

It's Official — Museum Gets New Home

The San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum now has a place it can call "home."

In October, the City of San Luis Obispo took ownership of the Southern Pacific freight house. This will allow the restoration of the building to begin in Spring of 2000.

Following restoration of the structure's exterior, the City will turn the building over to the museum, which will then refurbish the interior with various display areas for both the Pacific Coast Railway and the Southern Pacific Railroad. A reception area, gift shop, meeting room research library, and a model railroad layout will all be included.

In addition to the interior design, the museum will also offer exterior attractions, such as a small excursion line featuring a live steam locomotive with old time cars, as well as crossing signals and various pieces of railroad equipment.

Designed with pride to be a showplace for the entire County, the museum and its grounds will be a sparkling jewel not only for the Railroad Square area, but for the City itself.

Barbecue Success



A fundraiser BBQ was held at the Bitter Creek Western line steam railroad site. The 130 people who attended were treated to unlimited train rides and great barbecue.

The highlight of the event was the running

of seven individual consists, privately owned by members of the BitterCreek Western, and each one a collector's dream in its own right.

Another outing this will be offered Spring, so look for the announcement in your mail.

Locomotive #7 on Display at Fair

Those who attended this year's Mid-State Fair in Paso Robles were treated to an unusual sight. Highlighted at the Fair was

our very own steam locomotive. The #7 was on display in order to raise a general awareness of the Museum, as well as generate interest in belonging to the organization.

The narrow gauge engine was once part of a proud team of 10 locomotives used for logging in Japan by the Kiso Forestry Railway of Agematsu, Japan. It is believed that only three of the original locomotives still exist, and the museum was fortunate enough to acquire #7 from Mr. Philip Goldman, of Goleta, California, in November, 1998.

The #7 will be the primary locomotive power for the museum when it is completed next year on the site of the refurbished Southern Pacific freight house.

The SLORRM Board of Directors met December 21, 1999, and drafted a lease proposal for the museum premises which will be submitted to the City.

★★★ Recent Donations ★★★

Ms. Linda Long, representing the estate of the late **Marianne Michaels**, a longtime friend and museum member, donated numerous railroad-related books which can be used in the museum library.

Jim McIntyre has acquired an old-time telegrapher's desk, which will add realism to the museum's interior.

Palmer Hewlitt donated an old, intact Southern Pacific Switchstand.

Philo Weir donated an old photo of a Pacific Coast locomotive and consist working at the SLO Bituminous Mine on Old Price Canyon Road.

V.J. Maino will be donating an authentic pot-bellied stove from the old Southern Pacific railroad station in San Luis Obispo.

John Smith, friend and member of the museum, has donated numerous books, many of which were in the San Diego RR Museum and will be welcome additions to our library.

The **Celite Corporation** in Lompoc has donated rail previously used on its site. The museum has also acquired several hundred feet of old Santa Maria Valley RR rail from a benefactor in Santa Maria.

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Work party needed to protect our caboose



Our caboose is sitting on siding behind Wallace Business Forms near The Graduate restaurant. Karl wants to have a work party some weekend to clean up and seal up the caboose to keep transients (and railfans) out. It is a 1972 Southern

Pacific bay window caboose - the last operating caboose on the Lompoc branch (Art Laidlaw says it was known as the Lompoc Flyer). Jim McIntyre has the air whistle and the air gauge for it.

Schedule of Meetings

We meet on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Embassy Suites Hotel on Madonna Road, San Luis Obispo.

Meeting dates for the new year are:

January 13
February 10
March 9
April 13
May 11
June 8
July 13
August 10
September 14
October 12
November 9
December 14



Comments or Questions?

Have something to share with our members, a question regarding the museum's direction, or even an opinion on how things are going? Please send them to us and we will make every effort to address each submission in the next issue of the Coast Mail.

Your feedback is very important to us.

Submit written correspondence to the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum, 1998 Santa Barbara Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401.

Membership Renewals

New for the year 2000, we will now be mailing out membership renewal requests each month. Your membership card indicates the month of expiration, so you will have an idea of when you will be receiving yours.

Your membership is extremely important to our survival, especially for the upcoming new year as we get ready to assume the operation of our new facility. Please be assured that each member is truly appreciated, and we plan on offering discounts on museum admissions and gift store purchases. We also plan to offer invitations to members for certain publicity events at the museum site itself.

Please help us achieve our goal of offering the public a showplace which we can all be proud of, as well as giving a positive impression to everyone who visits our city or passes through on the daily Amtrak trains.

Further Completion of the PC Boxcar #1200

The purchase of a set of well-preserved trucks (wheels and frame) for the Pacific Coast Railway boxcar #1200 was completed in November of 1999.

Acquired from Henry Sorensen, in Eureka, California, the trucks were purchased using a San Luis Obispo County Visitors Services grant which had been awarded to the museum in early 1999.

