



Goleta

DEPOT DISPATCH

Newsletter of the Goleta Depot Railroad Museum

Volume 9, Number 4 — Winter 1989

Museum Programs Need Volunteers

The museum has a pressing need for more volunteers to help staff many of its programs. Calls for volunteers are not new to the *Depot Dispatch*, but this is the first time that the request has been the lead article — a spot usually devoted to the museum's most important news. We hope this precedent adequately emphasizes how vital the recruitment of new volunteers is.

All volunteers contribute at least three hours one afternoon each month. Many work this minimum; others give two or more afternoons a month. Some schedule themselves for the same day(s); others prefer to arrange their time differently each month or to be "on call."

The greatest needs at this time are for additional tour guides, who share the museum and historical landmark with visitors on Saturday afternoons, and "agents," the men and women who keep the museum open Wednesday thru Sunday each week. Persons to help staff the Museum Shop on weekend afternoons are also needed.

Other volunteer "occupations" at the museum include those who operate the miniature train ride (now running the second Saturday of every month), the handcar (on third Saturdays), and those who show the model railroad exhibit to visitors. The museum can always use more help in these areas, as well.

All regular volunteers are members of the Museum Docent Association. Docent training includes an initial 3-hour orientation and a guided tour, plus additional specialized training depending upon the area(s) of activity that the volunteer has selected.

If you are interested in joining this terrific bunch of people, or if you'd like more information, please contact the museum office (964-3540) and speak with Phyllis Olsen, docent coordinator; or ask any member of the Docent Association how you can help.

Junior Engineers Club Begins

On Depot Day, the museum inaugurated a new program, the Junior Engineers Club, which is being made possible by the Earl and Rose Ann Hill Education Fund.

CALENDAR OF MUSEUM EVENTS

DECEMBER:

9th (Sat.): Miniature train rides. 1 to 4 p.m.

16th (Sat.): Handcar rides. 1 to 4 p.m.

18th (Mon.): Holiday Party: 7-9 p.m.

JANUARY:

Every Sunday: Film: "Confessions of A Train Spotter." 1:30 and 2:45 p.m.

13th (Sat.): Miniature train rides. 1 to 4 p.m.

20th (Sat.): Handcar rides. 1 to 4 p.m.

FEBRUARY

10-11th: "Sweetheart Special" to San Diego.

10th (Sat.): Miniature train rides. 1 to 4 p.m.

17th (Sat.): Handcar rides. 1 to 4 p.m.

This new category of membership is open to boys and girls through age 15. All Club members receive the *Depot Dispatch*, including a special "Fun Page" just for Junior Engineers; a complimentary ride on the miniature train; a 10% discount in the Museum Shop; and a Junior Engineers Club membership card. Other benefits, including exclusive Club opportunities with the model trains and handcar are also being planned.

The museum is also starting a Junior Engineers Club section on the Goleta Depot freight office bulletin board, where we will be posting Club news and submissions from members, including snapshots of the Junior Engineers, themselves.

Annual dues are \$10 (\$5 if the family already has a regular membership and a second *Dispatch* is not needed). An application form is enclosed for those who wish to enroll a friend, relative, or loved one.

Wouldn't this make a great gift for *your* favorite Junior Engineer!

Holiday Party On December 18

The Museum Docent Association cordially invites all members and their guests to a Holiday Party and Tree-Trimming at the museum on Monday, December 18, from 7 until 9 p.m. A variety of delicious and festive refreshments will be waiting just for you. Don't forget the Goleta Depot tradition of bringing a personalized ornament for the tree! If you like, you may also bring a packaged or canned food, which will be given to the Council of Christmas Cheer for distribution.

Come see your old Depot friends and meet some new ones, too. Join the fun!

— Theresa Caccese

Handcar Project Report

The handcar was finished in early October, just in time for Depot Day and other Goleta Valley Days events. It was tested briefly on the museum tracks Oct. 11, performing faultlessly. Three days later, it was showcased in the Goleta Valley Days parade, on a splendid float designed and executed by members of the 1989 handcar team.

Then, on Depot Day, the new rail car saw its first real service — a baptism of fire during which it carried several hundred riders. At the start of the event, a brief ceremony was held to unveil the car and acknowledge those who contributed toward its realization. In the spotlight were Gene Allen, Ralph Moore, and Bob Mahan (who along with Orient-traveler Jim Higman were responsible for the labor), who took the car on its ceremonial maiden voyage.

