



Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH

Newsletter of the Goleta Depot Railroad Museum

Volume 10, Number 1 — Spring 1990

Asphalt Regatta Will Be March 17

The 9th Annual Asphalt Regatta will take place on Saturday, March 17, beginning at 10 a.m. All money raised from the "walk-jog-bike-a-thon" will be used for the Goleta Depot Railroad Museum.

Several changes distinguish the 1990 Regatta from its eight predecessors. For the first time, the event is being moved from its traditional Goleta Beach course to the museum grounds and the surrounding Lake Los Carneros County Park.

The change in location is due to another change: the addition of the museum handcar to the list of participating modes of travel. A group of museum members and friends, headed by Dave Hieter, will attempt to power the car a total of 20 miles back and forth on the Goleta Depot tracks. Anyone who is interested may join this effort by contacting the museum at 964-3540.

Beginning this year, the Regatta becomes a Board of Trustees event, and Board members are going all out to make this year's fundraiser the most successful ever. The trustees have set a personal goal of \$3,000 (1/3 of the \$9,000 total) for themselves and have issued a friendly challenge to the Docent Association to match their feat.

A new pledge/participation form is also being sent to all members, in an effort to get more of the rank-and-file membership involved in this, the museum's most important annual fundraising event.

Please complete and return this form at your earliest convenience.

Annual Dinner Set For May 2

The Holiday Inn, 5650 Calle Real, Goleta, will again be the setting for the 1990 Annual Dinner on Wednesday, May 2.

Social hour begins at 6:30, with dinner slated for

CALENDAR OF MUSEUM EVENTS

MARCH:

- 10th (Sat.): Miniature train rides. 1 to 4 p.m.
- 17th (Sat.): ASPHALT REGATTA —10 to noon
- 17th (Sat.): Handcar rides. 1 to 4 p.m.

APRIL:

- 14th (Sat.): Projects Day. 9 to noon.
- 14th (Sat.): Miniature train rides. 1 to 4 p.m.
- 21st (Sat.): Handcar rides. 1 to 4 p.m.

MAY

- 2nd (Wed.): ANNUAL DINNER. Holiday Inn. 6:30 to 9 p.m. Holiday Inn, Goleta.
- 12th (Sat.): Miniature train rides. 1 to 4 p.m.
- 19th (Sat.): Handcar rides. 1 to 4 p.m.

7:30. Tickets are \$18.50, which includes the meal, dinner beverage, tax, and gratuity.

A good program and lots of door prizes are planned. Don't miss this one! For reservations, call 964-3540.

Docent Reps Attend Symposium

Two members of the Museum Docent Association, Gene Allen and Theresa Caccese, attended a one-day conference at the Los Angeles Museum of Natural History on January 22. The conference summarized the results of the 1989 National Docent Symposium. It contained lots of useful information to aid docents in sharing their museum with the public. Among the topics: the docent's educational role, preventing docent "burnout", working with handicapped visitors, and ways to evaluate docent performance.

The Goleta Depot Railroad Museum is a member of

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the Docent League of Southern California, which sponsored the conference with the Museum Educators of Southern California.

Local Experts Aid With Exhibits

Norman Ikeda, Curator of Exhibits at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, and members of his Exhibits Department, have been assisting our staff in the selection of appropriate lighting for the model railroad exhibit.

This isn't the first time that we've gotten help from people associated with the Museum of Natural History. Ray Strong, who developed many of the natural history museum's lifelike exhibit dioramas, consulted with our staff and Hilda Volkman, before Hilda started her monumental effort of creating the scenic backdrop for the model railroad room.

Docents Make Holiday Party The Best In Years

On Dec. 18, for the first time, the Docent Association took on the task of hosting the annual holiday party. The result was one of the nicest holiday gatherings



Jr. Engineer Robert Adams points out "choo-choo train."

we've had at the depot. It was also the best-attended Christmas party; about 100 members and guests came. They were treated to delicious hors d'oeuvres and holiday goodies, prepared by the docents, and the good company of fellow museum friends.

Special thanks are extended to Theresa Caccese and Gene Allen, who really did the lion's share of the preparations and clean-up, and to Paul Conover, Jane Hieter, and Hilda Volkman, who assisted with the festive decorations.

Junior Engineer's Page Features Reading List On Trains

The current issue of the Junior Engineer's Club Fun Page contains a list of books on trains and railroads that are suitable for pre-schoolers and young readers.

The list was compiled and carefully annotated by Shirley Morrison, Children's Librarian at the central branch of the Santa Barbara Public Library. All of the books are available through the Santa Barbara Public Library system and most can also be found at other libraries or through bookstores. Thank you, Shirley, for all of your help!

Incidentally, the public library's Summer Reading Program for children, which the railroad museum participated in last year, will begin again in June, on the first Saturday after the public schools close. Contact your local library branch for details.

Relocated Docents Are Missed

When two of the museum's most devoted docents, John Starr and Nathan Gonzales, moved out of the area, it looked as if we might never see them again. Happily, neither was ready to sever their ties with the museum or the Docent Association despite the obstacle of distance.

