



NEWSLETTER OF THE GOLETA DEPOT RAILROAD MUSEUM

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It hardly seems possible that this issue marks the beginning of the fifth year of the Depot Dispatch. The first issue was published in June 1981. That inaugural issue announced the formation of the Friends of Goleta Depot, called for donations of building supplies, and reported that Ron Negus, new owner of Goleta Chevron Service at Hollister Ave. and Los Carneros Rd., had pledged to donate one cent to the Save-the-Depot effort for every gallon of gas pumped on weekends during the month of June. Of such things was the Goleta Depot Project formed!

There were 12 issues of the Dispatch published in both 1981 and 1982. For the past two years, the newsletter was published quarterly. Thus, this is the 33rd issue of the Depot Dispatch.

TRACK PROJECT UPDATE The long-awaited track construction project is finally building up a head of steam. We have located a source for the track materials and should begin receiving shipments in the near future. The total cost will be \$9,000. It may interest you to know that the project will involve 780 feet of rail (22,000 lbs) and 400,000 lbs. of crushed rock ballast. For those who have not seen the Depot Master Plan, the project will involve two pieces of track in front of the building, a main line and a house track, connected by an operational switch.

Banner Construction has already donated the grading that was needed to accommodate the track. Thanks to our good friend, Erbie Daw, for making this valuable contribution possible.

We may be successful in securing a grant to cover a portion of the \$9,000 needed for the track work, but a very large share will still need to come in the form of smaller donations. To raise this money, we will be devoting all funds from this year's Asphalt Regatta to the track fund.

If all goes according to plan, we should have the track installed by the end of summer. We have already begun arranging to have hand-car rides for Depot Day, scheduled for Oct. 20.

ASPHALT REGATTA The Fourth Annual Institute for American Research Asphalt Regatta is set for Saturday, April 20. The event will again be held at Goleta Beach Park, beginning at 10 a.m. This year, all proceeds from the walk/jog/bike-a-thon will go toward the depot track construction project.

To stimulate donations, we will be erecting a plaque which will list the names of all sponsors pledging \$25 or more. All participants and sponsors giving \$100 or more will receive special recognition on the plaque.

If you can participate in the Regatta, please contact Phyllis Olsen at the Institute (964-3549) any weekday afternoon. Those already signed up include: Gene Allen, Gene Boswell, Bob Burtness, Lynnda Chavez, Gary Coombs, Heather Coombs, Anna Dato, Marie Harden, Paul Heuston, Ralph and Charlotte Moore, Ron and Christine Negus, Phyllis Olsen, Lee and Suzanne Polansky, Nancy Ried and Mark Whelan.

If you would like to support the track project as a sponsor, please select a participant (among those listed above) to support, then fill out the coupon on the reverse and return with your tax-deductible donation.

** GOLETA DEPOT DISPATCH **
Institute for American Research
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Goleta, California 93118

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MODEL TRAIN EXHIBIT Our other big museum project for 1985 is also now under way. Under the supervision of Bill Everett, a group of Goleta Depot railroad modelers has been formed and construction work has begun on the museum's HO-scale railroad exhibit. The 375 square foot layout will depict the Santa Barbara and Goleta areas during the first half of the 20th Century.

We are very pleased to announce that the Alice Tweed Tuohy Foundation has underwritten the total costs of the model railroad exhibit, with a generous two-year grant of \$4,200. According to project supervisor Bill Everett, the model layout should first be open to the public on Depot Day '85, on Sunday, Oct. 20.

NEW MUSEUM DISPLAYS Thanks to Bill Shrives for building a stylish oak frame to display an old Southern Pacific Lines system map, donated by James McCulloch. The map now hangs proudly on the south wall of the freight office. Thanks also to Perry and Bonnie Adams for getting us a 1985 S.P. calendar for the freight office.

ORANGE EMPIRE RAILWAY MUSEUM FESTIVAL On the weekend of April 27 and 28, the Orange Empire Railway Museum will be holding its annual Spring Rail Festival. The museum, located at 2201 South A Street, in Perris, California (near Riverside) specializes in Southern California trolley cars, but also has train rides and other railroad exhibits and attractions. Hours for this very enjoyable event are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., both days.

If you would like to attend the festival and are interested in sharing transportation or hitching a ride, you may call the Institute office (964-3549) weekdays. We will try to coordinate a car pooling effort. It is a four-hour drive, so you should expect to stay over at least one night.

MEMBERSHIP EXCHANGE We would like to exchange memberships with other railway organizations, for the purpose of sharing newsletter information, so we will be better able to inform our members of other groups' events, while at the same time spreading information about our events and museum offerings. You can help us, if you belong to another organization, by asking an officer or director whether an exchange of memberships (or newsletters) is possible.

BOOKSHOP ITEMS New additions to the museum bookshop include "Last Train Out of Los Olivos" (\$2.12), "Historic Houses of California" (\$8.43), "Historic Country Inns of California" (\$9.49), and "Los Angeles from the Days of the Pueblo" (\$8.43). Any of these titles may be ordered by mail for the amounts shown (which include sales tax). There is no shipping charge. Orders with payment should be sent to: Institute for American Research, 300 N. Los Carneros Rd, Goleta, 93117.

The bookshop also now carries a selection of metal sign reproductions. Rail fans will be particularly interested in the full-size "Railway Express Agency" and "Wells Fargo Co." signs.

MEMBERSHIP A few members still have not renewed for 1985. Please check the mailing label on the front of the newsletter. A red mark indicates that you have not renewed your membership. If you do not have a copy of the renewal application, call Phyllis Olsen at the Institute office (964-3549) any weekday afternoon, or send in a check for \$5 (\$10 for Sustaining Members and \$25 for Patrons) with your name and address.

NEW MUSEUM HOURS The Goleta Depot Railroad Museum is now open Monday thru Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. Admission is by donation. Free docent-guided tours are offered Thursdays and Saturdays, at 3 p.m. Reservations should be made for groups by calling the Institute office. The museum is closed on Sundays and most holidays.

AGENTS GROUP ESTABLISHED The museum is being staffed on Saturdays by a new volunteer group called depot agents. The name "agents" was selected because the person on duty is responsible for many of the same activities that the Southern Pacific agent was required to do. In the future, for example, when you drive by the depot, you will always be able to tell if the museum is open by the fact that the semaphore order boards will be raised in the "station open -- all trains stop" position. Raising and lowering the boards is just one of the depot agents many daily tasks.

If you would be interested in training to become an agent, please call Gary Coombs at 964-3549, weekdays.

(CLIP AND RETURN)

I would like to support the Goleta Depot track construction project. Enclosed please find my check for \$ _____ payable to "Goleta Depot Track Fund."

I would like to sponsor _____ in the Asphalt Regatta.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Street: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Return to: Institute for American Research, 300 No. Los Carneros Rd., Goleta, CA 93117.

All contributions are deductible from State and Federal income taxes.