



RAILNEWS

WINTER 1997

NUMBER THIRTEEN

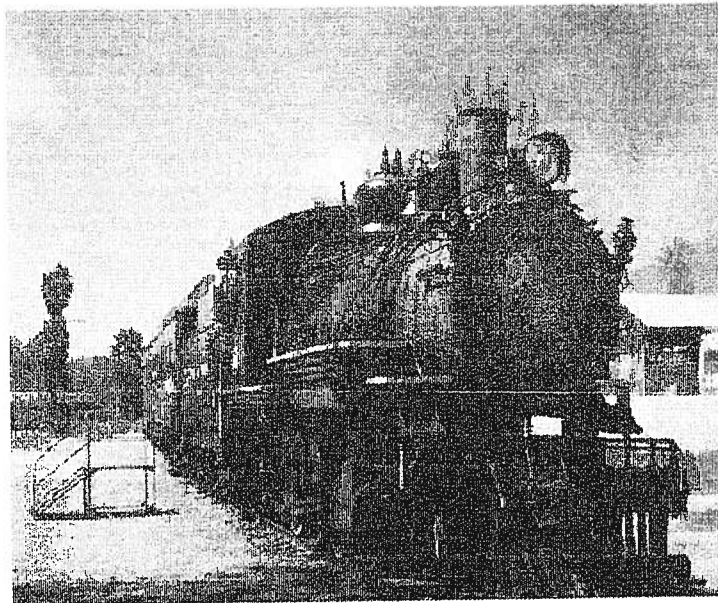
WELCOME RAIL FANS

'97 SOCIETY RAILROAD FESTIVAL

FILLMORE - "110 Years of Railroad Heritage" is the theme of the second annual Fillmore Rail Festival presented by the Santa Clara River Valley Railroad Historical Society (SCRVRHS) and KVEN Radio AM 1450. Scheduled for the week-end of March 15 and 16, 1997, Event Chairman Pat Askren says the theme is based on the anniversary of the Southern Pacific Railroad coming to Ventura County. The annual festival is a major fund raiser for the non-profit Society and its Railroad Interpretive Center (RIC) project.

Festivities include one hour vintage steam train rides from Central Park in Fillmore west to Dudley. 'Speeder' rides, those small maintenance of way vehicles powered by gasoline engines, will travel east through the railyard. The Society's famous tri-tip barbecue will also be on hand. In addition, a railroad film festival is planned for the recently restored Fillmore Theater as well as Johnny Popper engines, scale live steamer demonstrations, an antique car show behind City Hall; and a wildlife exhibit with live animals. The Wells Fargo Stage Coach is also expected.

Funds raised at the Festival by this 501(c)(3) non-profit organization benefit the RIC. Phase one continues with plans to bring and install a 90 foot 1906 fully operational turntable to Fillmore from Kansas City. Special thanks goes to this year's sponsors: **KVEN Radio AM 1450 - BOB BEATY FORD - HARRISON INDUSTRIES - VENTURA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION - VENTURA REGIONAL SANITATION DISTRICT.**



1906 Baldwin steam locomotive #51 takes a breather in Fillmore before the next run filled with excited rail fans. The famous 'Movie Train' engine makes a rare appearance in support of the Santa Clara River Valley Railroad Historical Society this March 15th & 16th at the Fillmore Rail Festival. Photo by Dennis Hanley

THE 'PREZ' SAYS:

New Year, New Officers, Same Fun!

by Paul Haase, President

I don't think that any of us can thank Mr. David Wilkinson enough for all of the many wonderful things that he has done for the Society. Mr. Wilkinson was the first elected President of our Santa Clara River Valley Railroad Historical Society back in 1993 and stayed with it heartily for his entire term. He had to give it up as everyone knows because last September he was in the process of purchasing the Fillmore & Western Railroad. Dave, let us all take the time to thank you for all of the many hours, efforts and contributions you have made to the Society.

In September, 1996, as Dave stepped down from that pedestal and into the firebox, Vice President Pat Askren took over. Let me say that Pat is a man who's regular job requires him to be 'there' much of the time. Pat, let me as well as all of the Society thank you for your efforts during the last months as acting President. We all understand why you can't really take on a job as this because of the time away. But, as Vice President we know you will always continue as before - ready and willing when you can.