Nathan, who now lives in Fresno, was here for the Christmas party and has been around more than once since his move to help share the museum with visitors. Incidentally, back in July, when he was still living in Ventura County, Nathan prepared a temporary exhibit of railroad artifacts and memorabilia at the Camarillo Public Library. The display included a switch lantern borrowed from the Goleta Depot Railroad Museum collections.

John Starr now resides in Ridgecrest, Calif., but he made the trip here to serve as tour docent on Dec. 29th and he's already signed up to work every fifth Saturday in 1990 (March 31, June 30, Sept. 29, and Dec. 29). Be sure to drop by and say "hi" to John on one of those days if you get a chance!

We miss not having Nathan and John around all the time, but it really means a lot to have them remain active members of the Docent Association.

Film Delights January Visitors

Sundays in January at the museum were highlighted by the showing of *Confessions of A Train Spotter*, a 60-minute documentary of a coast-to-coast rail trip through England and Scotland from the *Great Railway Journeys* series. There were two showings each Sunday in the museum's 12-seat viewing room. About 100 visitors took advantage of the free program and reactions were generally quite favorable.

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Photo on page 3 courtesy of Dave Hieter.
Printing courtesy of Kimberly Press, Goleta.

We are now looking into the possibility of making documentary and feature films a regular part of the museum's overall program, including the upgrading of the present projection system.

New Members Welcomed

Greetings to all new members: James and Lyla Allen, Bob Beyer, Jack and Charleye Bradford, Carroll and Edee Brown, Bill and Bernie Buzin, Sam Caccese, Lisbeth Caccese, Leonard B. Evans, Joan and Jerry Fallert, Charles Gasper, Norman and Carrie Gordon, David Harmon, Marlies Harris, Gordon Hawley, John Hill, Ronald M. Hlinka, Helen Jeffares, Mildred Kern, Leonard and Judith Lewy, Robert S. MacLean, Linda Madix, Ryan Maloney, Dorothy F. Metcalf, Al Petty, George R. Potter, Jim Price, Bill Rehart, Mr. and Mrs. Ellery Smythe, Frank and Betty Swain, Jeffrey Trimble, Dr. and Mrs. Ernest Woods, Ronald W. Yates, and Alden E. Yund.

Charter members of the Junior Engineers Club are Robert Alan Adams, James Paul Betz, Tyler Caccese, Christopher Dato, Brandon Hyman, Amy Lambole, Josh Moore, and Russell Williams.

New Life Members include the Jack Cogan Family, Coldwell Banker Real Estate (Bob Ruccione), Mr. and Mrs. Walter Douglas, Goleta Development Inc. (Warren Johnson), Goleta Valley Athletic Club (Henry Schulte), Home Savings of America (Iris Ellis), Josiah F. Jenkins, Kinko's Graphics by Cole (Tom and Mary Cole), Ernest and Metta Thomsen, and Mike Williams.

Monthly Handcar and Miniature Train Rides Are Popular Addition

Since November, the museum has been giving rides on the handcar and miniature train one day each month during the regular museum hours of 1 to 4 p.m. The trains run every second Saturday and the handcar every third Saturday.

Train tickets are \$1, while the handcar ride is free. Both have been quite successful in attracting more visitors to the museum. Through January, ridership for both has averaged just over 100 persons per day. Gene Allen, who is Superintendent of the miniature railroad group, reports that, beginning with the Feb. 10 train run, a fancy new passenger ticket was being issued and all cars were using new knuckle couplers donated by Jim Higman.

Dave Hieter has been coordinating the handcar rides, assisted by other members from the 1989 handcar team: Ellery Smythe, Ron Hlinka, and Jim Allen.

Handcar Fund Nears Goal

New contributors to the Handcar Fund since the last *Depot Dispatch* are Christine Allen, Paul and Mary Conover, Anna Dato, and Christine Negus. In addition, about \$100 has been donated by museum visitors taking advantage of the free handcar rides given since Depot Day.

Donations to date total \$1,233, leaving a deficit of

only \$410.36 in the Handcar Fund (project costs were \$1,643.36). If you wish to make a tax-deductible donation to the Fund, please send your check to: Goleta Depot Railroad Museum, Attn: Handcar Fund, P.O. Box 2125, Goleta, CA 93118.

Docent Orientation Adds Eight To Association Ranks

The first orientation session of 1990 for new docents was held on January 20. The three-hour introduction to the museum and its programs was attended by Alma Allen, Bob Beyer, Edee Brown, Jack Cogan, Helen Jeffares, Mike Leska, Jim Moyer, and Al Petty.

The call for volunteers in the last *Depot Dispatch*, coupled with increased recruiting efforts by docents and staff alike, has been successful in attracting many new docents.

More Docents Are Needed; Next Orientation Slated For April

The next orientation for prospective museum docents will be held Tuesday, April 3, from 7 to 10 p.m.

If you or someone you know would like to learn more about the museum's docent program, please contact Phyllis Olsen, docent coordinator, at the museum (964-3540) any weekday afternoon.

