



# RAIL NEWS

September, 1995

Number Eight

## THE 'PREZ' SAYS:

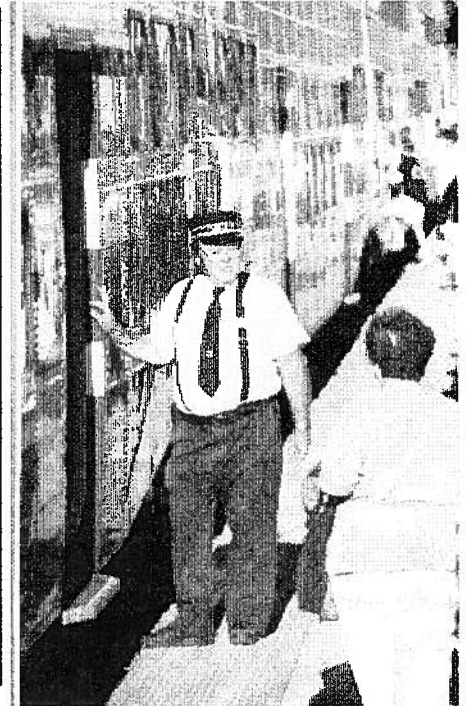
### 'RIC' FUND RAISING GOES PROFESSIONAL

The Santa Clara River Valley Railroad Historical Society (SCRVRHS), in pursuing its goal of bringing the Railroad Interpretive Center (RIC) to life, has established a contractual relationship with Harison & Associates, a consultant firm specializing in fund raising. Barbara Harison of the firm will work closely with SCRVRHS Grant Committee members Pat Askren and A.J. Farrar to coordinate and direct efforts in obtaining tax deductible donations.

The RIC project is broken down into three (3) phases. Phase one consists of removing a 90' turntable from St. Louis, shipping and installing it on the RIC property in Fillmore. Phase two is the construction of a three stall roundhouse while phase three builds a freestanding exhibit hall adjacent to the roundhouse.

SCRVRHS members are encouraged to identify potential donors and pass this information to the Society. Donors could

be fellow train enthusiasts; charitable foundations you know or are involved with; business associates or relatives; or corporations with community service programs. Donations can even come via a will or trust. Identifying the specific contact person is essential. Remember, SCRVRHS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation and any donation may qualify as a Federal tax deduction. Get on track! Call (805) 524-1201. Let's get the turntable here before it gets snowed in!



SCRVRHS CAR ATTENDANT George Roberts (right) begins the passenger loading process on a Metrolink Ventura County Fair Special train. Attendants manned trains for two week-ends in August from 8 a.m. to midnight earning money for the R.I.C. project.

— Photos by Russ Sperry

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## SOCIETY UPDATE

# BUSY IS AS BUSY DOES FOR SCRVRHS!

by Troy Helton

As a railroader would say, "this year is highballing right on by". That's OK because some exciting things have happened this year. It looks like the group is getting really serious on funding the Railroad Interpretive Center (RIC). The City of Fillmore approved \$25,000 matching funds and **Dr. Ted Hole** (member and Car Attendant) was the first to produce a cash catalyst with a check for \$1,000. We have another anonymous donor in process for \$5,000 plus the SCRVRHS Board approved a

measure in that 50% of the funds generated by the Society's Car Attendant program will go to fund the removal, shipment, and installation of the turntable phase of the Railroad Interpretive Center. The Board has also approved acquiring the services of Barbara Harison

of Harison & Associates, a professional grants seeker who headed up the recent Ventura Pier's very successful restoration project.

Hey, we're collecting money anyway we can for the Railroad Interpretive Center. And, in case anyone is interested, we also take aluminum cans. The last financial report from our Bar-B-Que fundraiser showed we had an aluminum can income of \$8.00. The project

estimate of \$1,250,000 divided by \$8.00 equals, let me see??? 156,250. This means that we only have to have that many more 3 day BBQ's to pay for the RIC in cans. That's only 52,083.3 weekends. We do this three times a year so it will only take us 17,361.1 years to pay for the project. Sounds impossible but we have a secret weapon. Dave Wilkinson, our President, had the bright idea to sell corn on the cob along with the Tri-Tip Sandwiches at the Santa Paula Citrus Festival. It was a success! A customer who works in a local

Mexican Restaurant told us that if we bought a special mix of chili powder, salt, and lemon along with lemon juice, the local population would buy the corn. He was right, Dave fell into another save the BBQ scheme and all the crews efforts paid off. The other tip was to use white

**CABOOSE  
RESTORATION  
PROJECT**

**Ex-Santa Fe caboose #054  
will go back into service as  
a Society R.I.C. fund raiser  
as Fillmore & Western  
'FIRST CLASS SERVICE'**

**Help Pres. Dave Wilkinson  
get the caboose back into  
shape and ready to run!  
(805) 525-2269**

corn covered with mayonnaise and sprinkled with chili powder. I think I'll leave that one up to the next BBQ crew.