At the annual meeting of the Board of Directors in January, besides electing me as President, and Pat as Vice President, Troy Helton was elected as Secretary; Joe Kern returned as Treasurer; and Rick Swanson was elected to the position of Public Relations Officer. The Board also elected Car Attendant Program coordinator Mike Martin to fill the vacancy left by outgoing President Dave Wilkinson. Congratulations to everyone!

(Continued on page 3)



Opportunity Keeps Knocking For A Society On The Move

By Paul Jacques

Looking for a little variety in life? The last half of 1996 for SCRVRHS saw many 'hats' available for it's members to wear.

If you enjoy 'gardening', the outdoors and a little exercise, put on your straw hat and sign up for the next Fillmore & Western trim train. Help our fine 'nursery' crew trim back foliage from along the right-of-way. Or help us maintain the Railroad Interpretive Center site by mowing some grass and trimming some weeds. If cooking is your thing, LeBBQ chefs would be more than happy to help you satisfy your creative culinary desires. Chef's hat not required. Did you ever want to be Hemingway or fine tune your newspaper writing skills? Put on your

visor and type, **RAILNEWS** can always use new material. So can many other railroad related publications where one can publicize all the worthwhile activities of SCRVRHS.

You say you like to travel and meet new people? Our famous Car Attendants sometimes travel nearly a hundred miles and meet up to a thousand happy people a day. And you get to wear their fancy conductor-style hat! How about turning wrenches and working with your hands? Baseball caps are acceptable when working on the construction of our new BBQ trailer designed like a steam engine. We need metal fabricators and welders to wrap up the job. Or turn your attention to restoring Southern Pacific caboose #1119, located on the site of the new turntable in Fillmore. Meet SCRVRHS member Steve Pierce on site each and every Saturday morning, no appointment necessary! Remember how your parents always told you to never to play on the railroad tracks? Well now you safely can and get some exercise at the same time without expensive gym equipment. The F&W is always working on tie and rail replacement projects. Any hat will do. Finally, painters hats or other headgear is acceptable for many antique restoration and painting projects around the yard. You can also be a part of preserving and bringing the good old days back aboard some of the old passenger cars.

Whatever hat you wear, SCRVRHS and the Fillmore & Western have a large assortment of interesting projects awaiting you that are not only educational and beneficial but fun! You can't find things like this to occupy your time just anywhere. Plus you can meet a great bunch of interesting people all supporting a great cause. For more information, leave your name, phone number, and interest on our answering machine at 805.524.1201 or drop by the caboose any Saturday morning. We'll be in touch!

LETTER TO SCRVRHS:

January 31, 1997

Thank you for your help and cooperation in making last weekends RegioSprinter event a high success. Even though the weather was bad and most of the other events had to be canceled, we still had more than 2,000 people try the train. Those who rode the train were impressed and anxious at the possibility of running on our tracks some day.

Once again, thank you for your help. We could not have done it without you.

Sincerely,

Ginger Gherardi,
Executive Director, Ventura County
Transportation Commission

P.S. A.J., Thanks for everything. You folks were great - especially the hot coffee. G.



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Contributions are welcome! Send articles, photographs, drawings, or information (preferably on IBM computer disk) to:

RAIL NEWS

448 Sespe Avenue
Fillmore, California 93015

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MEETINGS

Board of Directors meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm at Fillmore City Hall. General membership meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm. Call for location information: (805) 524-1201.

