



NEWSLETTER OF THE GOLETA DEPOT RAILROAD MUSEUM

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**ANNUAL DINNER** The annual dinner at the Miramar on July 16 was a most memorable occasion. Much of the credit for the success of the evening goes to Barbara Cornish, Nancy Ried, and Steve Sullivan, who devoted a lot of time and attention to planning and coordinating the event.

Surrounded by family and friends, our guest of honor, Phyllis Olsen, had a very special time, in spite of the "grilling" she received from roasters George Adams, Gene Allen, Ray Baird, Ray Bauer, and Gary Coombs, along with Barbara, Nancy, and Steve.

**STERLING AWARD** At the annual dinner, we introduced a new award for voluntary service to the Institute for American Research. The award is called the "Sterling Award," and we plan to give one each year to a person who has made an extraordinary contribution to the Institute and its programs.

The award takes the form of a sterling silver pin, with the depot depicted in the center and surrounded by a black field with the word "Goleta." A selection committee for the award consists of the president of the Institute board of directors, the executive director, and the chairman of the Goleta Depot committee.

The recipient of the first Sterling Award was Ray Baird, who has been an active member of the Goleta Depot Committee since its inception. The presentation was made by Institute president Paul Heuston, who said about Ray:

"For nearly two years, in those incredibly busy days leading up to the landmark dedication in 1982, this man was on constant call, day and night, to discuss plans, instruct volunteers, order materials, answer questions, meet with officials, and report on progress.

"And, when the depot project faced impossible budgetary constraints, he joined in the fund-raising effort, successfully finding donations of building supplies and labor, which saved the project thousands of dollars.

"Working under conditions that were far from ideal, with difficult deadlines and heart-breaking setbacks, he stayed with the project when others withdrew, always keeping the good of the project at heart, ever willing to do whatever was needed to see that the job got done and, through it all, maintaining the cheerful disposition which those close to him know so well."

We can only hope that future Sterling Award winners will be as deserving as Ray!

**VOLUNTEER SERVICE RECOGNIZED** Three other awards for distinguished service to the Goleta Depot Railroad Museum were presented at the annual dinner. These were given to Bill Everett, for donating his authorship in the publication of Mule Car and Trolley; to Erbie Daw, for Banner Construction's contribution of the preparatory grading work for the track project; and to Eugene Boswell, for dedicating many long hours to the depot, serving as museum docent, curator, and painter-gardener-handyman.

**DEPOT PIN** A gold-plated version of the Sterling Award pin is now available for sale at the museum bookshop. The price is \$20. There are only 18 left and there are no plans to reorder, so if you'd like one, please act fast.

**BOOKSHOP: NEW ITEMS** Other additions to the bookshop include two 1986 calendars: Cara Moore Productions' "Santa Barbara" calendar which features a lovely view of Goleta Depot for the month of October (in honor of Depot Day); and the new "Those Magnificent Trains" calendar. We also have in stock several new railroad titles from Dover Publications. Bookshop hours are Monday-Friday 1-5 p.m.

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**LAST SPIKE CEREMONY** The ceremony to commemorate the completion of our railroad track has been set for Sunday, Oct. 6 at 2 p.m. All members are invited to come and wield the hammer on the final spike (or just to watch). We hope to have a motor-car on hand, so that the track can be put to immediate use. We will also be unveiling the plaque listing the donors who gave \$25 or more to the track fund.

The track never could have been completed without the considerable efforts of the 1985 Asphalt Regatta participants, who raised over 80% of the entire track fund! The Last Spike Ceremony will be a fitting opportunity to honor these fine volunteers: Phyllis Olsen, Marie Harden, George Adams, Anna and BeaAnne Dato, Nancy Ried, Gary Coombs, Gene Allen, Ralph and Charlotte Moore and family, Suzanne and Lee Polansky, Mark Whelan, Bob and Anna Weirick, Bob Burtness, Eugene and Joan Boswell and family, Heather Coombs, Lynnda Chavez, and Bill McNally.

