SMVRR Change-of-Ownership

October 6, 2006

81 years ago, Captain G. Allan Hancock bought the Santa Maria Valley Railroad (SMVRR). Today, a brief yet profound ceremony at the SMVRR's downtown yard commemorated an historic change of ownership of the railroad from the Hancock organization to its new owners, the Coast Belle Rail Corporation.

Pat Brennan, Hancock's grand daughter and daughter of Rosemary, presented a picture of the inauguration of SMVRR No. 21 to Rob Himoto, President of the Coast Belle Rail Corporation. Rob served on the SMVRHM Board of Directors for several years.

The Santa Maria Valley Railroad (SMVRR) was established in 1911 and was purchased out of bankruptcy in 1925 by Captain G. Allan Hancock who had the vision, passion and resources needed to build it into a top quality and profitable short line railroad operation. The SMVRR has played an important role in the development of the Santa Maria Valley by hauling fresh and frozen vegetables, lumber, steel, machinery, asphalt, aluminum, fertilizers and other industrial products.

The 14 mile SMVRR will continue to serve this valley as an efficient, cost effective and environmentally friendly transporter of products.

Jane Brennan-McGovern, great grand daughter of Capt. Hancock, presented a plaque to wish Mike Parry well, who will be leaving the SMVRR after 24 years of service to stay with the Hancock land company. Two remaining SMVRR employees, Dave Jennings (white shirt) and Vince Martinez (blue shirt) looked on.

Children of “before and after” families join in the traditional ownership-change sounding of the whistle.

Meetings

General: first Thursday of the month, 6:00pm, at the Santa Maria Inn.

Museum Development: Thursdays (except first Thursday of the month) at the Museum, 6:00pm

HO Modelers: Fridays at the Museum, 7:00pm.

Rail Bosses

(Reverse emails to use - sorry, it's a spambot thing.)

Dan Alves, President, juno.com@aiim
Dick Mininger, Vice President, aol.com@boothr8
Phil Goble, Treasurer, "CaBoss", verizon.net@p.goble2
Jamie Foster, Secretary, "Train Orders" Editor, Webman, jf2.com@pbjrr
The Oceano Railroad Depot is one of the few type 22 depots remaining on the old southern Pacific Coast Line, and has been preserved as closely as possible to its original state. It was constructed in 1904, and currently serves as a railroad museum and also a museum for the Community of Oceano. The depot is usually open to the public on Sundays, from 1 to 4 p.m. For further information, contact Oceano Depot Association President Linda Austin at (805) 489-5446. 1650 Front St., Oceano, CA.

The depot was built to replace the earlier station that was destroyed by fire. It included quarters for the station master's family upstairs. Long the major railroad station in this town, it was moved to its present site, and reversed so that its more interesting "railroad" side faces the historic and famous Highway 1.

That's SMVRR Caboose No. 170. At the far end of the track is a Southern Pacific boxcar.

One week before Choo Chew Saturday, a group of SMVRHMers did some Fall cleanup work at the Bitter Creek Western Railroad (BCWRR). The crew included Don and Will Martin, Dan Alves, Ed Couch, Ken Kelley, Kevin O’Roark, Dick Mininger, Jamie Foster, Don Loats, Dr. Marcus, and, of course, Karl Hovanitz (member of the SMVRHM and owner of the BCWRR).

First SMVRR Dinner Train November 9th

Come join the Santa Maria Valley Railroad for its inaugural Dinner Train Special! Welcome aboard the Silver Lariat, a dome lounge car built by Budd for the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad in 1948 for the California Zephyr service. Five-star chef, stem-to-stem gourmet dinner. Boarding starts at the SMVRR depot at 5:30pm. $125/person. Contact the SMVRR at 805-922-7941 or <newsinfo@smvrr.com> for the waiting list.
Boxcars everywhere on the SMVRR

Lately there’s been an incredible number of boxcars stored on nearly every siding in the SMVRR system. Above is a view just south of Highway 166 at Guadalupe on September 5, 2006.

Included in the inventory are hundreds of Amtrak boxcars that had been used for mail delivery.

Pictured above are some of the Amtrak cars with the Betteravia sugar mill remnants in the background.

The boxcars stretched all the way to the industrial area near the airport.

And here are some in the downtown yard. Note the yellow 70-tonner out in the yard in the distance, just to the right of the yellow boxcar.

Guadalupe Amtrak Station

This renovated station was put in service on July 19, 1998. It’s located along Highway One just north of Main Street in Guadalupe, CA.

SMVRR Caboose No. 210 sits in the Guadalupe Station parking lot, right alongside Highway One.

Two northbound and two southbound Pacific Surfliners stop at Guadalupe every day.
Grover Beach Amtrak Station

The station is on the southeast corner of the Highway One and Grand Avenue intersection in Grover Beach, CA. The same two northbound and two southbound Pacific Surfliners stop here as well as in Guadalupe.

September 30th’s Choo Chew Saturday

A great crowd turned out once again for the 8th Choo Chew Saturday held September 30, 2006 at the Bitter Creek Western Railroad.

As usual, Karl and all the railroaders at Bitter Creek went out of their way to show everyone a good time.

VIP parking at Choo Chew Saturday.

This may be a record-breaking load for one car.