Holiday Scene Captured By Docent-Photographer

Museum Docent Dave Hieter, who is a professional photographer locally, spent many chilly hours over two evenings during the holiday season, to take a picture of



Christmastime at Goleta Depot, 1989-90.

Goleta Depot lit by the Yule tree in the upstairs window bay. A black-and-white rendition of Dave's handwork is published here, while the handsome full-color

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original will hang in the film-screening room.

Many of Dave's photographs have appeared in recent Institute publications, including the *Depot Dispatch*, the 1988 Annual Report, and *Foothill Homestead*, the latest booklet in our *Publications in Local History* series.

Membership Renewal — Second Notice

Some members have not yet renewed their memberships for 1990. If you fall into this category, a reminder notice and return envelope are enclosed for your use. Please don't leave us "waiting at the station!"

All annual memberships expire on Dec. 31st each year.

Projects Day Report

The museum's Projects Day on January 13 was a solid success. A lot of work got done, although the much-needed rain that arrived that weekend did keep us from painting the caboose ends and making any progress toward electrifying the wig-wag signal.

Among the day's accomplishments: long-awaited painting in the baggage room and freight office; cleaning in the waiting room and upstairs, including floor mopping and waxing, and window washing; construction of a loading platform for the handcar; and track repair.

The Docent Association was especially well-represented in the work crew, which included Gene Allen, Jim Allen, Theresa Caccese, Paul Conover, Gary Coombs, Anna Dato, Dave Hieter, Jane Hieter, Ron Hlinka, Mildred Kern, Phyllis Olsen, and Hilda Volkman.

Gene Allen did his usual fine job of preparing for the day by making sure that all of the necessary tools and supplies were on hand.

April 14 Marks Next Projects Day

The next Projects Day will be held April 14, from 9 a.m. to noon. 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 just show up on the day.

A regular work program is vital to preserving the historical landmark, caring for the valuable artifacts entrusted to us, and maintaining the museum and advancing its programs.

G-Gauge Toy Train Adds Spark To Museum Shop

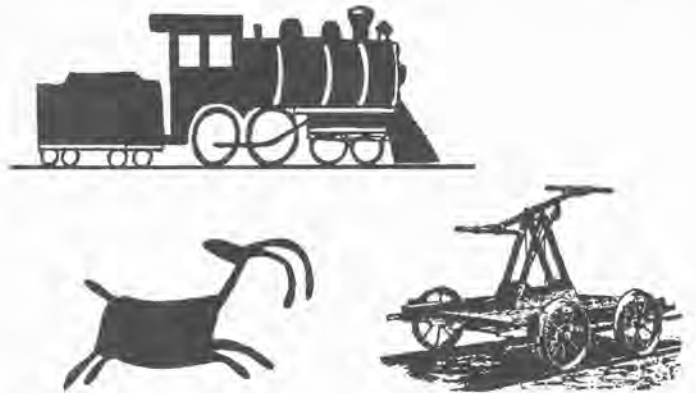
The next time you visit the museum, be certain to stop by the gift shop. Inside, your eyes will at once find the shop's newest addition — an LGB train chugging around the room just above door height. The large-scale train and its 50 feet of track were purchased with income from the Richard and Georgia Thomas Endowment Fund. The layout design was prepared and carried out by Gene Allen.

LGB toy train equipment is now sold at the Museum

Shop. Several new videotapes have also been added to the shop's selection since our last report, including the Buster Keaton classic, *The General*.

Member Assists With Graphics

Dana Trout of Trout Computing in Goleta has been helping computerize the railroad museum's logo and other frequently-used graphics. The process saves the museum a lot of time by allowing us to insert these graphics directly into the *Depot Dispatch* and other



publications without having to "paste-up" each illustration manually. Thanks to Dana for donating his technical skills and equipment to make this possible.

Sweetheart Special Report

Another successful "Sweetheart Special" rail trip to San Diego was completed on Feb. 10-11. Museum members in the group included Stu and Rachel Wallace, Hilda and Al Volkman, and John and Evelyn Schaller — all veterans of past museum rail excursions — and 25 other area residents, including Lucy Lee Christensen and Faithe Harter, who were on the inaugural *San Diegan* run out of Santa Barbara back in 1988. Museum Director Gary Coombs and Asst. Director Phyllis Olsen served as group escorts.

Onboard, there were festive decorations, Valentine's games, and a large assortment of prizes. John Schaller added to the fun by leading the group in two games — one on railroads and one with a Valentine-musical theme — both of which he devised. Hilda also assisted Gary and Phyllis in a number of ways.

This year there was a tie for "Sweetheart Couple", with the honors being shared by Eugene and Phyllis Fall, who were celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary, and Al and Hilda Volkman.

A group dinner on Saturday at Anthony's Harbor-side restaurant was partaken by 23 members of the group. Other San Diego activities enjoyed by the travelers, individually, were trolley trips to the border, a visit to Coronado, shopping at Horton Plaza and Seaport Village, tours of the Maritime Museum and Balboa Park, and a Sunday champagne brunch at the Westgate Hotel.