INTERNET ADDRESS

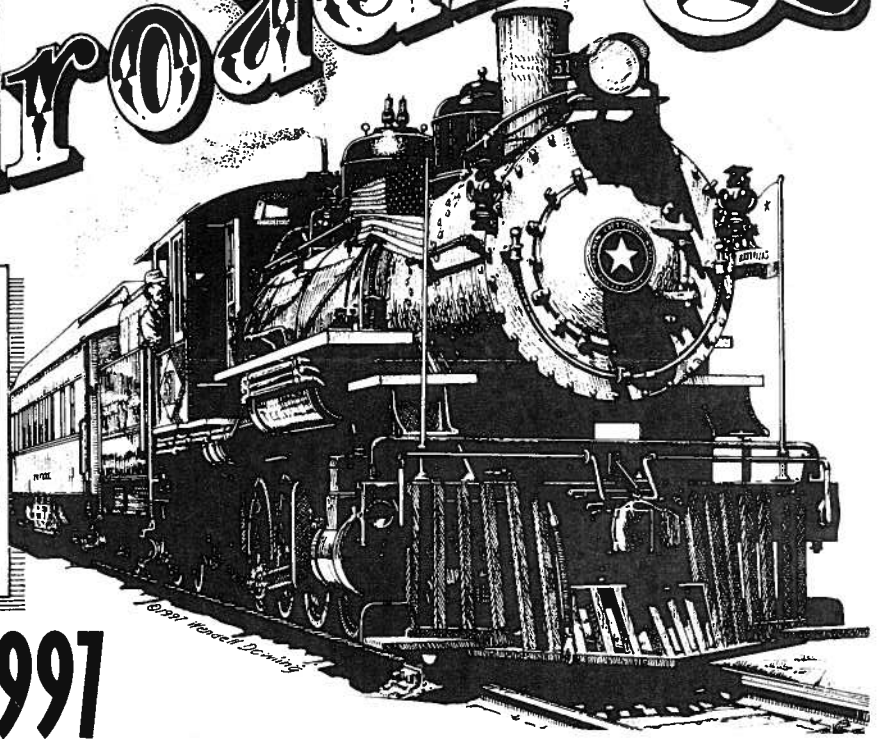
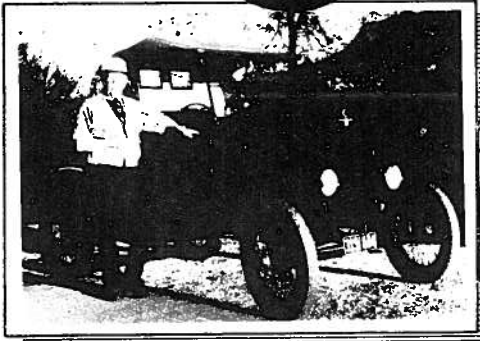
<http://www.fishnet.net/~johngart>

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

It is the purpose of this organization to assist in the preservation 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 Spring Rail Festival

110 Years Of Railroading



March 15 & 16, 1997

☛ Steam Train Rides ☛ Speeder Rides ☛ Barbeque
☛ Railroad Slide Show ☛ Antique Gas Engines ☛
"Johnny Popper" ☛ Live Steamers ☛ Antique Autos
☛ Stanley Steamers ☛ Bakersfield Model T Club
☛ Horse & Buggy Rides ☛ Firehouse Display ☛
Operation Life Saver Display ☛ Calliope ☛
Dixieland Band ☛ Craft Booths ☛
and more...

☛ FOR INFORMATION, CALL (805)524-2546 or (800)773-TRAIN

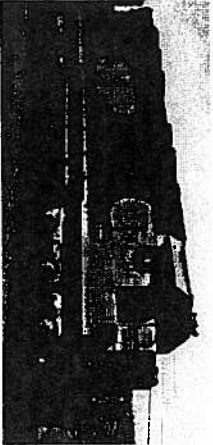


Santa Clara River Valley Railroad Historical Society

The Society was founded in 1993 to "assist in the preservation 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 interest 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, structure and operations in the Southern California Region."

Working in cooperation with Fillmore & Western Railroad of Fillmore, California, the Society has been successful in preliminary efforts to exhibit and operate various pieces of railroad equipment between the cities of Fillmore and Santa Paula.

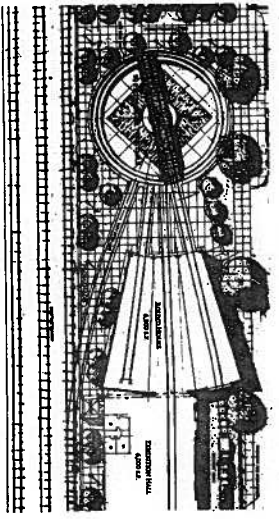
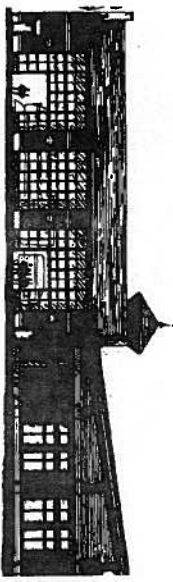
The society consist of a cross section of volunteers from throughout Southern California who posses a wide variety of expertise in the public and private sectors. The Society offers the opportunity for interested people to participate as supporting or active associates and have fun in the process.



