



NEWSLETTER OF THE GOLETA DEPOT RAILROAD MUSEUM

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Volume 5    Number 2    Summer 1985

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

**ANNUAL DINNER** There are still seats available for our Annual Dinner on July 16 at the Miramar. Please don't miss this special tribute to Phyllis Olsen. The reservation deadline is July 8. Consult the enclosed form for further information.

**TRACK CONSTRUCTION** The big news at the depot over the last quarter has been the laying of track in front of the building. The track materials arrived on April 2; they were purchased from Troutman Enterprises of Seal Beach at a cost of \$7,200. Saturday, May 11 was our first big track work day. Volunteers on the track gang included Gene Allen, Gene Boswell, Gary and Elmer Coombs, John and Ed Lebeck, Ralph, Scott and Steve Moore, Phyllis Olsen, Gene Rantanen, and Mark Sheckherd. Other helpers on the day were George Adams, Betty Coombs, Paul Heuston, Jason Lebeck, and Charlotte Moore.

Seth Hammond of Specialty Crane and Rigging, Gary Van Horne, and Steve Tilford assisted by generously donating the use of heavy equipment for moving the massive rails. Vince Espinosa from the Southern Pacific Transportation Co and Ernest Estes from the Santa Maria Valley Railroad have helped us out with technical advice and tools.

The ties and rails are now in position and a second work day has been planned to drive spikes on June 15. \$2000 is still needed to complete the ballasting of the track.

**LAST SPIKE CEREMONY** Be watching your mail for your personal invitation to our "Golden Spike" ceremony, to mark the completion of the railroad track, planned for later this summer. We hope that all track sponsors will have the opportunity to wield the hammer and help nail home that final spike.

By the way, would someone please consult the Guinness records folks to see whether the "Goleta Short Line" isn't the world's smallest operational, standard-gauge railroad -- complete with a spur track and its own depot, no less!

**ASPHALT REGATTA** The track-laying project has progressed as far as it has in large part because of the success of this year's Institute for American Research Asphalt Regatta. When all pledges are turned in, over \$7,000 will have been raised for the track construction. Thanks for a great job to all of our participants: George Adams, Gene Allen, Gene and Joan Boswell and grandchildren, Bob Burtness, Lynnda Chavez, Anna and BeaAnne Dato, Gary and Heather Coombs, Marie Harden, Bill McNally III, Ralph and Charlotte Moore and family, Phyllis Olsen, Lee and Suzanne Polansky, Nancy Ried, Bob and Anna Weirick, and Mark Whelan. Special thanks to Burton Decker for a super "kick-off" pledge of \$1050.

**TICKETS AVAILABLE HERE!** The last passenger train tickets were sold at Goleta Depot 20 years ago, in May 1965, when the local milk train made its final runs through the area. There was a short-lived jump in passenger numbers at that time, as rail fans and classes from Montecito Nursery School, Adams School, and others, took a final opportunity to flag the local.

Well, the trains don't stop at Goleta Depot any more, but in our efforts to restore as much of the depot's former way of life as possible, we have been successful in acquiring distribution point status so that railroad passenger tickets can again be purchased at Goleta Depot. In addition to Amtrak tickets, we can also offer passage on international lines, including VIA (Canadian rail), Eurail, and others. Further good news is that our commission from sales will be used for further enhancements to the depot museum.

Effective immediately, tickets may be purchased or reservations made, by phone or in person, during our regular business hours, Monday-Friday, 1 to 5 p.m., by contacting Gary Coombs. No ticket business will be conducted during Saturday museum hours.

Who will be the first person in over 20 years to purchase a train ticket at Goleta Depot? Perhaps you'd like to schedule that long overdue trip on the Orient Express with us!

Thanks to Depot Friend Bob McNeel (a long-time Amtrak agent and clerk himself), Sally Miller of Travel Specialists, and Scott Lewis of Amtrak for their help in making this major step in the re-invigoration of Goleta Depot a reality.

**INSTITUTE CLOSED FOR VACATION** The Institute for American Research office will be closed June 22-30. However, the railroad museum will remain open for its regular hours: Monday-Saturday 1-4.

