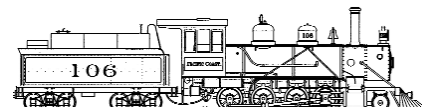


Coast Mail



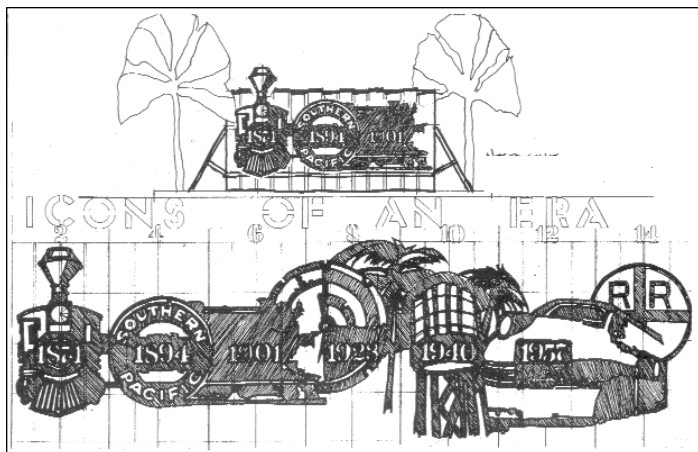
News from the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum

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San Luis Obispo, California, Fall 2005

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Public Art to be Installed at Museum



Jim Trask, of Arroyo Grande, has been chosen by a jury of citizens (including Museum Secretary, Arnold Jonas) to produce a work of art to be placed in the traffic island at the south end of the 1894 SP Freight Warehouse.

Jim is going to create a vertical wall of railroad ties to serve as a backdrop for graphics. The ties will form a slight "S" curve, located visually between the two trees already on the site. Powder-coated "Icons of an Era" will be mounted on both sides of the wall, with low-voltage lighting to make them stand out at night. The backdrop will be fifteen feet long, with each side displaying the graphics to on-coming traffic. The icons may include a 19th Century Steam Locomotive, the local Railroad Water Tower, the Southern Pacific logo, a Diesel Locomotive, a 20th Century Steam Locomotive. All will be colored with the red and orange SP colors.

Museum Exhibits at History Fair

On Saturday, October 1st the San Luis Obispo County Historical Society and the San Luis Obispo Genealogical Society hosted a History Fair at the Odd Fellows Hall on Dana Street. Representatives from most of the many local historical groups presented information about their organization and its goals. Museum members Arnold Jonas, Aron Kahn, Dave Rohr and Bill Pyper set up the plans for the outside layout of the Museum and pictures of the rolling stock. T-shirts, hats, beltbuckles and buttons were offered for sale. Pictured at right are Dave Rohr and Arnold Jonas in front of the display, mugging for the camera.

Photo by Aron Kahn.



Another Great Day at BitterCreek



Aron Kahn photo

Sunday, September 25, 2005, about 136 happy people rode the trains at Bitter Creek Western Railroad and donated almost \$2000 for the development of the Museum. At left Art Reiter instructs Joe Burns on the finer points of piloting his Santa Fe pseudo-diesel while Yardmaster Karl Hovanitz surveys his realm. At right reporter Stacy Daniel of KSBY-TV interviews a young train rider. Live steam Berkshire locomotive below hauled lots of passengers around the circuit.



Dave Rohr photo



Dave Rohr photo



Dave Rohr photo



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,
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Telephone 805-461-3456
 e-mail: info@slorrm.com
 web site: www.slorrm.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. They begin at 6:00 p.m.

Business Meetings are held at the Quality Suites Hotel, 1631 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo. The Program Meeting locations and times will be announced in advance. All meetings are open to the public.

November 8 *Business Meeting*
 December 13 *Business Meeting*
 January 10 *Business Meeting*
 February 14 *Business Meeting*

May 6th and 7th

Pacific Coast Railroad Roundup

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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Donations . . .

What's in a name?

Pictured on the right, Museum President Brad LaRose displays a mint condition Johnson Bar donated to the museum by John Beasley.

Before all you steam engineers out there start jumping on me with both feet: I know, a Johnson Bar is a lever used in steam locomotives to adjust valve timing. Older light aircraft also have a handbrake lever referred to by pilots as a Johnson Bar.

This type of Johnson Bar is used as a lever for moving machinery and other heavy objects. The style seen in the picture can still be purchased new today for about \$200.

This *Johnson Bar* is unique because of the lettering "**S. P. LINES AGENT, PASO ROBLES, CALIF.**" It is a great find and will be an excellent part of the museum display.



Pictured at left is a Southern Pacific Tool Cart, donated to the Museum by Ed Gembotski, of San Luis Obispo.

These all-metal carts are the fore runner of the modern day mechanics roll-away. This thing weighs about 200 pounds empty. It must have been quite a job to push it around the rail yard when it was full of tools! This cart is in generally good condition. A good cleaning, some sand blasting to remove rust and a little paint, and it will be a nice exhibit in the museum.



Below right is a control stand out of a General Electric U-25 "U-Boat" that was donated to the museum by Brent MacGregor in 2001.

Museum member, **Bill Bordeaux**, the owner of **Interstellar Communications, ESPN Radio AM 1240**, and an electronics engineer, has taken the control stand and is converting it to a locomotive simulator.

