

The Santa Clara River Valley Railroad Historical Society, Inc.

448 Sespe Avenue, Fillmore, California 93015
(805) 524-1201

RAIL NEWSLETTER

NUMBER THREE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *BY DAVE WILKINSON*

Welcome to the third edition of the Society's *Rail Newsletter*, our periodic vehicle for telling over 1,400 individuals on our mailing list what we've been doing to help preserve railroad history in Ventura County. Much has happened since we formed the group approximately one year ago, and during that time our Board of Directors has been working with Short Line Enterprises, Ltd., and the City of Fillmore to plan an exciting, railroad-theme development that will become one of the county's most important tourist attractions within a few years.

Elsewhere in this publication, you'll find news items about some of our accomplishments, what is planned in the future, and ways you can get involved. If you aren't already part of our group, we hope you'll consider joining. We're working hard to create something special here, but we also make it a point to have fun, and we've all made many new friends in the process.

Our meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month at 7:00 PM, on board the train at the Short Line Enterprises yard in Fillmore. The address is 351 Santa Clara Avenue, which is three blocks east of Central Avenue. You're invited to drop by. We'd be happy to talk with you and explain a bit more about what we're doing.

Active Associate Status costs \$35.00 per year. Those of you who live too far away, or are too busy to be actively involved, can help us achieve our goals by joining in the Supporting Associate Status, which costs \$25.00 per year. The dollar value of the fringe benefits, alone, exceeds the annual cost. Benefits include special train rides and a new magazine-format publication that debuts this spring. It will contain articles about railroad history in the area and lots of photos, and replaces this *Rail Newsletter* after the next edition. The high cost of producing the magazine will only allow us to send it to members.

We will keep non-members on our mailing list for trip information, **provided** you return the Interest Questionnaire, which appears on the back cover. Please fill it out and mail it today! It will help us categorize our mailing list and cut costs by only sending you the information you desire. All it costs you is a 29 cent stamp. We appreciate your cooperation! D.W.

OUR FIRST TWELVE MONTHS *IT WAS A VERY GOOD YEAR*

The Society can look back on the past year with satisfaction. We played a significant role in shaping both public and government opinion about the importance of saving the Southern Pacific Santa Paula Branch. There is no question about its historic value. The contributions it made to the growth of the Santa Clara River Valley over the years were enormous. But of equal importance is what it can contribute to our area in the future. Thanks, in part, to the efforts of the Society, the cities of Fillmore and Santa Paula and the County of Ventura are now fully aware of its tourism and transit possibilities. When the Ventura County Transportation Commission completes its pending purchase of the line, which is now fully funded, a new era will begin.

The Society is already involved in redevelopment plans for the depot parcels in both Fillmore and Santa Paula. Our proposal to build a *Railroad Interpretive Center* adjacent to the tracks in Fillmore was approved by that city's Redevelopment Agency in October and included as an option in the Downtown Specific Plan. This facility will feature an operating turntable and four-stall roundhouse. Significant locomotives and railcars will be displayed inside, along with historic artifacts and special exhibits that help illustrate the part the railroad played in developing the area.

We've already located a suitable ninety-foot-long turntable in Missouri, and are working out the logistics to get it moved here. The Society and Short Line Enterprises are also assisting the City of Santa Paula on a special railroad exhibit that will be on display at the Santa Paula Union Oil Museum from October 1 through December 18, 1994. Part of this exhibit will ultimately be reused in our facility.

The *Railroad Interpretive Center* will be located east of the Fillmore Historical Society's new museum complex, which is now under construction between Main Street and the railroad tracks. This group owns the original Southern Pacific Fillmore Depot, and it is being relocated trackside, after spending many years at another site. Their complex will also include two historic homes, a bunkhouse from Rancho Sespe (SEE OUR FIRST TWELVE MONTHS ON PAGE 2)

RAIL NEWSLETTER

NUMBER THREE MARCH 1994

COMPILED BY LARRY JENSEN

CONTRIBUTORS:

Phil Bronner, M.D., Jim Clark,
Lori DiCaprio-Lee, A.J. Farrar,
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Chris Robson, Carol Rock, Russ Sperry,
Carol Wahl, and Dave Wilkinson.

