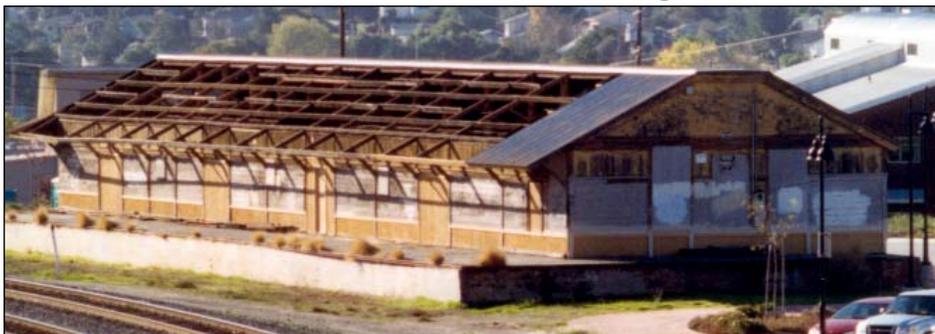
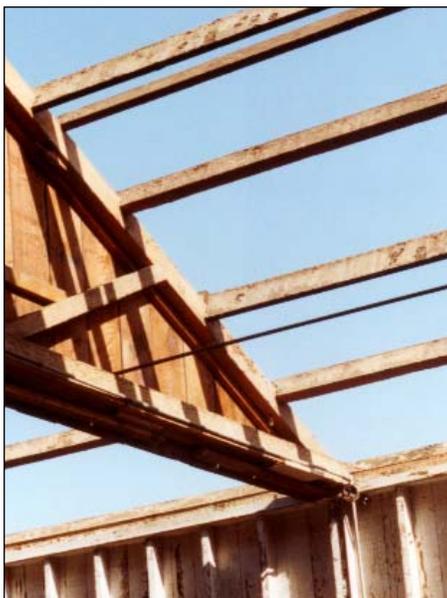


# Restoration Getting Closer to Completion



In November 2004, Voss Construction again went to work on the Freighthouse. The trackside roof has been completely removed in the picture above. On the right is view of the exposed eaves, parts of which were replaced. After removing the old metal roof panels, many rafters and joists had to be replaced. The Voss crew worked Saturday, replacing the entire roof with new corrugated metal panels.



# Council Hearing Date Changed

A public hearing originally planned for February 15, has been moved to Tuesday, March 1, 2005. On that date, the San Luis Obispo City Council will decide on the distribution of Community Development Block Grant funds.

City staff has recommended that \$125,000 of this money be used for the Railroad Museum Freighthouse restoration project.

All 5 members of the City Council have expressed varying degrees of support for the project. However, ours is not the only project vying for the money. The Human Relations Commission recommended that the money not go to the Freighthouse.

The City Council responds to expressions of community interest in the projects proposed for funding.

Letters from you and other interested citizens, or your speaking at the City Council meeting will greatly reinforce the community desire to see this project continue.

Please remind the Council of how the Railroad Museum will boost tourism and be a cultural asset.

If you plan to attend the Council meeting, check to make sure that it hasn't been postponed again.



### 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

# It's a Bird, It's a Plane, It's a Boxcar!

On Saturday, November 6, 2004, a crew of volunteers from SLORRM helped (but mostly watched) the skilled operators of Specialty Crane Company lift Pacific Coast Railways boxcar #1516 from the grounds of the Dalidet Adobe in San Luis Obispo. The boxcar was donated to SLORRM by the San Luis Obispo County Historical Society

PC Boxcar #1516 was purchased from Don Gallock, a local sign painter sometime in the mid 1960's. John Marchetti and two friends bought the boxcar for \$100. When they found out that it would cost \$400 to put it in one of their yards, they decided to find another place for it.

With help of Dave Romero, who was City Engineer at the time, space was located in Mitchel Park behind the Senior Center. When the center needed to expand, the boxcar was moved to the grounds of the Dalidet Adobe on Pacific Street and donated to the Historical Society.

When the Union Oil pier in Avila Beach was destroyed by a storm in the early 1980's, trucks recovered from the destroyed pile driver were



donated by Union Oil and placed under the boxcar.

The Naval Reserve Sea Bee Detachment from Camp San Luis Obispo placed ties and rails for the boxcar to sit on.

