

THE SANTA CLARA RIVER VALLEY
RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

448 Sespe Avenue, Fillmore, California 93015

RAIL NEWSLETTER

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Quarterly Publication

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Published with the assistance of Chris Robson and Rick Swanson

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Good news! The California Transportation Commission, in response to overwhelming "intelligent" public input, has just voted to authorize \$3.5 million towards acquiring the Santa Paula Branch Line. This is, undoubtedly, directly attributable to your efforts to write, call or otherwise communicate your desires to our elected and appointed public officials. **THANK YOU!** This clearly demonstrates the power and effectiveness of our Society and others to direct and mold the future of the Santa Clara River Valley.

Much more needs to be done. Elsewhere in this Newsletter, you'll find classified ads for positions that we need to fill immediately. Volunteer coordinator, grants/loans coordinator(s), newsletter editor(s), writers and car attendants are just a few of the opportunities that await you if you become an **ACTIVE** member of the Society. In addition, the Society has formed other committees to provide needed expertise, structure and skills. Don't let these opportunities pass you by!! Call the Society's telephone number and let us know what you can do to help.

We want to offer our special thanks to all of you who helped make *Hot August Nights* the success it was. We hope to see you at the next training day on the 9th of October or on the next run - *The Days of Wine and Roses* - on Saturday, September, 18th.

Dave Wilkinson
President

ENGINE #1 TAKES FIRST PLACE AT VENTURA COUNTY FAIR PARADE

With the support, dedication and donation of time and materials by the OST Crane Service, Inc. of Ventura, Engine #1 was displayed for the enjoyment of nearly 20,000 people in the Ventura County Fair Parade on Saturday, August 21st. Loaded onto a section of fixed rail on a flat bed trailer at the Short Line Enterprises (SLE) Yard the day before the parade, Engine #1 was transported to Ventura that night. The next morning, adorned with banners and surrounded by admiring Society members and their children, the engine was fired up and a head of steam was maintained for the entire event.

Assigned one of the last regular position in the parade (so as to not interfere with bands or scare the horses, and to end the parade with dramatic finale) Engine #1 was a big hit with the crowds. The steam whistle and bell could be heard for blocks before the engine and its billowing smoke and steam came into view.

Following the judging of the parade entries, Society President Dave Wilkinson and Secretary Russ Sperry were presented the awards at the main fairgrounds ceremony. A new trophy case will be needed by SCRVRHS in the near future. Congratulations to all who were involved in this extraordinary public relations effort and special Society thank yous to Russ Sperry who spearheaded the project and to Sheila and Lavern Hoffman for their professional quality photographs of the event.

SOCIETY RECEIVES "OFFICE" DONATION

Society President Dave Wilkinson has graciously offered to donate the use of his recently acquired Southern Pacific Caboose #1119 for Society office use. The wooden unit is in remarkably good shape for its age and was probably used in service in and around the Santa Clara Valley in past years. Renovation and installation of office equipment and furniture would greatly reduce the strain on the current SLE facilities and office space in the yard.

Dave envisions restoring the interior spaces and furnishings to their original condition, including re-installing the coal burning stove, and adding needed file space and desk surfaces for conducting Society business. Modular telephone and temporary electrical connections would enhance the unit as well. *If you are interested in participating in this project or if you can donate materials or equipment, please call the Society telephone number and leave a voice mail message or call Dave Wilkinson at 644-8423.*

The Society members who attended the "Pot Luck" on Sunday, August 15th had a great time and thank Dave Wilkinson for his and Tresa's hospitality.

GET INVOLVED

The next volunteer crew training session is set for Saturday morning, October 9th, from 10:00 A.M. to approximately noon at the SLE Yard, 351 Santa Clara Ave., Fillmore. SLE and Society members will again orient **new volunteers** to the special event schedule, train operation, crew chain of command, car characteristics, customer service tips and safety rules and procedures. This is another chance to become acquainted with the train, other Society and SLE members. It is a privilege accorded only to **ACTIVE** members.