SANTA CLARA RIVER VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

448 Sespe Avenue
Fillmore, California 93015
(805) 524-1201

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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DAVE WILKINSON, PRESIDENT
PAT ASKREN, VICE-PRESIDENT
RUSS SPERRY, SECRETARY
JOSEPH KERN, ESQ., TREASURER
A.J. FARRAR
TROY HELTON
SHEILA HOFFMAN
CAROL ROCK
RICK SWANSON

Meetings are held at 7:00 PM on the
first Wednesday of each month at 351
Santa Clara Avenue in Fillmore.

OUR FIRST TWELVE MONTHS (CONTINUED)

that was used by citrus workers, and an outdoor display of farm implements and other artifacts depicting what life used to be like in the valley. Our Society congratulates their society on all of the hard work and planning that has brought them to this point. We look forward to the Grand Opening of their new Fillmore Historical Museum, and to being neighbors in the future.

Education and long-term planning aren't the only things we've been doing this past year. We also worked closely with Short Line Enterprises to assist their efforts to improve the portion of the line between Santa Paula and Piru that they currently lease and operate for motion picture filming. We've cut brush, trimmed trees and cleaned culverts. We've worked on some of the historic rolling stock that is stored in Fillmore. And we provide car attendants for various special events held during the year. This ongoing relationship is a positive one for all concerned.

The Society sponsored or co-sponsored several trains during 1993, including the *Santa Claus Specials* on Sunday, December 19th. Fillmore & Western Railway steam locomotive Number 51, a Baldwin 2-8-0 built in 1906, powered the train and over 800 people made the round-trip between Fillmore and Rancho Sespe during the day. Little 1891 Porter 0-4-0 Number 1 was also steamed up for "Elf" service through the yard. The Society provided Car Attendants for Short Line's annual *New Year's Eve Party Train*, which rolled on December 31st and was hailed by all on board as the only way to spend the holiday!

The earthquake on January 17th did an incredible amount of damage to Fillmore, particularly the Downtown District, which has a large number of unreinforced masonry buildings. Many were so badly damaged that demolition was the only alternative. Attempts are being made to save others. Clean-up is nearly complete, and the city is moving ahead with plans to rebuild. It was fortunate that much of the last two years was spent establishing architectural guidelines that will insure all new construction within the Downtown District matches the small-town, 1920's look that has made Fillmore famous.

While all of the trains in Fillmore vibrated four feet west on the track during the quake, nothing came off, and there was no damage to either the track or bridges. The only rail-related "problems" were rocks that rolled down a hill onto the track east of Fillmore and the Short Line office trailer, which fell off its piers. Both of these problems were quickly corrected, and we all feel fortunate that Mother Nature was so kind.

Other articles in this issue will tell a bit more about our upcoming projects, including a program to begin public tours of the Short Line Movie Trains this Spring. We also have several trips planned over the next few months, including some with steam locomotive Number 51. We hope you'll be able to join us on one of them!

YARD TOURS BEGIN MAY 28TH

The Society and Short Line Enterprises are working on a program that will open the yard in Fillmore to the public on weekends and holidays between May 28 and October 30, 1994, except on a few special days when the steam train is operating. A one-hour walking tour will be offered every hour, on the hour, with Society members serving as guides. Visitors will have an opportunity to walk through several passenger cars frequently used in motion pictures, climb into the cab of locomotive Number 1, and hear all about the various pieces of historic equipment and the films they've been used in. A gift shop will be open on days tours are given, and snacks will be available.

