



Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH:

NEWSLETTER OF THE GOLETA DEPOT RAILROAD MUSEUM

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SPEEDER ACQUIRED The museum has its second piece of rolling stock! Only a matter of weeks after the caboosé arrived, the museum became the proud owner of a maintenance "speeder." The unit was purchased by Warren Johnson of Goleta Development Corp., who donated it to the museum in honor of his daughters, Brianna and Tiffany.



Warren Johnson and family

Smaller than the speeder that Bob Mahan has run the last two Depot Days, the museum's 4-passenger car was built in 1946 and originally ran on the Santa Fe line.

The car was tested on the Goleta Depot tracks on our most recent Work Day, Saturday, Jan. 21. Volunteers on the day, including the HO modeling crew, were treated to much smoke and exhaust noise from the one-lung engine, and to a demonstration of the car's performance. Gene Allen, Ed Lebeck, and Warren Johnson were responsible for getting the cantankerous machine in operation.

The speeder will be restored and added to the museum's growing list of visitor attractions. Eventually, we hope to give rides, not only during special events but also on a regular basis, perhaps on the same weekend every month. If you are a member in

good standing and would like to train to operate this fascinating piece of equipment, please contact the Institute office for further information.

ANNUAL DINNER The Annual Dinner of the Institute for American Research and the Friends of Goleta Depot will be held on Tuesday, April 28 at the Holiday Inn. A no-host social hour at 6 p.m. will precede the 7 o'clock dinner.

A highlight of the evening will be the third annual presentation of the Sterling Award for Voluntary Service to the Institute. Last year's recipient, Gene Allen, will present the award.

Tickets are \$12.50, which includes the meal, beverage, tax, and tip. Seating is limited, so make your reservations early by calling or visiting the Institute office.

ASPHALT REGATTA The Sixth Annual Institute for American Research Asphalt Regatta has been set for Saturday, March 14 at Goleta Beach, beginning at 10 a.m. This year, all proceeds raised from the walk/jog/bike-a-thon will go toward the restoration and renovation of our caboosé, which we hope to make an integral part of the railroad museum within the next 18 months. A goal of \$6,000 has been set, which will cover repair of doors, floors, cabinets, and other features; interior painting; and installation of electrical, security, and telephone/intercom.

The Asphalt Regatta has become the "Special Projects Fundraiser" for the Goleta Depot Railroad Museum. In past years, it has funded such major museum additions as the standard-gauge track (finished in 1986) and the 1/8-size live-steam train track (to be completed this year).

Among those already signed up for the Regatta are: Gene Allen, Eugene Boswell family, Bob Burtness, Nellie Casselman, Gary Coombs, Anna Dato,

(next page, please)

Jesse Garcia, Marie Harden, Al Jaramillo, Diana Mina, Ralph Moore family, and Phyllis Olsen.

If you would like to join in the fun and at the same time help open the caboose to the public, please contact Phyllis Olsen (964-3549) weekday afternoons for further information.

PROJECTS UPDATE

Slide Show If you've visited the museum recently, you've probably enjoyed the automated slide show in the passenger waiting room which recounts the story of the Depot Project. The show originated several years ago as a docent-operated program for Depot Day crowds. It was so popular that we decided to automate the show so the story could be shared with everyday museum visitors.

Ray Anderson prepared an electrical design based on a push-button which would activate the slide unit. The design was skillfully implemented by Ed and John Lebeck and put into operation before Depot Day '86. The show has already become one of the museum's most popular features.

Freight Office Cabinets Last fall, the cabinetry in the depot freight office was completed by Ralph Moore, with assistance from Ray Baird. Gary Coombs painted the cabinets and drawers and applied the antique brass hardware. The restoration and refurnishing of the freight office is now almost complete.

Grading Donated The last "Depot Dispatch" also failed to mention the valuable contribution of Banner Construction in performing the grading for both the live-steam train ride and the planned 33-foot extension to the standard-gauge track. Much thanks is due to Erbie Daw for arranging this important donation to the museum.

Scales Added to Exhibits In November, the museum acquired an antique counter scale suitable to serve as the Railway Express scale in the freight office. Gene Allen did a beautiful job of cleaning and painting the scale, which visitors can now see and operate on the old express counter.

Two years ago, Kimberly Press donated to the museum another scale, an old portable floor model similar to the ones used in the depot baggage rooms for weighing trunks, luggage and other passenger goods. This scale was recently painted by Gary Coombs. It is now on display in the waiting room.

Storage Area Being Built Ralph Moore and Ray Baird are currently

working on a project that cannot be seen by the museum visitor, but, like most of their work around the depot, it will have an important effect on museum operations for many years to come. They are constructing a new room in a formerly unusable portion of the depot attic, installing flooring, walls, shelves, and cabinets. When completed, the room will provide much needed storage space for artifacts, records, and other museum goods.

Train Order Post The old Santa Barbara depot train-order hook-post acquired in 1985 from Southern Pacific will probably be in place by the time this issue is circulated. Perry Adams dug the three-foot-deep foundation and Gene Allen prepared the form, poured the concrete, and has been working on erecting the pole. Once in place, the post will make it easier for agents and docents to explain train-order activities to museum visitors.

WORK DAY Most of the project progress listed above has been achieved on our monthly Work Days. More help is always needed, especially from those who are willing to assist with the thankless job of keeping the building clean. In recent months, this task has fallen almost exclusively to Phyllis Olsen. She could really use some helpers. The next Work Day is Saturday, Feb. 21. Work begins by 9 a.m.

MUSEUM ATTENDANCE There was a marked increase in attendance at the railroad museum in 1986, during which there were about 5400 visitors, up some 30% from 1985. This is due to better advertising, return visits, and special exhibits, such as the popular "A Toy Train for Christmas," which brought many holiday visitors.

Attendance continues to rise: Over the first five weeks of 1987, visitor numbers are up about 70% over the same period last year.

CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS -- Did you buy a depot Christmas ornament on Depot Day? If so, you were one of the lucky ones! Betty Coombs made 30 little red wooden locomotive ornaments, bearing the legend "Goleta Depot '86," which were sold at the October celebration. The engines were all gone before most people even knew they existed!

Next year, we would like to have the ornaments again, and in greater numbers, so that they can be available throughout the holiday season. To do so, however, requires more volunteers to help with the many construction steps. If you can lend a hand, please contact Gary in the Institute office.

COMING EVENTS:

Annual Dinner -- April 28, Holiday Inn
Asphalt Regatta -- March 14, Goleta Beach
Work Saturdays -- February 21, March 21

