



NEWSLETTER OF THE GOLETA DEPOT RAILROAD MUSEUM

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New Book at Printers -- We are very excited about our new publication for 1986, which will be available this fall. Entitled "Those Were the Days: Landmarks of Old Goleta," the book is a 10th Anniversary salute to Goleta Valley Days, focusing on the historical landmarks that have appeared on the Valley Days Buttons: Stow House, Goleta Depot, Goleta Union School, Sexton House, Daniel Hill Adobe, San Jose Winery, and more -- including the surprise selection for 1986. A dozen local authors, historians, and community leaders have contributed essays to this new Institute publication.

All proceeds from sales will benefit the Goleta Depot Railroad Museum. Please use the accompanying form to order your copies today. Also, please note that copies of the special hard-cover edition will be reserved, lowest number first, as orders are received.

Depot Day -- Our big celebration this year will be held on Sunday, Oct. 19. Don't miss out on all the Depot Day fun. There will be steam train and speeder rides, tri-tip barbecue and other foods and refreshments, special exhibits, a silent auction, model trains, an open house, and much more!

Volunteers are needed to make Depot Day a success. Please call Phyllis Olsen at the Institute office (964-3549), if you can help on the day or if you have items of value for the silent auction.

Grant Received -- The American Association of Museums (AAM) has awarded the Institute a \$1,000 grant, to permit the Goleta Depot Railroad Museum to participate in the AAM's Museum Assessment Program. This will involve an on-site visit and evaluation of our museum by an AAM professional.

As reported at the annual dinner, the Depot Committee has made the commitment to achieve accreditation for our museum. This "seed" grant is seen as an important early step toward that worthy goal.

Model Railroad Exhibit -- Our HO modelers have made much progress in

recent months. Bill Cormack has built an authentic replica of the Santa Barbara passenger depot, which Stu Wallace is now busily integrating into the layout. Paul and Dave Hendrickson have completed two historic structures of Old Goleta -- a hotel and an auto court -- while Bill Everett has finished his detailed model of the Santa Barbara Roundhouse.

If you would like to view the work, the exhibit is open on Saturday afternoons from 1:30 to 3:30. Members of the modeling crew enjoy sharing their project with visitors.

Asphalt Regatta -- Postponed a week due to rain, the Asphalt Regatta was held on March 22. From a fundraising standpoint, the event was a complete success: All of the money needed for the live-steam train track was raised -- over \$4,000!

Thanks to all of this year's hard-working participants: Gene Allen, Eugene Boswell Family, Bob Burtness, Gary Coombs, Anna Dato, Jess Garcia, Marie Harden, Al Jaramillo, Steven Kramer, Scott Moore, Steve Moore Family, Ron and Christine Negus, Phyllis Olsen, and Bill Shinn and the Flying Shinns.

Anna Dato won the \$100 bond for most money raised, while our most successful young fundraiser, Steve Kramer, won a \$50 bond. Special thanks to Santa Barbara Savings and Glendale Federal Savings for providing the savings bonds, and to all Regatta sponsors.

Track Plans -- At this writing, the rail for the live-steam railroad track is being purchased. Gene Allen reports that the actual construction of the track and roadbed will begin soon. If you can lend a hand, please turn out at the next work day, Aug. 16, or call Gene (967-2095) for more information. We still expect to have the railroad operational by Depot Day, but the track-builders need all the help they can get.

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Annual Dinner -- April 30 marked the Institute's Annual Dinner, which featured a delicious meal at Bray's Restaurant and a fun- and information-packed program. A number of our volunteers were recognized for service to the Institute and the Goleta Depot Railroad Museum during the course of the year. These included Al Jaramillo, Steve Sullivan, Burton Decker, County Parks Dept., Neil Fetter, Tom Cole and Mary Mansfield, Ernest Thomsen, and Ed Lebeck.

Those in attendance appreciated the many lovely door prizes, donated by Groen Rose, and the lemon pie given by Bray's Restaurant.

Sterling Award -- Gene Allen, chairman of the Depot Committee, was honored at the dinner as recipient of the second annual Sterling Award for Voluntary Service. The presentation of the distinctive sterling silver pin, bearing the image of Goleta Depot, was made by last year's recipient, Raymond Baird, the first Sterling Award winner.

In his address, Baird said that Allen "has been a member of the Goleta Depot Committee for over four years, devoting hundreds of hours to the restoration of the historical landmark and the development of the Goleta Depot Railroad Museum.

"Eugene Allen was first asked to join the effort to save Goleta Depot because of his love for steam railroading and his knowledge of railroad history and technology. His first big job came back in 1981, when he chaired the Restoration and Review Committee -- the group responsible for deciding the form that the restoration and rehabilitation should take.

"When the depot began to receive donations of railroad artifacts and memorabilia, Gene served as our first curator. He actively sought additional museum items, and prepared attractive and informative displays.

"When the depot was moved, Gene headed the effort to salvage the bricks from the old foundation. He directed the crew that excavated the bricks on Nov. 19, 1981, and prepared the brass plaques that helped make these distinctive mementos such a successful addition to the depot fundraising effort.

"For his part in the actual restoration, Gene took a special interest in the window bay of the old ticket office. This part of the building had been the target of much vandalism, but thanks largely to Gene's hard work it was returned to like-new condition.

"Gene Allen took on the responsibilities of Depot Committee chairman in September 1983. And it has been over the last two years, as chairman, that he has made his greatest contribution to the Institute and Goleta

Depot. His job includes leading the Depot Committee, making inquiries, writing letters, helping to coordinate events, interfacing with staff, and making many of the day-to-day decisions that the depot requires.

"Last year was a very special one for Gene, because he got to do something that he has worked toward for a long time -- the installation of track in front of the depot. As with most things, Gene was involved in nearly all aspects of this important addition to our historical landmark. He drew up the plans and specifications for the track, conducting much preliminary research in railroad manuals to make certain that everything was done correctly. He found sources for the track materials, raised over \$400 in the 1985 Asphalt Regatta to help pay for them, and arranged for the donation of many tons of ballast.

"When it came time to build the track, Gene organized and supervised crews, coordinated the delivery of heavy equipment, and did much of the actual gandy-dancing himself. This was an extremely difficult and consuming project and the finished product, accurate and operational, is a tribute to Gene Allen's abilities, his commitment, and his love for Goleta Depot."

Sacramento Trip -- The rail trip to the state capital on May 8-11 was most enjoyable. Those on the tour included Larry and Theresa Caccese, Gary Coombs, Clarence and Stella Rouse, Phyllis Olsen, John and Evelyn Schaller, and Al and Hilda Volkman.

Our friends at the California State Railroad Museum made the visit especially memorable. Barry Garland, public relations director for all Sacramento-area state parks, gave us a very personal tour of the railroad museum, which he helped to establish. Other notable features of the four-day excursion were a sunset dinner along San Francisco Bay while enroute via Amtrak; a ride on the railroad museum's steam train beside the Sacramento River; and a visit to the capitol building.

Work Days -- Much appreciation is due to those volunteers who have given precious weekend hours during recent Depot work days. These are Raymond Baird, Gene Boswell, Jack and Scott Cogan, Al Jaramillo, and Ralph Moore. The next work days will be Aug. 16 and Sept. 20.

COMING EVENTS:

Oct. 19 (Sunday): Depot Day, 11-4