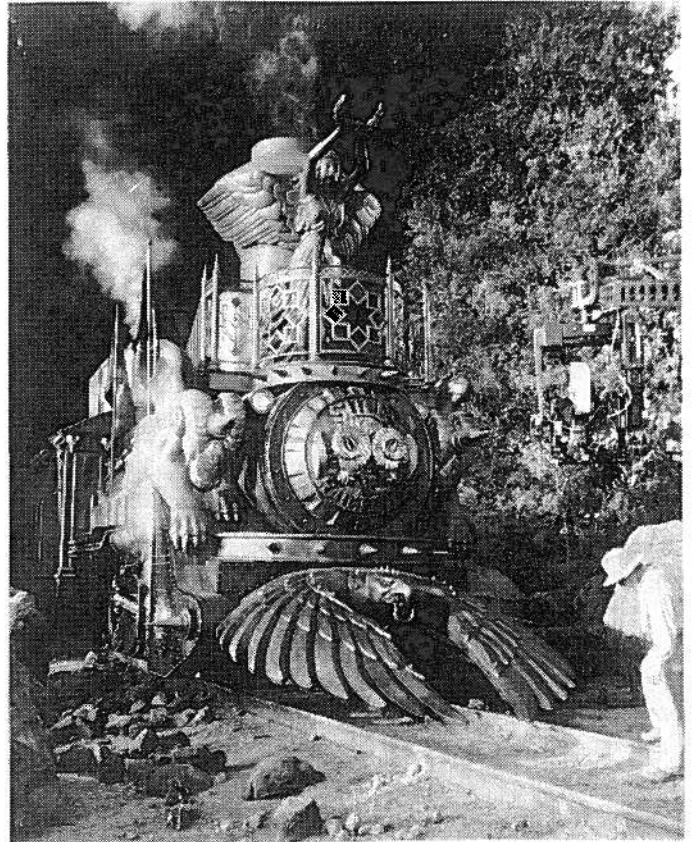
Carol Rock heads the Tour Committee, and is coordinating the effort, along with Larry Jensen of Short Line Enterprises. Active Associates are encouraged to get involved, either helping to get the facilities ready, or working as a guide. There is quite a bit to do on weekends between now and then, and work parties will be scheduled. Tour guide training will take place in mid-May.

All of the money made by giving tours and selling snacks will belong to the Society, and will go toward Society projects. This is the first big step toward our goal of establishing the permanent *Railroad Interpretive Center*. Get involved! To sign up for a work party, or to be a tour guide, call the Society phone number and leave a message, or call Larry at (805) 524-0330 during business hours.

NEW ASSOCIATES

Congratulations and Welcome Aboard to the following individuals who have joined since the last newsletter was published:

Edward J. Collins III - Valencia
Phillip H. Goldman - Goleta
Eric B. Lee - Ithaca, New York
Lori DiCaprio-Lee - Ithaca, New York
William L. Peck - Ventura
Larry Bull - Fillmore
I. Cunningham - Long Beach
Dale A. Elevatorski - Goleta
Phyllis Probasco - Fillmore
Faith C. Murray - Thousand Oaks
Elizabeth T. Rutherford - Camarillo
Sidney I. Chambers - Long Beach
Bill Crow - Santa Barbara
Chard Walker - Hesperia
William D. Barbe - Montrose
Donald E. Rose, Jr. - Santa Clarita
Stanley E. Zabroski - Oxnard
Susan Forrest-Chambers - Northridge
Brent Birmingham - Ventura
George Real - Ventura
Saylor Milton - Fillmore
Merle DiVita - Ventura



DISNEY PROPS DONATED

Between October and December, 1993, Walt Disney Pictures spent approximately \$250,000 to transform steam locomotive Number 51 into the villain's evil Iron Horse for the fantasy-Western *Tall Tale*, which will be out at Thanksgiving. The Society has something to be thankful for already. When the film was completed, the studio agreed to let us have all of the elaborate props that were created on a permanent museum loan basis. Our plan is to recreate the entire front portion of the fantasy locomotive as a giant display in the *Railroad Interpretive Center*, when it is complete.

For now, the props are stored. Many of the delicate pieces are at Fillmore Self Storage, courtesy of owner Saylor Milton, who donated the use of one of his storage spaces. Thanks, Saylor! Several pieces that were too large to fit are still in the Short Line Enterprises yard, while we attempt to locate warehouse space for them. Anybody out there have a large, secure barn?

