



Newsletter of the Goleta Depot Railroad Museum

Volume 10, Number 2 — Summer 1990

Museum Honored At White House

Director Gary Coombs was in Washington, D.C. on May 18, to accept a 1990 Institute of Museum Services Award on behalf of the Goleta Depot Railroad Museum.

The award presentation was held at the White House and was hosted by Mrs. George Bush. Following the South Lawn ceremony, there was a reception-tea in the First Lady's Garden, during which the President, himself, made a surprise appearance. Emerging from the White House shortly after Mrs. Bush had returned inside, he explained, "I asked my wife, *Who are all those people out on our lawn?*" When she told him, he just had to come out and say hello!

Our museum was one of only 390 museums, zoos, historic sites, botanic gardens, and science centers to receive this high recognition. The list of winners is a veritable *Who's Who* of American museum institutions. Among our more distinguished co-recipients: the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Monticello Home of (continued, see *White House*, p. 4)

"Another Steaming Summer" Is Here!

The little steam engines will come out of mothballs on June 23, the first day of *Another Steaming Summer*, the museum's popular mid-year event featuring miniature train rides and other fun things to do. The other three 1990 *Steaming Summer* Saturdays are July 28, August 25, and September 22.

The 1/8-size engines and cars will begin carrying passengers at 11 a.m., with the ticket window closing at 3:30 p.m. each day. Tickets for the one-third mile ride around the museum grounds are \$1.

Toyota of Santa Barbara, event sponsor for the third year, is offering complimentary ride tickets to persons 18 years or older visiting the car dealership, 5611 Hollister Avenue, Goleta, beginning June 16. Hats off to Denny Franks for his support again this year!

All other museum areas and attractions will be open

CALENDAR OF MUSEUM EVENTS

"ANOTHER STEAMING SUMMER"

Steam trains, food, and lots more!: June 23, July 28, Aug. 25, Sept. 22. Hours: 11 to 3:30

HANDCAR RIDES: June 16, July 21, Aug. 18, Sept. 15. Hours: Noon to 4 p.m.

MINIATURE TRAIN RIDES (diesel): July 14, Aug. 18, Sept. 15. Hours: Noon to 4 p.m.

FILMS: Every Sunday afternoon. Call Museum for titles & times (964-3540).

DEPOT DAY: Sunday, Oct. 21. The Museum's biggest day of the year!

MUSEUM HOURS: Expanded to noon to 4 p.m. through Labor Day.

throughout the event. Railroad films will be shown continuously each day on the museum's new rear-projection system. Rides on the museum handcar on selected run days are also planned.

The regularly-scheduled monthly miniature train rides every *second* Saturday will continue during the summer. Hours will be noon 'til 4 p.m., to correspond with the museum's expanded summer hours. Motive power will be provided by the museum's diesel-prototype yard engine, *No. 1316*, which will also help out on the Steaming Saturdays.

Lions Will Sell Hot Sandwiches During Steaming Summer

A highlight of this year's *Another Steaming Summer* event will be tri-tip sandwiches and hot dogs prepared

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and sold by the Goleta Lions Club, headed up by Bev Casselman. All proceeds will benefit the museum. Last year, the Lions prepared these delicious sandwiches on the last *Steaming Summer* day, and the response was so good that they offered to come back all four event days this year!

When you come to *Steaming Summer*, please let the Lions know how much we all appreciate their support by patronizing their table. You won't be disappointed.

Rail Trip for Library Youngsters Planned

The museum will again organize and lead a one-day Amtrak excursion in conjunction with the Summer Reading Program of the Santa Barbara libraries. This year's trip, on Wednesday, Aug. 15, will go all the way to Glendale, eclipsing last year's Simi Valley roundtrip. There will also be a storytime with a railroad theme, organized by Public Library staff.

Departure from Santa Barbara will be at 8 a.m., with a noon return scheduled. Fares are \$28.50 for adults and \$14.50 for children.

The program is made possible by the Earl and Rose Ann Hill Education Fund for Children's Programs.

Group size is limited to a total of 30 children and parents. Last year's group was filled within a few days of the public announcement. This year, however, museum members have a chance to make reservations early. If you are interested, or know of someone who might be, don't wait to call the museum.

