



Coast Mail

News from the San Luis



Obispo Railroad Museum



Volume 7, Number 3

San Luis Obispo, California, Summer, 2006

www.slorm.com

Museum Adds Royalty to Roster



Private car La Condesa parked at Los Angeles Union Passenger Terminal behind Union Pacific Business Car in late 1983.

On Thursday, June 29, 2006, Museum President Brad LaRose and Treasurer Dave Rohr journeyed to Los Osos to meet with Gordon Crosthwait. Mr. Crosthwait is the long-time owner of *La Condesa*, a 1926 Pullman open platform passenger car. This car was originally built for the Santa Fe Railroad as a diner-lounge-observation car number 1512. It has been modified and now includes 3 bedrooms.

Mr. Crosthwait purchased the car around 1970 and ran it on Amtrak for many years. He is one of the founding members of the American Association of Private Railroad Car Owners and currently is a member of the Rail Passenger Car Alliance. Both groups are very active in refurbishing and running private cars.



For the past twenty years the car has been stored in Fullerton, California where Gordon has been refurbishing the car and working to bring it up to current Amtrak standards.

Brad and Dave accepted the donation on behalf of The Museum. Plans are to have it moved by rail to a spur in Santa Margarita where SLORRM can continue its refurbishment. Getting the car Amtrak compatible will be an expensive undertaking, but the reward of riding the open platform down the coast will make it well worth the time and effort.



Above: Fullerton, CA, July 29, 2006





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*
 Bill Pyper *Newsletter Editor*
 Arnold Jonas, John Marchetti,
 Duane Powell, Frank Rheinisch

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 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.

August 8 *Business Meeting*
 September 12 *Business Meeting*
 October 10 *Business Meeting*

Sunday, October 29th

Train Festival at BitterCreek

November 14 *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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Pacific Coast Railroad Roundup

Saturday and Sunday, May 6th and 7th, 2006, more than 2,000 enthusiastic men, women and children streamed onto the Santa Margarita Ranch for the 2nd Annual Pacific Coast Railroad Roundup.

Railroad enthusiasts came from as far away as Pennsylvania and Florida. Although the majority of the visitors were from the central coast (Lompoc to Paso Robles), a large number made the trip from Los Angeles and the Bay Area. The Central Valley was also well represented.

The three steam locomotives of Rob Rossi's *Pacific Coast Railroad* worked tirelessly hauling train after train of happy people uphill and down, around the two-mile loop.



The newest addition to the Pacific Coast Railroad roster is a 4-4-0 steam locomotive built by Bob Harpur in 1967 for the Disney World Railroad. It most recently was used at Astro World in Houston, Texas. It was a big hit with railfans, hauling two ancient DRG&W boxcars and giving cab rides.



SLORRM's Dagney was on display.



Santa Maria Valley Railroad Museum and BitterCreek Western webmaster **Jamie Foster** did journeyman duty as crossing guard and conductor.



The kiddie train provided by the **Atascadero Elks Lodge #2733** seen here passing by an exhibit of antique automobiles and trucks.



The San Luis Obispo County Band played old favorites for the crowd.



Harvey Girl, Renee Orton is interviewed by Coast Mail editor Bill Pyper. Renee and about 30 other women from Southern California have formed the *Harvey Girl Historical Society*. They are preserving the memory and history of the Harvey Girls who staffed the Fred Harvey restaurants along the Santa Fe Railroad from 1883 to 1968.

Rotary Club Contributes

The Rotary Club of San Luis Obispo has donated \$1000 to the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum.

Their fundraising efforts brought in more money than they expected, so they decided to distribute the excess to local organizations in which Rotary members were active. Arnold Jonas is our active Rotary member.

The Museum Board of Directors has allocated the funds to the Exhibit Development Fund.

Renewals . . .

Curt Johnson, Robert Himoto, Elaine Dutra, Craig and Cheryl McCollum, Gerry Johnson, Karl Hovanitz, Pete and Jeanette Arnold, Andy and Sue McMeans, Jim Thornburg, Larry Tarpley, Roland Pautz, Bob and Dodie Williams, Jim McEntire, Dominic Perello, Ray Craig, Fred Paap, Mike Palmer, Stan Wilson, Bill Bruckart, John Miramon, Charles Kinzer, Elaine LaLanne, the William Burnette family, Allan Warner, Andrew Merriam, Bill Bordeaux and family, Bill Barbour, Jack Cashin, John Turrill, Bob and Pam Seeley, Robert and Olga Harway, Leon and Sandra Fairbanks, Jim Batchelor and family, Tom Barton, Harold Schuchardt, Mark Evans, Henry and Ann Rible, and James Holmes have renewed their membership since the last Coast Mail was published.

Dyer Campbell, Bill Pyper, Jim and Esther Landreth, Ed Winnewisser, and John and Anna Fleming have become life members.



New member Rick Framme and wife Cindy enjoyed the Railroad Roundup.

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 Freight House, at the San Luis Obispo railroad station.