Such recognition must always fall short of fully thanking those who give so much of their time and skills. Ralph alone contributed 60 hours of fine carpentry; Jim spent 40 hours cutting and turning the gears; Bob gave 36 hours to craft the



Our "float" observed parade's nautical theme.

pump lever; and Gene donated an incredible 154 hours — drawing plans, fabricating additional parts, and coordinating the overall effort. Bravo to all four men on their extraordinary achievement and their wonderful gift to the museum!

The handcar also owes its existence to the generous donations of many members and friends. Those who have contributed to the Handcar Fund since the last *Dispatch* include George and Helen Adams, Carolin Allbright, Robert L.

Bevier, Sue Borgatello, Michael and Louise Caccese, Mr. and Mrs. L. Caccese, Paul and Mary Conover, Bill Crow, Dave and Bonnie Frazier, Marlies Harris, Dave and Jane Hieter, Earl and Rose Ann Hill, James McCulloch, and Ernest and Metta Thomsen. Several of these represent second contributions.

The final handcar project costs were \$1,643.36. Donations to date have reached \$1,106.00, leaving a deficit of \$537.36 in the Handcar Fund. Persons wishing to make a tax-deductible donation may still do so, either by including it with your membership renewal or sending it separately to: Goleta Depot Railroad Museum, P.O. Box 2125, Goleta, CA 93118.

Membership Renewal Time Is Here

Year's end means that it's time once again for members to recast their vote of confidence in the Goleta Depot Railroad Museum and other programs of the Institute for American Research by renewing their memberships for another term.

Each year, memberships and the additional contributions of members make up nearly 10% of the Goleta Depot Railroad Museum's annual budget. Needless to say, the museum could never have achieved its past successes — nor could we look forward to new ones in the future — were it not for the caring support of our members.

Please use the enclosed envelope for your renewal. Those of you who thoughtfully renew early and without need of subsequent reminders really do the museum an added service, by saving printing and postage costs and labor. Your assistance is much appreciated!

If you are an Endowment Donor or Life Member, or if your membership is good through 1990, please pass the envelope on to someone else, or use it to make an additional tax-deductible contribution.

Rail Film Highlights Sundays in January

The museum will show a film, *Confessions of a Train Spotter*, every Sunday in January. The 60-minute film stars Michael Palin, of the Monty Python comedy troupe, who takes us on a coast-to-coast trip through England and Scotland, including a run on the venerable *Flying Scotsman* and a cab ride in British Rail's wonder train, *Inner-City*. The 1981 film is one of the BBC's "Great Railway Journeys of the World" series, which was shown in edited form on PBS.

There will be showings at 1:30 and 2:45 each Sunday afternoon. The film is free, but seating is quite limited, so you are encouraged to call ahead to reserve seats.

The monitor and playback equipment were purchased with income from the Richard and Georgia Thomas Endowment Fund.

Thanks Home Savings

The October-long window display at Home Savings' office on Calle Real was a real eye-catcher and brought many visitors to the museum. Thanks to Home Savings, which has

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Photos courtesy of Dave Hieter.
Printing courtesy of Kimberly Press, Goleta.

recently relocated to larger facilities on South Patterson Avenue, and to branch manager Iris Ellis for this latest assistance to the museum.

Monthly Handcar and Train Rides Slated

In November, the Museum began offering rides on the handcar and miniature train as a regular monthly attraction. The trains are now running on the second Saturday of each month from 1 to 4 p.m., while the handcar operates every third Saturday during the same hours.

The trains will be pulled by No. 1316, the museum's new



The miniature train is fun for all ages.

diesel-prototype yard engine (steam equipment will be reserved for the summer program). Tickets are \$1 and will be available at the museum on the event days.

The handcar rides are free, which we hope will attract more museum visitors. This nostalgic excursion into yesteryear is suitable for young and old, but persons with balance problems and children under 40 inches tall will not be able to ride.

New Annual Report Available

Copies of the 1988 Annual Report are now available. A new feature in this latest Annual Report is a listing of all donors of goods, services, or money. The 16-page, illustration-filled report again includes a listing of all members and volunteers, as well as a summary of all programs and activities conducted during the year.