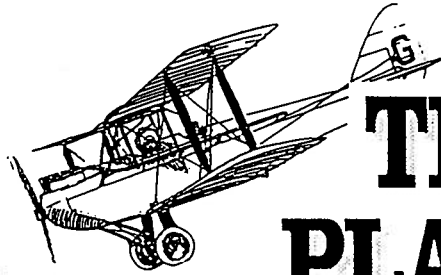
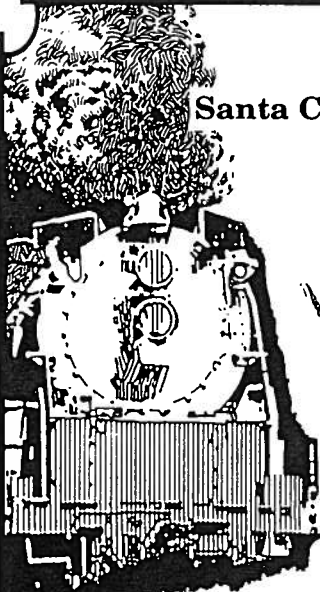
NAME THE MAGAZINE

We're working on a new publication that will be sold at various locations and mailed to Active and Supporting Associates. It will be interesting and informative, with articles about railroading in this area and lots of photos. We need a good, clever name for it. Send us your suggestion. The winner gets a free one year Society membership.

Santa Paula Chamber of Commerce
and the
Santa Clara River Valley Railroad Historical Society

Proudly Presents

TRAINS, PLANES & MOTORCYCLES



**Saturday & Sunday
April 16 & 17, 1994**

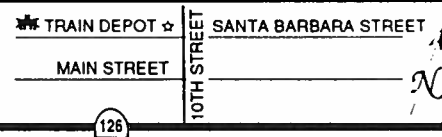
Join us in historic Santa Paula, California, for an event that is sure to thrill every member of your family. For one exciting weekend, the quaint Downtown District and nearby Santa Paula Airport will come alive with a vast array of transportation vehicles from a bygone era. Ride the Fillmore & Western Railroad's old time passenger train, pulled by steam locomotive Number 51, which was built in 1906 and featured in many movies and TV shows. Visit the airport, where hangers will be open so you can inspect one of the nation's finest collections of antique, aerobatic and experimental aircraft. Planes rides are available. And stop by the Santa Paula Union Oil Museum to see a special, limited exhibit, "Splinter Road: Motorcycle Racing Pioneers". Dana Elcar, co-star of television's "MacGyver", will serve as Honorary Chairman of this event. Be sure to bring your camera!

Many activities are planned for your enjoyment, including:

- FARMER'S MARKET • FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT •
- CLASSIC CAR CLUB DISPLAYS • STREET FAIR •
- ARCHITECTURAL WALKING TOURS • BEER & WINE GARDEN •
- SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER & DANCE (Dinner by McCoy's Bar-B-Q Express,
Music by *Country Trio Plus One*) • OTHER SURPRISES! •

**The train will make five one-hour-long trips each day,
departing from the Santa Paula Depot at
Tenth & Santa Barbara Streets.**

TRAIN TIMETABLE				TICKET PRICES	
Saturday & Sunday					
Train No.	Leave	Station	Arrive		
1	10:00 AM	Santa Paula	11:00 AM	TRAIN - ADULTS	\$12.50
2	11:30 AM	Santa Paula	12:30 PM	TRAIN - STUDENTS (ages 4 - 17)	\$ 7.50
3	1:00 PM	Santa Paula	2:00 PM	TRAIN - CHILDREN (ages 3 and under)	FREE
4	2:30 PM	Santa Paula	3:30 PM	SATURDAY DINNER & DANCE	\$15.00
5	4:00 PM	Santa Paula	5:00 PM		



