

Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH

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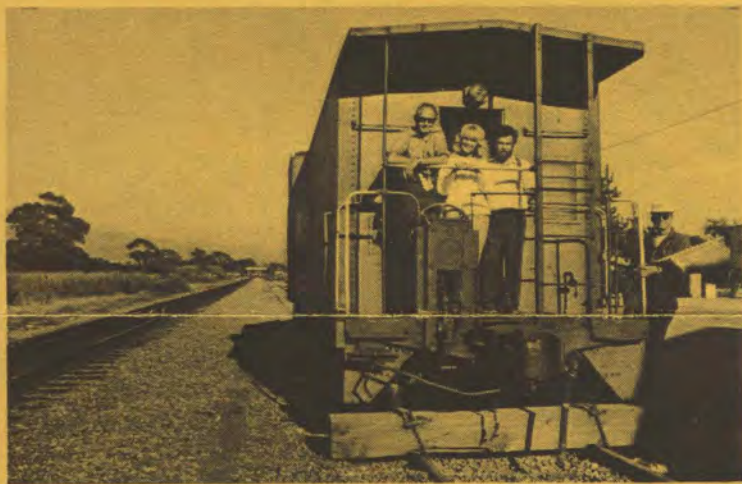
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DEPOT DAY SPECIAL REPORT

Caboose to Star on Depot Day '86

A Southern Pacific caboose has been acquired by the Goleta Depot Railroad Museum. The caboose will be a main



attraction of Depot Day, Oct. 19, when it will first be opened for public viewing. The full caboose story follows the other Depot Day '86 news.

Big Day Almost Here -- With our new caboose, longer train rides, and more auction items, Depot Day '86 promises to be bigger and better than ever. Don't miss out on all the Depot Day fun -- Sunday, Oct. 19, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Train Ride Expanded Our live-steam train ride will be about twice as long as last year. As before, the route will start next to the entrance walk in the eucalyptus grove, running westward until it exits the grove, then turning south to parallel Los Carneros Rd. New trackage this year includes an extension of this southward run and a return loop southwest of the depot. This is about one-half of the planned route, which will include track east of the depot, scheduled for completion in 1987.

Silent Auction Update Among the items listed for our silent auction are: a pool table; a tricycle and other children's things; meals, including brunches at the Biltmore and dinners at El Encanto; motel stays; movie

passes; and much more. Many of the items go for bargain prices, so be sure to check the tables and place bids on your favorites!

Model Trains Don't miss the model railroad exhibit. Our modelers have been working overtime to get as much of the layout ready for operation as possible. A number of the buildings are now in place, including Goleta Depot, the Santa Barbara roundhouse, passenger station, and freight depot, and several town buildings. Quite a bit of the landscaping is complete and Ray Baird's long-awaited Arroyo Hondo bridge may even be finished!

Barbecue Ed Lebeck and George Potter will again run our Depot Day Barbecue. Featured are delicious tri-tip, green salad, toasted french bread, and George's celebrated barbecue beans. Tickets are \$6 (\$5.50 in advance); children 12 and under are \$4. Members are urged to purchase their tickets in advance, so that the number of dinners to prepare can be estimated. For reservations, call Phyllis Olsen at 964-3549, weekday afternoons, or purchase tickets at the museum office or from any Depot Committee member.

Speeder Rides Bob Mahan will be back to give rides on his old maintenance car. Powered by a "one-lung" engine, his colorful "speeder" was a popular addition to last year's festivities.

Other Depot Day Attractions Also returning from last year will be Ernie Thomsen and Jim Higman's display of working steam engines, Depot Open House, Depot Grams, balloons, hot dogs, lemonade, beer, and much more.

Helpers, Auction Items Needed The success of Depot Day requires your help! Please call Phyllis Olsen at the Institute office (964-3549) if you can assist on the day, or if you have new items, valuable services, or collectibles to donate to the silent auction. (over)

Caboose on the Loose Ever since the Depot Master Plan was prepared in 1983, we have wanted to add a piece of rolling stock to the museum -- either a boxcar or, if possible, a caboose. Consistent with our wishes, the Lake Los Carneros Park Master Plan shows a railroad car on the depot tracks.