An advanced training program has been scheduled the evening of October 13th from 7:00 - 10:00 PM. This program, covering advanced skills in dealing with the public - including those passengers that might be inebriated or disruptive, is **open to all volunteer crew members who have completed the initial safety briefing and orientation (Including the October 9th session)**. The program will consist of two components, one will be a lecture by an Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) Officer, and a practicum consisting of role playing and situation management, Please call the SCRVRHS telephone number (805) 524-1201 to confirm your availability. Reservations for this training session close October 1st.

Reminder: Those volunteer crew members (trained prior to this session) who have not submitted their written *General Safety Rules* will not be allowed to work on any train until this is completed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Confirmed and tentative dates have been identified for more special events during the next few months. In September, a Special Event, designed for adults, *The Days of Wine and Roses* will occur on the 18th. In October, a run with a Halloween/Ghost theme is in the final planning stages and in December, special family Christmas Tree Farm runs are anticipated. The Wilkinson's have applied for Alcoholic Beverage Control licensing for an evening dinner train to be known as *Rails to Romance* and it should be operational in the next few months as well. In addition, SLE has several movie train projects scheduled for the next few months. *City Slickers II* is in production now and *Tall Tales*, a major Disney production starring Patrick Swazie, will follow in the fall. Numerous still and video productions have been completed and other movie contracts are pending.

POLITICAL ACTION UPDATE

by Troy R. Helton, Jr.
Board Member at large

Our Society continues to be active and visible in local and state-wide political circles. Our impact is clearly felt as illustrated in the recent Transportation Commission hearings and the decision to partially fund the purchase of the Santa Paula Branch Line, extending from the interchange in El Rio to a point near the county line where Newhall Land and Farm owns the right of way on to Santa Clarita. There are also discussions about a package that would include the Ventura Branch north to Foster Park. An appraisal will start in approximately two months to establish the sale price, which could range from \$7-10 million. With the inclusion of local Moines, redevelopment and other federal service rail programs, approximately \$8 million toward the purchase has already been earmarked.

Other discussions will focus on who will hold title: The County, the Transportation Commission, or perhaps a joint-powers arrangement among the cities the line runs through. Also up for determination is the ownership of non-operational properties such as the depots. Much remains to be decided, but with any luck we are well on our way to preserving the corridor for rail use. Until these issues are finalized, we can only operate at "yard speed." But, in the meantime, our Society will continue to run forward under a full head of steam.

We are continuing to seek active partnerships with public and private agencies that can assist us with preservation and restoration efforts. We need volunteers who are skilled in working in these areas to support our activities. If you cannot assist physically, consider donating your time to other activities. Please call the Society telephone number (805) 524-1201 and leave a voice mail message.

SHORT LINE ENTERPRISES, LTD

In this and subsequent issues of the newsletter, we will 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 *Powhatan Cafe Parlor Car* (SLEX #2408). This car's appearance is typical of Pullman Co. cars built between 1910 and 1931. Called "heavyweights" because of their standard steel construction, these cars operated in regular passenger service until the late 1960's. After WW II, they were frequently painted to match the streamlined cars that were operated across the nation. Because of its open interior configuration *Powhatan* is extremely versatile for film uses. It can be used as a parlor (lounge), dining room, or with wild walls and decoration that a movie script may require.

The *Powhatan* is extra long (86' 3 1/2"). Standard cars of the period were shorter (82' 11 1/2" or less). It has a small kitchen at one end with a cafe room next to the kitchen, a bar, and a large parlor room and vestibule at the other end. It still has its open celestory ceiling inside, equipped with original lamps and "fanilators." The cafe room has wall vases between the windows on each side. The interior is painted a medium cream with original style decorations. The exterior is painted in traditional Pullman green with black roof and underframe. The car is air conditioned and the windows also open.

