



Coast Mail



News from the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum

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www.slorrm.com

Work begins on Rehabilitation

A contract has been awarded by the City of San Luis Obispo to Voss Construction Company of Atascadero for the work necessary to stabilize the Freighthouse.

According to City Project Manager Mike McGuire, the contract includes, raising the building off its foundation, rebuilding the foundation, replacing rotten wood, resetting the building on its base. There will also be some roof repair.

The winning bid was considerably lower than had been predicted, leaving money for future work.



L to R: Brad LaRose, Arnold Jonas, John Billings, Terry Taylor, Bill Pyper and Dave Wilding

Museum Receives Generous Donation

John Billings, owner of Daylight Gardens, home and garden store at 1234 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo has made a very generous cash donation to the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum.

For many years Daylight Gardens has used the 1894 Southern Pacific Freight Warehouse for the storage of patio furniture and other merchandise. Originally the building was rented from the Southern Pacific Railroad, and then from the Union Pacific. The most recent landlord

Using the old freighthouse for storage began when Daylight Gardens was located in the old SP Milling building at the corner of Santa Barbara and High Streets, near the railyard. When that building was condemned due to a fire, Daylight Gardens had to move to its present

Museum Members Adopt-a-Poll

Twelve fearless museum members invaded Cal Poly's University Union on Tuesday, March 2nd and set up voting apparatus for Precinct #521.

This was conducted under the auspices of San Luis Obispo County Clerk-Recorder Julie Rodewald's Adopt-a-Poll program. For staffing a polling place, non-profit groups like SLORRM are paid \$575.

Under the leadership of Arnold Jonas, the voting place was staffed by Brad LaRose, Doug Gerard, Cary Goodman, Aron Kahn, Duane Powell, John Marchetti, Frank Rheinisch, Richard Alberts, Agatha Reardon, Judy Tyner and Bill Pyper.

We will probably be staffing the polls again for the General Election on November 7th. Anyone willing to help please contact Arnold Jonas at 541-0546 or slotrains@charter.net.

Because the work to rehabilitate the building was due to begin, John had to remove his merchandise. Rather than haul truckloads of goods to another storage site, he decided to have a sale. From the proceeds of the sale John generously donated \$5,000 to SLORRM and

Photo by Penny Smith, AD Media



Mission Statement

The San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum, founded as a non-profit, public benefit educational museum, will preserve the railroad history of California and the Central Coast by collecting, restoring, displaying and operating historic railroad equipment.

SAN LUIS OBISPO RAILROAD MUSEUM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brad LaRose *President*
Karl Hovanitz *Vice President*
Arnold Jonas *Secretary*
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Bill Pyper *Newsletter Editor*
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Telephone 805-461-3456
e-mail: info@slorm.com
web site: www.slorm.com
Mail to: P.O. Box 13260
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

Doug Chancey

1936 - 2004



Clyde "Doug" Chancey, 67, passed away Thursday, April 29, 2004, in the Arroyo Grande Community Hospital.

Doug was born May 26, 1936 in Merkel, Texas. He was raised and educated in Noodle, Texas.

A resident of Arroyo Grande since 1962, Doug was co-owner of CWB Crane Service of Santa Maria and had worked in the oil fields and construction jobs in California.

In 1984 Doug had a dream. His plan was put into place, and the Bitter Creek Western livestock railroad was born. His legacy will live on through the Bitter Creek Western. He was also involved in HO and O Scale model railroading.

Doug is survived by his wife of 49 years, Pat, three children, and eight grandchildren.

Harold Hobbs

Museum Member Harold E. Hobbs, of Bakersfield, passed away May 8, 2004. Harold joined the museum in December, 1998 and assisted in many museum projects. He is survived by his wife Wanda and son Billy.

Museum Buys Semaphore



In late March, the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum bought one of the few two-bladed semaphore signals available in the west.

The complete 33 foot high signal was purchased from the California Oregon Pacific Railroad (CORP) in Roseburg, Oregon.

The 1912 model includes the finial, wet cell batteries, and an operators manual, and is completely operational. The museum paid \$1800 for this outstanding example of soon to be extinct railroad equipment.

Karl Hovanitz hauled the signal to San Luis Obispo from Oregon on his trailer along with one that he bought for his Bitter Creek Western Railroad.

Plans are to install this signal in one of the traffic circles at the museum parking lot.

On a similar note: Rob Rossi has acquired the Southern Pacific cantilevered signal tower that was on the main line, about a half-mile north of Santa Margarita, at the Union Oil Company grade crossing. This joins a similar tower which was in Santa Margarita at the Highway 58 grade crossing. Both are currently stored at Santa Margarita Ranch. Museum members Brad LaRose and Jim McEntire helped with the move.

Track Over Cuesta Grade designated a landmark



The 16.6 miles of track that run from Santa Margarita to San Luis Obispo was designated a Civil Engineering Landmark on April 3, 2004.