This will be an excellent interactive device for the educational component of the Museum. With the simulator, we will be able to run our own Operation Lifesaver type program.

Judy and the late **Bob Lilley** have donated a Rockwell brand Shaper. This machine tool will be invaluable for the restoration of wooden boxcars and caboose. **Leon Fairbanks** of Atascadero, has donated a Wig-Wag mechanism, target and arm. A steel embossing stamp from the *Switchmans Union of North America, Santa Lucia Lodge*, was donated by **Art Laidlaw**.



Read Coast Mail On-line

You can save the Museum money by reading **Coast Mail** on-line. Send your e-mail address to 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

Nicholas Price, Bryan Pearson, Tom Petersen, the Ron Todaro family, Donald Audet, Dennis Cementina, Curtiss Johnson, Robert Himoto and Gerry Johnson have all joined the SLORRM since the last edition of Coast Mail was published. Norma Dengler and Malcom Gaddis have joined as life members.

Renewals . . .

Jim and Sharon Chernoff, Brad LaRose and family, Rick and Patsy Pando, Arnold and Peggy Teague, Agatha Reardon, Luther and Betsy Bertrando, Dyer Campbell, Craig and Cheryl McCollum, Jim and Esther Landreth, Art and Barbara Reiter have renewed their membership since the last Coast Mail was published. Gerard Parsons, and John Marchetti have become life members.

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.*

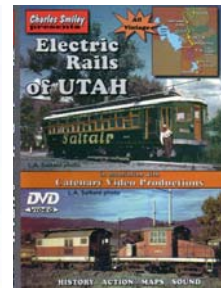
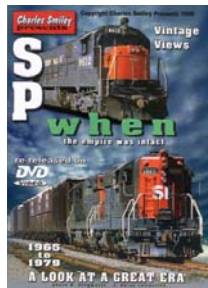
0-17 years \$1200 or 5 payments of \$280
 18-39 \$900 or 5 payments of \$220
 40-61 \$600 or 5 payments of \$160
 62 and older \$300 or 5 payments of \$100

New Coffee Mugs



The SLORRM Company Store has received a shipment of new coffee (or whatever you want to use them for) mugs. These new mugs feature the museum logo on the front and the City of SLO Historic Railroad District logo on the back. They are ceramic mugs, 4 1/2" high by 3" in diameter and hold 12 ounces of liquid. Get yours now. Just \$10 from the Company Store.

2 New Videos



Charles Smiley has donated two more DVDs to raise money for the museum. **SP When the empire was intact, 1965-1975, A Look at a Great Era,** and **Electric Rails of Utah,** featuring more of Bernice Jackson's film. \$27 each.

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 at 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 \$17⁰⁰

Gray Haynes Beefy-T with SLORRM logo printed on front and the Historic Railroad District logo on back.

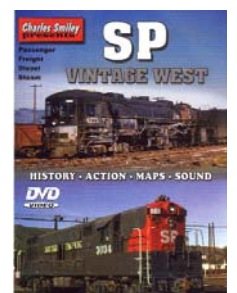
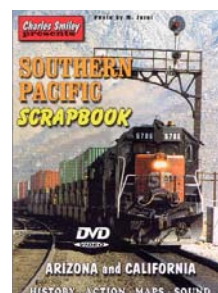
Available in adult sizes, small, large, Xtra-large.



Hats \$8⁰⁰ Adult or Child's



Belt Buckle \$25⁰⁰



Videos and DVD's \$27⁰⁰

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.

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History's Mysteries



May 15 - 1915. A special train to Railroad Shopmen's picnic held at Pismo. Train made 3 round trips between 9 am and 12 midnight. Everything was free to families.

The two pictures above were donated to San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum by **Pete Dunan**, General Manager of the San Luis Obispo Goodwill Industries. They were found among items that were going to be discarded by Goodwill. Pete has no idea where they came from. The captions printed below the pictures are what is written on the backs of those pictures; word for word. If anyone knows anything about the *Railroad Shopmen's Picnic of May 15, 1915*, or knows anything about *Kelsey Thorne*, please share that information with the museum.



Kelsey Thorne. Picture taken in 1912. 16 years old, working for old Pacific Coast Railway Co.



The house pictured on the left above was occupied by William A. Kaler, a conductor, and his wife Jessie in 1910. It was one of many *railroad houses* built in the early twentieth century by the railroad for its workers. This one was believed to be near Ruth Street. Does anyone out there know anything about it? Is there anyone still around who knew the Kalers? Could it be the house in the righthand picture, which is on Santa Rosa Street near the depot?



Signing of New Railroad Book at SLO Library

Heritage Shared invites you to an afternoon reception and book-signing with author Richard J. Orsi. Dr. Orsi, Professor Emeritus of History at California State University, East Bay, and longtime member of Heritage Shared, will speak about his latest work, *Sunset Limited: The Southern Pacific Railroad and the Development of the American West, 1850-1930*. (University of California Press, 2005).

Help promote the San Luis Obispo Historic Railroad District and support Heritage Shared. Signed copies of Dr. Orsi's book will be available for purchase.

The reception and signing will take place Saturday, November 5, 2005, from 3:30 to 6:00 pm in the Community Room of the City/County Library at Palm and Osos Streets in San Luis Obispo. The \$15 admission includes refreshments. For more information, call Tom Wheeler at 547-0763 or Bob Pavlik at 781-9728.

