



Newsletter of the Goleta Depot Railroad Museum

Volume 7, Number 3 — Fall, 1987

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Our two-month-long celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Coming of the Railroad has successfully concluded. For nine consecutive Saturdays in July and August, the Goleta Depot Railroad Museum welcomed visitors from throughout Santa Barbara County and Southern California. They came to ride the steam trains, look through the caboose, and see the HO exhibit and the museum's other attractions.

More than 1,500 persons, young and old, enjoyed the scenic 1/3-mile trip around the station grounds. Hundreds took advantage of the complimentary tickets given away by the Goleta, Santa Barbara, and Montecito merchants who helped to sponsor the event. The average daily attendance was 350-400.

A fine assemblage of rolling stock took part in the celebration. The "iron workhorse" was Perry and Bonnie Adamses' ten-wheeler, which hauled passengers



Historic last run of "Centennial Summer."

every weekend without fail. Ed Winnewisser's 0-6-0 switcher, Gene Allen's American, and George Potter's 0-4-0 diesel switcher also saw service for one Saturday each. The passenger cars used were the Adamses' two three-seat flat cars and Gene's two-passenger gondola. Perry's and Bonnie's handsome new cupola caboose took its maiden voyage on our tracks Aug. 22.

The fourth Saturday, July 25, was another historic occasion, marking the first time that Goleta Depot's Fairmont speeder was used to carry museum visitors. Gary Coombs served as the operator on the day. Two weeks later, Bob Mahan brought his speeder up from Oxnard for a day of rides.

Aug. 22 was "VIP Saturday." During a private morning session, local officials, representatives from County Parks Dept., and other key people toured the museum facilities. Among the guests was Joel Conway, noted photographer and historical photograph collector, who used the opportunity to donate to the museum a handsome 24x33 framed print of the famous photograph of Santa Barbara's first train.

VOLUNTEERS APPLAUDED

Museum volunteers devoted hundreds of hours to make our centennial celebration the terrific success that it was. Many volunteers helped prepare the road-bed and build the track that made the museum's live steam railroad a reality. Those who joined in the monumental effort were: Malcolm Alexander, Glenn Apers, Ray Baird, Eugene Boswell, Scott Cogan, Paul Conover, Douglass Conrow, Gary Coombs, Steve Kramer, Daniel Larson, Chris Leu, Ralph Moore, Scott Moore, and George Potter.

Many thanks to everyone who participated during the event, including the HO modelers, museum docents, and depot agents, many of whom put in time above and beyond their regular monthly responsibilities. Others who assisted included Diana Mina, Doug Conrow, and Ed Lebeck.

Special mention should be made of the train crews, who worked long hours, week after week, in the hot summer sun: Perry and Bonnie Adams, Alan Cooley, Steven Kramer, and Susan Pare.

Finally, the entire Goleta Depot community owes Eugene Allen, in particular, an enormous debt of gratitude for his untiring efforts in the design and overall supervision of the railroad project.

MUSEUM JOINS IN CITY EVENT

The City of Santa Barbara had its own centennial event during the third week of August. On the 19th, Gary Coombs and Phyllis Olsen represented the railroad museum at a "champagne reception" hosted by the Southern Pacific Co. aboard two private cars the company had brought to town for the festivities.

At the reception, we were presented with one of only



"Turning the engine" was a continual event chore.

four commemorative "golden spikes" given by the City. Other recipients were Southern Pacific, the Santa Barbara Historical Society, and Santa Barbara Savings and Loan, an event sponsor.

RAIL BOOKLET AVAILABLE AT DEPOT

A booklet on railroading in Santa Barbara County has been published by the Santa Barbara Renaissance Fund, Inc. in commemoration of the centennial. Edited by Santa Barbara city councilman Hal Conklin, the 32-page, illustration-filled booklet is available at the railroad museum bookshop.

AMTRAK TO ANNOUNCE NEW TRAIN

Museum Will Charter Entire Car

Amtrak plans to inaugurate its new service between Santa Barbara and San Diego on Sunday, Oct. 25. The Goleta Depot Railroad Museum will be reserving an entire car for the historic first run.

Departure will be at 8 a.m., and we should be returning about 10 p.m. The schedule will allow about three hours in San Diego for lunch, visiting the nearby Maritime Museum, riding the trolley, or a bit of sight-seeing.

The highlight of the day, however, should be the train trip itself. For much of the way, we will be traveling along the beautiful Pacific seashore. Another noteworthy feature of the route is the dramatic passage through the rugged Santa Susana Mountains, by way of three tunnels and winding passes, into the rocky Chatsworth area.

