



Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH:

NEWSLETTER OF THE GOLETA DEPOT RAILROAD MUSEUM

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Holiday Display -- A highlight of the holiday season at the Goleta Depot Railroad Museum this year will be a 3-week exhibit that we hope will become an annual yuletide feature. The new display, "A Toy Train for Christmas," will be centered around our Christmas tree in the upstairs window bay.

The exhibit will be open during regular museum hours, Monday-Saturday, 1-4 p.m., from Dec. 13 through the 31st. If you would like to help prepare the display, please contact Phyllis in the museum office.

Christmas Party -- Our annual Christmas Party will be on Friday, Dec. 12, from 4 to 8 p.m. All members and their guests are cordially invited to attend. Please bring a snack or hors d'oeuvre to share.

New members and those who haven't participated in past years are encouraged to bring an ornament (with your name on it, if possible) to add to the depot Christmas tree. If you can't attend, please try to bring your ornament to the depot before the party.

During the party, we will be putting the final touches on our holiday display, "A Toy Train for Christmas."

Holiday Gift Ideas -- The Museum Bookshop has a number of items ideal for the gift-giving season. Special mention should be made of the 1987

"Those Magnificent Trains" Calendar as well as a number of new books and other items for children, all bearing a historical or railroading theme.

Those Were the Days -- Our new book on the "Landmarks of Old Goleta" has been selling well. To encourage members to give the book as a gift, a special offer is being made. Members will be entitled to a discount of 30% when purchasing 10 or more copies of "Those Were the Days" or "Mule Car and Trolley." You may mix hardcover and paperback, or buy some of each title, as long as you have 10 copies total.

To receive the discount, just visit the Museum Bookshop and identify yourself as a member. Or you may call in an order by phone (964-3540).

Members Are Invited again this year to visit Bob Burtness' home, to enjoy the vast Lionel and standard-gauge train network that he sets up during the holidays throughout his house. This year, the railroad will be running from Dec. 1 through Jan. 15.

If you would like to share in this truly enchanting experience, please call Bob at 967-5454 to make arrangements for your visit.

Depot Featured in Advertisements
During the summer, Goleta Depot was
(continued on next page)

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the setting for photographic sessions that will become advertisements for two national corporations. A Chrysler Voyager ad was shot here in July, and the following month an AT&T brochure photo was taken. In the AT&T piece, several dozen Depot Friends and other local residents took part. They played the roles of citizens of a rural community bidding farewell to a loved one leaving by train for military service.

It will probably be awhile before we see the finished products of these photo sessions. If anyone notices them (or any other appearances of Goleta Depot in ads or other printed matter), please contact the museum office and get us a copy if possible.

Work Days -- Much appreciation is due to those volunteers who have given precious weekend hours during recent depot work days. These are Malcolm Alexander, Gene Allen, Ray Baird, Gene Boswell, Gary Coombs, Ralph Moore, Charlotte Moore, Phyllis Olsen, and Mike Williams. The next work days will be Dec. 20, Jan. 17, and Feb. 21.

Particular mention should be made of the recent work of Depot Committee member and Master Carpenter Ralph Moore. Ralph has built and donated three more sturdy wooden benches to grace the depot exterior, to match the one he made back in 1983. These popular benches have been placed around the building, where they can be enjoyed by museum visitors and depot regulars alike.

The next time you visit the depot, you will also likely see that we now have 10 picnic tables distributed around the museum grounds. Before Depot Day, the County Parks Dept. gave us several of their old wooden tables to complement our original two, which Ralph Moore built in 1984.

Membership -- All Institute members, including Depot Friends, will soon be receiving renewal notices in the mail. Please help by returning your renewal materials promptly.

You will notice several changes in the membership structure. First, there is now a \$3 "Corresponding Member" category. This new classification reflects the fact that some members require the lowest possible rate and are interested primarily in receiving the newsletters. Corresponding members will not be entitled to the bookshop discount which other members receive.

The Active Member rate has been raised to \$10. This increase has been necessitated by rising printing and postal costs and other membership expenses. However, the old Active Member rate of \$5 has been retained for Institute and museum volunteers.

The \$25 membership category has also been kept. All members are urged to consider participating at this higher level, because of the importance of membership revenue to Institute programs.

All of the membership categories apply to families or organizations, as

well as to individuals. It is unnecessary to enroll husband, wife, and child separately, for example. Those members who have done this in the past are encouraged to make an additional donation or select a higher membership category for '87.

Depot Day Report This year's Depot Day was an overwhelming success -- the biggest and best Depot Day ever. Attendance was well over 2,000, an increase of more than 50% over last year's record crowd. Depot Day was also a fund-raising triumph -- \$3,500 was brought in to support the Goleta Depot Railroad Museum.

Of equal importance was the way Depot Day brought together family fun, education, trains, and local history in a single package. People left with smiles on their faces -- more knowledgeable of railroading and of Old Goleta, and perhaps with a new interest, a little curiosity, or questions that will draw them back to the museum or inspire a trip to the library.

The magical allure of trains, cabooses and old-time depots was everywhere, and inescapable. Above all, Depot Day captured the hearts and



minds of the children who attended the event in great numbers.

Over 850 riders enjoyed the steam train and speeder. Hundreds toured the caboose, learning of its railroad job as well as our plans for integrating the old way car into the railroad museum. Hundreds more visited the HO exhibit, to marvel at the detailed modeling of historic buildings, track, rolling stock, and landscaping.

Activity in the freight office never ended, and many enjoyed touring the waiting room and agent's living quarters. The barbecue, other food sales, and the auction were well received and contributed significantly to the funds raised on the day.

Depot Day simply could not have happened without the unselfish giving of time, labor, money, and goods by dozens of volunteers and supporters. All are now being thanked personally by letter, the list is simply too long to repeat here, but everyone who benefits from the many good things Depot Day has to offer, owes these hard-working organizers and helpers a debt of gratitude.

Phyllis Olsen deserves much credit for the terrific job of coordinating this multi-faceted event.