

Imperial Valley Weekly

Imperial Hometown Review

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In Other Words

By
Steve Larson

WE'VE HAD THE PLEASURE OF ATTENDING some really good events with lots of positive impact on Imperial County during the last few weeks.

There, of course, was the Mariachi Festival in Calexico which brought out huge throngs to enjoy those traditional Mexican sounds.

"A good time was had by all" could be said about it this year, since greater care to organize the security necessary was taken, as were better seating arrangements. the music was good too.

Then there was Dr. Khosrow Fatemi's farewell dinner at the Barbara Worth Resort. This party

definitely got the first class treatment with a sit-down steak dinner, two kinds of wine, great desserts and a champagne toast to Dr. Fatemi.

Then it was on to the grand opening of the new Imperial Do-It Center in Holtville, whee Phil Heald and company converted a dilapidated building that had been sitting empty for about 10 years into a bright, vibrant, I've-got-to-go- there retail outlet.

If that wasn't enough, SDSU graduation ceremony that kicks off the matriculation season; the Cinco de Mayo Celebration that returned to Calexico's Rockwood Park; "A Taste of Culture" food

Let The Good Times Roll; The Train Gets Back on Track

fest in Brawley; and the annual Pioneer's Reception at the De Anza Hotel.

And you thought there wasn't anything to do in Imperial Valley. Did we miss a few things? Probably. But there are just so many good times a body can take at once.

ONE OF THE MOST WORTH-WHILE TIMES was the inaugural train ride last week along route for the 'new' rail line to the coast.

That was a party hosted by Congressman Bob Filner who has a habit of getting things done if he says he's going to.

We attended a summit meeting in Calexico right after Filner was elected to Congress from his new district. He listened to everybody talk of their needs. One of the things that was discussed was re-opening the rail line between the Valley and San Diego.

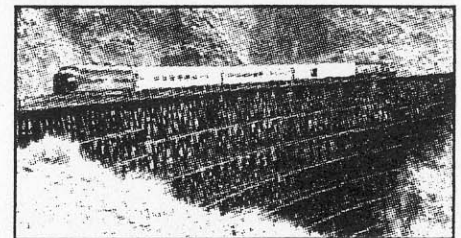
Congressman Duncan Hunter had put the brakes on the project for a long time. Well, guess what? The brakes are off.

About 50 people got to ride in a vintage 1930's rail car from Ocotillo through the Carrizo Gorge last weekend. It marked the opening of the last stretch of rail service between here and there and gave participants a firsthand look at the gorge and railroad trestle that has long been an historic

landmark in the area. This should definitely be a boost to moving Imperial Valley goods to the coast and out to the Pacific Rim.

Our erstwhile reporter/photographer Luke Phillips attended and came back with some spectacular shots of the train, the gorge and the trestle.

As for Congressman Filner, he's definitely won over a large portion of the populations by getting things done. All Aboard!



The train's rolling to San Diego again!