The car was built by the Pullman Company in 1928, for the Richmond, Fredricksburg and Potomac Railroad. The cafe and parlor rooms were originally separated by a smoking room, men's and ladies' rooms. An aisle way along one side of the smoking room connected the cafe and parlor rooms. This car operated into and out of Washington, D.C., and was frequented by members of Congress, Cabinet members, reporters and other important political figures.

It operated in regular service on the RF&P into the 1950's when it was acquired by Royal American Shows. Designated as Car W-56, a large diesel generator was installed near the vestibule end of the parlor room and the rest of the car was used as a "Pie" Car (circus talk for a dining car), and remained in use until the 1970's.

The *Powhatan* was purchased in 1982 by Dick Winer of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida and refurbished for use as an ice cream parlor. The exterior was painted blue with a silver roof and lettered DIRECT ORIENT EXPRESS. It was placed on isolated track in downtown Ft. Lauderdale and became a popular attraction until Dick was forced to move it for a development. It was placed back on live track and stored on a siding until purchased by SLE in 1991.

The *Powhatan* was shipped on its own wheels to a car shop in Jacksonville, Florida, where it was converted back to a Cafe Parlor Car. It was equipped with roller bearing trucks, received other mechanical repairs required to bring it into compliance with current American Association of Railroads' rules for interchange. Then it was painted Pullman green with black roof and underbody and shipped to SLE in Fillmore in February 1992.

Since its arrival, it has received additional restoration, including floor repairs, new carpet, new linoleum in the kitchen, interior paint in the parlor room, kitchen and aisle way and some window repairs. It is regularly used in film and excursion service. Future plans call for additional window repairs and refurbishment, installation of dining tables and chairs and equipping the kitchen.



Special Opportunity

DONORS NEEDED: *The society has a unique opportunity to acquire a fantastic historic car at a very reasonable cost: a late 1920's 60 foot Santa Fe Railway Post Office Car with original interior can be purchased for only \$7,000! (Plus about \$5,000 to relocate the car to the SLE yard). Interested donors should contact Russ Sperry or Dave Wilkinson at the Society number: (805) 524-1201.*

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We continue to grow! The Society receives new applications weekly. There are now over 60 active members and over 1,100 names on our interest list. Here are the latest applicants approved for membership by the board:

Names:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Roy Dimmick | 24. D.D. Trent |
| 2. Robert Egbert | 25. Perry Adams |
| 3. John and Peggy Gartman | 26. Steve Chawkins |
| 4. Russell Hardison | 27. Ronald R. Gustafson |
| 5. Victoria Martinez | 28. Paul M. Haase |
| 6. Johanna Overby | 29. Douglas Ward |
| 7. Chris Robson | 30. Chuck Mohr |
| 8. Jay Ross | 31. Steve Black |
| 9. Stefan Schwarzwald | 32. Michael Trueblood |
| 10. Wayne Sallens | 33. Paul Roden |
| 11. Jim Trelor | 34. Paul W. Skopnik |
| 12. Dorothy Haase | 35. Paul Stauback |
| 13. Dave Jeffrey | 36. Louis Vigorita |
| 14. Rick and Debbie Swanson | 37. Ernesto J. Acosta |
| 15. Bob Mahan | 38. David Anderson |
| 16. Chris Vanderhoeven | 39. David G. Cameron |
| 17. Tom B. Hall | 40. Sidney I. Chambers |
| 18. Don and Robin Field | 41. Mary L. Schwabaue |
| 19. Paul R. Higgins | 42. Michael A. Flahartyr |
| 20. Harvey S. Laner | 43. Willie Marshall |
| 21. Steven D. Pierce | 44. Robert B. Seghi |
| 22. Frank and Carol Wahl | 45. Sandy Bettelman |
| 23. Juan Juarez | |

Congratulations and welcome aboard the SCRVRHS!

HELP WANTED, PLEASE!

