEMBER 30, 1902.

Railroad Notes.

N. P. Sinsott departed this afternoon for San Francisco to take a switch engine. Manuel Silva expects to leave in a few days to take an examination.

Fred Nichols goes to San Francisco soon to go on the main line.

Engineer Howland has been promoted to the main line. He departed for San Francisco this morning.

Frank Nelson, yard master, is visiting in Fresno.

Machinist J. B. Kelly and Engineer J. M. Howland contemplate going to Guatemala.