

SHEFFIELD VELOCIPEDE

three wheel railroad inspection car



before restoration





after restoration

In 1883, George S. Sheffield of Three Rivers, Michigan invented the Sheffield Velocipede handcar, a 140 lb. wood and iron bicycle with a third wheel for balance. The car is powered by both hand and foot levers. He soon formed the Sheffield Velocipede Car Company and produced about 4,000 cars. The velocipede was used throughout the nation and Europe for railroad signal inspection and maintenance. This particular handcar was used locally in San Luis Obispo on Southern Pacific rails in the early turn of the century.



Phil Gould, a member of the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum, has lovingly restored this velocipede from it's original condition over the course of six to eight months. We thank both Phil and Vera, his wife, for their outstanding effort in reconstructing this historic rail vehicle.

The San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum is dedicated to preserving our local railroad heritage through the restoration and display of historic railroad rolling stock. Our future museum will be located in the historic 1894 Southern Pacific Freight Warehouse near the SLO Railroad Depot. We need your help in providing funds for the various restoration projects under way and our future Museum construction.

We are a non-profit organization and any contributions are gladly accepted. Please help us in preserving our local railroad history for all to share...



Fig. A 257.

No. 1. Velocipede Car for One Person.

These cars are furnished with either 17 or 20 inch driver, and gear
either 35 or 4 times, as desired. The 20 inch driver, geared 4 times, make
what harder than the lower geared. We furnish either style of drive
or gearing at the same price.

1896 catalog advertisement