**DEPOT DAY** Our third annual Depot Day celebration will take place on Sunday, Oct. 20, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. 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 the newly-completed track and to have the HO train exhibit open and operational for the first time! Frank Vasquez will also be around to operate the telegraph for Depot-grams and give other demonstrations of depot operations. Hope to see you here!

**BARBECUE** This year we will have a delicious tri-tip barbecue on Depot Day, prepared by Ed Lebeck and George Potter. The meal will be served from noon until 3:00 p.m. The price is \$5.50 in advance and \$6 at the door; children 12 and under are \$4. Members are urged to purchase their tickets in advance, so that our planners can accurately estimate the number of dinners to prepare. For reservations, call Phyllis at 964-3549, weekday afternoons.

**RUMMAGE AND BAKED GOODS NEEDED** If you have rummage for our Depot Day sale, or can donate baked goods, please call the Institute office (964-3549) any weekday from 1 to 5 p.m.

**MUSEUM ACCESSIONS** Michael Williams was able to acquire two caboos radios from Southern Pacific for the museum. He has installed one of these in the freight office, so that we can now monitor traffic between the dispatcher and train or maintenance crews. The second radio will wait until the museum has a caboose!

Chuck Begg donated an old S.P. monkey wrench to the museum, and Dave Cordero contributed an Adlake kerosene lantern. Dennis Nolan gave the museum a switch stand and a spike puller. An S.P. rail drill was donated by Bob Mahan. Our track gang has been making good use of the drill and spike puller!

**NEW EXHIBIT PLANNED** The museum has assembled a fairly complete set of track tools and, as soon as the track laying is completed, we will be preparing another permanent exhibit to display the tool kit and educate museum visitors as to its uses.

**NEW PUBLICATION** Proceeds from our latest Institute publication, Sentinel at Ellwood: The Barnsdall-Rio Grande Gasoline Station, will benefit the Goleta Depot Fund. Please order your copy today (see accompanying flyer), or pick one up at the Goleta Valley Days Kick-off Mixer on Sept. 30.

**SACRAMENTO TRIP PLANNED** We are beginning to plan another group rail trip to Sacramento and would like to hear from those of you who are interested in coming along. It will be a four-day trip next May, perhaps during the rail fair celebration. Those who went on our 1983 Sacramento excursion can tell you what a really great time we all had!

The cost will be about \$250 per person, which will include AMTRAK fares, three nights lodging in Sacramento, admission to the California State Railroad Museum, and a steam train ride at the museum. If you think that you might like to join the group, or if you have any questions, please give Phyllis a call at 964-3549, weekday afternoons.

**PARADE ENTRY** The Depot Friends will again have a "float" in this year's Goleta Valley Days parade on the afternoon of Saturday, Oct. 19. If you would like to take part and ride on one of the railroad freight wagons, please contact the Institute office.

**OTHER DEPOTS TO VISIT** The Santa Fe Railroad's Santa Anita station (commonly known as the "Lucky Baldwin" depot) is located at the Los Angeles Arboretum in Arcadia. Normally open only on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 until 4, it is now also open on the first Saturday of every month from 1 'til 4. If you are only interested in visiting the depot, you can avoid the arboretum admission charge by parking in the lot south of the station building on Baldwin Ave.

Depot Friends might also be interested in seeing the restored Palms S.P. depot, which has been moved to Heritage Square in Los Angeles at 3800 Homer St. Guided tours of the historical park are offered on the first and second Sundays of each month, from 11-3. There is a \$1 admission charge.

#### **COMING EVENTS:**

Sept. 30 (Monday): Goleta Valley Days Kick-off Mixer, Elks Lodge, 5:30-8:30

(Reception for new Institute publication, Sentinel at Ellwood)

Oct. 6 (Sunday): Last Spike Ceremony, 2 p.m.

Oct. 20 (Sunday): **Depot Day**, 11-4