



TRAIN ORDERS

Scheduled and Unscheduled Society Events, Timely News, and Notes of Interest

APRIL, 2003

CELEBRATING
OUR 10th Anniversary

www.scrvrhs.org

Turntable Delayed CalTrans Asks For More Studies

It has been nine months since we submitted our turntable construction plans to the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) on June 28, 2002. This was to be the final hurdle prior to issuing bids for construction. But the one big hurdle has turned into several lengthy little hurdles.

First, SCRVRHS was required to do a geologic core drilling study deep into the earth. This was to make sure that the ground was stable enough to allow for our four foot deep turntable pit excavation. We passed.

In our last episode. . . . CalTrans required that we check the site for Native American significance. It ordered a survey of the property which 1) took time and; 2) cost money. Society grant money. After review it was determined that no Native American importance was related to the site. We again thought approval was finally pending.

In this episode . . . CalTrans has now ordered another core inspection, this time for any hazardous material that may be on the site (too bad this couldn't have happened simultaneously with the geologic study). Stan Hurst, SCRVRHS member and long time Fillmore resident, recalls that the only hazardous thing that he can recall ever landed on this property was horse dung! Dung from a horse corral that was there early in the 20th century. Nevertheless, we are spending \$3900. for a 'lowest bid' professional inspection from a CalTrans approved list of vendors to certify the site as hazardous material free. How long this takes and what other needs may be 'revealed' prior to a CalTrans final approval is any ones guess.

Our \$250,000 in government grants called for construction to start by 2003. These delays threatened the loss of these monies. Fortunately the Society was able to have the construction deadline extended, preserving our money. Now we again wait and hope. Stay tuned for the next episode!

Leadership Changes For Society Askren, Lewis Take On New Roles

SCRVRHS Vice President and Fillmore City Fire Chief, Pat Askren was elected by the SCRVRHS Board of Directors to the office of President. Board member Ron Lewis was then elected to fill Pat's vacated position as Vice President. Both were elected at a special board meeting to fill the void created after the unexpected passing of long time Society President, Paul Haase.

Pat has been both a member of SCRVRHS and Vice President since the beginning of the Society. With the exception of this year, he has been the Chairperson of our annual Rail Festival since its inception. Pat has also been a driving force for so many other Society events



President Pat Askren

and fund raisers. He initiated our 4th of July fireworks stand which generates the most income than any other Society fundraiser. Pat and wife Carol live in Fillmore.

"We all need to step it up another 10% for the Society to make up for the vast void left by Paul", said Askren.

Ron Lewis has been a member for several years and was elected to the Board of Directors a year ago. Ron and his wife have parked their motorhome at many Society events, such as the pumpkin patch, as they volunteered their time and talents for week-ends at a time. Ron lives in Oak Park.



Vice President
Ron Lewis

Heeding Pat's call to 'step up', Rick Swanson has rejoined the Board of Directors after a year's hiatus. Rick joined the Society in 1993 and over the years has been in charge of the Car Attendant Program; acted as Public Information Officer; and both created, and is once again editor of, the Society Newsletter, *Train Orders*.



Swanson

Other Board members include Fred Ervast, John Gartman, Troy Helton, Joseph Kern, Esq., Roy Payton, Gary Phillips, and Ken Shaner. The Board meets at 7 PM on the first Wednesday of the month at the Visitor Center. Everyone is welcome.

A Letter From The Ventura County Transportation Commission



"Enclosed please find a contribution of \$750. from VCTC to the SCRVRHS in appreciation for the service performed by your members as honorary conductors on the special Metrolink trains to the Ventura County Fair last summer.

With hundreds of people, and what often seems like thousands of baby strollers, boarding the special trains on both weekends of the Fair, we could not handle the operation without your dedicated volunteers.

Thank you once again — and we look forward to working with you this summer.

Sincerely,
Ginger Gherardi, Executive Director"

Be ready for a summer Metrolink experience! Join the Car Attendant Program today by calling Larry Stermolle.

DISPATCH BOARD

APRIL 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.

- 2nd** 7:00 pm - **SCRVRHS Board of Directors Meeting**
Railroad Visitor Center 455 Main Street, Fillmore
- 5th & 6th** 1:00 - 5:00 PM Fillmore & Western Daytime Train
Volunteer as a Car Attendant - Call Larry 805 497-6373
- 9th** **General Membership Meeting**
Michael Tettlebaum's Radical Speeder
Railroad Visitor Center - Central & Main, Fillmore
See www.members.scrvrhs.com for a map and directions
7:00 pm - Refreshments
- 12th & 13th** 1:00 - 5:00 PM Fillmore & Western Daytime Train
Volunteer as a Car Attendant - Call Larry 805 497-6373
- 19th & 20th** 1:00 - 5:00 PM Fillmore & Western Daytime Train
Volunteer as a Car Attendant - Call Larry 805 497-6373

25th, 26th & 27th

A Day Out With Thomas

(Thomas The Tank Engine that is!)

Hosted by the Fillmore & Western Railway

Train rides from 8:30 AM to 6:15 PM

Volunteers needed as Car Attendants and Visitor Center docents for all or part of a day.

Help us raise money for SCRVRHS.

Call Larry Stermolle at 805 497-6373 or

Fred Ervast at 805 389-0787 today!



Can't help us with Thomas in April? He'll be back!!
How about May 2nd, 3rd, or 4th? Call Larry or Fred.

AROUND THE ROUNDHOUSE . . .

A VERY BIG 'THANK YOU' — to all of the members who volunteered their time and energy to make this year's Rail Festival a real success. It was a time to see old friends and discover all of the various talents we have in our ranks. A special thanks goes to event chairman **Fred 'Fireball' Ervast**. Want to find out how we did dollar wise? Come to the Membership Meeting.

VISITOR CENTER — if you had personal items that were once on display at the Center, we miss them! Feel free to return them for display to the public. We are keeping a computerized 'loan' file so we know who belongs to what. Drop them by the Center on any weekend. Be sure to leave your name, address and a description of the item(s).

E-MAIL — we are building an e-mail listing of our members. We plan to use it to notify members of last minute functions; changes in the website; and meetings. Got mail? E-mail Vice President **Ron Lewis** at mogulsmoke@sbcglobal.net. All addresses will be protected for Society use only.

GOT ICE? — the Visitor Center needs a small refrigerator with freezer. If you have a spare and would like a tax deductible donation, call Fred Ervast at 805 389-0787 to make arrangements.

WORD FROM THE HOSPITAL TRAIN — **Jim Mendrala** and his wife **Sue** missed the Rail Festival because they were both hospitalized, each with a different ailment. Both are now doing fine. Big **Mike Morgan**, victim of a serious motorcycle accident in early January, was finally released from the hospital on March 21st. On March 22nd he and his wife **Joyce** were both helping out at the Society Rail Festival BBQ!

Editor — Rick Swanson



TRAIN ORDERS

Santa Clara River Valley
Railroad Historical Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 492
Fillmore, California 93016-0492

