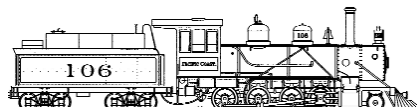


# Coast Mail



News from the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum

Volume 5, Number 2

San Luis Obispo, California, Fall 2004

www.slorm.com

# Train Festival October 24th

**On Sunday, October 24th,** museum member Karl Hovanitz will once again open his **Bitter Creek Western Railroad** in rural Arroyo Grande for the benefit of the **San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum**.

**From 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.** you can ride the trains as many times as you want for an **\$8<sup>00</sup>** admission ticket. Children under 13 get in for **\$5<sup>00</sup>**. Babies in arms or strollers are admitted for no charge.

**Space is limited to 175 guests,** so get your tickets early. Make checks payable San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum, and mail to Post Office Box 13260, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406.

Tickets will go on sale October 2nd. First come, first served. Checks received after October 16th will be returned. Tickets will be mailed, with a map, on receipt of payment.

Barbecue hot dogs, chips and soda or water will be on sale for **\$5<sup>00</sup>** per person.

For more information call the museum phone 461-3456 or e-mail to [info@slorm.com](mailto:info@slorm.com).



# Pacific Coast Railroad Roundup

If you think that the Train Festivals at Bitter Creek Western are great, you're right. If you love trains and railroading, you'll really like what we have lined up for Spring 2005. On the weekend of



May 7th and 8th, museum life member Rob Rossi will open his Pacific Coast Railroad, on Santa Margarita Ranch, for the benefit of the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum.

At present, The Pacific Coast Railroad has a two-mile loop of 36-inch narrow gauge track, on which a 1927 Vulcan 2-4-0 steam locomotive pulls passenger cars that formerly rolled on the Disneyland Railroad.

You may have seen this steamer chugging into *(Continued on page 4)*





## 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@slorrm.com  
web site: www.slorrm.com  
Mail to: P.O. Box 13260  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

# Freighthouse Progress



This is how the Freighthouse looked in 1977. Pretty run down, but still recognizable as a Southern Pacific building. This is the oldest picture of the Freighthouse that the Museum has. If any of you have any older pictures that you would like to donate to the Museum, please contact the Museum by e-mail at info@slorrm.com or by mail at P. O. Box 13260, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406. If you don't want to donate the pictures, please let us scan and copy them.



Anybody know what happened to this sign, seen here in 1977.

## Museum Election

In accordance with San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum By Laws, an election will be held each January to choose the Board of Directors. Each Director's term is for two years. An election is held every year to elect half or the Board. In October, Secretary Arnold Jonas will send out election notices, and invitations for nominations to all members in good standing. Any member in good standing may stand for election to the Board of Directors. Ballots will be mailed out in November. The terms of Directors Karl Hovanitz, Aron Kahn, Brad LaRose, Frank Rheinisch and David Rohr expire this January.

### 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 of the By Laws, send a self addressed, stamped, #10 envelope to SLORRM, Post Office Box 13260, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406.

2



In 1983 there was still lots of activity around the Freighthouse.



By 1997 the 1894 Freighthouse was in pretty bad shape, although it was being used as a warehouse by Daylight Gardens. *More story and pictures on page 4*



# Recent Donations



**Art Laidlaw** donated the number boards pictured above. They are off an SP switcher similar to the one pictured below.



**John Beasley** donated four switch stands, dwarf signal lights, speeder signal, and two grade crossing signal lights all pictured below. The donation was made in memory of John's mother, **Helen Ziegler**.



**Robert Hoffman** donated a spike-mount switch stand lantern, Conger brakeman's lantern, 5 engineer hats, 36 VHS video tapes of assorted railroad subjects and 11 railroad books.

**Brad LaRose** donated track jacks and a rail grinder pictured below.



# New Members

James and Esther Landreth, Henry Myers, Jim Thornburg, Roland Pautz, Bill Barbour, Glen Matteson, Elaine LaLanne, George "Smokey" Bass and Laura Abeloe have all joined SLORRM since the last newsletter was published.

