



Santa Clara River Valley Railroad Historical Society, Inc.

A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2005 Fillmore Spring Rail Festival

The Santa Clara River Valley Railroad Historical Society, in conjunction with the Fillmore & Western Railway, present the tenth annual Spring Rail Festival – the weekend of March 19th and 20th, 2005 at Central Park in Fillmore, California. Hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day. Admission and parking are free.

Following in the Society's tradition to provide Southern California with a family fun event, the Festival offers railroad-related venues such as miniature steam train rides; 'speeder' rides; and informational displays from various railroad related organizations such as Operation Lifesaver. Additionally unique food vendors, including the Society's very own Locomotive Tri-Tip Bar-B-Que will ease any hunger. Other attractions include the famous Frontier Gunfighters; antique farm equipment demonstrations; vintage tractors; vintage automobile displays; musical entertainment; arts and craft booths and commemorative Festival T-shirts.

This year, the Fillmore & Western will again offer one-hour train rides through the rich agriculturally laden countryside. The vintage trains will consist of both traditional pre-1940 heavyweight passenger cars as well as an opportunity for the public to *ride* in an actual caboose. One additional special train each day will

travel to the town of Piru to the east. This will be the first revenue trains to Piru in 45 years!

The railroad Society will again have the very popular 'Be-An-Engineer' program. Here's a chance for the public to be an actual 'student engineer' on the #1 'Sespe', an 1890's vintage 0-4-0 Porter wood burning steam locomotive! Yes you too can take the throttle, blow the steam whistle, and power your way down the mainline and back. Plus, all steam engineers will receive a commemorative certificate as proof of their accomplishment! All for just a \$50 donation to the Society. Availability is limited.

Also, would be 'modern' engineers will have the very rare opportunity to learn how to operate a diesel locomotive. The Fillmore & Western Railway will offer one-hour certified instructional sessions culminating with students actually operating a modern diesel locomotive. Contact the Fillmore & Western for a first come, first served steam or diesel reservation by calling 1-800-773-8724.

The Society will also have both their 1956 ex-Union Pacific Pullman Sleeping Car and Santa Fe cupola caboose open for public tours. A vintage diesel locomotive will also be available for a 'climb aboard, hands-on' inspection. The sleeping car, designated by U.P. as #1205 the 'National Embassy', is one of only twelve flat-sided aluminum 'National' cars built for the Union Pacific Railroad. It came directly out of U.P. service spending the last twenty+ years on static display at the Miramar Hotel in Montecito. The interior is untouched and virtually original in every detail, right down to the Union Pacific blankets and Pullman soap bars. It has roomettes, staterooms, and a rare open section. A real step back into the closing days of the golden age of passenger train service! The caboose once belonged to the late Ventura county developer Bud Smith and the interior was restored to its original condition. You won't want to miss these.

The Society's Railroad Visitor Center will be open both days. The Center, located in the old Fillmore City Fire house, contains many historical railroad artifacts and displays, an educational library, Lionel model train layout, gift shop, a video library and a new 20 seat digital theatre with surround sound.

This is SCRVRHS's annual opportunity to demonstrate their charter as a non-profit civic organization. Most of the Festival proceeds benefit the non-profit, one hundred and forty (140) member Society and its railroad restoration efforts, which include the current installation of their 95' railroad turntable; railroad car restoration; and a future roundhouse/Railroad Interpretive Center/exhibit hall. Donations to the Society are tax deductible.

Fillmore is located 40 miles north of Los Angeles in Ventura County on State Highway 126 between Interstate 5 at Magic Mountain and the 101 Freeway in Ventura. For more information visit the Internet at www.scrvrhs.com or www.fwry.com.