



# Coast Mail

News from the San Luis



Obispo Railroad Museum



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www.slormm.com

## Come One, Come All to the Pacific Coast Railroad Roundup

On Saturday and Sunday, May 6th and 7th, 2006, The Pacific Coast Railroad on the Santa Margarita Ranch will once again be open to the public to benefit the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum. The ranch will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day.



**Train Rides Galore** on ex-Disneyland coaches pulled by the 1927 Vulcan 2-4-0 steam locomotive used on the Dr. Quinn Medicine Woman TV show or by a 1897 Porter 2-6-2. The trains will traverse a scenic 2-mile loop around the ranch. Visitors may ride as many times as they wish. Rides will also be available on seven and one-half gauge live steam trains from Karl Hovanitz' Bitter Creek Western Railroad of Arroyo Grande.



**San Luis Obispo County Band** will play old favorites for your pleasure on Saturday.

**Monty Mills and his Lucky Horseshoe Band** will sing railroad songs and country western favorites on Sunday.

**FOOD FOR LUNCH!** Salads, barbecue, sodas and water available for reasonable prices.



Vintage Firefighting Equipment



SLORRM Baldwin and Plymouth Locomotives on display.



**Admission by advance purchase only! Adults \$12. Children 12 and under \$6.** Checks payable to San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum must be received by April 29th. Mail to P. O. Box 13260, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406. Tickets and maps will be mailed.



### 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*
- Arnold Jonas ..... *Secretary*
- David Rohr ..... *Treasurer*
- Bill Pyper ..... *Newsletter Editor*
- Aron Kahn, John Marchetti,  
Duane Powell, Frank Rheinisch

Telephone 805-461-3456  
 e-mail: info@slorm.com  
 web site: www.slorm.com  
 Mail to: P.O. Box 13260  
 San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

## 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.

- April 11 ..... *Business Meeting*
- May 6th and 7th*
- Pacific Coast Railroad Roundup**
- May 9 ..... *Business Meeting*
- June 13 ..... *Business Meeting*
- July 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.

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# All ages love trains



Photo by Keith Beard

## Kids have played on Monterey locomotive for years

Since 1955, children of all ages have climbed on retired SP 1285 steam locomotive. It is located at *Dennis the Menace Playground* in Estero Park, at 777 Pearl Street, behind the Youth Center in Monterey. People who played on it when they were kids, now bring their children and grandchildren here to enjoy this relic of a time long gone. The pilot has been replaced with foot boards and several extra railings have been welded in place to make it safer.

According to Monterey City Park Superintendent Doug Stafford, there has never been a serious injury or a claim against the city caused by people climbing on this locomotive. Due to modern playground safety laws, the 1285 is now listed as an "Historic Exhibit" rather than playground equipment.

## Spreading the Word to the Public

On March 1st, SLORRM President **Brad LaRose** gave a speech to the *National Society of Colonial Dames, San Luis Obispo Chapter*. Brad was invited to give this presentation by Chapter President **Harriet Barns**.

The speech, titled "*San Luis Obispo County Railroads; Past, Present, Future,*" told of how Captain John Harford built the first railroad in the county, followed by the Pacific Coast Railway, Southern Pacific Railroad, Amtrak and Union Pacific Railroad.

Brad enlightened the crowd about how the SLORRM was organized, how it progressed from the *Avila Valley Railway Museum* to become the *San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum*.

Other topics discussed included the *2nd Annual Pacific Coast Railroad*

*Roundup*, set for May 6th and 7th at Santa Margarita Ranch. Brad also gave the *Colonial Dames* recent editions of **Coast Mail** and other museum informational items.

No speech about the *San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum* is complete without the sincere request for the donation of historic railroad artifacts and an invitation to all those present to become museum members.

The San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum is always looking for ways to get public recognition and to get out the message.

If you know of an organization which would like to have a museum representative make a presentation, please call the Museum phone at 461-3456, or e-mail to info@slorm.com.

## Read Coast Mail On-line

On January 8th the postage rate for mailing the Coast Mail went up to 39¢ per piece. Mailing one edition of Coast Mail costs over \$400.

You can save the Museum money by reading **Coast Mail** on-line. Send your e-mail address to [info@slorrm.com](mailto:info@slorrm.com) and you will be notified by e-mail when each new edition is published. Coast Mail is usually available on-line before it goes out in the mail.

## New Members

Louis and Anita Beerson, Jacqueline Johnson, The Russell Sperry family and Scott Wagenseller have joined SLORRM since the last issue of Coast Mail was published. The Jack Dewar family has become Life Members.

## Renewals . . .

Robert del Pesco, John Feliciano, Rod Aszman, Mike Marple, James Taylor, Bob Sandel, Laura Abeloe, Agatha Reardon, Bonnie Adams, Loren Nicholson, Frank Rheinisch and family, Don Lee, Bill Pyper, Walter Rice, and Guenther Mayer-Harnisch have renewed their membership since the last Coast Mail was published.