A ceremony was held at the San Luis Obispo Amtrak station and the plaque pictured above was mounted on a station wall.

The section of track completed in 1894 by the Southern Pacific Railroad, was the most difficult to build portion of the mainline along the coast between San Francisco and Los Angeles. It has the steepest grade and highest elevation of the entire length of track.

Networking

Your Museum Board of Directors perform a function little known to most museum members. Networking with other museums and historical organizations. Meeting with and talking to other people involved with railroad history often provides leads to the availability of items of interest to SLORRM.

For example, last summer while on vacation, Brad LaRose visited the SOO Depot Museum in Minot, North Dakota and talked to the people there. As a result, they sent us the SP timetable pictured below.

Southern Pacific

SHASTA ROUTE

TIME TABLES



CLAUDE S. AMMONSON, VICE-PRESIDENT, SAN FRANCISCO
A. H. FREEST, JR., GENERAL MANAGER, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

Form 2 December 17, 1950

Information shown herein is subject to change without notice.

Recently Bill Pyper scanned and recorded on CD-ROM about a dozen pictures from the Bernice Jackson collection showing railroad operations in and around Paradise, California in 1952. These were sent to the Paradise Ridge Historical Society. Karl Hovanitz is always traveling and meeting other railfans.

Public Art has Transportation Theme

As part of its Art in Public Places Program, The City of San Luis Obispo has installed an obelisk at the corner of Osos and Palm Streets, in front of City Hall.

Designed and built by local artist Jim Jacobson to fit in with the new City Transportation Center, it is intended to illustrate the development of transportation in San Luis Obispo.

The sixteen plaques on the lower portion of the tower illustrate many different types of early transportation. Examples are shown below.

In the near future, the City will be looking for designs for public art to displayed in the parking lot near the museum. Anyone interested contact Betsy Kiser at City Hall, 781-7151.



Narrow Gauge Railway

The narrow gauge railroad brought grain from Los Olivos and Los Alamos by way of Santa Maria to Port Harford (near Port San Luis) during the late 1800s. The Pacific Coast Railway Company engine 104 is shown in this illustration. © 1947 photo.

TIMETABLE

The following is a list of future meetings of the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum. Business meetings begin at 6:00 p.m. and the Program Meetings are at 7:00 p.m.

Business Meetings are held at the Quality Suites Hotel, 1631 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo. The Program Meeting locations will be announced in advance.

June 10	Business Meeting
July 8	Business Meeting
August 12	Business Meeting
September 9	Business Meeting
October 14	Business Meeting
October 24	Train Festival at Biller Creek Western
November 11	Business Meeting
December 9	Business Meeting



Southern Pacific Railroad

President William McKinley arrived in San Luis Obispo on a Southern Pacific train pulled by this Superpower engine on May 16, 1901.

History is Everywhere ... or Brad finds a shovel

Acting on a tip from a nearby resident, Museum President Brad LaRose went foraging in the creek bed near the San Luis Obispo Railroad station looking for a railcar wheel that was supposedly in there somewhere.

What he found instead, mostly buried in the silt of the creekbed, was a very old, metal railroad shovel with the markings for AT&SF.

SLORRM Company Store

The San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum has a variety of products that are for sale to raise money for the benefit of the Museum. In the past these goods have only been offered for sale at fundraising events. All the items shown on this page are now available for purchase at any time.

To order, send a check to SLORRM at P.O. Box 13260, San Luis Obispo, CA 95406. Local orders will be delivered. Outside of SLO County please include \$5.00 for shipping and handling.



T-Shirts \$17⁰⁰

Gray Haynes Beefy-T
with SLORRM Logo
printed on front and
Historic RR District Logo
on back

Printed locally by Dolphin Shirt Co.

Available in adult sizes:
Small, Large, Xtra-large



Railroaders Hats

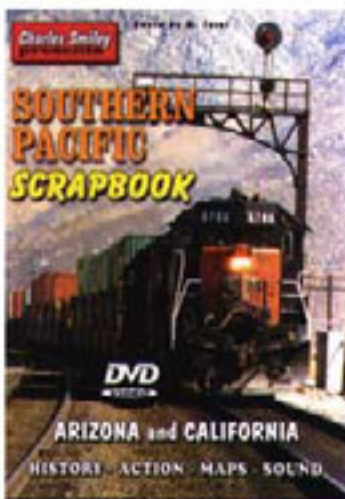
Childrens \$8⁰⁰ Adults



Videos and DVD's \$27⁰⁰ each

The Videos shown below were donated to SLORRM by
Charles Smiley Presents

Southern Pacific Scrapbook
A final look at SP in California and
Arizona on main and branchlines.
Film and video of the last 12 years of
SP operations. VHS or DVD.



SP Vintage West
Features many scenes from Bernice
Jackson's films. This 1950 to 1978
look brings long gone SP west. Cab
Forward and early F-units.



Belt Buckle
\$25⁰⁰