

Main Street Christmas trains cancelled

Tracks not safe enough to haul passengers

By Tina Emmick
Staff Writer

Children eagerly anticipating a train ride with Santa during Harrison's Christmas celebration will be disappointed this year. So are Harrison Main Street officials who have sold a lot of tickets and have spent thousands of dollars in advertis-

ing.

Main Street Harrison director Teresa Lubic said the train cannot make its Dec. 3 runs during the annual Harrison Christmas celebration because the track has been declared unsafe for passenger trains.

"We are absolutely astounded that this happened," said Lubic.

"We never saw this coming - it's shocking."

Main Street has already spent about \$5,000 in advertising and has sold about 150 tickets, said Lubic. All ticket money will be refunded.

The event which brings in about \$10,000 is Main Street's most important fund-raiser, said

Lubic.

The track can still be used for freight trains because they do not exceed 5 mph. Railroad officials told Lubic that a section of track from Valley Junction to Brookville, Ind., needs repairs, she said.

Cincinnati Railway owns the passenger train and Rail America recently purchased the tracks, Lubic said.