



NEWSLETTER OF THE GOLETA DEPOT PROJECT

Volume 3 Number 4 Winter 1983

Published Quarterly at the Institute for American Research, Goleta, California
Editor: Gary Coombs, Circulation: Phyllis Olsen
Printing: Courtesy of Kimberly Press

DEPOT DAY! Our "Goleta Depot Day" celebration on Oct. 9th was a rousing success. Gene Allen's live steam exhibit and the railroad tune contest were especially well-received. We estimate that between 800 and 1100 were in attendance. The response of the Depot Friends -- in helping with preparations and clean-up, in staffing the depot and booths, in donating rummage, and in baking cookies and brownies -- was truly wonderful. Thanks to everyone for all that they did.

For those of you who were unable to attend, we are enclosing a copy of the souvenir program. Hope to see everyone again next year!

PHASE III FUND-RAISING We have now reached 21% of our Phase III goal of \$34,600. Recent donors include: Santa Barbara Foundation (\$2000), Chamber of Commerce Bed Tax Fund (\$3000), Goleta Newcomers Club (\$150), Alice Tweed Tuohy Foundation (\$1000). Thanks to these organizations for their continuing support.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENTS Great progress has been made at the depot over the last few months. Ralph Moore built us a lovely wooden park bench which we have placed behind the freight warehouse. We have brought over the two baggage carts that we acquired over a year ago from County Parks, and Jack Michela has begun refinishing these. John Morelli donated a long day's labor to lay the new linoleum flooring in the freight office. John also gave us a pot-bellied stove which Gary Coombs has installed in the freight office. Our flag pole was placed thanks to Seth Hammond, who contributed the use of his crane truck, which was also used to set the station semaphore. The lion's share of the work on the semaphore was performed by Gene Allen. Ralph Moore, Bill Everett, and Roger Levenson also assisted.

Pete Langlo has donated a vintage radio, telegrapher's key, sensitive relay, headset, teletype, and a typewriter-- all for permanent display in the freight office. Seymour Johnson donated a classic "candlestick" telephone, which we hope to restore to working condition, also for use in the agency office.

NATIVE SONS CEREMONY The ceremony on Nov. 19, the second anniversary of the depot move, was a truly memorable event. As part of their inspirational dedication ritual, the Native Sons of the Golden West dedication team, headed by Grand President Walter G. Perazzo, unveiled a plaque, commemorating the depot preservation, mounted on a massive rock on the approach to the depot. American and California flags, gifts of Congressman Bob Lagomarsino and the Native Sons Santa Barbara Parlor 116, were raised on our new flag pole. To complete the program, Goleta's last agent, Frank Vasquez raised the semaphore boards, signalling the symbolic re-opening of the station.

The Friends of Goleta Depot plaque and the door and window commemoratives were also seen for the first time at the Nov. 19 ceremony. If you haven't already viewed them, be sure to do so the next time you visit the depot. Thanks to Bud Rasmussen, Neal Feay Co., and Paul Heuston for their assistance in preparing the plaques. Thanks also to Nancy Ried and N and M Catering for providing refreshments and to our docents for staffing the depot during the Open House.

FRIENDS MEETING The next meeting of the Depot Friends will be on Jan. 17th at the depot, beginning at 7 p.m. At that time we will be electing two members to the Depot Committee to fill the seats currently occupied by Nancy Ried and Ralph Moore. Please plan to attend.

** GOLETA DEPOT DISPATCH **
Institute for American Research
P.O. Box 2125
Goleta, California 93118

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Santa Barbara, Calif.
Permit No. 575

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL FORMS

Please send completed form(s) with payment to: Institute for American Research, 300 N. Los Carneros Rd., Goleta, CA 93117.

Donations to the Institute for American Research and the Goleta Depot Fund are deductible from State and Federal income taxes and are greatly appreciated.

Please enter my name as a Depot Friend:

Name _____ Phone _____
 Street _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I have enclosed the following 1984 dues:

- Active Member (\$5)
 Patron (\$25) Student (\$2)
 Contribution (amount: \$ _____)

Make check payable to: Goleta Depot Fund

Please accept/renew my membership in the Institute for American Research

Name _____ Phone _____
 Street _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I have enclosed the following annual dues:

- Sustaining Member (\$10)
 Life Member (\$100)
 Contribution (amount: \$ _____)

CHRISTMAS PARTY Put Saturday, Dec. 17th on the calendar right now so you will be sure not to miss our second annual Christmas party and tree trimming. All Depot Friends, Institute members, and their guests are invited. Hours are 4-9 p.m. Please bring an hors d'oeuvres or sweets to share and, if you did not do so last year, please bring along an ornament with your name and the year on it to help decorate the tree.

If you aren't able to attend, don't forget to drive by the depot some evening between the 17th and New Year's Eve to see the lighted tree (donated by Dos Pueblos Tree Farm) in the upstairs bay window.

POSSESSORY INTEREST TAX As it looks now, we will have to pay the possessory interest tax on the depot land. Since this was not stated in our original lease, we did not have to do this. However, the Depot Committee decided to go along with the County on this matter, in exchange for some other changes in the lease that are beneficial to the depot. We were successful in getting a museum exemption for all of the building except for the tenant areas. This reduced the tax from \$1129 to a modest \$243.

COMMITTEE At its September meeting, the Depot Committee elected Gene Allen as its new chairman, replacing Gary Coombs who had served in the chair since the committee's formation back in 1980. Gary has been appointed Depot Director, with the responsibility of supervising the day-to-day activities of the depot and museum.

Gene has been a member of the Depot Committee for two years. He is a skilled machinist and this expertise, coupled with his love of railroading and his commitment to the depot have been important assets to our project. We all wish Gene the very best in his tenure as Chairman.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED Much of the work that is done around the depot is performed by volunteers. Because of the shortage of helpers, a dedicated few end up doing most of the work. If the depot is to remain an historical showplace and to become the educational attraction that we all hope it will, it is important that more Depot Friends lend a hand with the many chores that confront us on a daily basis. If you can help, please call the depot office, 964-3540, weekday afternoons.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING We would like to invite everyone to do at least some of their holiday gift shopping at the depot book counter. You will find that we have a large selection of titles in local history and railroading. Please use the accompanying form to prepare your order or visit us weekdays from 1 until 5 p.m., or Sundays 2 to 4 p.m.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL It is now time for all members (Depot Friends and Institute members) to renew their memberships for 1984. Please use the appropriate form below. Help membership chairmen Christine Negus (Depot Friends) and Phyllis Olsen (Institute) by sending in your renewal promptly.

You will see that we have kept membership fees low in order to make it possible for just about anyone to join us in our programs. Obviously, these amounts barely cover our membership expenses, so if you can afford to send along a small donation with your membership, please do so. Every bit helps us to meet our monthly expenses while continuing the project progress that has become a depot trademark.

DEPARTED FRIENDS During the last year, the Goleta Depot lost two of its dearest friends, William Gawzner and Donald Whittier. Both men played particularly crucial roles in the advancement of the depot restoration effort. They will be sorely missed.

The depot has received several donations honoring loved ones who have passed away. These will be acknowledged in a Memorial Book, which will be placed for public viewing in the Waiting Room.

SAN DIEGO EXCURSION We are planning a weekend rail trip to San Diego in February. We will leave on Friday at 4:15 p.m. and will return Sunday at 12:30 p.m. The date of departure will be either the 17th or 24th, depending on the preferences of the first persons to make reservations. The cost will be \$160 per person (double occupancy) and \$290 per couple, and includes transportation and 2 nights lodging. There is a limit of 16 persons, so please call the depot office (964-3540) to reserve space now.