To raise BBQ fundraising to a new and stylish level, we are building a transportable trailer-type BBQ with a unique design! So when the 'Prez' gets enough time and volunteers together it can come to conclusion. Maybe we

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### **RAIL NEWS®**

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#### 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.

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**Wednesday, November 8, 1995**

**7:00 P.M.**

**Santa Paula Depot**



On the 8th, Michael Broggie, PhD, will share with us personal glimpses into the railroading interests and personal collections of Walt Disney! You won't want to miss this exciting and informative meeting. Come mingle with and get to know your fellow Society members.

At the December General Membership Meeting we will have our annual holiday potluck and film festival. Last year a rare 16mm home movie of the 1958 Santa Paula Steam Festival was shown. This is the time to share your home videos, movies or slides. Join us at the Santa Paula Depot on Wednesday, December 13 at 7:00 P.M. Bring your favorite food dish for sharing!

**TRACK LAYING WORK DAY SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 14**

Meet at the corner of Mountain View and Main in Fillmore at 8:00 A.M. or later if you must. We will be moving 'snap track' from the Fillmore & Western yard to the Railroad Interpretive Center site. Wear work cloths and bring heavy gloves. If you want track experience, this is it!



**Dave Wilkinson's Favorite R.R.!**  
**Santa Fe . . .**  
**All The Way!**

**The**  
**SCRVRHS**  
**Photo**  
**Gallery**

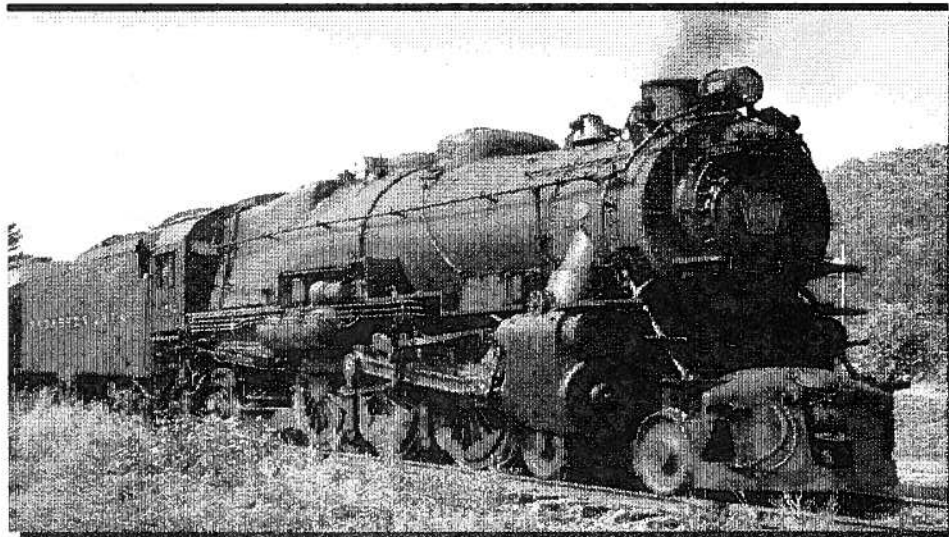


Photo by  
Troy Helton





## CAR ATTENDANT CORNER

# RAIL ACTION HAS BEEN HOT & HEAVY, METROLINK, F&W KEEP THINGS ROLLING

For the third year in a row, the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) and SCRVRHS teamed up to make the Metrolink Ventura County Fair Special trains a huge success. What an impressive site to see. A six car Metrolink consist rolls into a station, the doors open, and six uniformed SCRVRHS Car Attendants (in what one conductor called, vintage costumes) appear simultaneously from the train onto the platform. Metrolink has never seen such service, attention to passenger safety, and positive public relation for Metrolink, VCTC, and SCRVRHS.

Some thirty Car Attendants including regulars as well as those from the 'extra board', participated over the last two week-ends in August. Many Attendants worked multiple Metrolink shifts while some worked each and every day. Others also worked Fillmore & Western trains that were scheduled for both Saturday nights and Sunday after- noons. Congratulations for a job well done to all the Car Attendants who participated! And a special 'thank you' to everyone at VCTC, especially our on-board liaison, Adam Martinez.