SKILLED CRAFTSPERSONS: To perform skilled repair and restoration work on rolling stock. Requires knowledge of woodworking, electrical, mechanical and plumbing techniques. Performs duties under general supervision of SLE staff. Experience working with railroad equipment is desirable. Note: This position(s) requires coordination with SLE staff which may involve weekday and weekend hours.

Please call Jim or Stan at (805) 524-0330 for additional information.

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR: Recruits, orients, and assigns volunteers to assist in the operations of SLE and the Society. Leads committee of other volunteers and coordinates the assignment of personnel at scheduled and special events. Experience in coordinating volunteer programs is desirable, but training is provided.

GRANTS/LOANS RESEARCHER: Assist in directing, coordinating and seeking grants/loans from public and private sector sources. Leads committee of other volunteers and coordinates the work of the group. Experience in fund raising and/or grantsmanship is desirable, but training will be provided.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR/WRITER(s): Editor: Responsible for collecting, sorting and editing sources of news for the Society's Newsletter. Leads committee of other volunteers and coordinates the work of the group. Experience in editing a similar newsletter or small publication is desirable, but on-the-job training can be provided. Writer(s): Responsible for collecting information, writing feature articles or sections for the newsletter. Experience in writing for publication purposes is desirable, but on-the-job training will be provided.

CAR ATTENDANT: Responsible for the safe transport of passengers from one destination to another. Serves the needs of the passengers while boarding, traveling and detraining. Requires knowledge of safety and operating rules, equipment and first aid/CPR procedures. Requires knowledge of SLE and Society requirements. Performs minor maintenance and cleaning tasks. Provides passenger liaison service for the Society and SLE,

Additional requirements: Must be **ACTIVE** member status, at least 16 years of age, in good physical condition, with general railroad knowledge, common sense, friendly personality, willing to take and give orders and possess exemplary judgment. Experience working with the public is desirable. Note: This position requires basic and advanced training and certification. Assignments involve holidays, weekend and night hours.

Please call (805) 524-1201 for additional information.

JAN'S RECIPE CORNER

A new feature this issue is the addition of selected recipes published by Jeanette (Jan) Ellen Clark in her book *Main Line Recipes*. Jan's book draws from three decades of collecting recipes while also running businesses involving classic automobiles, antiques, good friends and trains. In her book and in this column, Jan inserts railroaders' terms which describe a hidden meaning to the particular recipe. Here's an example:

"BRAKEMAN*" Bean Salad

2 cups small white beans, canned & drained
 2 cups dark red Kidney beans, canned & drained
 2 cups Garbanzo beans, canned & drained
 1 red onion, sliced thin in rings
 1 lb. fresh mushrooms, sliced
 2 firm tomatoes, sliced in wedges
 salt & pepper to taste
 3 cups Italian or French dressing

Toss all ingredients together gently. Refrigerate for several hours before serving. Garnish with sprigs of parsley. Serves 10.

* **Brakeman:** One of the brakeman's jobs in the old days meant jumping from roof to roof on a moving train to set the hand brakes to help slow the train on steep grades. Today, the brakeman continues to help in switching cars and doing brake repairs while out on the line. Fortunately, the hazard of setting hand brakes on a rolling train is gone.



If you would like to order the book, please send \$20.00, plus \$3.00 for shipping, in a check or money order to:

J and J Enterprises
 P.O. Box 367
 Fillmore, CA 93015

You may also telephone or Fax (805) 296-4387. Sorry, no cash or COD. Please allow three weeks for delivery.

LOOK FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF RAIL NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 1993

The deadline for the next issue is November 10, 1993

Please submit articles to A.J. Farrar at (805) 647-7955, voice and FAX



The Santa Clara River Valley Railroad Historical Society

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.

**Santa Clara River Valley
Railroad Historical Society, Inc.
c/o Fillmore Chamber of Commerce
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Fillmore, CA 93015**

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