# Renewals . . .

Cheryl and Craig McCollum, Luther and Betsy Bertrando, Brent MacGregor, Jim McEntire, Dominic Perello, Michael Palmer, Richard Alberts, Phil Gould, Peter Arnold, Pierre Rademaker, Stanley Harkins, The Hendrickson Family, Andy and Sue McMeans, The Jim Batchelor Family, Ed Winnewisser, Ray P. Craig, Steve Mott, Steve McCarty, Charles Kinzer, Allan Warner, Stan Wilson, Gerard Parsons, Elaine Dutra, Bill and Denise Bordeaux Family, Agatha Reardon, Ed Zolkoski, and Hutton Taylor have all recently renewed their membership.

# Adopt-a-Poll VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Once again SLORRM volunteers will take on the job of running a polling place. This time it will be for the General Election on Tuesday, November 2, 2004. Operating a polling place for the County earns \$575 for the Museum.

For the Primary Election, March 2, twelve people volunteered. Most of the volunteers worked 8-hour shifts. Arnold Jonas and Brad LaRose were on duty from 6 am until 10 pm. at Cal Poly's University Union.

For the coming election we have been assigned to Precinct #525 at Mount Carmel Lutheran Church on Fredericks Street in San Luis Obispo.

The more people that volunteer, the fewer hours each person will have to work. To be an Election Official you must be a registered voter in San Luis Obispo County and attend a two-hour training session before the election.

If you are willing to help, call Arnold Jonas at 541-0546 or e-mail slotrains@charter.net.

# 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 \$17<sup>00</sup>

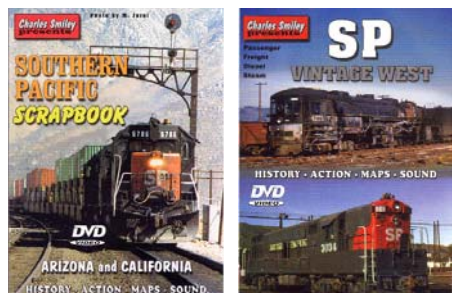
Gray Haynes Beefy-T with SLORRM logo printed on front and the Historic Railroad District logo on back.

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



## Hats \$8<sup>00</sup> Adult or Child's

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



## 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.



# Pacific Coast Railroad Roundup

*(Continued from front page)*

Colorado Springs in the television series *Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman*.

Preliminary plans call for visitors to ride the train around the ranch. Visiting locomotives and other rail cars will be on display. A loop of 7½" gauge track from Bitter Creek Western Railroad may be brought to Santa Margarita to provide more rides for our guests.

Barbecued food, soda, and water will be available for lunch on both days. The exact menu has yet to be decided.

The San Luis Obispo **County Band** will play concerts both days, offering a repertoire of traditional and railroad songs. It is hoped that a Bluegrass Band will also be available for that weekend.

Inside the barn will be exhibits of railroad memorabilia, and a VCR showing railroad videos. Tables will be available for vendors to sell railroad or model railroad related goods. Any interested vendors can contact the museum at P. O. Box 13260, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406, info@slorrm.com, or 805-461-3456.

## Freighthouse Progress *Continued from Page 2*

In the Spring of 2004 a contract was awarded to Voss Construction of Atascadero for Phase 1 of the rehabilitation of the Freighthouse. According to City Project Manager Mike McGuire, work that has been completed so far included construction of the foundation, some removal of lead paint, patching the corrugated roofing as needed and completely repairing the wooden upper flat roof area. All of the freight doors have been reinforced and sealed with plywood. The doors probably won't be reinstalled until the appropriate hardware becomes available. This may require some reproduction.



Rotted lower portions of the building were removed. On the south end there was no foundation.



On the rest of the building, the bottom 18" of the frame was removed and a concrete base was poured in its place. The outer wood will be replaced at a later time.



A complete foundation was poured under the south end of the building where none had been before.



The repaired areas have been covered with plywood to protect them until the original outer wood can be replaced.

## TIMETABLE

The following is a list of coming meetings of the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum. Business meetings begin at 6:00 p.m. and the Program Meetings are at 7:00 p.m.

Business Meetings are held at the Quality Suites Hotel, 1631 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo. The Program Meeting locations will be announced in advance.

- October 14 ..... *Business Meeting*
  - October 24 ... **Fall Train Festival**  
*at BitterCreek Western Railroad*
  - November 11 ... *Business Meeting*
  - December 9 ..... *Business Meeting*
  - January 13 ..... *Business Meeting*
  - February 10 ..... *Business Meeting*
  - March 10 ..... *Business Meeting*
  - April 14 ..... *Business Meeting*
  - May 7, 2005 .....
- Pacific Coast Railroad Roundup**  
*at Santa Margarita Ranch*