



Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH



Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum

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In Memoriam: Eugene G. Allen

Eugene G. Allen died April 21. His passing marks the loss of another member of the Goleta Depot Committee, the group of five who led the campaign to save the historic Goleta Depot. Another committee member, **Phyllis Olsen**, passed away on Dec. 9. **George Adams** died Oct. 19, 1994; **Raymond Baird** on Dec. 22, 1996. That leaves only **Gary Coombs**, who was committee chair during the period of preservation planning and implementation that culminated with the landmark building's official dedication and reopening at Lake Los Carneros County Park on Oct. 10, 1982.

In the dedication to the digital edition of his book, *Goleta Depot: The History Of A Rural Railroad Station*, Coombs wrote about his longtime friend and colleague:

Giving train rides during first Depot Day, Oct. 1983



“The Museum would be a very different place without Gene’s magic touch. You see his mark everywhere.” Allen’s broad and lasting influence on Goleta Depot and the museum is a reflection of his excellence as a machinist and craftsman, and a devoted lover of trains.

Allen’s first job on the Depot Committee was as chair of the sub-committee that reviewed the plans for the building’s restoration, rehabilitation and reuse. Later, in 1982, during the work, itself, he took on the formidable task of restoring the heavily-vandalized window bay of the depot’s freight office. He also served as the depot’s first curator – accepting and managing the artifacts that were donated to the fledgling museum and preparing the first public exhibitions.

One of Allen’s many contributions to the early fundraising effort was organizing the salvage and sale of bricks from the depot’s original foundation. Besides lots of digging, this involved preparing and affixing bronze plaques to authenticate each brick.

For his many contributions to the Goleta Depot Project, Gene received the Golden Deed Award, “For Service Above Self,” the precursor of today’s “Goleta’s



Gene installs a replica sign on the depot facade.

Finest” person-of-the-year awards, in 1983. That same year, he became chairman of the Goleta Depot Committee, serving more than four years. Gene also served on the museum’s Board of Trustees for many years, including terms as vice-president.

Allen’s greatest impacts, however, came with the museum’s two track projects. Both the standard-gauge track in front of the depot and the Goleta Short Line miniature railroad, the museum’s most important visitor attraction, were Gene Allen creations – from design through completion, including later refinements, improvements and additions.

Over the years, Gene would play a lead role in many other museum projects: construction of the miniature-train shed, the caboos project, installation of the train-order board, the addition of post-and-rail fencing near the eastern border of the property, design of the museum’s model-railroad layout, and much more. Gene even donated the

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More About Allen *(cont'd. from page 1)*

ornamental star that shines atop the Christmas tree displayed every year in Goleta Depot's upstairs window bay.

In 2012, the Goleta Short Line miniature railroad was dedicated to Gene in a ceremony that featured a digital slideshow with dozens of photographs depicting many of his contributions to Goleta Depot and the museum. That slideshow can now be viewed on the museum website or downloaded at: http://www.goletadepot.org/PDF/Gene.AllenTribute_web.pdf

There will be a memorial event for Gene Allen at the museum on Sat., July 16, starting at 11 a.m. Members and the general public are encouraged to attend.

Gene Allen was born April 13, 1921, in Rochester, N.Y. He served during World War II, taking part in the Battle of the Bulge and receiving the Bronze Star for heroic action during an Allied crossing of the Rhine River

After the war, he attended Pratt Institute, met and married Alma Loeven, and began working for Servomechanisms, Inc. (later Teledyne). In 1958, the company relocated to a site at Santa Barbara airport and Gene and Alma moved with their young family to California.

Gene started his own business, Allen Models, which produced and sold plans and parts for 1-1/2 inch scale-model live-steam locomotives, which Gene also built and operated. He and Alma owned Allen Models for 40 years, which gained a nationwide reputation for the quality of its products.

Gene Allen is survived by his wife, Alma, and their three children, Christine, David and Patricia, and cousins, Jean Cady and Walter Cady.

Railroad Days, Depot Day Auction Coming Aug. 20-21



Goleta Railroad Days will be held the weekend of Aug. 20-21. The event will be combined with *Depot Day*, as was done in 2011. Sunday's *Depot Day* silent auction will be a major event attraction. The auction will feature a long list of goods and services, all donated by members of the local business community and other friends of the museum.

The event will also feature miniature-train and hand-car rides. Ride as much as you like on either conveyance for only \$4. The museum's usual minimum-height re-

quirements will be in effect: 34 inches for the train ride; 48 inches for the handcar.

There will also be lots of model trains in operation during *Railroad Days*, thanks to the participation of the **South Coast Society of Model Engineers** and the **Gold Coast Garden Railway Society**. Amtrak will also have an information booth and the **Woman's Service Club of Goleta** will be well-represented among the event's volunteers. Other participating organizations and groups are expected.

This year's "Unclaimed Freight & Baggage Sale" will feature lots of railroad books, memorabilia, and model-railroad equipment and supplies. Also returning to *Railroad Days* will be the

Ride Vintage Rail On Sept. 17

The museum's next vintage rail day trip will be Sat., Sept. 17. All passengers will ride on two historic rail cars, *Pacific Trail* in the morning and *Overland Trail* during the return. Tickets are \$79 per person, which includes a discount when the purchase is made through the museum's online store at: goletadepot.org/ride

Or, call the museum (805/964-3540) for reservations or more information.

Passengers will be able to board in either Santa Barbara (at about 10:22 a.m.) or Goleta (about 10:34). After a brief midday stopover in San Luis Obispo, the train will return home via the same route, arriving in Goleta at about 4:22, and Santa Barbara about 15 minutes later.

Overland Trail (left) and Pacific Trail, together.

popular "scavenger hunt," with prizes for everyone who successfully collects a sticker from all of the event venues included in the hunt.

There will also be a table of wooden train cars and track for young railroaders to build layouts and run trains.

The "Club Car" will be offering hot sandwiches, snacks, and non-alcoholic beverages at reasonable prices throughout the event.

Join us for *Goleta Railroad Days* over the Aug. 20-21 weekend. It should be a lot of fun for one and all.

Board Of Trustees Report

The museum's very active Board of Trustees has recently grown to eleven members. Trails & Rails guides **Becky Reid** and **Dana Andersen** joined the board in June. Becky is an educator and Dana is a software engineer. Long-time museum member, **Jane Honikman**, joined the board in May. Jane is an active community volunteer. The three new members join a board that includes **Raphaella Banholzer**, **Ryan Bates**, **Brent Muchow**, **Rick Reeves** and **Steve Wagner**, who all joined the board in 2015. **Ron Bruns**, returned to board service in 2015 and serves as vice-president. Longtime trustees **Bruce Morden** and **Noel Langle** are as board president and secretary/treasurer, respectively. — *Bruce Morden*

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