Full Active Associates ● the opportunity to join the Fillmore & Western operating train crew as Car Attendants; to be docents providing tours of the Movie Train Yard and Roundhouse projects; and contribute to many other special rail events, such as performing as "Ambassadors" aboard special Metrolink Trains.

Whether you are interested in the operating, technical, mechanical, administrative, historical or restoration aspects of railroads - or you just want to learn more about trains - the Society would like to have you join us.

Please complete the attached form, enclose your check and mail it to the Society so you won't miss any of the upcoming opportunities and events. **SCRVRHS has a 501c3 tax code status so your contributions and donations are tax deductible. Railroadng needs your support. TODAY!!**



RAILROAD INTERPRETIVE CENTER
FILLMORE, CALIFORNIA

I want to join the Santa Clara River Valley Railroad Historical Society as:

- \$35.00 Annual full individual active associate membership.
- \$50.00 Annual full family active associate membership.
- \$500.00 Life membership, active associate.
- \$1000.00 Full family, life associate membership.
- I cannot be active, but please accept my donation of \$ _____

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Home Phone Number: (____) _____ --
 Business Phone Number: (____) _____ ---
 Interest & Hobbies relating to the Railroad Society _____



CAR ATTENDANT CORNER

GET BEHIND THE SCENES

The last passenger has left the late arriving Christmas Tree train but a local parade keeps the train from crossing Central Avenue and pulling into the yard. Finally a lull in the festivities sees the Car Attendants pull in the step boxes. The horn blows and the train moves. It slowly works its way through the yard gates. The Car Attendants clamor to close the car windows (tunnel the train) and empty the trash before the unnecessary passenger cars are 'cut' from the rest of the consist. No sooner does the train come to a halt and a step box put back down, than a throng of people (the night crew) pours onto the train.

The waitresses, cooks, bartenders, Car Attendants, actors and actresses who clamored aboard have just twenty minutes to roll Santa off and convert the train into a dinner theater on rails. No sooner are the access bars removed from the door of the Dark Territories car, that the collected refuse comes off and boxes upon boxes of soda, liquor, glasses, cups, and ice come aboard. The bartender packs the ice and stows the drinks. The cooks fireup the dining car stove and receive their supplies through the side hatch, just like in the old days. Waitresses prepare the parlor car bar trays and set the tables in the diner.

The Car Attendants straighten up the train and check for passenger safety items. The actors and actresses commandeer the McKinneysburg sleeping car and turn it into a rolling dressing room. No sooner has the last bottle of chardonnay wine been placed on ice than Conductor Steve yells 'all aboard'!

As the train pulls slowly out of the yard, the anxious guests waiting on the platform in Central Park have no idea about the mass transformation that just took place. Nor do they have any idea of how much work was put into preparing for an evening of good food and good times. All in the course of a dedicated crew's work. A crew of safety trained SCRVRHS Car Attendants both at the ready and always ready to help. And to think the night is just beginning!



CAR ATTENDANTS (l to r): Mike Martin, Stan Hurst, George Roberts, & Paul Jacques.

THE 'PREZ' SAYS

(Continued from page 1)

Before we look at the year(s) ahead let us first look back to see what we've really accomplished since our founding in 1993. As Rick Swanson expressed in his Rail Festival sponsor solicitation letter, we have 1) secured a 'sweetheart' lease from the City of Fillmore on downtown railroad property; 2) obtained from the City of Fillmore an agreement for \$25,000. in matching funds for the RIC project; 3) raised over \$19,000. toward our \$25,000. goal; 4) accepted the donation of a '90 turntable from the Gateway and Western Railroad in Kansas City; and 5) received Railroad Interpretive Center turntable, roundhouse, and exhibit center architectural design services as donated by Mainstreet Architects of Ventura. We have indeed come a long way.