**NEW MUSEUM EXHIBITS** Two new permanent exhibits were opened in the Goleta Depot Railroad Museum during the first week in June. One exhibit, entitled "The Streetcars of Old Santa Barbara," is based on our recent publication, "Mule Car and Trolley: The Story of The Santa Barbara Street Railway," by Bill Everett and Gary Coombs. The exhibit is built around the three main periods of city streetcar history: (i) Mule car era; (ii) Narrow-gauge electric streetcars or "trolleys"; and (iii) Standard-gauge electric cars. The display incorporates detailed scale car models built by Bill Everett, route maps, and a number of rare, historical photographs, including many from the book. The exhibit is located in the museum's main exhibit room, the old passenger waiting room. The beautiful oak case was constructed by our master carpenter, Ralph Moore.

The other new exhibit deals with the Goleta Depot freight scale. It consists of the restored upper portion of the scale, plus interpretive material. The Goleta Valley Chamber of Commerce was kind enough to allow us to place the exhibit at the entrance to their office, within a few feet of the scale's original location. Most of the massive floor scale was intact at the time we acquired the building, but the brass balance arm and iron weights had been removed, probably at about the time that the depot was closed in the early '70s. Through the cooperation of Superintendent G.R. Fetty and station agent Dick Reed, the Southern Pacific Transportation Co. donated to the museum an identical balance arm and set of weights from the Oxnard depot, so that we could complete this interesting display.

**DEPOT FLYER** Depot Friends are sure to appreciate our new flyer, a copy of which accompanies this newsletter. The printing of the flyer was paid for by our good friends at the Goleta Valley Chamber of Commerce from bed tax monies. Special thanks to chamber Executive Director Anna Dato for her assistance in making this promotional publication possible.

Incidentally, if any Depot Friends are able to distribute the flyer to local groups, railroad clubs, or other interested parties, please drop by the Institute office and pick up as many as you need.

**MUSEUM ACCESSIONS** Mr and Mrs Robert Waldron of Goleta have generously donated a pot-bellied stove and elk rack to the museum. The latter now hangs above the ticket window in the freight office. Dave Cordero of Santa Barbara gave us an S.P. railroad lantern to add to our collection. Finally, thanks to Depot Friend Bill Shrives, who was instrumental in achieving the donation of the freight scale parts from the Southern Pacific Co. and also the recent acquisition of a foot pedal for the dispatcher's phone.

**MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS APPLAUDED** Sandy Mowry has stepped down from her job as museum docents' chairman, after a year of faithful service. We want to thank Sandy for all of her hard work. Indeed, all of our docents and agents deserve a big round of applause for all that they have done to keep our museum open to the public. Docents are: Eugene Boswell, Bob Burtness, Neil Fetter, Merna McClenathen, Charlotte Moore, Phyllis Olsen, Christine Negus, Sue Peterson, Nancy Ried, and John Starr. Agents are: Perry and Bonnie Adams, Paul Conover, Gary Coombs, Bob McNeel, and Ernie Thomsen.

There is a continuing need for additional men and women in each group. If you would like to become a trainee and are able to devote one Saturday afternoon each month to sharing Goleta Depot with our visitors, please call Phyllis Olsen about the docents program or Gary Coombs regarding the agents.

**TOOLS NEEDED** Goleta Depot relies heavily on its volunteers to perform the restoration and maintenance work that is constantly required around the building. Oftentimes, these same volunteers have had to supply their own tools as well, and frequently needed work has had to be postponed because the volunteers were available but tools were not. We are now trying to remedy this situation by putting together the depot's own tool kit. We are especially in need of the following: sledge hammer, vise-grip pliers, sabre-saw, tin snips, plumber's helper, level, general-purpose hand saw, any garden tools. If you have any of these tools to spare, please consider donating them to the depot.

**4TH OF JULY** Don't forget to visit Stow House for the Goleta Valley Historical Society's annual Old Fashioned Fourth of July celebration. The hours are 11 to 5. Attractions include rides, music, magic and other entertainments, and lots of food. Goleta Depot will have an open house during the same hours, so be sure to drop by and see our new exhibits and other changes.

**TRACK PLAQUE** It is not too late to add your name or the name of a friend, loved one or business to the plaque that will be erected next to the railroad track. All it takes is a donation of \$25 or more to the Goleta Depot track fund. Contributors of \$100 or more will receive special recognition on the plaque. Please use the accompanying form to ensure that your name is properly recorded.

**DEPOT DAY** Our third annual Depot Day has been set for Sunday, Oct. 20. Please keep this date open on your calendar. In addition to our traditional auction, sale, barbecue, and steam train rides, we expect to offer handcar rides on our track and to have the HO train exhibit open and operational for the first time! Hope to see you there.

If you have rummage for our Depot Day sale, please call the Institute office (964-3540) any weekday from 1 to 5 p.m.