News from the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum

Volume 1, Number 4

San Luis Obispo, California, June 1998

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REA Building is on right, looking northeast from Jennifer Street Bridge,

## REA Building as Interim Museum?

On May 14, 1998, at the last meeting of the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum, it was suggested that the old Railway Express Agency building, next to the Amtrak station, could be used as an interim museum site. A portion of the building, property of Union Pacific Railroad, is being used by the Union Pacific Railroad Police as a office. The majority of the building, including the freight storage area. is vacant. We will be contacting the railroad in an attempt to lease a portion of the building for a nominal fee.

If we can obtain use of a portion of the building, and if we can get all the necessary permits, licenses and insurance, we will open an interim museum and gift shop.

The opening of an interim museum will show the City that we are serious about having a museum. The proximity to the Amtrak station will make it visible to travelers that, hopefully, will make a quick visit during their layover. The gift shop will sell souvenirs, postcards, etc., to raise money for the museum.

## Council Approves Railroad District Master Plan

At its June 2, 1998, meeting the San Luis Obispo City Council gave tentative approval to the Railroad District master Plan. Final approval will be voted on at the June 16th Council Meeting.

Once the Council has given its final approval to the plan, we can start working with City staff to get the museum started.

One idea, proposed at the last SLORRM meeting, is to move the caboose from behind The Graduate restaurant to the old track near Emily Street so that it will be visible to the public and so that restoration work can begin on it.

For more information regarding the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum contact:

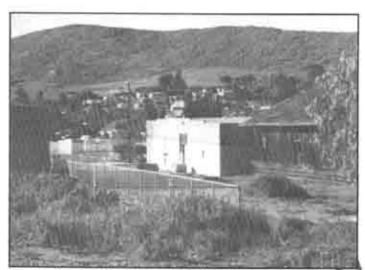
Brad LaRose (messages) 461-3456 Karl Hovanitz . . . . (days) 544-7658 Fax 544-7675

Bill Pyper ..... (days) 543-2259 Fax 543-9262

For more information regarding the Railroad District Master Plan contact the City of San Luis Obispo Community Development Department at 781-7170.



Emily Street, looking north. Sears warehouse is on right.



View looking southwest toward Emily Street.

Minutes - continued from page 1 (yes, both exist) in Paso Robles. We would then be transported south to our starting point in San Luis Obispo via chartered motor coach. All for a very low price! Sounds great. However, Karl Hovanitz informed us that Amtrak will not reserve a block of seats in their cars for a group departing SLO. This probably is due to the seats needing to be kept reserved and empty the entire trip from Los Angeles to SLO so that they would be available for us. Well, so much for a great idea. Maybe we will contact Amtrak next year and work this out. Meantime, we can still conduct another "Sunset Train," where we had an early dinner in Santa Barbara and leisurely watched the sun set in the Pacific Ocean from our train going home to San Luis Obispo.

## **Board of Directors**

Luther Boller
Karl Hovanitz
Kent Kenny
Brad LaRose
Marianne Michels
Michael O'Leary
Duane Powell
Barron Smith



## **Timetable**

Tuesday, June 16th San Luis Obispo City Council

Final vote on Railroad District Master Plan 7:00 p.m. City Hall 990 Palm Street

June 19-21 Railroad Days Dunsmuir, California

Saturday, June 27 North County Rail

> History Tour Departs 7 a.m. Returns 7:30 p.m.

\$29.00 Santa Margarita to King City Lunch at King City or bring your own

Thursday, July 9th

San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum Meeting 7:00 p.m. Embassy Suites Madonna Road, SLO

Saturday, August 1

Roaring Camp & Big Trees Railroad Departs 7 a.m. Returns 7:30 p.m. \$49.00

Lunch at Roaring Camp or bring your own

September 26, 27 Railroad Days Truckee, California

Sunday, October 18

Pacific Locomotive Assoc.,
Niles Canyon Railway
Ardenwood Historic Farm,
Fremont
Kelly Park, San Jose
Departs 7 a.m.

Departs 7 a.m.
Returns 8 p.m.

\$49.00, photo run by, \$6/person donation included.