Members may pick up their copies in the Museum Shop, Wednesday through Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. Or, if you are outside of the area or if visiting the museum represents a hardship, please notify us and one will be mailed to you.

Groundskeepers Applauded

People who work behind the scenes at the museum are just as important as those in the limelight. Of no one is this more true than Albert Jaramillo, who has devoted countless weekend hours — usually at the break of dawn — raking, sweeping, planting, and watering to help make the museum grounds more attractive. The area around the Native Sons' plaque along the entry walk has long received special attention from Al, a member of the Native Sons who was instrumental in their 1983 commemorative ceremony here.

Al also has been arranging for County Flood Control to donate and deliver wood chips, which are being used for ground cover at the museum. On Saturday, Nov. 11, Hilda Volkman, Dave Hieter, and Chuck Hieter all helped to spread

a recently-delivered load of the chips.

Another volunteer who has made an important difference to the museum grounds is Anna Dato. President of the Institute Board of Trustees, Anna has been caring for the flower bed in front of the Museum Shop. Her husbandry has made an important difference for another "first impression" area with museum visitors.

Magazine Story Extols Event

Have you seen the article on the museum and Depot Day '88, which appeared in the October '89 issue of *Live Steam*, the national magazine of miniature railroading? The 3-page feature by Fred Lehmborg mentions several of D-Day's volunteers, including Steve Kramer, Allan Cooley, Hilda Volkman, Gene Allen, Jim Higman, Bob Mahan, Chuck Sherlock, and Bill Everett. The 11 photographs contain many familiar faces, as well as a full range of Depot Day scenes.

Our Shop has copies of the issue, for sale or browsing.

Projects Day Planned

After a hiatus of about 12 months, the museum is renewing a schedule of regular work Saturdays. The first installment will be January 13, running from 9 a.m. until noon. A variety of activities is planned, from special projects, to repair work, to housekeeping — and all kinds of help are needed, from skilled hands to those who are all thumbs.

If you can give an hour or more, please contact Gene Allen (967-2095), who is organizing the work force, or the museum office (964-3540); or you may simply show up on the day.

A regular work program is vital to preserving the historical landmark, not to mention maintaining the museum and advancing its programs.

Docents Saluted

The museum would be a mere shadow of itself without the hard work of its caring docents. The newly-formed Docent Association, which has been meeting monthly since May, has given the cadre of museum volunteers some new responsibilities and the makings of a sound organization for fulfilling them, under the capable leadership of Paul Conover, chairman, and Theresa Caccese, secretary.

Other Association members include Lynn Alderman, Gene Allen, Edee Brown, Bob Burtness, Allan Cooley, Bill Everett, Dave Hieter, Jane Hieter, Al Jaramillo, Stella Kramer, Steve Kramer, Bob McNeel, Charlotte Moore, Chuck Sherlock, John Marshall Starr, Ernest Thomsen, Hilda Volkman, and Ed Winnewisser.

Docents-in-training are Gordon Hawley, Helen Jeffares, Mildred Kern, Al Petty, George Potter, John Schaller, and Stu Wallace.

Larry Caccese, who hasn't been successfully recruited into the Association to date, continues to assist with projects, nevertheless. His latest triumph is the repair of one of the waiting-room door deadbolts, a feisty lock which has caused at least a half-dozen 3 a.m. false alarms over the years — much to the displeasure of neighbors, sheriff's deputies, and chagrined members of the museum family.

Rail Riders News Available At Museum

The museum is now a distribution point for the *California Rail News*, the tabloid newspaper published by the Train Riders Association of California. The *News* contains lots of useful information about changes in passenger trains and rail systems within the state. The October-November issue, for example, includes an article on the second *San Diegan* to

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serve Santa Barbara, scheduled to begin early next year, and a discussion of current efforts to bring back the coast overnight train, the *Spirit of California*, which was cancelled in 1983, to the dismay of many rail travelers.

The newspaper is available free to all museum visitors.

New Depot T-Shirt, Other Holiday Gift Ideas Abound At Museum Shop

Don't forget the Museum Shop when you prepare your Christmas and holiday gift lists. In addition to its fine selection of local history and railroad titles, the shop carries a variety of other gift items, including the new Goleta Depot Railroad Museum T-Shirt.

