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SUPPORT GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED The Board of Directors of the Institute for American Research and the Goleta Depot Committee would like to thank all Institute members and Depot Friends for another year of support. Our programs of research, education, publication, and museum development would not be possible without the continuing financial help afforded by our caring membership.

Special thanks are due to those who provided an added measure of assistance by becoming patron or life members during 1985. These include Michael Glassow and Anabel Ford, Kenneth R. Bates, Mr. and Mrs. Kenyon Kirkwood, Susan and Andy Lentz, Mrs. Ernest Menzies, Sally Gane, Roger Levenson, Frank Swain, W.F. Luton, Theresa Ruether, Robert Burtness, Eugene G. Allen, Barclays Bank of California, Lucille Beckman, Eugene and Joan Boswell.

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL It is now time for all memberships to be renewed for 1986. Please complete the accompanying form and return it in the enclosed envelope. You will notice that we are adopting a slightly different membership format. Depot Friends should indicate this status by checking the box marked "Goleta Depot," which will ensure that your dues and any added donation are placed in the Goleta Depot Fund.

DISCOUNTS TO MEMBERS We are pleased to announce that, as a new privilege of membership, all categories of members are entitled to a 10% discount on all purchases made at the museum bookshop. This discount does not apply to mail orders. When you come in, please bring your membership card or other proof of membership, if at all possible.

CHRISTMAS PARTY Our annual Christmas party and tree-trimming this year will be on Friday, December 13, from 4 to 7 p.m. Please bring a snack or hors d'oeuvre to share. Also, if you haven't done so before, please bring an ornament with your name on it to hang on the Depot Christmas tree.

HOLIDAY TOY TRAINS This year we have a wonderful treat for Depot Friends. By popular demand, Bob Burtness will again share his huge collection of Lionel trains and accessories with us during the holiday season, beginning Dec. 1.

If you would like to see a house literally full of operating electric toy trains, please give Bob a call at 967-5454 to arrange for a visit.

LIBRARY DISPLAY If you missed the Institute display at the Goleta Library during November, be sure not to miss it in January, when it moves downtown to the Santa Barbara Main Library. The exhibit deals with the Goleta Depot Railroad Museum, as well as the Institute's research and publication programs.

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SACRAMENTO TRIP UPDATE As mentioned in the last Depot Dispatch, we are planning a three- or four-day rail trip to Sacramento for the month of May, and would like to hear from those of you who are interested in joining the group. The cost will be about \$250 per person, which will include AMTRAK fares, lodging, and admission to the California State Railroad Museum.

We would like to set a date for the excursion by the end of January, so if you think you would like to take the trip, or if you have any questions, please call Phyllis Olsen at 964-3549, weekday afternoons, as soon as possible.

LAST SPIKE CEREMONY Many depot supporters were on hand on Sunday, Oct. 6 to celebrate the completion of our railroad track, marked by the historic driving of the "Last Spike." The long-awaited event began with an introductory address by Gary Coombs, followed by the ceremonial tapping of a pair of gold-plated spikes (especially prepared by Nancy Ried), by Bob McNeel, representing the Southern Pacific Railroad, and board president Paul Heuston, for the Institute for American Research.

Next, a common iron spike was started in the final tie plate by Gene Allen, depot committee chairman. All in attendance, young and old alike, then took turns at the hammer, until the last spike had been driven home.

The track was then tested using an old maintenance-crew car owned by Bob Mahan, who was kind enough to bring the "speeder" up from Oxnard and operate it for our event. Inaugural riders included depot committee members Phyllis Olsen, Gene Allen, and Ralph Moore. When the speeder reached the end of the line, the switch was thrown and the car was successfully shifted onto the house track. At the end of the team track, the passengers alighted and unveiled the lovely commemorative plaque, which lists the names of sponsors of the track project.

Many thanks to Neal Rasmussen and the Neal Feay Co., which generously donated the plaque preparation, and to Nancy Ried, for handling the delicious refreshments.

VOLUNTEERS HELP We owe a debt of gratitude to Gene Boswell for again spending many hours this past summer painting the depot exterior and performing other jobs around the building. Albert Jaramillo has been busy putting in a small planter bed around the rock containing the Native Sons plaque. The result should be grand!

DEPOT DAY REPORT Our third annual Depot Day celebration on Sunday, Oct. 20, was bigger and, we think, better than ever. Ed Lebeck, George Potter and their crew did a magnificent job on the barbecue. The live-steam displays, organized by Ernie Thomsen and Jim Higman, added a lot of color and animation to the day.

The silent auction was a big hit with all who took part and will definitely be back next year. The preview of the HO-model railroad layout was also very well-received by the hundreds of visitors to this ambitious new exhibit. Watch for a grand-opening announcement for late 1986!

But all would agree that the real show-stealers this year were the rides offered on Bob Mahan's speeder car and Perry and Bonnie Adams' 1/8-scale steam train. We recorded more than 600 riders on the two rail excursions in less than five hours. By the end of the day, the line for the steam train was over 45 minutes long! Thanks to the members of the Goleta Valley Railroad Club who helped with crew duty, ticket handling, and safety.

Thanks to the scores of other friends who helped with planning, coordination, staffing, sales, and donations of supplies, materials, rummage and baked goods. Depot Day is rapidly becoming one of the major annual events of the Goleta Valley, and its success is due largely to our generous sponsors and hard-working volunteers. Phyllis Olsen also deserves much credit for coordinating this multi-faceted event. To all, congratulations on another job well done!

WORK DAY NEEDS YOU! Work days at the depot are scheduled for the third Saturday of each month. Our next work day is Dec. 21, and work will begin at 9 a.m., under the supervision of Gene Boswell. Much help is needed. Please come out and lend a hand!

PARADE ENTRY The Depot Friends "float" in the Goleta Valley Days parade was a popular entry with this year's crowd. Riders on the "Baggage Cart Express" included Bob Burtness, Gary Coombs, Phyllis Olsen, Paul Heuston, Elmer and Betty Coombs, and Diana Mina. Also participating were family groups headed by Bill McNally, Charlotte Moore, and Gene Boswell. Our sponsor this year was the Santa Barbara Board of Realtors.

COMING EVENTS:

Dec. 13 (Friday): Christmas Party and Tree-Trimming, 4-7 p.m.