Handcar Fund Update

Betty Bazzi has made a contribution to the Handcar Fund, raising the total gifts from members and friends to \$1,243. Still needed are \$400.36 to cover the project costs of \$1,643.36. The museum appreciates Mrs. Bazzi's donation and those of all earlier contributors.

The museum hopes to reach the target and close the Fund as soon as possible. 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.

Welcome 1990 Board of Trustees

New members of the Board of Trustees are Theresa Caccese, Dave Hieter, Jim Higman, Iris Ellis Lazare, John Marshall Starr, and Bill Wallace. All six were elected to initial two-year terms ending Dec. 31, 1991. They join continuing Board members Anna Dato, Gene Allen, and John Strickey. We wish all trustees a pleasant and productive time on the Board.

Corporate officers for 1990 are Dato, President; Allen, Vice-President; Strickley, Secretary; and Gary Coombs, Treasurer.

Film Program Expands With New Giant Projection System

The museum has acquired a 45-inch rear-projection system for sharing our growing railroad film library with museum visitors. This major purchase was made possible by the Richard and Georgia Thomas Endowment Fund.

The equipment was used to kick off a new museum program of regularly-scheduled Sunday film showings. To launch the new museum attraction, *The General*, Buster Keaton's classic silent film comedy, was shown every Sunday in April. This was followed in May by *Slow Train To Olympia*, about railroads in Greece.

Changing Trains, a 60-minute BBC film of rail travel from Paris to Budapest, is being shown Sundays in June at 1:30 and 2:45. July Sundays will feature *Terror By Night*, a Sherlock Holmes mystery which unfolds on the express train from London to Edinburgh. Showings for the Basil Rathbone/Nigel Bruce classic will be at 12:15, 1:30, and 2:45.

All films are free, but seating is limited, so you are urged to call ahead (964-3540) to make reservations. The viewing room is located off of the Museum Shop.

General rail films are also being shown continuously every Saturday during museum hours. Hundreds of weekend museum visitors have already enjoyed the films on the new equipment. We have also begun to show short films at the conclusion of the monthly Docent Assn. meetings.

New Report Lists Members, Volunteers, Donors, and Activities

The 1989 Annual Report is hot off the press! Its 10 pages are packed with information about museum activities and the Publications In Local History program. Also included are acknowledgments to all members, donors, and volunteers. A message from Board President Anna Dato summarizes the year completed and gives a future outlook.

Copies of the report are available to all members and friends in the Museum Shop. If you live outside the area or if coming to the museum is a hardship, please notify us and a copy will be mailed to you.

Asphalt Regatta Report

The 9th Annual Asphalt Regatta was held on Saturday, March 17. It was the first time that Lake Los Carneros County Park served as the site or that the museum handcar carried Regatta participants.

More people took part in this year's event than in any previous year. Participants included George and Helen Adams, Gene Allen, Jim Allen, Edee Brown, Nick and Renna Caccese, Sam Caccese, Theresa Caccese, Jack Cogan, Paul Conover, Gary Coombs, Anna Dato, Dave and Jane Hieter Family, Ron Hlinka, Al Jaramillo, Pat Jones, Helen Jeffares, Steve Kramer,

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Bill and Cyrus McNally, Diana Mina, John Murchison, Christine Negus, Phyllis Olsen, Lee and Suzanne Polansky, County Supervisor Tom Rogers, Bill and Janis Shinn, Ellery and Doris Smythe, John Starr, and Hilda Volkman. Support staff for the event were Alma



Regatta '90 amassed record participant group.

Allen and Mildred Kern. Gene and Alma did a great job designing and laying out the interesting course out in the park.

Pledges for the event totalled \$6,775, the second largest amount in Regatta history. Only the \$9,000+ raised in 1985 for the standard-gauge track construction was greater.

Much of this year's success was due to the friendly rivalry that developed between the Board of Trustees, the Docent Assn., and museum staff, following a challenge issued by Board President Anna Dato on behalf of the trustees. It was a photo-finish, with the staff narrowly coming out on top in the race for most pledge dollars, with the trustees and docents in close pursuit.