Life Memberships: receive a special laminated membership card, 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

New Members

Robert and Kim Ryan, Gary See, Christopher Palermo, Paul Deis, Rick Framme, Alan and Chris Volbrecht, Paul Skelker, Alice and Tony Addison, Robert Zilkey, Thomas Ennis, Scott and Carol Higgins, Harry and Mary Harlow, Bob and Louisa Lindquist have joined SLORRM since the last issue of Coast Mail was published.

John Hook, and Mrs. Thais Rees 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. See below for information about Life Memberships.

New Products



Blue and Tan Baseball Hat \$20
 one size fits all

2" dia. Embroidered Patch \$5
 1" dia. Enameled Pin \$5

Order from The Company Store

Family Life Memberships: receive special laminated membership cards for all family members, the Coast Mail newsletter, two enameled pins, two embroidered patches, 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 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
\$17⁰⁰

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 \$8⁰⁰
 Adult or Child's



Belt Buckle
\$25⁰⁰



12 oz. Coffee Mugs \$10



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.

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.**

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Emily Street Yard

On Tuesday, June 27, 2006, Brad LaRose, Jarret LaRose, Ted VanKlavern and Mark VanKlavern moved the last piece of rolling stock out of the Sears Yard onto museum track in the adjacent Emily Street Yard.

The 50 foot long SP boxcar was loaded onto a Landoll hydraulic roll-back trailer provided by Dwight Peterson Low Bed Service. Loading went fairly quickly but the unloading required the help of two pickup trucks to tow the boxcar off the trailer onto the track.

Preparing the Emily Street yard to store the Museum's rolling stock and other material was a huge project. Starting in April, and often delayed by wet weather, the yard was completed by mid-June.

From a piece of land, full of weeds and piles of dirt, Brad LaRose and a crew of many, have built a clean and orderly storage yard for SLORRM.

Thanks go out to the many who worked on this project including: Brad LaRose, Jarret LaRose, Arnold Jonas, John Marchetti, Aron Kahn, Ted Van Klavern, Mark Van Klavern, Duane Powell, Dave Rohr, Phil Reader, Jim McEntire, Karl Hovanitz' **Bitter Creek Western Crane Company**, Hilding Larson and the **San Luis Paper Co.**, Frank Rheinisch and crew from **Alpha Fire Sprinklers**, Joel Switzer and crew from **Joel Switzer Diesel Service**, Mike from the SLO Model Railroad Club and Ed and Bob Evenson of the **Evenson Plumbing Company**. We hope that we didn't forget anybody, but if we did, thanks to you too.

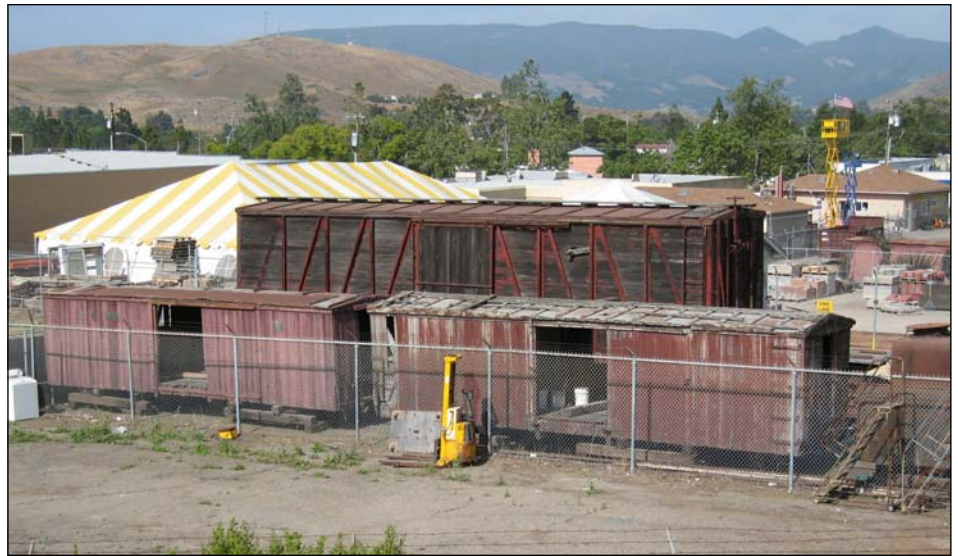
Charles Van Nortwick has offered to take care of the weed abatement at the Emily Street Yard.

In Memoriam

A cash donation has been made to the Museum by La Vaughn Otis, in memory of **Frank S. Jackson**, late Southern Pacific engineer.

Museum Joins ARM

The San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum has joined the Association of Railway Museums. Membership in ARM gives SLORRM more access to information about grants available for restoration of railcars and railroad buildings. ARM membership provides SLORRM with opportunities to network with other railroad museums and exchange ideas and possibly even historic artifacts.



Emily Street Yard from trackside.



Photo by Mark Van Klavern

The Museum's 40' boxcar just fit on Dwight Peterson's Landoll hydraulic roll-back trailer. Good thing it only had to be moved about fifty yards.



Emily Street Yard looking northeast from Emily Street, July 23, 2006