**FOR TRAIN OR SAT. BAR-B-Q DINNER/DANCE TICKETS CONTACT
THE SANTA PAULA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AT (805) 525-5561**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Several special excursions are planned during the next few months, with more later in the year. The first trips will be on Saturday and Sunday, April 16 & 17, when Fillmore & Western Railway Steam Locomotive Number 51 participates in Santa Paula's "Trains, Planes & Motorcycles" celebration. Please see the flyer (opposite page) for further details. Two more confirmed events featuring Number 51 are:

Saturday & Sunday, May 21 & 22, 1994
FILLMORE MAY FESTIVAL

Four one-hour-long roundtrip excursions depart Fillmore each day. Departure times Saturday will be at 12:10 PM, 1:40 PM, 3:10 PM and 4:40 PM. Departure times Sunday will be at 10:40 AM, 12:10 PM, 1:40 PM and 3:10 PM. The train is sponsored by the Fillmore High School Band Boosters. Prices are \$12.50 for Adults and \$7.50 for Students under 17. Children 3 and under ride free. This is Fillmore's annual celebration, with carnival rides and fun for the entire family.

*Saturday, Sunday and Monday,
July 2, 3 & 4, 1994*

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

Four one-hour-long roundtrip excursions depart Fillmore both Saturday and Sunday at 10:40 AM, 12:10 PM, 1:40 PM and 3:10 PM. There will also be five trips on Monday departing at 9:40 AM, 11:10 AM, 12:40 PM, 2:10 PM and 3:40 PM. The train is sponsored by the Society and the Fillmore Chamber of Commerce. Prices are \$12.50 for Adults and \$7.50 for Students under 17. Children 3 and under ride free. Other events, including a Chili Cook-off and fireworks, are planned.

ALSO JOIN US THIS SUMMER FOR

HOT AUGUST NIGHT

August 20, 1994

A diesel-powered passenger train departs Fillmore at 6:00 PM for a ride into the citrus groves, where a unique outdoor celebration awaits you. Feast on a catered meal, enjoy your favorite beverages, and dance to 50's and 60's rock & roll, performed live by *Captain Cardiac and the Coronaries*. The train returns to Fillmore at 11:00 PM. Tickets for this event are \$45.00 per person at the Fillmore Chamber of Commerce.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!

OPPORTUNITIES

WE NEED YOUR INVOLVEMENT!

There are many ways Active Associates can contribute to the Society and help it grow. Whether you are a train expert or a novice, you are welcome to get involved. All positions require Society Basic Training, which provides orientation and familiarization with working on and around trains. Read on to see if you would enjoy any of the following, and give us a call at (805) 524-1201. Leave your name and phone number, and we'll get back to you.

CAR ATTENDANTS:

Assists the Short Line Enterprises train crew with boarding and detraining passengers, and assures they have a safe journey. Attendants also serve as on-board liaisons between the Society and the general public. Attendants must be at least 16 years of age, in good physical condition, with common sense, and a friendly, outgoing personality. Attendants must also have a current CPR certification.

TOUR GUIDES:

Responsible for leading interpretive tours through the Fillmore Yard on weekends, May through October, 1994. Knowledge of railroads is helpful, but not necessary. Training includes a script that must be memorized. Guides will also man the Society's snack counter. Good physical condition and a friendly, outgoing personality are a must.

FOOD SELLERS:

Sell food and beverages to passengers on board the trains on operating days. Food sellers should be in good physical condition, have a friendly personality, and a basic understanding of proper food handling procedures.

CREW COORDINATORS:

Coordinates and schedules volunteer crews for train operations and Yard Tours. Serves as the Society's liaison with Short Line Enterprises personnel. Crew Coordinators should be organized, reliable, and capable of communicating effectively orally and in writing.

MAINTENANCE-OF-WAY WORKERS:

Workers periodically participate in weekend sessions to cut brush, clear culverts and maintain track. Must be in good physical condition, and at least 16 years of age.

MODELERS:

To work on an "N" Scale model of the entire Fillmore Yard site for use as a display depicting what the area will look like once it is fully developed. The layout framework is already complete. Modelers should have basic skills, with strengths in scenery and structures.

