## RailFestival 2003: "Women in R.R." On Track For March 22 & 23

This year we salute the "Women in Railroading". So, if you haven't responded to your January 15th letter from Society President Paul Haase, please do!

Festival Chairperson Fred Ervast needs a core of volunteers to run a number of Society based venues over the two days such as the Locomotive BBQ; Visitor's Center; speeder rides, 'N' Scale train layout at the Senior Center; and take-down crews for late Sunday afternoon.

And, all of the Society's rolling toys will be out so visitors can play with them! That means volunteers will also be needed to operate the Pacific Fruit Express Reefer Art Show; National Embassy Pullman Car Tour; Caboose 474 Tour; and the #1 Sespe Steam Locomotive Engineer Program. Car Attendant Chairman Larry Stermolle is also looking for trained Car Attendants to work the hour long rides on the Fillmore & Western trains.

Festival Chair Fred Ervast

Ambitious, YES! Impossible, NO! This event always adds to the public awareness of the Society and increases our stature both within the City and the County. It also raises needed funds for railcar restoration and turntable installation. So, return that postcard or drop an e-mail at the website. Help celebrate the Society's tenth anniversary at the Festival! And, thanks in advance for helping to make this year's event so special.



**Now Open!**

# RAILROAD VISITOR CENTER

After many member hours of cleaning, repairing, painting, and a bit of remodeling, the Society's new Railroad Visitor Center has opened. Housed in the former City of Fillmore's historic fire station, the Center is located both to the rear and adjacent to the original 'bank' visitors center on the corner of Central and Main in Fillmore.

Facing the park, railroad tracks and City Hall, many of the display cases, paintings, 'O' scale train layout, signs, railroadiana, and artifacts have been taken out of storage and redisplayed. Size wise, the Center consists of a large display area (where the fire trucks once parked), a meeting room, and a restroom. There's even plenty of room to store the newly completed locomotive themed BBQ trailer. The interior masonry walls have been lovingly repainted by Steve Pierce and his crew in vintage Southern Pacific two-tone green. And, other than a new block letter plastic sign, the building exterior has been preserved.

Center overseer Fred Ervast says, "We hope to have the Center open nearly every weekend, especially during the summer. A lot depends on the availability of docent volunteers." In the past, the center served to educate both school groups and Fillmore & Western passengers on the history of the main line (now Santa Paula branch line) before or after their train rides. Tours focused on the importance of founding industries like citrus and oil and to the future as a Metrolink line connecting the Santa Clarita Valley with the ocean. The Society even had a gift shop which sold shirts and caps to raise money to support the center. Society membership materials were also available. Fred says such a shop is also planned for the new Center.

Interested in educating the public and keeping railroad history alive? Contact Fred at www.fastfinn@aol.com or at (805) 389.0787 today! Otherwise, we'll see you at the Railroad Visitor Center every month for our SCRVRHS Membership Meetings.

# DISPATCH BOARD
## FEBRUARY 2003

*This is an open invitation for breakfast every Saturday morning at 8 am at the Fillmore Cafe on Santa Clara Street across from City Hall.*

**1st & 2nd**   1:00-5:00 Fillmore & Western Santa Paula Daytime Train
Volunteer as a Car Attendant - schedule with
Larry or Jean Stermolle at 805 497-6373

**5th**   7:00 pm - **SCRVRHS Board of Directors Meeting**
Railroad Visitor Center  455 Main Street, Fillmore

**8th & 9th**   1:00-5:00 Fillmore & Western Santa Paula Daytime Train
Volunteer as a Car Attendant - schedule with
Larry or Jean Stermolle at 805 497-6373

**9th**   General Membership Meeting
**"Alaska's White Pass & Yukon By Speeder"**
**with Bob Mahan**
Railroad Visitor Center - Central & Main, Fillmore
See www.members.scrvrhs.com for a map and directions
7:00 pm - Refreshments

**15th & 16th**   1:00-5:00 Fillmore & Western Santa Paula Daytime Train
Volunteer as a Car Attendant - schedule with
Larry or Jean Stermolle at 805 497-6373

**22nd & 23rd**   1:00-5:00 Fillmore & Western Santa Paula Daytime Train
Volunteer as a Car Attendant - schedule with
Larry or Jean Stermolle at 805 497-6373

## RAILFESTIVAL MARCH 22 & 23

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## AROUND THE ROUNDHOUSE . . .

**PRESIDENT PAUL HAASE -** suffered a major heart attack while walking on Saturday evening, January 25th.  At press time he was in Intensive Care at Santa Paula Memorial Hospital in Santa Paula.  Needless to say, we're all pulling for him.

**GET WELL 'BIG GUY' -** last month it was reported that one of the most dedicated members of the Society suffered a terrible motorcycle accident.  **Mike Morgan** continues to recuperate at St. John's Hospital in Oxnard. He and members of his family have helped out at nearly every event that had the SCRVRHS name on it.  Now its time for the Society to try and pay him back by keeping Mike in their thoughts. Mike, we look forward to seeing you again soon at a future Membership meeting.  Hang in there!

**AGAIN? -** it appears that 'vandal(s)' yet again *defaced* milepost marker #420 near Dudley. Now adorned with glasses and a big funny nose, the marker looks like a skinny Groucho Marks!  We know it doesn't look like marker sponsor, **Larry Stermolle**, (although both *are* 'bare' on top)!

**TURNTABLE -**  plans still at CalTrans for review.

**FOR THE LATEST SOCIETY NEWS -** links to the Ventura County Live Steamers permanent layout; past issues of TRAIN ORDERS; Bar-B-Que trailer drawings; pictures of members; information about the Fillmore & Western Railway and more, visit us on the world wide web at:
**www.members.scrvrhs.com** and
**www.fwry.com**

Editor — Rick Swanson

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## TRAIN ORDERS

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