Come and see the new soft-cover version of *Mule Car and Trolley: The Story of the Santa Barbara Street Railway*, by Bill Everett and Gary Coombs. It retails for only \$7.50.

As a holiday special, all members may receive a 20% discount on *Mule Car and Trolley* and all other Institute for American Research publications through the end of December. Members' regular 10% discount still applies on all other Shop items except food and magazines.

Thanks To All Depot Day Helpers

Depot Day was again a success thanks to the help and hard work of many, many people. We would especially like to thank the Depot Day Committee members: Al Jaramillo, Bill McNally, Theresa Caccese, Diana Mina, Carroll Brown, Lynn Alderman, Hilda Volkman, and Gene Allen.

Also many thanks to the activity chairs: Gene Allen, who headed up the miniature train crew and supervised set-up; Al Jaramillo and his BBQ helpers from the Native Sons; Theresa Caccese and Diana Mina for the silent auction; Bill Mc-



Food and auction areas were busy on Depot Day.

Nally and his BBQ servers; Bill Everett and Chuck Sherlock of the model railroad exhibit; Ernest Thomsen for the steam display; Bob Mahan — the speeder; Lani Hendrick — baked goods and lemonade; Sandy Filipello — hot dogs and soda; Bill and Janis Shinn — popcorn and balloons; Carroll Brown — admissions; and Dave and Jane Hieter — the dynamic duo of the handcar.

And many thanks to all the others who put in so much time and effort — many of them doing double and triple duty: John Strickley, Christine Negus, Bob Beyer, Bob Burtness, Stella Kramer, Paul and Mary Conover, Allan Cooley, Steve Kramer, Mildred Kern, Ed Winnewisser, Shirley Morrison (Storytime was a great success!), Lani Strobel, Susan Strobel, Ruth Smith, Ralph Moore, Dick and Wendy Shelton, Ernest Woods, Lee and Suzanne Polansky, Chuck Hieter,

Judy Savage, Barbara Cornish, Ida Rickborn, Robert and Louise Prottengeier, Ellery and Doris Smythe, Jim and Lyla Allen, Ron Hlinka, John Starr (who came all the way from



Rides on the new handcar were a Depot Day hit.

China Lake to help), Bob McNeel, Shirley Foley, Charlene Doty, Virginia Myers, Steve Sullivan, Vivian Fisher, Helen Coffey, Jeannine Priester, Judy Johnson, Jennifer Denier, Nathan Graybill, Carl and Helen Bockhorst, Florence McNally, Sam Caccese, and the Dos Pueblos H.S. Jr. ROTC, under Sgt. Major Dick Montalvo.

And, of course, Institute Executive Director Gary Coombs and Asst. Director Phyllis Olsen, without whose guidance nothing would get accomplished.

Also thanks to the many merchants and friends who gave to the auction and toward food and set-up items. Their donations contributed greatly to the success of the event.

Thanks so much to all of you. We had fun and we hope you did too! See you next year!

— Anna Dato and Edee Brown,
Co-Chairs, Depot Day 1989

(Anna and Edee devoted many hours, themselves, to make this year's event a success. Ed.)

"Sweetheart Special" Departs Feb. 10

Returning in 1990, by popular demand, is our overnight "Sweetheart Special" train to San Diego on Feb. 10-11. A Valentine's Day theme will again highlight the event.

Accommodations include roundtrip custom-class seating aboard Amtrak's *San Diegan* and Saturday night lodging at the Best Western-Columbia. The hotel is within walking distance of the Maritime Museum, and shopping at Seaport Village or the downtown Horton Plaza Centre. The tour's open schedule will allow travelers time both Saturday afternoon and Sunday to enjoy these or other San Diego area sites and attractions, either alone or with others in the group.

Costs are \$114 per person double occupancy and \$139 single, which includes rail fares, lodging and taxes, and transportation between the hotel and train station in San Diego. For further information or reservations, contact the museum office, 964-3540, any weekday afternoon.

Last year's *Special* filled up very quickly, so members are urged to take advantage of the advanced notice they receive in the *Depot Dispatch* and make their reservations early before announcements of the trip appear in the media.