



Goleta

DEPOT DISPATCH



Newsletter of the Goleta Depot Railroad Museum

Volume 8, Number 1 — Spring, 1988

Summer Program Announced

The museum plans to run the miniature trains this summer on alternate Saturdays through the months of July, August, and September. Rides will begin each day at 11 a.m., with the ticket window closing at 3 p.m. and trains continuing until all ticket-holders have been accommodated.

An important addition to our program this year is the planned purchase by the museum of a gasoline-powered "diesel" engine to complement the steam locomotives brought by members and friends. Last year's experience taught us that at least two engines were needed on a regular basis to handle the large crowds that flocked to the museum each week to enjoy the little train rides. A diesel version was selected because it would not be as labor-intensive as the steamers and was more realistic financially. Proceeds from the Asphalt Regatta fundraiser in March (see below) will be used to make this important new museum acquisition.

New Museum Group Forming

The museum is now organizing a new volunteer group which will be responsible for running our summer program of miniature train rides. The group is open to anyone who is interested and able to help with this important museum activity. For further information, please contact the Institute office.

Asphalt Regatta Almost Here

The Seventh Annual Institute for American Research Asphalt Regatta will be held on Saturday, March 12 at Goleta Beach County Park, beginning at 10 a.m. The money raised this year from the "walk-jog-bike-a-thon" will be used to purchase a 1-1/2-inch scale diesel locomotive to help pull the trains during the

museum's busy summer program. A target of \$7,000 has been set for this year's Regatta.

The Asphalt Regatta has become the major fundraiser of the Goleta Depot Railroad Museum. In years past, it has financed many successful projects, including construction of the standard-gauge track in front of the depot (Regatta '85) and development of the miniature train ride (1986). Proceeds from last year's event are being applied to the restoration of the museum caboose.

As in the past, there will be valuable prizes for the participants bringing in the greatest pledge amounts. Glendale Federal Savings and Home Savings of America are donating this year's prizes, thanks to the efforts of branch managers Virginia Myers and Iris Ellis, who will be making the presentations at the annual dinner.

If you would like to join in the fun and at the same time help the museum buy its diesel locomotive, please contact Phyllis Olsen (964-3549) weekday afternoons for further information. If you can't take part in person, please consider sponsoring one of the participants with a pledge.

Trailer Needed for Track Storage

We are looking for a small trailer that can be used to store the portable track from the miniature train ride during the off-season. Presently, the track is being kept on a trailer that Gene Allen has generously loaned to the museum on a temporary basis. If you have an old trailer (regardless of condition or road-readiness) or trailer parts that you are willing to donate to the museum, please give Gene (967-2095) or the office a call.



DISPATCH QUIZ

... a series of questions — about Goleta Depot, our museum, or railroading in general — for the enjoyment and edification of our readers. Those sending in the most correct answers will be eligible to win a gift membership in their name for a friend or loved one.

Answers to last issue's questions: 1. The museum's caboose is numbered 4023; 2. A ten-wheeler has six drive wheels; 3. The Coast Starlight runs between Seattle and Los Angeles.

Here are this issue's questions:

1. Which of the following might be considered the "parent" of the Southern Pacific RR?
a) Central Pacific; b) Union Pacific; c) Santa Fe
2. In which year did the Goleta Depot Committee receive the Golden Deed Award, Goleta's highest community service award.
3. In which spring month does the museum set the freight office clock ahead to adjust for Daylight Savings Time?

The Rules: ✉ Write your answers on a plain piece of paper and mail them to: Dispatch Quiz, Goleta Depot Railroad Museum, 300 N. Los Carneros Rd., Goleta, CA 93117. To be eligible, entries must be received by March 15, 1988. In case of multiple correct entries, a random drawing will determine the winner.

San Diego Trip Still on Hold

The museum is still planning a San Diego rail excursion and — the last we heard — Amtrak is too! Unfortunately, the inaugural date for the new service keeps getting postponed. The report from State Senator Gary Hart's office is that the latest delays are due to the need for an easement from the Fess Parker Red Lion Inn to allow electrical lines to be run to the train's overnight storage area in the old Santa Barbara freight yard. Apparently, the push-pull equipment is already being used on the Santa Fe portion of the route, between Los Angeles and San Diego.

