

DAILY BULLETIN

NEWS

Etiwanda Pacific Electric depot centennial celebration planned for Saturday

By [Liset Marquez](#), *Inland Valley Daily Bulletin*

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RANCHO CUCAMONGA >> Saturday marks the 100th anniversary of the historic Pacific Electric Etiwanda depot and its first train trip to Los Angeles.

To commemorate the occasion, people will have a rare opportunity to tour the Mission Revival style building in a event organized by the Friends of the Pacific Electric Trail and the city.

Victoria Jones, spokeswoman for Friends, hopes people come out to learn more about the depot's history as well as contribute to ongoing restoration fundraising efforts.

About \$300,000 is still needed to fully restore the depot, she said.

"It's not just forgotten but there is a desire to restore it," Jones said. "It's really exciting that the city is a shining light on this. I'm very excited to know this is coming, it's within our sight."

The [Jan. 25, 1914 trip](#) was historic because it connected people and the economy of the area to a larger Pacific Electric train system. When the depot opened, it allowed for travel and commerce between San Bernardino to Los Angeles, Jones said.

Designed by renowned architect Irving Gill, the building is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. It is notable because it is one of the first concrete buildings in the region, said John Heller, an architect who was hired as part of the restoration project.

The depot is adjacent to the Pacific Electric hiking and biking trail, a path that stretches from Claremont to Rialto.

Long term plans call for using some of the 4-acre parcel around the depot for parking. There are also plans to create a point where the trail begins adjacent to the building, Heller said.

Both Heller and Jones said they are hopeful Saturday's event will help generate more input and financial support for the project.

“We want to take into consideration about what is important to you. We want to develop a wonderful plan for restoration,” she said.

Restoration work has already begun on the building. The roof was repaired to protect the building from exterior conditions such as rain and sun.

Ray Adamyk, president and founder of Pomona-based Spectra Company, and his staff were brought in last year to provide some of the concrete restoration work. The project was completed in about two weeks, he said.

“It’s great to bring something back that was once there,” Adamyk said.

Future restoration efforts will focus on windows, doors and additional concrete work but at the moment there is no funds for the work, Heller said.

Jones said Rancho Cucamonga considers the building an integral piece of its history and has remained committed to the project.

To help raise funds for its efforts, commemorative pins – with the Pacific Electric sign on it – will be available for a donation at the event. Efforts are also underway to obtain any grant funding that may be available.

“The city can’t pay for everything, it has to be a joint effort,” Jones said.

Saturday’s centennial celebration of the Pacific Electric Etiwanda Depot will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 7089 Etiwanda Avenue.

For more information, visit www.petrail.org