To encourage future competitions, Anna donated a perpetual Regatta trophy, which will be awarded to the most successful museum group each year. The trophy was first presented at the Annual Dinner, to staff members Phyllis Olsen and Gary Coombs.

Anna Dato and Nick Caccese received gift "Shopping Sprees" for being the most successful adult and youth fund-raisers among the Regatta's volunteer participants. Anna has been the top volunteer pledge-getter for as long as she has been involved with the event.

Depot Day Planning Begins

The first planning meeting for Depot Day '90 was held May 24. Chairpersons are still needed for a number of event areas and activities, including: Lemonade and Baked Goods, Setup, Handcar Rides, Steam Engine Display, Entertainment and Public Address, Parking, Decorations, Cleanup, Membership Table, Popcorn and Balloons, Toy Train Display, and others.

If you are interested in chairing any of these areas, if you are available to staff for two hours or more on Depot Day, or if you'd like more information on how you can help, please contact Phyllis Olsen, Depot Day Coordinator, at 964-3540 weekday afternoons. The continuation of Depot Day depends heavily on the efforts of museum members and friends.

Dos Pueblos Madrigals Repeat As Dinner Show-Stoppers

About 50 persons attended the Annual Dinner on May 2 at the Holiday Inn. They were treated to first-rate entertainment by the multi-talented Madrigal Singers from Dos Pueblos High School, under the able direction of Jack Huber. Later in the evening, Director Gary Coombs presented a slide show which spanned the history of the Depot Project and the museum.

Theresa Caccese Receives Sterling Award

At the Annual Dinner, the Sterling Award For Voluntary Service was presented to Theresa Caccese, the first woman to receive the honor. Past-Recipient Eugene Allen made the announcement and presented Theresa with the Award trademark, the distinctive sterling silver pin, rimmed in black, which bears a likeness of Goleta Depot.

Caccese was recognized for a wide range of volunteer services to the Goleta Depot Railroad Museum. She has been the backbone of the Museum Shop since becoming its first clerk in 1988. She has chaired the Depot Day auction and participated in Asphalt Regattas. When the Museum Docent Assn. was formed last year, she was chosen as the group's first secretary. She was recently elected to the Board of Trustees.

Theresa was also saluted for her unflagging good humor, for her willingness to pitch-in, and for getting her whole family involved in museum activities.

The Sterling Award was started in 1985, as a way of recognizing volunteers who have made exceptional contributions to the Institute for American Research, to further the Institute's goals of historic preservation, education, and research. Other previous recipients are Raymond Baird and Ralph Moore.

Projects Day Yields Museum Benefits

Important progress on a number of museum projects was made during the Projects Day on April 14. Some volunteers finished painting the museum restrooms, while others began the exterior painting of the caboose, over the recent "safety-orange" accents. Much-needed cleaning and housekeeping inside the historical landmark were completed. Wiring for the wig-wag signal was installed and the windows in the north gable were opened for the summer, to ventilate the attic and improve cooling within the building.

Workers on the day included Alma and Gene Allen, Jack Cogan, Paul Conover, Gary Coombs, Dave and Jane Hieter, Mildred Kern, Mike Leska, Ralph Moore, Phyllis Olsen, and Hilda Volkman.

Volunteers Advance Other Projects

Ernie Thomsen built a handsome "communications center", which gives each docent and staff member their own message slot. The new office furnishing should greatly improve communications within the Docent Assn. and between volunteers and staff.

Al Volkman has also been busy around the museum in recent months. After refinishing and painting

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several of the picnic tables around the grounds, Al restored an old hand-truck and a freight cart for display on the depot loading dock. The two artifacts were gifts of George Ogle of Santa Barbara.

Thanks to contributions of labor and equipment made by many persons and organizations (which have been previously acknowledged in the *Depot Dispatch*), the wig-wag signal now operates automatically seven days a week intermittantly between the hours of 1 and 4 p.m. Visitors young and old enjoy the signal's bell, blinking light, and wig-wag motion, which add sound and action to the station grounds.