It is possible that service to Santa Barbara will begin before the end of March, but the smart money here is betting on an early April start to coincide with the publication of Amtrak's next "National Train Timetable."

The museum trip will take place on the first day of service, which we hope will fall on a weekend or holiday. It will be a one-day roundtrip, departing Santa Barbara about 8 a.m. and returning about 10 p.m., with two hours, more or less, stayover in San Diego. The adult fare is still less than \$50, while children 11 and under will ride for about \$25.

For Information or ...

Call 964-3549 or 964-3540, weekdays 1-5.

We have enough people signed up now to fill half a car and we'd like to make it an entire car exclusively for the museum. If you wish to add your name to the reservations list, or if you have any questions, please call the Institute office.

Members Recognized — Both New and Renewed

Welcome to our newest members: Juliet C. Folger, Josiah F. Jenkins, Ray Kornell, and Mr. and Mrs. Q.L. Richard. We hope that you will find your association with the museum and the Institute both enjoyable and rewarding. Also, longtime members Gene and Alma Allen have elected to become Life Members.

Continuing members have been especially good this year about getting their renewals in early. To date, over 60% have already renewed for 1988. If you are among the tardy minority, you will see the notice "memb. due" at the top of your envelope address label. Please send in your dues right away and help keep the museum on track and running under a full head of steam!

Holiday Toy Train Exhibit Delights

Many thanks to Gene Allen, Bob Burtness, and Ernest Thomsen for their help in assembling our toy train display for the holiday season. Gene's antique toy live-steam locomotives garnered many "oohs" and "ahs," and Bob's and Ernie's O-gauge Lionel and Marx equipment around the Christmas tree added some terrific action to the scene. Many dads were overheard explaining to their children that the twice-HO-sized equipment "was the kind of electric train I had when I was a boy."

Annual Dinner Set for May

The Annual Dinner of the Institute for American Research and the Goleta Depot Railroad Museum will be held on Thurs. May 19 at the Holiday Inn, 5650 Calle Real, Goleta. The social hour will begin at 6:30 with dinner served at 7:30. Tickets are \$13.

This year marks the 20th Anniversary of the Institute, and a special dinner program is planned. In addition to the regular fare of awards, accolades, and announcements, we will have as our special guest Dr. William Doelle, director of the Institute's Arizona

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PORTRAIT OF A MUSEUM VOLUNTEER

Albert Jaramillo was born in Goleta on the Bishop Ranch, where his father worked and his family lived for 35 years. Like many Goleta children, young Albert used to hang around the depot, sitting on the dock watching the trains come in, an experience sometimes heightened in the warm months by the ripe pleasures of a watermelon purloined from a nearby patch.

Staff Sergeant Al Jaramillo left the Army after World War II in 1947, to marry his high-school sweetheart, Alice Venegas. Today, the Jaramillos have two daughters, Berta and Janie Christina, and a grandson, two-year-old David. Little David loves the depot, especially the caboose, so grandma Alice brings him for a museum visit about once a week.

Al has worked for County Flood Control for 21 years. He enjoys watching TV and reading. He is also involved with several local organizations, including the Boards of Directors of Old Spanish Days and of the Alpha Training Center. He is also active with the Puerta Vallarta Sister City program and the Native Sons of the Golden West, of which he is a past-president.

Al first came into contact with the museum when the Native Sons dedicated a commemorative plaque here in 1983. Since then, he has taken on the responsibility of landscaping and maintaining the area immediately around the rock that bears the Native Sons' plaque. Over the last year or so, Al has also done most of the mowing around the depot.

Through his connections at Flood Control, he has helped the museum to acquire fill dirt for its track construction projects and assisted with weed control around the track rights-of-way.

A kind, soft-spoken, hard-working volunteer, Al Jaramillo is one of the museum family's most indispensable members.



Al Jaramillo

branch, who will share with us some of the archaeological and historical work that the Institute has been doing in the Tucson Basin area.

Please make your reservations now, by calling the Institute office any weekday afternoon.

Recent Museum Acquisitions Grace Agent's Apartment

Gene and Alma Allen have given the museum a handsome china cabinet to help toward the furnishing of the agent's apartment upstairs in the depot.