TWO NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The Society's seven person Board of Directors was recently expanded to nine by unanimous vote of the Board. This was done to bring an increased level of business expertise. At the same time, the Board also selected its two new members, A.J. Farrar and Rick Swanson.

Both A.J. and Rick have worked long and hard to help the Society grow. We congratulate them on their election to the Board and look forward to the contributions they will continue to make as Board Members.

CALIFORNIA BEACH PARTY

As many of you know, Ginger Gherardi, Executive Director of the Ventura County Transportation Commission, has been leading the county's efforts to acquire the Southern Pacific's Santa Paula Branch. Last month she asked the Society to assist in the operation of special MetroLink trains for the *California Beach Party* in Ventura on April 23 and 24, 1994, by providing "Ambassadors" to help with crowd control at the stations and on the trains.

This is an excellent opportunity for the Society to further strengthen our relationship with the V.C.T.C., as well as make contact with a large number of rail-oriented people. Although it might not be as enjoyable as being a Car Attendant on a steam train, it is equally important to the Society's future. The V.C.T.C. wants to make it worthwhile to us, and will make a donation to the Society for our help.

Volunteers are needed who can commit to attendance at a training session at the Moorpark MetroLink yard on April 9th. This is MANDATORY for all participants. Shifts and staffing requirements on April 23 and 24 are as follows:

Simi Valley Station (2 people per time slot).
8:30 AM to 1:30 PM or 1:30 PM to 6:30 PM

Moorpark Station (1 person per time slot).
8:45 AM to 1:30 PM or 1:30 PM to 6:15 PM

Camarillo Station (1 person per time slot).
9:00 AM to 1:30 PM or 1:30 PM to 6:00 PM

Oxnard Station (1 person per time slot).
9:15 AM to 1:30 PM or 1:30 PM to 5:45 PM

Ventura Station (3 people per time slot).
9:30 AM to 1:30 PM or 1:30 PM to 5:30 PM

On Board the Train (4 people per time slot).
8:30 AM to 1:30 PM or 1:30 PM to 6:30 PM

Please phone A.J. Farrar at (805) 647-7955 if you are interested in helping with this important public relations project. There are a few perks thrown in for good measure. Participants will get a *California Beach Party* Staff T-Shirt, a MetroLink Cap and free admission to the party!

SOCIETY BASIC TRAINING

Several Basic Training sessions have been held during the past year to familiarize our Active Associates with the Santa Clara River Valley Railroad Historical Society, Short Line Enterprises, and safe behavior on and around the trains. These sessions also cover the basic Car Attendant information. They are held at Short Line's yard in Fillmore, take approximately three hours on a Saturday morning, and are enjoyable and informative. The following Active Associates have already completed the training:

Steve Black
Kathie Briggs
Philip Bronner, M.D.
Larry Bull
Sid Chambers
Eddie Collins
A.J. Farrar
Mike Flaharty
Dean Francuch
John Gartman
Dorothy Haase
Tom B. Hall
Jerry Henslee
Paul R. Higgins
Stanley Hurst
Dave Jeffrey
Larry Jennings
Eric B. Lee
Lori A. DiCaprio-Lee
Bob Mahan
Steven D. Pierce
Chris Robson
Jay Ross
Wayne Salleng
Robert B. Seghi
Russ Sperry
Paul F. Staubach
Rick Swanson
Jeffrey Trimble
Chris Vanderhoeven
Brandon Wahl
Carol Wahl
Frank Wahl
Kevin Wahl

If you are an Active Associate and haven't completed the program, please call A.J. Farrar at (805) 647-7955 to be placed on the list for the next training session, which will be held later this Spring.

