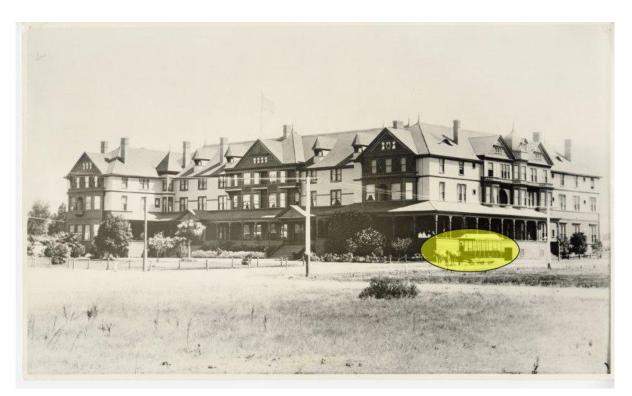
# HISTORY CENTER San Luis Obispo County

## **Ride the Rails**



## Hop on Board!

On October 3, 1888, the Ramona Hotel opened its doors to the coast traveler and San Luis Obispo. In photos of the hotel one finds a curious little horse-drawn vehicle alongside the building; a horse-drawn streetcar of the San Luis Obispo Street Railway Company.



The fascinating, but all too luxurious, little cars were

purchased by the founder of the line, George P. Bell. Edwin Goodall was president and J. Millard was general manager. Goodall purchased the company from Bell and sold it in 1891 to John L. Howard and R.E. Jack.

The company, operating the two lines, tried to survive in a time and place that did not show favorable conditions for the successful operation of a street railway. People could easily walk the short distance the cars traversed and the merchants along Monterey Street did not depend on the line for patronage.





Jack bought the line from Howard in 1900 and ran it until the summer of 1901. Exact termination dates are not known, the date being somewhere between July 9, 1901 and December 2, 1901. The service may have existed in an on-and-off manner during this period. The rail and rolling stock were sold for scrap in 1902.

The rolling stock consisted of five urban type cars built by Holt Brothers Car Works of Stockton. The first two were closed wooden cars, the rest being open "California" cars that were excellent for warm days. They all had hand-friction brake systems and were double ended. This meant that the draft animals could pull the car from either end, therefore, the cars did not have to be turned around at the end of the line. One horse was used for one car, the company owned nine horses. The cars ran on narrow gauge track, 3'-0" rail to rail, laid in the center of the street. Four miles of track made up the two lines. The remaining car may be seen in the Ramona Depot on the grounds of the Dallidet Adobe.

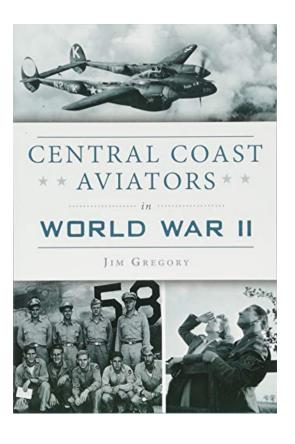


From Discovering San Luis Obispo County, published in 1971, written by an uncredited



group of 230 students from Cal Poly's School of Architecture and Environmental Design. Edited by Louisiana Clayton Dart.

Want to visit the trolley car in person? You're in luck! The Dallidet Adobe & Gardens is open to the public on weekends from 12 to 4 - unless we have a private event. Check the <u>calendar on our website</u> to make sure.



#### **Carnegie Lecture**

On Friday June 10, join the History Center of SLO County for our next Carnegie Lecture, "Central Coast Aviators in World War II" with Jim Gregory of Arroyo Grande.

This lecture will return to its original pre-Covid venue: The Carnegie Library that houses the History Center at 696 Monterey Street in downtown San Luis Obispo. Virtual attendees can register with the History Center and join via Zoom. The lecture will begin at 5:30.

Click here to learn more or to register.



## Save the Date!

We've got a busy summer at the Dallidet ahead of us! Keep an eye out for more info about our upcoming events, including:

- The return of the Watercolor Workshop on July 30th
- The Dallidet Parisian Luncheon on August 13th
- La Fiesta de las Mujeres, celebrating the lives of the Dallidet daughters on October 22nd





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## Juneteenth on Mission Plaza!

The NAACP of SLO County is helping us to celebrate our nation's newest federal holiday, Juneteenth, with two days of events with the theme "Emotional Competency: The Next Frontier in Human Development."

Saturday June 18th will see a Health and Wellness Fair on Mission Plaza - right in front of the History Center. We will be hosting the Freedom Lounge - a collection of artifacts, objects, and pieces of art telling the story of Africans, African-Americans, slavery, and freedom.

Visit their website for more information.

## Ways You Can Help History

There's no limit to the ways you can help your History Center.

- Do you shop on Amazon? Use <u>Amazon Smile</u> to generate donations for the History Center without costing you anything extra.
- Do you have time and want to get involved? You can join a committee from education to fundraising, you can make a difference. <u>Email us</u> to find out more.



IN 1K

Thomas Kessler Executive Director



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