For over two years, we have been in communication with the Southern Pacific Trans. Co., expressing our interest in acquiring a caboose or box, by either donation or purchase.

Finally, in July, the County Board of Supervisors went to bat for us, sending a very supportive letter to the top brass of the Southern Pacific. A prompt reply from SP President D.K. McNear indicated that the company no longer donated cabooses, but that a sale attractive to the museum certainly could be arranged.

Within days, the SP had identified a caboose, SP4023, recently retired at the Colton, Ca. yard. Gene Allen and Ed Lebeck visited Colton on Aug. 8 and were so impressed with the offer that an order was placed the same day. The \$2,000 price included delivery.

SP4023, a steel, bay-window caboose built in 1961, left for its new home on Sept. 19. Our friend in Oxnard, Agent Dick Reed, located the train en route for us, discovering that the caboose had been positioned incorrectly, with a group of cars bound for Oakland. By the time the dispatcher and train crew were notified of the error, the train had passed through Goleta. By chance, from an upstairs window in Goleta Depot, Phyllis Olsen saw SP4023 roll past.

The caboose was finally set out in San Luis Obispo. On Sunday (Sept. 21), it was placed on the eastbound local (X7545). By this time, our "Caboose on the Loose," had become a celebrity among the dispatchers, operators, and crewmen in the local area.

Joe Heumphreus at the Hobby Depot helped us locate the train as it passed through Vandenberg AFB, so that when it arrived at La Patera, about 25 Depot Friends were on hand to give our newest museum addition a warm welcome.

The night before, Bonnie Adams had notified Conductor Neil Haskin to expect a crowd. Although running late, the crew was very kind -- posing for photos, saving the train orders for the museum archives, and lending us a prized brass caboose key, which Phyllis took to La Patera School on Monday to share with the children.

The car was moved on Friday, Sept. 25, beginning at 8 a.m. For the lifting, the museum hired Specialty Crane and Rigging, Seth Hammond's company, which has donated crane work on numerous occasions in the past. The hauling was generously donated by Dennis Romero Heavy Hauling and

(Frank) Marton Trucking. Two rigs were required: one for the wheel sets and a second for the cab.

The move was completed and the car reassembled on the depot tracks by noon. The only problem involved stabilizing the massive crane on the damp depot grounds. TV stations KEYT and KCOY covered the event, which was featured on the weekend news.

Plans call for the caboose exterior to be retained, and restored where needed. The interior will serve as museum exhibit area, with many of the furnishings and fixtures retained or replaced. The museum bookshop will also probably be moved to the caboose, and we are considering having the car become the main museum entrance.

For the time being, the way car will be left just as it is, so that the public can see how much work is required to restore cabooses, depots, and other things from the past. It will first be open for public viewing on Depot Day.

Some of the funds to buy, move, restore, and rehabilitate the caboose have come from a balance remaining in the original track fund (not the "little track"). Depot Day proceeds will also be important toward the caboose project, as will the sales of our new book.

We are grateful to the Board of Supervisors for their support, and especially to Supervisor Bill Wallace for taking our cause before the Board. Thanks are due also to Suzanne Polansky, for her presentation to the Park Commission which made possible the Board action.

A debt of gratitude is also owed to the many Southern Pacific employees -- in administration, sales, and operations -- for all of the extra attention and courtesy that the museum has received over the past weeks.

New Book Unveiled -- Our new Institute publication, "Those Were the Days: Landmarks of Old Goleta," was unveiled at the opening event of Goleta Valley Days '86, at the Elks Lodge Sept. 29.

Eleven of the 12 authors were present to autograph copies of the special volume saluting the 10th Anniversary of Goleta Valley Days and featuring the historical landmarks that have appeared on the Valley Days Button.

Steve Sullivan's essay on Goleta Depot, the only landmark featured twice on the button, will be of particular interest to Depot Friends. The chapter pays tribute to the many persons and organizations that have worked so hard to preserve the depot.

Books, either cloth-bound or in soft cover, may be purchased at the museum bookshop. All proceeds benefit the Goleta Depot Railroad Museum.

COMING EVENTS:

Oct. 19 (Sunday): Depot Day, 11-4
Dec. 12 (Friday): Christmas Party