Stations along the way include Oxnard, Simi, Glen-

dale, Los Angeles — already familiar to the *Coast Starlight* traveler — Fullerton, Anaheim, Santa Ana, San Juan Capistrano, San Clemente, Oceanside, and Del Mar. South of Los Angeles, our train will become the *San Diegan*, as we switch from Southern Pacific to Santa Fe trackage.

We will be riding on special new Amfleet "push-pull" equipment, with operating controls at both ends — a feature needed because Santa Barbara lacks a facility for turning engines. This unique equipment will be on public display all day Saturday, Oct. 24, at the Santa Barbara passenger station. The railroad museum has also been invited to have an information table set up on this occasion.

The roundtrip fare will be a low \$48.50; children under 12 will be \$24.25. Members can make reservations by calling the museum office at 964-3540 any weekday afternoon. Or, excursion tickets can be purchased at Goleta Depot or Travel Specialists, 3046 De La Vina St., Santa Barbara. Payment can be made by cash, check, or major credit card at either location.

SUMMER NUMBERS GROW

Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, the museum welcomed more than 4,700 visitors. Much of this number was due to the large crowds on Saturdays, when attendance was up 20-fold over last year!

Mid-week attendance also showed an encouraging rise, as weekday totals increased to about 250% of 1986 figures. This growth is the result of wider circulation of the depot brochure, word-of-mouth about the museum, and the Goleta Valley Chamber of Commerce Visitor Information Center, which draws travelers from Highway 101.

HANDCAR RACES

The Goleta Depot Railroad Museum team has been selected for the U.S. National Handcar Races in Sacramento on Sept. 18-20. Representing the museum in the competition are Eugene ("push-pull") Allen, Gary ("older than he looks") Coombs, Phyllis ("I thought it had a motor") Olsen, George ("Is this Missouri?") Adams, and Anna ("All I got was this dumb T-shirt") Dato.

The five-member team is entered in the Masters-Mixed division, in which prizes are awarded just for finishing. On their "Quest for Gold," the team departs on the Sept. 17 *Coast Starlight*.

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PORTRAIT OF A MUSEUM VOLUNTEER

One of the Goleta Depot Railroad Museum's most enthusiastic volunteers is John Marshall Starr, who has served as a museum docent since 1985.

John came to the area in 1962, to finish his undergraduate degree in English at UCSB. He went on to earn his master's degree in 1970.

John has been employed for the past eight years at Sonatech, a Goleta firm devoted to the research and development of sonar equipment. Hired as a technical writer, he advanced to his present position as configuration manager in charge of engineering quality control.

John Starr is president of the Gold Coast Chapter of the Huntington's Disease Society. He enjoys classical and chamber music concerts, and he prefers local beaches and canyons for walking — another of his pastimes. His favorite color is S.P. Colonial Yellow.

Speaking of railroading, John's avocation may be traced back to his grandfather, an engineer with the Burlington Northern, who concluded a 46-year career in 1953.

John's father worked for the Great Northern Ry. When John was born, his dad was out on the rails, trying to get from Minot, N.D. to Devils Lake, to be on hand for the blessed event.

Of his docent work at Goleta Depot, John says he most enjoys interacting with his fellow volunteers and "discovering all the details that bring history alive." The railroad museum is most fortunate to have a volunteer with the interest and abilities of John Marshall Starr.



John Marshall Starr

TRAIN TICKETS AT GOLETA DEPOT

Readers are reminded that the general public can purchase train tickets for U.S. or foreign travel at the railroad museum, by arrangement with Amtrak and Travel Specialists, a local agency.

This ticket-sales program is another step toward recreating an authentic railroad atmosphere at Goleta Depot, which is being achieved not only by restoring the historic building, but also by bringing back many of the former activities that gave the railroad station its unique and vital role in the community.

Ticket prices are the same as from a travel agent or directly from Amtrak. As a convenience to travelers, we can also make all other needed arrangements, including hotel reservations and car rentals.

The railroad museum benefits from the program by receiving a commission on all sales.

BADGES MAKE THE VOLUNTEER

At its May meeting, the Depot Committee adopted a distinctive name badge as the official uniform of all museum volunteers. Patterned after the original docent's pin, the new badge has white lettering on a field of royal blue. The top reads "Goleta Depot Railroad Museum," and below is the volunteer's name.

The first of these attractive badges were prepared for the museum agents, and those attending the Annual Dinner received their's in a brief ceremony. Eventually, all volunteers will get badges, which will be worn during public events and programs.

AGENTS AND DOCENTS TO MEET

A meeting of all agents and docents is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 26, beginning at 10 a.m. at the depot.

Anyone interested in becoming a docent or agent, or in learning about these volunteer programs, is also encouraged to attend, or to contact the Institute office.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Warmest greetings to our newest members: Chris Younger, Allan Cooley, Mrs. Vicki Russell-Hand, Dara E. Emery, Mr. and Mrs. John R. Murchison, Susan Pare, Richard B. Thomas, Douglas S. Cameron, Karen Jenkins, and James and Elizabeth Bourland.