Last year at this time we seemed to be in the downs - the money was getting low and things weren't going too well in general. Oh what a difference there is in attitude this year! At our general membership meeting last October, Dave Wilkinson said that when the railroad became his the Society better be ready. He promised a better and cooperative relationship between the two organizations and enough railroad related work for the both of us. HOW RIGHT HE WAS! Mr. Wilkinson has more projects up his sleeve than most can imagine. And of course, we have ours. The neat thing about this is that we all work together to make it all happen.

On March 15th & 16th we will conduct our 2nd Annual KVEN Radio, Spring Rail Festival in downtown Fillmore. Event Chairman Pat Askren promises many wonderful family attractions. From steam train and speeder rides to an antique car show and of course our famous Society Tri-Tip Bar-B-Que headed by 'Chef' Johnny Gartman. There will also be arts and crafts; snack booths; an exhibit by the Wildlife Educators of America; live music; a calliope; rail exhibits; a Railroad Film Festival in the theater; and even the Wells Fargo Stage Coach is expected to appear. We need Society members to lend a hand. If you are available all or part of either day, contact Pat Askren or check in at the event command center next to the fire station in Fillmore. Car Attendant, railroad related clothing, or an official Society T-shirt is recommended.

I would like to indicate also that at the end of last year our RIC Fund grew. At this point we are only roughly \$6,000. From our match with the City of Fillmore. We would like to please the Mayor of Fillmore who said his 'wish list' is to have both a turntable in place by the end of the year along with the new doors to city hall. The doors finally came in but we need to get the turntable to town.

In all, I just want to wish all of you a very prosperous year ahead. Don't forget to come and enjoy the Rail Festival and help us out if you can. Let's make this year a real success!!



VINTAGE VARNISH

S.P. CABOOSE AID

By Steven Pierce

The Southern Pacific #1119 caboose is now at it's new location north of the Fillmore & Western yard and restoration has begun.

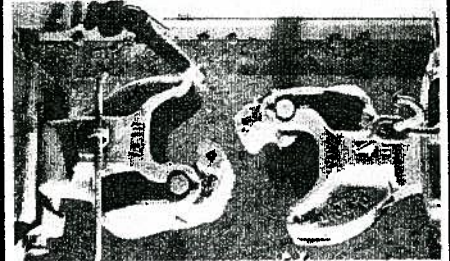
The late 1920's caboose needs a lot of cleaning, sanding, painting, and repairs to return it to grand shape. The Society plans to use it as an office, public information center, event command post, and meeting place. Most importantly it stands as a symbol of the future Railroad Interpretive Center (RIC).

To date SCRVRHS members have rebuilt the doors, prepped the interior walls and ceilings and repaired many components. The exterior is being cleaned and prepared for painting. Soon, the Seimens Corporation will light the caboose via a solar powered lighting system. Still needed is rebuilding all window frames; replacing all the glass; undercarriage cleaning; painting; lettering; detailing and outfitting.

Plans call for the construction of a new bench seat, office work space, and storage areas. "Our first priority is to enhance the exterior of the caboose and establish the Society's presence in the community", stated Pat Askren, SCRVRHS Vice President. "This will give us a temporary home and base of operations until the RIC is complete".

We invite all Society members to help out with our first restoration project. Every Saturday morning at 9 am, the crew meets to continue the tender loving care needed to reach our goal. Come on down anytime and lend a hand. We have something to do for everybody.

OUR MEMBERS HAVE BARE KNUCKLES



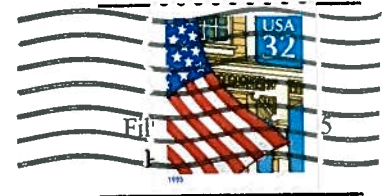
MIX IT UP IN OUR YARD!

SCRVRHS



RAILNEWS

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Railroad Historical Society, Inc.
448 Sespe Avenue
Fillmore, California 93015



Paul M. Haase
1061 Simi St.
Fillmore, CA 93015

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE: 1997 RAIL FESTIVAL IS HERE!
NEW PREZ & OFFICERS START YEAR
OPPORTUNITY KEEPS KNOCKING**