The effort to re-create this period space was greatly assisted last year, when the museum received a number of pieces from the Agnes O. Hove Trust, including a

buffet, two small tables, an antique radio, a homemade plant stand, a lovely Victrola with a rare hardwood trumpet, and a number of miscellaneous household items.

Phyllis Olsen Joins Landmarks Group

The Board of Supervisors has appointed Phyllis Olsen, Assistant Director of the Institute, to the County Historical Landmarks Advisory Committee. Phyllis was nominated by Second District Supervisor Tom Rogers.

The landmarks committee is responsible for identifying buildings and sites within the county that are of significant historical, architectural, aesthetic, or cultural value. There are currently 27 county landmarks, including Goleta Depot. The Institute has published books or essays on six of these historic places.

Titles Added to Bookshop Line

A number of new books and other items have been added to the Museum Bookshop. These include "The Cable Car in America" by G.W. Hilton, George Abdill's "A Locomotive Engineer's Album," Frederick Shaw's "Little Railways of the World," and "The Railroad that Ran by the Tide" by Raymond Feagans.

Kids will enjoy the full-color "Old Fashioned Train" to cut and assemble from Dover. The bookshop also regularly carries two other favorites with the youngsters, the "Antique Locomotives Coloring Book" and "The Young Railroaders Book of Steam." The latter is suitable for all ages and is an excellent, inexpensive



"There's an express due in ten minutes. You guys better make tracks!"

basic guide to steam locomotives.

The museum also still has a few copies of three publications prepared for the railroad centennials celebrated last year in Santa Barbara and Los Olivos: David F. Myrick's excellent "Santa Barbara County Railroads", the popular "Santa Barbara Railroad Centennial 1887-1987" by Hal Conklin, and Jim Norris' "Los Olivos: End of the Pacific Coast Railway Line," celebrating the completion of the P.C.Ry.

Negus Becomes Events Chair

Christine Negus, a museum docent for many years and a member of the Institute Board of Directors, has been chosen chairman of our new Events Committee. This group will be responsible for organizing all Institute events, including Depot Day, the annual dinner, and Asphalt Regatta, among others. Persons who are interested in serving on this key committee are encouraged to contact the Institute office.

Volunteers Sought for Weekend Staffing Assignments

We are looking for more volunteers to help staff the museum on Saturdays and Sundays. Two types of volunteers give of their time so that young and old may enjoy the museum's many attractions and features.

The *docents* give tours of the historical landmark, explaining the depot's role in community life, describing its active early years with the railroad and later efforts to save and restore the abandoned building, and sharing the museum's programs and future plans.

The *agents* re-create the job of the stationmaster or depot agent. They open and close the building (mark-

ing the action by raising and lowering the train-order boards), answer questions, operate the depot's communications and other equipment, and perform other tasks analogous to those once done by their namesakes with the railroads.

New agents and docents may expect to choose to staff either once a month or once every three months.

If you are interested in training to become an agent or a docent, please contact Gary Coombs or Phyllis Olsen at the museum.

For Information or ...

Call 964-3549 or 964-3540, weekdays 1-5.

Mary Lou Williamson Elected Historical Society President

Member Mary Lou Williamson has been elected president of the Board of Directors of our neighbor, the Goleta Valley Historical Society, which operates Stow House and the Horace Sexton Museum. Congratulations and best wishes, Mary Lou, for a productive and fulfilling term in office!

Agents and Docents to Meet

There will be a meeting of the all docents and agents on Saturday, Feb. 27, at the museum at 10 a.m.

Dispatch Needs Staff Support

Assembling the *Depot Dispatch* each quarter is a rewarding but laborious job. Members can assist in its preparation in several ways.

Graphics are constantly needed to enhance each issue. If you have access to small line art, similar to that found in this issue (which was supplied by Bonnie Adams), please contact Gary Coombs.

News and news ideas are also sought. Appropriate subjects are our museum, other rail museums, local or Southern Pacific railroad history, or current railroad topics.

Gary is also eager to find others who are interested in sharing the duties of writing the various articles and features for the *Dispatch*.

Coming Events

March 12: Asphalt Regatta
 March 15: Deadline for entries in the
 Dispatch Quiz
 May 19: Annual Dinner, Holiday Inn