We sincerely hope that you will enjoy your association with the museum and the Institute, and that you will choose to become involved in our many activities.

YOUTH GROUPS TOUR MUSEUM

The final months of last school year were a busy time at the museum, when many youth groups visited the depot. Touring were classes from Monte Vista and La Patera Elementary Schools, Our Redeemer Lutheran School, Los Olivos School and Oxnard's Santa Clara School, and contingent's from the Goleta Boys Club and local scouting organizations.

NEW DEPOT PIN AVAILABLE

Depot Friend Ed Lebeck has designed a metal pin depicting Goleta Depot, which he had manufactured for sale at the museum. Suitable for cap or lapel, the colorful pin sells for \$5 (\$4.50 for members) plus tax. Proceeds benefit the museum.

PROJECT HISTORY SHARED

On Aug. 17, Gary Coombs and Phyllis Olsen were guests of the Brownbaggers group of Goleta Presbyter-

Depot Day '87 — Special Report

Depot Day '87 will be held on Sunday, Oct. 18 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The program for this year's event — the fifth annual — includes many popular features returning from years past, as well as some new ones. As always, there is no charge for admission to the museum grounds or areas within the depot building.

Phyllis Olsen is again serving as overall coordinator for Depot Day — the railroad museum's main annual public event. She wishes to remind members that their assistance is crucial to the success of Depot Day. Help is needed with preparations, phone calls, baking, staffing, hosting, and other tasks.

If you are able to assist in any way — on Depot Day or during the weeks that precede it — please give Phyllis a call (964-3540) any weekday afternoon.

Barbecue Available in "Dining Car"

A delicious barbecue dinner will be served beginning at 12 noon and continuing 'til 3 p.m. The meal will include tri-tip, green salad, toasted french bread, and beans. Tickets are \$6 (\$5.50 in advance); children 12 and under are \$4.

Members are urged to buy their tickets in advance, so that the number of meals can be estimated. For reservations, call Phyllis at 964-3540, weekday afternoons. Or, you may purchase tickets at the museum office or from any Depot Committee member.

"Club Car" to Serve Refreshments

Hot dogs, lemonade, soft drinks, baked goods, and other treats will also be sold throughout the day by museum volunteers.

Train and Speeder Rides

"Riding the Rails" will again be a major Depot Day attraction. This will be the first Depot Day in which the full 1/3-mile ride will be given. We hope to have three engines and extra passenger cars on hand to manage the large crowd that is expected.

Don't miss out! Depot Day will be the last public

run of the year. Afterwards, the track will be dismantled and stored away until 1988.

Bob Mahan will be here again to give rides on his speeder. The museum's own inspection car will be on display and may also be called into service.

Doll House Drawing

A highlight of Depot Day this year will be a drawing for a lovely doll house, a gift of master carpenter and doll-house maker Albert Schneeclaus. Normally, his creations sell for \$500 and more.

Chances on the doll house are available now at the museum for a \$1 donation. Sales will continue through Depot Day, and at the end of the day the lucky winner will be selected.

Silent Auction Sure to Delight

Another terrific silent auction is planned for this year. Among the items already included are a ceiling fan from Empire Homecare Center, which has recently opened a Goleta store; a lady's fall sweater from Lorene Scala; and a clock donated by Pendulum Faire. Children's items include a tricycle from K-Mart and a small doll house, also from Albert Schneeclaus.

Phyllis hopes to break last year's record of 80 auction items. Any merchant or professional members are encouraged to help by calling in your pledge of merchandise or services for the auction. Some homemade and good used items will also be included in the bidding list.

Steam Display Returns

Also returning in '87 is the ever-popular exhibit of steam engines put on by Jim Higman and Ernest Thomsen. Gene Allen hopes to make a second boiler available for the display, so that more engines, whistles, and other steam accessories can be shown.

Jim has also promised to bring his old steam locomotive bell, which should be music to the ears of all rail fans out there.

(continued from page 3)

ian Church. They presented a slide show and talk on the history of the Depot Project and the museum.

On March 19, a similar presentation was made to the Santa Barbara Chapter of the Daughters of the American Colonists, at the Miramar Hotel.

RAIL SUPPORT GROUP FORMING

A San Luis Obispo-based group, called "Friends of the Railroad," is now organizing. Its stated purpose is the retention of the San Luis train station as a working

S.P. home terminal and improved community awareness of the Southern Pacific Coast Line. Members include active and retired railroad employees, rail fans, and others. For more information, you may contact Pat Doolette, 1845 Hays St., San Luis Obispo, CA 93401.

