



NEWSLETTER OF THE GOLETA DEPOT RAILROAD MUSEUM

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**STEAM TRAIN TRACK PLANNED** The rides on the little steam train were such a terrific success on Depot Day '85 that the Depot Committee has decided to go ahead with plans for a longer, regular route for the track. Since the steam railroad will only be used a few times each year, the track will not be laid on a permanent basis. Instead, it will be put down immediately before a run day, and dismantled after the event. To facilitate this operation, we will be constructing special "snap-track" and preparing a permanent roadbed for the track.

Gene Allen has designed the new route, which runs  $3/4$  of the way around the depot, beginning at a turning-Y behind the building, traveling around the northern end of the depot, and ending at a balloon loop in front of the building to the south. This route will involve about 1500 feet of track and will allow a round-trip ride of more than  $1/3$  mile. Plans for the railroad are available for viewing at the Institute office.

Costs of the project have been set at \$4500. Persons wishing to make a tax-deductible contribution to the (Little) Track Fund may use the form which accompanies this newsletter.



Depot Day '85 photo by Bonnie Adams.

**ASPHALT REGATTA** The Fifth Annual Institute for American Research Asphalt Regatta has been set for Saturday, March 15. The event will again be held at Goleta Beach and will begin at 10 a.m. This year, all money raised from the walk/jog/bike-a-thon will go toward the construction of the live steam railroad (see above). Our goal is \$4500.

Members are urged to participate in the Regatta. If you would like more information, or entry forms, please call Phyllis (964-3549) at the Institute office. This is our big depot fund-raiser for the year, so if you can't participate, please consider sponsoring one of the entrants.

**ANNUAL DINNER** The joint annual dinner of the Institute and Depot Friends will be held on Wednesday, April 30, at Bray's Restaurant. Among the features of the evening will be the second annual presentation of the Sterling Award for voluntary service to the Institute for American Research. Last year's recipient, Ray Baird, will be on hand to make the award.

A no-host social hour at 7 p.m. will precede the 8 o'clock dinner. Tickets are \$10 per person. Reservations may be made by calling the Institute office (964-3549).

**1986 GOALS** The Depot Committee has established its goals for 1986. These include: installation of the redwood gutters, completion of the freight office cabinets, acquisition of a large exhibit case for the waiting room, installation of the wig-wag signal and train-order stand, and completion of the  $1/8$ -size railroad track.

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL** There are still some members who have not renewed for 1986. If you fall into this category, we have marked your address label with a red "X" after your name. If you don't have the form and return envelope which were mailed out with the Winter issue of the Depot Dispatch, just send your check to Institute for American Research, P.O. Box 2125, Goleta CA 93118. Rates are: Active member -- \$5; Patron -- \$25; Life member -- \$150.

**TRACK PLAQUE** The plaque listing the names of all donors to our 1985 track fund is now in its permanent mounting on the switch stand next to the track. Gene Allen was responsible for preparing the mounting.

**LIBRARY DISPLAY** We have heard many positive comments regarding our exhibits at the Goleta and Santa Barbara libraries. Phyllis Olsen wishes to thank Steve Sullivan and Gene Allen for assisting her in installing the displays.

**SACRAMENTO TRIP UPDATE** The details of our rail trip to Sacramento and the railroad museum have now been finalized. We will be leaving on Thursday, May 8 at noon, and returning on Sunday, May 11 at 4 p.m. As on our last excursion, we will be staying at the Vagabond Inn, which is adjacent to the AMTRAK station, museum, and Sacramento Old Town.

The cost is \$200 per person, which includes rail fare and lodging. We still have room for four persons, so if you are interested or would like more information, please call Phyllis at 964-3549.

**WORK DAY** Regular work days for volunteers at the depot are scheduled for the third Saturday of each month. Our next work day is Feb. 15, and work will begin at 9 a.m. A number of volunteers have come out to help over the past quarter, including Ray Baird, Gene Boswell, Jack and Scott Cogan, Gary Coombs, Jesse Garcia, Albert Jaramillo, and Phyllis Olsen.

**AGENTS** Bev Casselman is the newest member of our cadre of depot agents that staff the museum on Saturday afternoons. Like all of our agents, Bev brings to the museum his own special and personal knowledge of railroading.

Bev worked for the Canadian National Railway in the early 1950s, serving as a station agent, train dispatcher, and telegrapher. He came to work for the S.P. in 1956, where he worked in the Beaumont CTC dispatcher's office, as a relief station agent from Santa Barbara to Callexico, and as a wire chief in Indio and Santa Barbara. He left railroad work in 1961, when he opened his own business in Santa Barbara.

You can meet Bev by visiting the museum on the fourth Saturday of any month. Be sure to ask him for a demonstration of the telegraph key!

Bev replaces Perry and Bonnie Adams, who deserve a big round of applause for all of their hard work during 1985 in helping to get our agents program off the ground. The museum is in need of another agent-trainee, to work once every three months. The job involves volunteering 3-1/2 hours on a Saturday afternoon. Talk to Gary Coombs at the Institute office if you are interested.

**NANCY RIED** Due to a dramatic growth in her catering business, Nancy Ried has had to resign from the Depot Committee. Nancy has served on the committee for 2-1/2 years, but her involvement with the depot project can be traced to the very beginning, when she served as a coordinator of events (who can forget the incredible "Surprise Trip" of 1982) and one of the most active members of the fund-raising committee. Nancy brought a very personal touch to the project, since her father was a railroad man with the Southern Pacific for many years.

**THANK YOU** Christine Negus is retiring after a two-year stint as membership chairman. Thanks to Christine for all of her hard work. Christine continues with our organization as a member of the Institute board of directors.

**BILL McNALLY** The Depot Friends deeply regret the recent death of William McNally, Jr., the father of Institute vice-president William McNally III. Kimberly Press, the McNally family business, has donated the printing of almost all issues of the Depot Dispatch. The McNallys have also printed our three main Institute publications: Mule Car and Trolley, Goleta Depot, and Fourteen at the Table. Walker A. Tompkins' landmark book, Goleta: The Good Land, was also a McNally project.

**TRAINS CALENDAR** The museum bookshop has about a dozen 1986 Trains Calendars in stock. These are available to members only for 50% off, while they last.

**HOLIDAY TOY TRAINS** Thanks to Bob Burtness for again sharing his trains with us during the holidays. It is an event that certainly adds a further measure of warmth and sparkle to our Christmas season.

#### COMING EVENTS:

- Mar. 15 (Saturday): Asphalt Regatta, 10 a.m., Goleta Beach
- April 30 (Wednesday): Annual Dinner, 7 p.m., Bray's Restaurant
- May 8-11: Rail trip to the state capital and railroad museum
- Oct. 19 (Sunday): Depot Day