



# TRAIN ORDERS

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

MAY, 2000

[www.scrvrhs.org](http://www.scrvrhs.org)

## Lessons Learned Come in Handy

Dear Board Members of SCRVRHS,

*The following is a newspaper clip about the railroad group I once belonged to in Yakima, Washington. They didn't handle their 'Ice T' grant money properly, and here are the results. I commend the SCRVRHS Board of Directors for their wisdom in hiring the City of Fillmore as grant administrator so that our monies are accounted for properly.*

*Jeff Trimble, Member, February 1, 2000*

Raising questions about the use of public funds and police powers, the City of Yakima (Washington) is suing a nonprofit association that operates an electric railway system.

The city, citing a recently discovered 3-year-old state Department of Transportation internal audit, also has asked state auditors to conduct a separate accounting of the Yakima Interurban Lines Association's finances, which have included nearly \$2 million in state and federal grants.

The Association has operated the railway system through a lease with the city since 1996. The Superior Court lawsuit could force the Association to turn over financial records as well as city-owned equipment, including historic electric trolley cars and other antique equipment that form the only remaining interurban railroad in the nation and a key Yakima tourism attraction.

"Ultimately, it's an oversight issue," said the City Manager. "You still have to have accountability. You still have to

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SCRVRHS RAILROAD VISITORS CENTER - 316 Central, Fillmore, CA.

## Time Running Out On Society Center

Thanks to a generous donation by **Santa Barbara Bank & Trust**, the Santa Clara River Valley Railroad Historical Society has enjoyed the use of a historic bank building right in the heart of downtown Fillmore.

The building is Ventura County Landmark #47. The Fillmore State Bank, founded in 1905, built the structure in 1917. Designed by architect Albert C. Martin, the Fillmore bank became part of the Bank of Italy in 1927. In 1930, the Bank of Italy changed its name to the familiar Bank of America. But it changed hands again in 1965 when it became the Fillmore branch of the Bank of A. Levy.

For nearly two years now the Society has occupied the bank and opened its collection of railroad artifacts, videos, books, models and historic items, free of charge, to both school groups and the general public alike on nearly every weekend. It has been a great compliment to the city's railroad tourist attractions. But on September 30, 2000 the SBB&T property lease expires and a new commercial tenant will move in. Where

can our center go? Portable office trailers? A storefront location? Storage? Your ideas and suggestions could help to find us a new home. Tick, tick, tick, tick!

### What Went Wrong!

This is the story of four SCRVRHS members named: Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought that Somebody would do it. But Nobody asked Somebody. It ended up that the job wasn't done and Everybody blamed Somebody when actually Nobody asked Anybody!

# EVENT CALENDAR

## MAY 2000

To volunteer for a specific program call one of the following chairpersons:

- Car Attendant Program - Larry or Jean Stermolle at 805 497-6373
- Visitor Center Docent Program - Fred Ervast at 805 389-0787

Or pick-a-project Saturday mornings, 9 AM, at the Visitors Center in Fillmore

**3rd** 7 PM - Board of Directors meeting. Railroad Visitors Center, Fillmore.

### **6th & 7th "FILLMORE ORANGE FESTIVAL"**

- 10 AM to 4 PM - Railroad Visitor Center Open - 316 Central Ave., Fillmore
- Car Attendants for day or evening Fillmore & Western trains

**10th General Membership Meeting** - Larry Jennings shows slides of our March Metrolink Repair Center and Dispatch Center field trip. Location: Senior Center, 533 Santa Clara Ave., Fillmore - 7 PM. Refreshments!

### **13th & 14th**

- 10 AM to 4 PM - Railroad Visitor Center Open
- Car Attendants for day or evening Fillmore & Western trains

### **20th & 21st**

- 10 AM to 4 PM - Railroad Visitor Center Open
- Car Attendants for day or evening Fillmore & Western trains

### **27th & 28th**

- 10 AM to 4 PM - Railroad Visitor Center Open
- Car Attendants for day or evening Fillmore & Western trains

### AROUND THE ROUNDHOUSE . . .

..... word has it that Board member **Fred Ervast** is earning a new nick name. As one who always encourages members to be on time, Fred apparently held the recent Perris Rail Festival excursion bus up for 45 minutes! Seems while his fellow members were waiting for him on the bus, Fred missed a detour on Grimes Canyon Road near Moorpark on his way to Fillmore. He ended up driving all the way to Ventura, and then to Fillmore on Highway 126. Lucky for Fred the guys and the bus waited for him. Otherwise had Fred driven himself, he could be lost on the Riverside Frwy!

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### **Lessons**

have oversight."

The city, which has terminated the Association's lease, will look to bring in a new operator of the system. Without a lease, the Association cannot operate the system, city officials said.



## TRAIN ORDERS

Santa Clara River Valley  
Railroad Historical Society, Inc.  
448 Sespe Avenue  
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