## Museum Election

In accordance with San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum By Laws, a mail-in 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 of the Board. In October, Secretary Arnold Jonas mailed invitations for nominations to members in good standing.

Apparently the membership has confidence in the existing Board as no new nominations were received. Consequently, the terms of Directors Karl Hovanitz, Aron Kahn, Brad LaRose, Frank Rheinisch and David Rohr will continue for another two years.

### 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 #10 self-addressed, stamped, envelope to SLORRM, Post Office Box 13260, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406.

2

# Bittercreek Fun

On Sunday, October 24, 2004, in spite of the so-so weather, 200 hearty folks came to BitterCreek Western Railroad to ride the trains. Due to the recent rains, lots of steam locomotives were able to run without the danger of fire. Due to the expanded publicity offered by our website, some people came from as far away as Visalia and Las Vegas. \$2000 was raised for the museum thanks to the hard work and generosity of Karl Hovanitz and his friends who run their trains at BitterCreek. Photos by Dave Rohr.



## New Members

Jim and Sharon Chernoff, Bruce Hebron, Charles VanNortwick, and Danny Svitek, have all joined SLORRM since the last newsletter was published.

## Renewals . . .

John Feliciano, Robert del Pesco, Duane Powell, Walter Rice, Bill Pyper, Ken Schwartz, Curtis Reinhardt, Tom Mitchell, Charlie Dockstader, Doug Gerard, David Bruns, Brad LaRose, Aron Kahn, Charles Jordan, Dave Rohr, Joe Burns, Art Reiter and Dyer Campbell recently renewed their membership.

**If you're not a member**, please join now. Your support is needed. Single membership costs \$36 per year. Family membership is \$60, or you can be a sustaining member for \$100 per year. Mail to SLORRM, P.O. Box 13260, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406.

## IN MEMORIAM

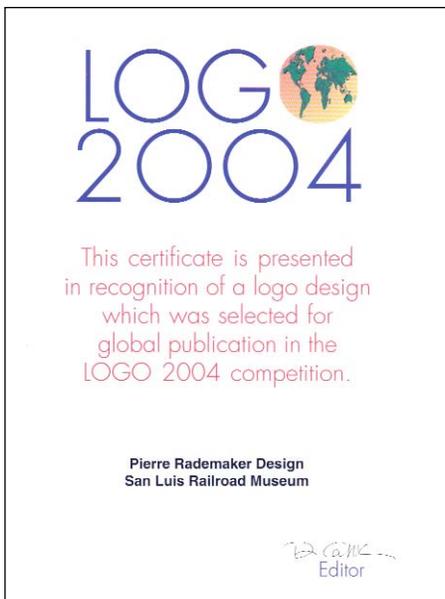
### Pete Thorp

Peter Thorp, 69, longtime member of SLORRM, passed away on December 14, 2004 after a long battle with cancer.

Pete's love of model trains led to a retirement business. He was one of the founders of Detail Associates, which manufactured detail parts for HO model trains and the founder of Trackside Details, which made detail parts for garden railroads. He was also active in model railroad clubs. The gardens surrounding his home are a model train layout that was a constant source of pleasure and recreation for Pete and his wife Gail. Pete was also instrumental in the founding of the San Luis Southern live steam railroad, now known as the BitterCreek Western.

Just 2 weeks before he passed away, Pete donated several nice artifacts to the Museum. These included: a Sunbeam locomotive headlight, a caboose lantern, 2 switchmen's lanterns, a switch stand, a trolley fare box, and a trolley control stand.

## Logo Wins Award



The San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum logotype, designed by local graphic designer and museum member **Pierre Rademaker**, has been recognized for excellence and has been selected to be published in *Logo 2004*. This hard-bound 384 page volume features the best examples of American corporate identity design completed over the past three years. Past editions have sold over 20,000 copies worldwide and provide a highly visible vehicle for exhibition of a visual identity. This a highly respected publication with global distribution. The certificate shown above can be displayed in the museum.

## Voting 11-2

Once again into the fray, museum members led by Arnold Jonas, kept watch over a polling place.

Richard Alberts, John Marchetti, Karl Hovanitz, Brad LaRose, Agatha Reardon, Duane Powell, Bill Pyper, Gail Jonas, Frank Rheinisch and Aron Kahn staffed the polling place at the Carmel Lutheran Church on Fredericks Street in San Luis Obispo.