All in all it was a mammoth job to schedule staffing and coordinate the operations of two Metrolinks per day plus Fillmore & Western trains. Hour upon hour was spent both on the telephone and aboard the trains. Therefore special thanks also goes to the Car Attendant Crew Chiefs who gave it their all, again: A.J. Farrar, Chris Robson, and Rick Swanson.

### We Get Letters

A surprise awaited me when I visited Fillmore from the Conejo Valley. I identified the steam locomotive, No. 51. I was raised in Windsor, Colorado and

the Great Western Railroad ran through the middle of our farm. The only square water stand that I have ever seen sat near our stock pens -- I would walk to the tracks and watch the trains take on water. I became well acquainted with the railroad men and rode on the engines more than once -- if Mom only knew how traveled I was. I knew all the GW engines in service at the time; 90, 75, 60,

& 51 (I believe 52 was inoperable or scrapped at the time). I have watched #51 push sugar beet gondolas up on the high line at the Windsor Factory -- she really had to work on that assignment.

I look forward to becoming involved in your organization and making my reacquaintance with GW #51.  
— Ron Lewis, Car Attendant

## Update

*(Continued from page 2)*

won't have to have a gimmick to sell sandwiches and corn on the cob. Anyway, with wood from the orange orchards of Board member Paul Haase's ranch, chili from the market, tri-tip roasts from Segovia's, peppers from Oxnard, and onions from Bakersfield do we have a market advantage! I hope we don't blow up the BBQ 'locomotive' the first time we fire it.

A special appreciation was given to member Mike Morgan, his wife Joyce, and daughters Michelle and Susan, for all the hard work and time they put into the BBQ fundraiser's. They were my ace in the hole when it came to manning the booth. We desperately need more volunteers like them. The Morgan's are the type of family that makes SCRVRHS worth the effort. A big thanks to all the others who helped out on the most recent long hot weekend (July 28,29,&30).

The most important thing said at the last Car Attendant Training Class was a statement by Board Vice-President Pat Askren. He asked members not to wait for a telephone call in order to volunteer, instead, take the initiative to call SCRVRHS and offer your services. As in

most other non-profit organizations, a small percentage of the membership does the majority of the work. And let me tell you, with the fall/winter schedule of multiple Fillmore & Western train events every weekend, we need the help. In just 2 ½ years we've grown from an initial 5 to 170 members. If you're not motivated to get involved, its only because you haven't attended the meetings nor read RailNews and have no idea what SCRVRHS is doing and just how big the plans are. It's fun, it's rewarding, and you become a part of our combined accomplishment of leaving a lasting impression for the future railroaders to enjoy. SCRVRHS has become a powerful influence in the preservation of local railroading and the artifacts associated with it.

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**MAKE YOUR MARK!  
GET INVOLVED! CALL NOW!**

**SCRVRHS (805) 524-1201**

**BAR-B-QUE ACTIVITIES:  
Troy Helton (805) 933-1199**

**CAR ATTENDANT PROGRAM:  
Rick Swanson (805) 492-5921  
A.J. Farrar (805) 647-7955**

**CABOOSE RESTORATION:  
Dave Wilkinson (805) 525-2269**

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# Calendar of Upcoming Events

## OCTOBER

- 14th Track Laying Work Party
- F&W Java-Expresso Train
- 21st F&W Oktoberfest Train
- 22nd F&W Sunday Scenic Limited
- 28th F&W Haunted Express Train
- 29TH F&W Sunday Scenic Limited

## NOVEMBER

- 1st Board Meeting, 7:00 P.M.
- 4th & 11th F&W Java-Expresso
- 5th, 12th, 19th F&W Scenic Ltd.
- 8th General Membership Meeting
- 18th F&W Murder Mystery Train
- 19th F&W Sunday Scenic Limited

## DECEMBER

- 2nd, 3rd, 9th & 10th - F&W Santa Claus Special Christmas Tree Train
- 6th Board Meeting - Fillmore City Hall , 7:00 P.M.
- 13th General Membership Meeting - Holiday Pot Luck, 7:00 P.M.
- 31st F&W New Year's Eve Party Train

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL SCRVRHS AT (805) 524-1201

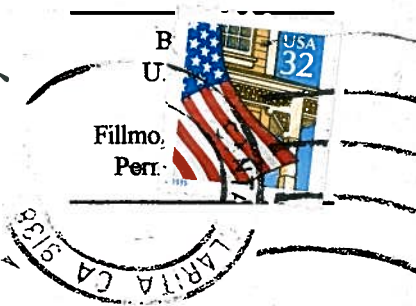


# RAIL NEWS

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