
THE SANTA CLARA RIVER VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

448 Sespe Ave., Fillmore, CA 93015

Vol. One, No. 1

RAIL NEWSLETTER

June 1993

Quarterly Publication

Editors: Phil Bronner, M.D.
A.J. Farrar

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you for expressing an interest in SCRVRHS. We are now an official non-profit California corporation. As your president, I have the pleasure of leading a board of directors composed of Vice President Pat Askren, Secretary Russ Sperry, Treasurer Joe Kern, Public Information Officer Carol Rock, Historian Sheila Hoffman and Troy Helton. Together with other charter and active members, we meet once each month on the first Wednesday at the SLE Yard at 7 p.m. in the evening to conduct Society business. Since our formation, we have been actively defining the role and mission of the Society as well as organizing and producing a number of special events. I encourage your participation and assistance. Much needs to be done now and in the future to preserve our rail legacy and plan for the future. Please consider **ACTIVE** membership in the Society if you haven't already done so. I'm looking forward to seeing you at our next special event July 3-4, 1993!

Dave Wilkinson,
President

GET INVOLVED

The next volunteer train crew training session for the July 3rd and 4th steam excursions will be held on Saturday morning, June 26th, from 10:00 a.m. to approximately noon at the SLE Yard, 351 Santa Clara Ave., Fillmore. SLE and Society members will orient new volunteers to the special event schedule, train operation, crew chain of command, car characteristics, customer service tips and safety rules and procedures. Approximately 15 volunteers will be needed both days to staff the train and provide services to the public. This is your chance to become acquainted with the train, other Society and SLE members. It is a privilege accorded only to active members. Please call the SCRVRHS telephone number (805) 524-1201 to confirm your availability. Reservations for this training session close June 25th.

Our Telephone Number:

(805) 524-1201

SHORT LINE ENTERPRISES, LTD.

In this and subsequent issues of the newsletter, we will try to introduce you to the history and development background of the SLE, its personnel, equipment and accomplishments. In this section, we hope that you will get to know the people, the language, the rolling stock and the legacy of Short Line Enterprises, Ltd.

This month we are featuring the McKinneysburg sleeping car. This car is spotlighted because it needs to be "adopted" by members and supporters to insure its continued restoration and preservation for regular excursion use. As you know, it needs interior restoration and woodwork enhancements. With proper care and restoration, it represents a valuable resource now and in the future for the Society.

This car was built in 1925 by the Pullman Co. for sleeping car service. It is referred to as a

"heavyweight" as compared to the later streamlined cars. It was sold by the Pullman Co. to the Southern Railway and remained in regular service until 1964 when it was donated to the Smokey Mountain Railroad Club. In 1987, it was purchased by John Birmingham and stored in Chattanooga until 1991. It was acquired on a long-term lease by SLE for use in a feature film and, after refurbishment, it arrived in Fillmore in September 1991. Since then, it has seen service in feature films, including "Chaplin" and on excursions. Today, it is in need of TLC (tender love and care), specialized materials, and equipment to restore it to its former glory.

If you are interested in actively supporting this first car restoration effort, please contact the Society telephone number and identify yourself as a McKinneysburg car supporter.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Confirmed and tentative dates have been identified for many special events during the next few months. In July, a Special Steam Excursion will be held on the 3rd and 4th (see insert with this newsletter); in August, an evening excursion entitled "Hot August Nights" is planned; in September, a fund raiser is expected; in October, a run with a Halloween / Ghost theme is

planned; and in December, a special family Christmas Tree Farm run is anticipated. Further evening dinner train excursions are being prepared for the next few months. (See Dinner Train insert). In addition, SLE has several movie train projects scheduled for the next few months. More details will follow in the next newsletter.

POLITICAL ACTION

In conformance with our statement of purposes, the Society has become active in local and statewide public affairs that impact upon our rail corridor. The recent Wilbur Smith Associates final report on the "Ventura-Santa Clara Rail Corridor Study" (available from the Ventura County Transportation Commission) has prompted Society representatives to write and speak out on issues of concern. An example is the Pacific Pipeline Project, currently in public workshops / hearings, which has the

potential to upgrade and improve the rail corridor. This is in conjunction with other capital improvements to integrate equestrian, bike and nature trails as well as fiber optics, oil and potential water pipelines. Please contact your local and state representatives, write letters to your local media and voice support for this project. (For additional information and literature on these topics, feel free to contact the Society telephone number (805) 524-1201 and leave a voice mail message.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We continue to grow! We are receiving new applications weekly. Here are the latest applicants approved for membership by the board:

1. Irv Follingstad
2. Stanley Hurst
3. Richard Glenn
4. Harry Garvin Jr.
5. Jeffrey Trimble
6. Paul McDonald
7. Mike Ritz
8. Larry Jennings
9. Mike McKeown
10. Harry Ortin-Mornary
11. Jim Trelor
12. Jerry Hensley
13. Dean Francuch
14. Kathie Briggs
15. John Birmingham

Congratulations and welcome aboard the SCRVRHS!!!

***WATCH FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE RAIL NEWSLETTER
IN SEPTEMBER OF 1993***

Deadline for the next issue is August 11, 1993

Submit articles to A.J. Farrar

Phone/Fax (805) 647-7955

The Santa Clara River Valley RR Historical Society

Statement of Purpose

It is the purpose of this organization to assist in the preservation and restoration of the railroad corridor between Montalvo and Saugus, California, so as to maximize the economic, educational, environmental, and recreational value of this unique historical asset to the residents of the Santa Clara River Valley and the surrounding area. To this end it is the intent of this organization to acquire, preserve, restore, exhibit and operate historic railroad equipment, and to acquire, preserve, display and make available for study artifacts, information and photographs pertaining to railroad equipment, structures and operations in the Southern California region.

*Fillmore Chamber of Commerce
344 Central Avenue
Fillmore, CA 93015
(805) 524-0351*

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