



IN THIS ISSUE:

- Track Projects - MoW 1
- Award Congratulations 2
- Where Are They Now? Caboose #171 3
- Railroad Scholarship 4

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Friends Annual Dinner Gala
(Live and Virtual Zoom)
Santa Maria Fairpark
May 22, 2021

Friends Annual BBQ
Railroad Offices
August 21, 2021

Huntington Library Rail Trip
on Amtrak
Sept 24 to 26, 2021

SILVER LARIAT MEMORIES ZOOM:

Connect to this Friends Presentation via Zoom. We'll relive the Silver Lariat Excursions on the SMVRR in 2006 and 2007

Date: January 28, 2121
Thursday at 6 PM

Zoom Meeting ID:
910 0963 8416
Zoom Passcode: 975829

Further Info: look for a link to the event on the Friends website or email friends at info@friends-smvrr.org

DANA ADOBE TOUR:

This spring, the Friends will take a group tour of the Dana Adobe. We'll walk part of the Pacific Coast Railway right of way, which runs right through the Dana Adobe property! We'll announce the tour date in the next newsletter.

Track Projects - MoW

Despite many challenges in 2020, the Santa Maria Valley Railroad performed a record amount of track projects culminating with the first phase of a major rail replacement project on the main line. Over the past two years, the SMVRR had the highest amount of traffic in terms of tonnage in over 25 years. As a result, the railroad had to find a way to increase track maintenance while meeting the demands of increased traffic.

In late March, the Fillmore and Western Railway's excursion operations and movie trains came to a halt as COVID-19 spread. In April, the Fillmore and Western sent their track crews up to the Santa Maria Valley Railroad to complete rail projects. Traffic on the SMVRR increased as all of our freight customers are in critical industries. F&W forces were timely. Track projects were completed as freight traffic increased.

Together with SMVRR MoW forces, the F&W track gang replaced over 2000 ties this year and surfaced over 4 miles of track. In April, F&W forces replaced ties and surfaced the main line at Betteravia Storage and Stock Yard. Tie, ballast, and track surfacing for the main line at Midco Pass were completed in May (Photo 2). In July, track work was performed at Bell Storage (Photo 3). The curve on the east side of Betteravia Junction got needed attention with ties and track surfacing (Photo 4). (continued on page 4)



Photo 1 – F&W new ties at Goodwin Drill



Photo 2 – Midco Pass



Photo 3 – Regulator at Bell Storage



Photo 4 – Curve East Side of Betteravia Jct

Thank You and Congratulations!

We wanted to highlight the efforts of the previously announced 2020 award winners - Dottie Lyons for the Santa Maria Valley Railroad Public Safety Award and John Marchetti for the G. Allan Hancock Historic Preservation Award. You get a little sense of their effort in the photos below. The Friends and the Railroad greatly appreciate their personal commitment in their respective endeavors.

PUBLIC SAFETY AWARD: **Dottie Lyons** was recognized for her efforts in personally donating and installing fencing to close an opening to the railroad right-of-way in the Foxenwood Estates. The new much more aesthetically pleasing fencing replaced an unsightly fence that was regularly breached.



HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD: **John Marchetti and the Central Coast Model Railroad Association** were awarded the G. A. Hancock Historic Preservation Award for 2020. John led the effort to build the Betteravia Sugar Plant and Guadalupe yard scenes on the SLORRM model railroad layout.



OUR SPONSORS:

We welcome new sponsors to expand our programs and tours and fund educational activities.



**G. A. Hancock
Family**

Where Are They Now?

SMVRR Caboose #171

Caboose No. 171 was an all wood truss rod type car built sometime around the turn of the century. It started out its service life on the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific. It then went on to the Newaukum Valley Railroad, a lumber line in Washington State. Arriving on the Santa Maria Valley Railroad prior to World War II and surviving until 1961, it served on the line for over 20 years. In its later years it was kept mostly as a spare

as more equipment had been added in the 1950's. The little door in the side of the caboose seen in the photos would have provided a convenient way to load a block of ice for the icebox or anything else for that matter.



SMVRR #171 - Downtown Yard in front of Engine House
Photo Tom Klinger Collection



SMVRR #171 in Guadalupe on July 31, 1955

Photo F. Waddingham

Scholarship Application Period Open

**Students, Friends, Parents, Grandparents, Aunts, and Uncles ----
Tell your family and friends about this RR scholarship**

As previously announced, the Friends of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad have established the annual Betty Himoto Memorial railroad scholarship for eligible students within Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties. An annual scholarship of \$1000 will be awarded based on merit to a qualifying student pursuing a degree or technical training in the Industrial Arts with a career goal in the rail industry.

Applying for a Scholarship:

Applications are now being accepted (January 1 until March 31, 2021). All materials, including reference letters and transcripts, must be postmarked or submitted on-line by March 31, 2021 to be considered. Applications and additional information is now available on the Friends-SMVRR website at www.friends-smvrr.org/scholarship.

Donating to the Scholarship Fund:

If you would like to donate to the scholarship fund, you can contribute with your credit card by going to www.friends-smvrr.org/scholarship or mail your check to Friends of SMVRR.

FRIENDS OF THE SANTA MARIA VALLEY RAILROAD SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION		
This scholarship will be awarded on merit and is intended for students interested in a Railroad industry career.		
Be sure to submit all of the following prior to the deadline.		
1) This application.		
2) An official transcript from high schools, vocational schools, and colleges (as applicable) awarded for all work through prior year (arrange to be sent directly to Friends-SMVRR via US Mail or email).		
3) Three letters of recommendation (arrange to be sent directly to Friends-SMVRR via US Mail or email).		
Please type or print the following information, attaching additional sheets if more space is needed.		
A. PERSONAL INFORMATION		
NAME:		
First	Middle	Last
HOME ADDRESS:		
Street		
City/State/Zip		
CONTACT INFO:		
Telephone Number		
Email Address		
Personal Website		
Facebook/Instagram/Twitter/YouTube		

MoW - Track Projects

(continued from page 1)

Also completed was the first phase of a heavy rail project where main line rail was upgraded to the same size rail as used on the Union Pacific Railroad's main line track (photo 5). The project will eventually upgrade the rail from the interchange tracks at Guadalupe to the Osburn Rail Yard.

Thanks to the Fillmore and Western Railway's track gang, the SMVRR was able to complete the largest amount of track projects in many years. The F&W crew went back to Fillmore in October as excursions and movie production was able to resume.



Photo 5 - Heavy Rail Upgrade near Green Cyn (Left photo)



Photo 6 - West end of Wye in SM (Right photo)

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All photos are from the archives of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad unless otherwise noted.