Work on Handcar Shed Progresses

Gene Allen, with assistance from Ralph Moore, has been making good progress on the construction of the utility shed near the north end of the mainline tracks. When completed, the new 12x16-foot building will house the handcar and miniature train rolling stock. The construction follows approval by the County Park Dept. and Landmarks Committee, and environmental-impact evaluation. Designed by museum staff and volunteers, the rough board-and-batten building is a reconstruction patterned after historic Southern Pacific trackside utility buildings of the early 1900s.

Banner Construction Helps Again

Over the years, Banner Construction has made a number of valuable in-kind contributions to Goleta Depot in the form of land grading. After helping with some of the initial project grading in 1982, they returned with their heavy equipment three years later to level the ground in preparation for the standard-gauge track laying.

In May, Banner workers came back again, generously donating more than a full day of labor and equipment service. Digging of the foundation for the utility shed was completed, soil was moved to soften the contours along the front of the depot leasehold, and improvements to the grading around the miniature train track were made. Thanks to Erbie Daw for arranging this latest in-kind contribution from Banner Const.

Rustic Fencing Accents Depot Grounds

Recent visitors to the museum will have noticed the attractive post-and-rail wood fencing that now borders the north and west edges of the Goleta Depot leasehold. The fencing was installed in the spring by the County Park Dept., at the request of museum officials, using County Service Area 3 funds.

The new fence not only helps to define handsomely the museum grounds, but also adds an extra measure of protection to all museum property.

We are grateful to the Park Dept. for their cooperation in this project, and especially to Park Director Mike Pahos and Superintendent Ron Acquistapace.

Docents Elect New Officers

At their May meeting, members of the Museum Docent Assn. selected new officers. Elected were Jane Hieter, Chairman; Lynn Alderman, Vice-Chairman;

Edee Brown, Secretary; Helen Jeffares, Corresponding Secretary; and Theresa Caccese, Staffing Chairman. They succeed Chairman Paul Conover and Secretary Theresa Caccese, who successfully led the fledgling organization through its first, difficult year.

New Members Welcomed

Greetings to all new members: James Breen, Dwane Carlson, Tom Catlett, Jewell P. Ham, Mr. and Mrs. Don H. Hollister, Terrie Jensen-Haxel, Cleo M. Johnson, Mike Leska, James A. Moyer, Pamela R. Olsen, Todd C. Olsen, Jim Ritchko, Robert Sponsel and Patricia Chidlaw, and Mr. and Mrs. Louis P. Tanner.

New Life Members are Mr. and Mrs. David C. Hieter, Mr. and Mrs. James Higman, Brianna and Tiffany Johnson, Kimberly Press (Florence McNally), Santa Barbara Bank & Trust, and Toyota of Santa Barbara.

New members of the Junior Engineers Club are Cody Barry, Peter Jensen-Haxel, Rick Kesinger, and Deena Ziesenhenné.

Total museum membership now stands at 297.

White House (cont'd. from p. 1)

Thomas Jefferson, San Diego Zoo, American Academy of Sciences, Colonial Williamsburg, U.S.S. Constitution ("Old Ironsides"), and American Museum of Natural History. Two of the largest railroad museums in the U.S., the Calif. State Railroad Museum and the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania, also were recognized. The list included 27 other California institutions.

Goleta Depot ranked as one of the smallest museums to receive the award. Only 15 other winners across the 50 states had smaller annual budgets. In the competition, however, we were judged alongside of institutions with budgets of up to \$150,000, or more than twice the size of our own.

The award includes an \$8,340 grant, which the museum may use to cover any operating expenses over the next 12 months. The grant amount represents a 10% match of the museum's 1989 fiscal year operating budget, including non-cash contributions of labor, services, and materials by museum docents and other volunteers and donors. The museum has received this award for the past three years.

"The grant acknowledges the Goleta Depot Railroad Museum as one of America's fine small museums," according to Board President Anna Dato. "All of the museum's successes are due to the skills, hard work, dedication, and generosity of many people," she said. "Now, this distinguished honor has been bestowed on us, and everyone who has helped to create and build the museum can take great satisfaction in the accomplishment."