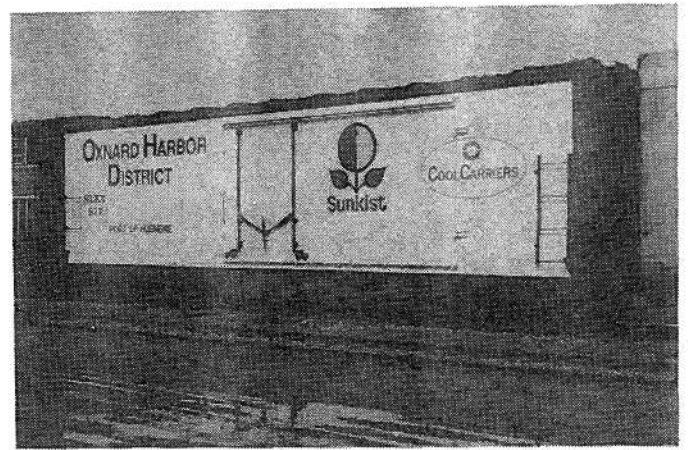
SHORT LINE SHORTS

Short Line Enterprises dispatched a special train to participate in the Grand Opening Celebration for the new Cool Carriers/Sunkist Growers refrigerated container shipping facility at Port Hueneme. It is the largest, most advanced dockside terminal of its type on the West Coast.

The train, which was chartered by the Oxnard Harbor District, consisted of E.M.D. F-7A's 100 and 101, Refrigerator Car 877, Dining Car "Moulin Rouge," Cafe-Parlor Car "Powhatan," and Business Car 409. The reefer received a special commemorative paint job and the train was decorated with bunting and flags for the celebration (see photos). Originally, steam locomotive Number 51 was scheduled to go, but eleventh hour insurance demands by the Southern Pacific changed those plans and the F-Units were used instead.

On February 17, 1994, the train made a deadhead move, travelling over the Fillmore & Western Railway from Fillmore to Santa Paula, and then across seventeen miles of Southern Pacific track and five miles of Ventura County Railway track from Oxnard to the Port. After sitting over night at the Port, the train was used to deliver the invited dignitaries to the celebration on the morning of the 18th, and serve as a backdrop for the speaker's podium. It returned to Fillmore that evening.

