



# THE DEPOT TELEGRAPH

March 2016

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Dear Friends of the Kingsburg Depot,

There is snow in the Sierras, water in the Kings River, trees are blooming on the Blossom Trail, and wildflowers are sprouting in the foothills. I see people out planting flowers, catching up on yard work, running, walking, and biking. March is a month of change with Daylight Savings Time and the beginning of spring, and good things are happening at the Depot. – *Larry Esau, President*

## GRAND OPENING SEPTEMBER 23-24



The Depot Grand Opening Celebration is happening Friday and Saturday, September 23-24. Please mark your calendars. This event was originally planned for April, but California Street is being repaved in April, May and June, so it was moved to September to take advantage of the street improvements and cooler weather. The event will include food and music, and will be held in conjunction with the Harvest Moon Music Festival in downtown Kingsburg. Jolene Polyack is leading the Depot grand opening committee. If you wish to serve on this committee, please call or text (559) 341-1978.

## FREIGHT HOUSE RESTORATION FINISHED



Restoration work on the Depot exterior, office and waiting room areas funded by the federal grant was completed in October. All restoration work happening at the Depot since October has progressed using donations and volunteer labor. Our construction volunteers completed a 13-week restoration of the 1,100 square-foot Freight House in January, and the result is beautiful. If you have not seen this room, come by and take a look any Saturday morning. All fixtures in the room are more than 100 years old. The Freight House is home to the Leon S. Peters Learning Center, the educational program operating at the Depot. A grant from the Leon S. Peters Foundation funded purchase of equipment for this program including tables, chairs, an audio-video system, costumes, and curriculum materials.

## APARTMENT RESTORATION

The 5-room Station Agent's apartment in the Depot's second-story is the last space in the building needing restoration. On Saturdays our construction volunteers are working in the apartment. These rooms were home to a long line of Southern Pacific Station Agents and their families from 1902 until 1968. Like the rest of the Depot, these rooms are being restored to the 1920's period. Many 1920's artifacts, appliances and pieces of furniture are waiting in storage until restoration of the apartment is complete. If you are handy with tools and would like to participate as a construction volunteer, come down to the Depot any Saturday morning. There is great camaraderie among those doing the work. Work begins at 9am. Coffee, water and donuts are provided.

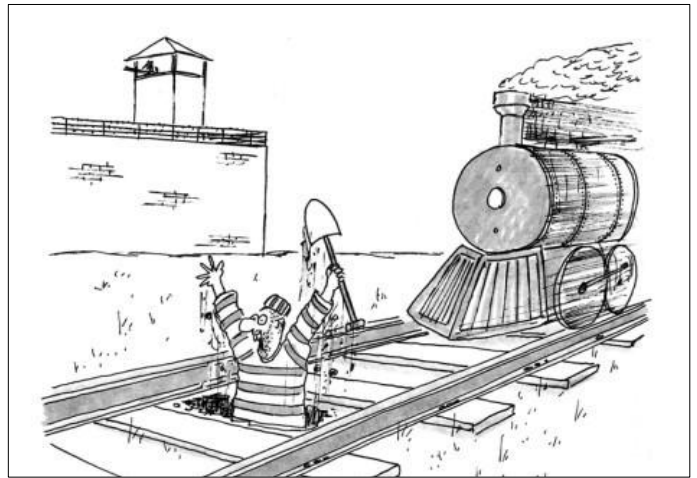
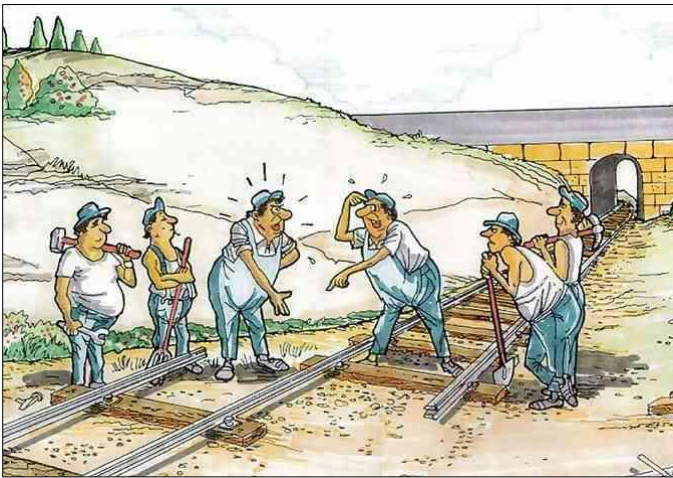
## LEON S. PETERS LEARNING CENTER BEGINS OPERATION



In a few weeks the Depot will begin operation of the Leon S. Peters Learning Center, an educational field trip site to educate children about the history of the central San Joaquin Valley. A grant from the Leon S. Peters Foundation provided equipment, costumes and curriculum materials for this program. The first student visitors will be 3<sup>rd</sup>-grade students from Kingsburg's Lincoln School. More re-enactors are needed to dress in period costumes and interact with students during these visits. We also need educators to write additional lesson plans, and people to write scripts used by re-enactors. Please call or text (559) 341-1978 if you can help in these areas.

## THE DEPOT TRAIN AND A TRIP TO THE CALIFORNIA STATE RAIL MUSEUM

A large and yet unfulfilled part of the Kingsburg Depot project is a real train on a track at the south end of the Depot property. The cars on this train will be used as additional learning stations in the Leon S. Peters educational program. Re-enactors will play the roles of a train crew on the train and interact with the student visitors. This property between California Street and the tracks south to Earl Street is leased from the Union Pacific Railroad, and UP has agreed to clear this area of poles in the next few months so a display track can be installed there. As you can imagine, finding old train cars is not easy in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Members Steven Britton and Larry Esau recently made a trip to Sacramento to meet with officials of the California State Railroad Museum (CSRM). The purpose of the trip was to find train cars for the display track. The hunt has begun!



## CALENDAR

March 12, Saturday	Private party 11am-3pm, Freight House
March 14, Monday	March board meeting 5:30pm, Waiting Room
March 14, Monday	Private party 5pm-9pm, Freight House
April 11, Monday	Board meeting 5:30pm, Freight House

## CONTACTS

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