Built in 1924 by the Pacific Car and Foundry Co. of Seattle, Washington, the car deserves the best hardware available, and we were very lucky to find this set.

Railroad District Posters potential collector's item

The new Railroad District poster is now available at the City of San Luis Obispo Community Development Department in the lower level of City Hall at 990 Palm Street for \$8.00 each.

Designed and created by museum member Pierre Rademaker, these beautiful, two-sided posters are a genuine work of art.

The front side gives a history of 9 separate

Thanks to Karl Hovanitz, Brad La Rose, Dwayne Powell, Jarrett LaRose, and Harold Hobbs for their assistance in the transportation of this equipment, as well as their donation of the truck and trailer used for the job.

We still need a pair of couplers, brake rigging, truss rods, brake wheels, and more, in order to complete the proper restoration of this fine car.

If someone is aware of any parts which could possibly be obtained, please let us know.

sites within the Railroad District, as well as details of the redevelopment concept of the district.

The obverse side offers the architectural guidelines for some of the sites within the district, and details of the improvements for the public areas.

This poster is truly a collector's item. Get 'em while they last!

Did you know . . . ?

The 1927 version of the movie *Black Beauty* contains actual shots of the Pacific Coast Railway.

Portions of the movie *Diamond Jim Brady*

also have frames containing the original PC Rwy.

If anyone is interested in investigating these two films and perhaps combining the shots onto one tape for the museum, the help would be greatly appreciated.

Museum gains international fame



Haruo Aoki, of El Cerrito, California, heard about our locomotive and contacted Henry Sorenson at Railfair in Sacramento. Mr. Aoki came to the Mid-State Fair in August 1999 and photographed our KISO #7 and sent the photos and information to Rail Magazine in Japan. The results of this were a 3-page article.

Museum receives very generous gift

On December 29, 1999, the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum accepted the donation of a narrow gauge (36") locomotive from Brad and Patti LaRose. The locomotive, #594, is located at the temporary work facility along with our steam locomotive #7.

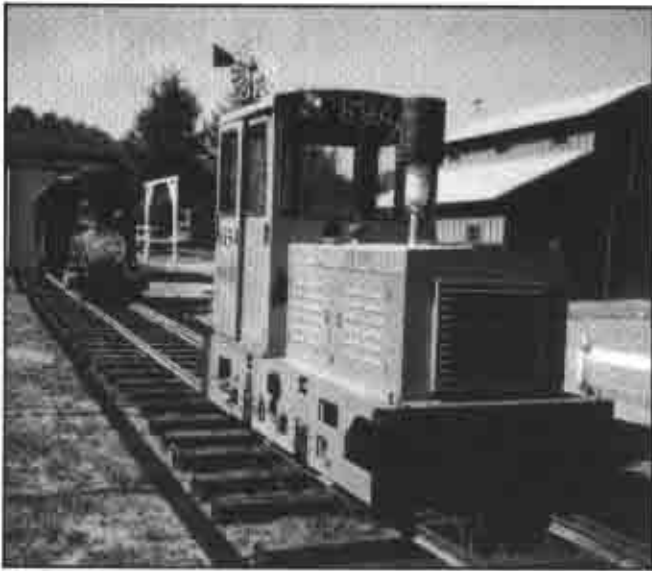
The #594 was built in 1968 by the Plymouth Locomotive Co., of the Fate-Root-Heath Co. in Plymouth, Ohio. It is a five ton design, model HSG, and is of gasoline-hydraulic drive. It has serial #6686.

The locomotive is powered by a six-cylinder in-line International Harvester gasoline engine, connected to a hydraulic charge pump, connected to a five-cylinder, variable speed hydraulic motor. This motor is connected to a drive shaft which transmits its power to the wheels via chains on sprockets. The #594 front and rear headlights, cab and control board lights, windshield wipers, cab heater and a full set of gauges.

The #594 locomotive is extremely handy. It presently is being used to "hostle" or shuttle the #7 steam locomotive in and out of the engine shed. This allows the steamer to be removed from the shed without needing to be steamed up. Then it can be worked on outside and hostled back into the shed.

The future plan for the #594 is to place it on the new museum site in the City of San Luis Obispo, along with the #7 steam locomotive. There it again will hostile the steamer and be used on work trains or at times when the steamer is down for repairs.

This donation is an extremely important and valuable contribution to the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum. We thank Brad



and Patti LaRose for this thoughtful and generous donation and hope that others will follow their lead in making significant donations to our most worthy historic railroad museum.

San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Membership Levels: \$60, Family \$36, Individual

Complete form and mail with your check to: **San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum (SLORRM)**

3478 Gregory Court, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name(s) _____ Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (day) _____ (eve.) _____

Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

I will help the museum by volunteering to: _____



San Luis Obispo
Railroad Museum

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