This volunteer service, under the direction of the San Luis Obispo County Clerk-Recorder's *Adopt-a-Poll* program, puts \$575 in the museum's bank account. The group also received a letter from election official Pam Weaver complimenting them on the quality of their work.

## 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.

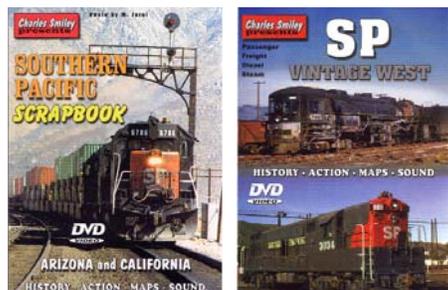
Available in adult sizes, small, large, Xtra-large.



### 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.

# Betty Kimball Donates Pacific Coast Railway Headlights

In 1938, Betty and the late Ward Kimball built "America's first privately owned backyard railroad," the Grizzly Flats Railroad. At their home in San Gabriel, California they built over 900 feet of 3 foot gauge track, a water tank, and car barn/engine shed. A passenger station was given to them by Walt Disney. Eventually they acquired several steam locomotives and cars.

In 1934 Ward Kimball began working for Walt Disney Studios as an animator. He would become a writer, director and Academy Award winner. While working at Disney, he met a pretty blond named Betty Lawyer who was working at the studio as a color consultant. They were married on August 15, 1936.

Betty must have known that Ward was a railfan, but she could not have known that that was just the start of things to come. Their destination for the first night of the honeymoon was Morro Bay, California. On the way they passed through the south end of San Luis Obispo. After crossing some railroad tracks the road passed next to the Pacific Coast Railway station, roundhouse and yard. Ward and Betty stopped there and ended up climbing over, around and under the locomotives and cars of this narrow gauge railroad, which was in its declining years.

Ward returned to San Luis Obispo in 1937 to ride a Pacific Coast Railway train that was chartered by the Railway and Locomotive Historical Society. His attachment for the Pacific Coast Railway was growing with each visit.

The Pacific Coast Railway went out of business in 1942. The land, right-of-way and tracks were bought by one company. Much of the remaining locomotives and rolling stock were scrapped during the World War II scrap drives.

In 1946 Ward returned to San Luis Obispo and inspected the remaining rolling stock in the Pacific Coast Railway yard. He purchased Boxcar #704 and Caboose #2. He and Betty enjoyed having these cars on their railroad for many years before selling the caboose to the California State Railroad Museum and donating the boxcar to the Orange Empire Railway Museum.



*Brad LaRose and Betty Kimball stand behind the two Pacific Coast Railway headlights she donated to the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum.*

Several months after the 1946 visit, Betty and Ward made a final trip to the Pacific Coast Railway shops. By then many years had passed since the railway went out of business and many railfans had visited the shops and "purchased souvenirs" from the railway. Very few railroad artifacts remained on the site. However, Ward located several kerosene burning locomotive headlights in the rafters of the roundhouse. Betty and Ward purchased the headlights and a three-foot gauge hand pump hand-car as their last acquisitions from the Pacific Coast Railway.

In 1999, San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum President Brad LaRose, his son Jarret and museum supporter John Smith, visited Betty and Ward at their home. Ward gave a tour of the Grizzly Flats Railroad and Betty provided refreshments. The group discussed the history of the Pacific Coast Railway and how the museum is collecting artifacts from that narrow gauge line. Betty and Ward offered to donate the headlights to the museum with the intent that they would return to their "original hometown."

On July 8, 2004, Ward Kimball passed away a 88 years of age. Betty and Ward had been married for 66 years. His family, the world of art, the world of music, the toy train hobby, and railfanning have all suf-

suffered a great loss. His passing was felt world wide.

On December 24, 2004, Brad and Jarret returned to the Kimball home and met with Betty and Virginia Kimball (Betty's daughter-in-law) Betty recalled the 1999 discussion about the headlights and turned them over to Brad for the museum.

The headlights have been returned to San Luis Obispo and will be displayed in the museum. A long ago purchase by Betty and Ward to preserve several pieces of central coast railroad history has now come full circle. Thank you Betty and Ward, you have given us a greater appreciation of our Pacific Coast Railway History.



*The headlight above is a carbide light made by the U.S. Headlight Company of Buffalo, N.Y. Patented November 28, 1887. The red light is a kerosene light made by the Roesch Lamp Company, of San Francisco, California.*

## 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.

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