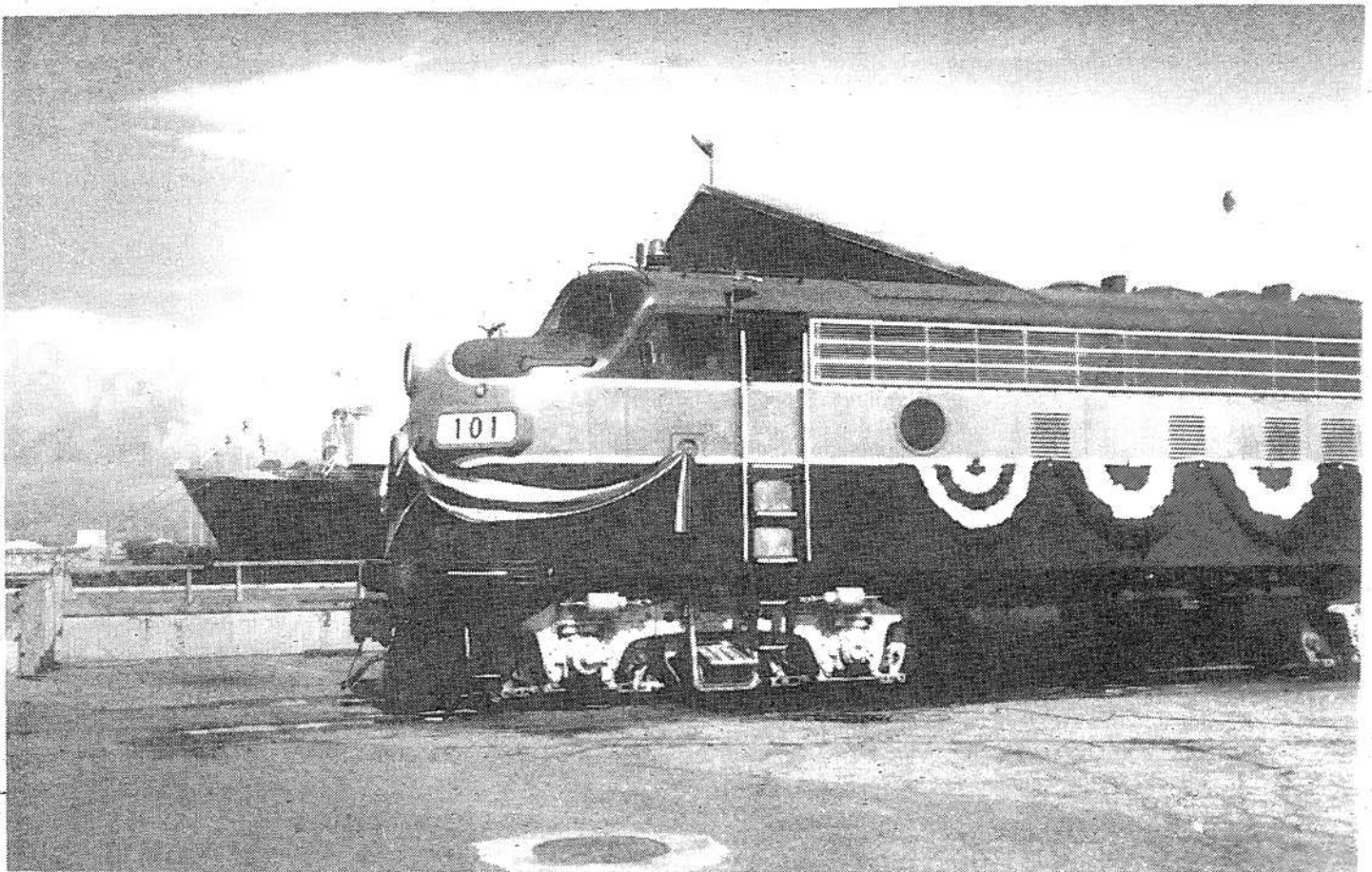
The Movie Trains have been very active during the past few months. Watch your local theaters this Spring and Summer for *City Slickers II: The Legend of Curly's Gold* and *I Love Trouble*. Disney's *Tall Tale* will be out later in the



year. *Young Indiana Jones and the Hollywood Follies* should be on television soon.

The Society and Short Line Enterprises co-hosted the March 16, 1994, Santa Paula Chamber of Commerce Mixer, which was held at the Santa Paula Depot. Short Line provided a train consisting of ALCO RS-32 Diesel 4009 and several passenger cars that were open for inspection. The Society provided food and refreshments. Troy Helton coordinated the effort, and each of the dishes was made by a Society member, using a recipe from Jeanette Ellen Clark's *Main Line Recipes* cookbook.

Jan was not aware this was being done until she arrived that evening. She was surprised and touched by the gesture, and sends her sincere thanks to everyone who participated. Those of us who merely consumed the food thank both the participants and Jan. It was a feast!



INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRE

We are in the process of updating our mailing list and verifying addresses and phone numbers. We are also trying to categorize the list, so we only send you mailings about things that interest you. If you do not belong to the Society, but would like to continue receiving information from us in the future, please fill out this questionnaire and return it to us. It will only take a couple of minutes and one 29 cent stamp to be kept on our list.

I AM INTERESTED IN INFORMATION ABOUT:

- Family-oriented Excursion Trains
- Adult-oriented Excursion Trains
- Our Yard Tour Program
- Joining the Society (please send an application)
- Joining the Society (please contact me)

NAME _____

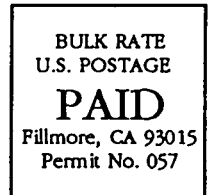
ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE (Home) _____ (Work) _____

Please return this original or a copy to the address below. Thank you for your cooperation!

**SANTA CLARA RIVER VALLEY
RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.**
448 SESPE AVENUE
FILLMORE, CALIFORNIA 93015



07/14/94
STEVEN D. PIERCE
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VENTURA CA 93006-7025