**If you're not a member**, please join. Your support is needed. Single members pay \$36 per year. A family can join for \$60, a sustaining member pays \$100 per year. Mail to SLORRM, P. O. Box 13260, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406.

# Become a Life 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 especially 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.

**Life Memberships:** receive the Coast Mail newsletter, 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

# Hidden Treasure



photo by Larry Tolson

About 15 years ago, when an angry Southern Pacific Railroad was tearing up the tracks at the San Luis Obispo railyard, the City was able to acquire a number of switch stands. One of them was refurbished and is located near the Amtrak depot, where it is used to display information about the water tower.

The remaining stands, pictured above, are languishing in the City's Corporation Yard on Prado Road.

It is planned that they be used in a manner similar to the one near the water tower, to provide information and directions for the *Walk of History* along the railroad tracks.

**Family Life Memberships:** receive special laminated membership cards for all family members, the Coast Mail newsletter, and have voting rights for life for two people residing at the same address. *Use age of youngest 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 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

SLORRM has a variety of items for sale to raise money for the Museum. All the goods shown below are available for purchase at any time. To order, send a check to SLORRM, P. O. Box 13260, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406. Local orders will be delivered. Outside of SLO County please include \$5.00 for shipping and handling.



## T-Shirts \$17<sup>00</sup>

Gray Haynes Beefy-T with SLORRM logo printed on front and the Historic Railroad District logo on back. Available in adult sizes; S, M, L, XL, XXL. Children's S, M, L.



## Hats \$8<sup>00</sup>

Adult or Child's



## Belt Buckle \$25<sup>00</sup>



## 12 oz. Coffee Mugs \$10



## Videos and DVD's \$27<sup>00</sup>

**Southern Pacific Scrapbook.** Final look at SP in California and Arizona.

**SP Vintage West** features many scenes from Bernice Jackson films. Shows SP from 1950 to 1978.

**SP When the empire was intact.** 1965-1975. A Look at a Great Era.

**Electric Rails of Utah**, featuring more of Bernice Jackson's film.

All the above were donated to the Museum by **Charles Smiley.**

## Testing the Museum Floor

Testing the load bearing capacity of the asphalt floor in the Southern Pacific 1894 Freighthouse has been donated by **Earth Systems Pacific**.

The tests were conducted on the old bitumen floor (mined at Price Canyon we believe) to determine if it was too soft for displays and high heel shoes. The test consisted of a steel plate with three projecting half-inch bolts with a steel drum filled with water on top. The assembly weighed 600 pounds. The net result was 200 pounds on each bolt with an equivalent pressure of 1000 pounds per square inch. Of the twelve tests, only one showed a depression of just less than a 1/16 of an inch. Obviously the floor is safe for displays. What would one expect of a railroad freight warehouse? We are not worried about 200 pound ladies standing on a single spiked heel, unless of course they are "well heeled" contributors.

The condition of the floor was of great concern to the Museum Board. We want to save the original floor as it is an essential part of the unique character of the structure and is an example of the local construction methods of a century ago. It will also save the City and the Museum money if the floor can be preserved rather than replaced.

It is through generous contributions of services such as those provided by **Dennis Schallenberger** and his **Earth Systems Pacific** that we can progress toward making the railroad museum a reality. We greatly appreciate their efforts in helping achieve this goal.

## IN MEMORIAM

A cash donation has been made by Robert Huddleston in memory of **Frank Jackson**, retired engineer for the Southern Pacific Railroad.

## Showing Our Stuff



Museum member **Aron Kahn** took on the task of showing the Museum's wares and projects at the Santa Maria Valley Railroad Historical Society show on February 25th and 26th.

# Emily Street Yard

Almost every Saturday during the month of March, work crews led by Brad LaRose and Karl Hovanitz have tackled the arduous, and sometimes muddy, task of moving all of the Museum's property from the Sears yard to the Emily Street Yard.

With the help of Frank Rheinisch, Aron Kahn, Bill Bordeaux, Jarret LaRose, Jim McEntire, Hilding Larson, John Marchetti and others, much of the work has been done. However, there is still plenty to do. Watch your e-mail for notices of future work days.



*Photo by Aron Kahn, above, shows a section of track that has been laid to accommodate the Museum's trove of wheels and wheelsets.*

In the *photo by Steve Mott* below, Brad LaRose guides a rail into position as his son Jarret operates the crane.



In the *photo by Steve Mott* to the right, **Hilding Larson** drags a tie into position at the Emily Street Yard on February 25th. The Museum has a large inventory of ties mostly from the Atoll Business Park spur and the old line to Camp San Luis that ran through the California Mens Colony.



*Karl Hovanitz' mobile crane lifts a load of ties out of the Sears Yard for placement in the Emily Street Yard. Photo by Steve Mott*

Up and Over! The picture below, taken by *Aron Kahn*, shows a set of trucks being swung out of the Sears yard and set on the track in the Emily Street Yard.

