



Goleta

DEPOT DISPATCH

Newsletter of the Goleta Depot Railroad Museum

Volume 10, Number 3 — Fall 1990

Depot Day VIII On Horizon; Members' Help Needed

Depot Day, the museum's main annual public event and fall fundraiser, will be here Oct. 21 (see the special section on page 4). Its impact, however, is felt year 'round. The success of Depot Day is essential to the museum and its programs. That success depends heavily on the cooperation and support of our members.

If you've helped with Depot Day in the past and can assist again this year, call the museum office to let us know you're available; it will save valuable office time.

If you are a new member, or haven't volunteered before, this is a great opportunity to get involved, help out, have a good time, and get to know all of the museum's other terrific volunteers.

We need a lot more helpers than are presently signed up. In particular, chairpersons are still needed for the following activities: popcorn and balloons; lemonade and baked goods; parking; set-up; pick-ups and returns; barbecue serving; dumpsters and garbage cans; and sound system. Staffers for these and other areas are also needed.

S. B. Foundation Grant Awarded

The museum has received a \$1,250 grant from the Santa Barbara Foundation. The money has been applied toward the purchase of a laser printer for use with our computer-word processor. The museum makes frequent use of desktop-publishing, which relies heavily on laser printing. Previously, the museum had to rent laser printer time from a local business.

Party Celebrates White House Honor

Home Savings of America hosted a champagne reception on May 30 at its Hollister Avenue branch to honor the museum and its receipt of a grant award at



First Lady Barbara Bush, Gary Coombs, other directors on the South Lawn, May 18, 1990.

the White House. In attendance were trustees, staff, docents, museum benefactors, and community leaders. It was especially nice to see those friends who have been away for awhile, including former Depot Committee members Raymond Baird and Nancy Ried, and Institute Past-President Jon Bartel.

Thanks to Trustee Iris Ellis Lazare for arranging this pleasant evening of celebration.

New Home for Handcar, Train Completed

The new utility shed is finished. The work had progressed far enough by Saturday, July 21 that the handcar could be housed there for the first time following its service that day for rides to museum visitors. The miniature train equipment went in before the *Steaming Summer* Saturday on the 28th.

The shed's board-and-batten construction duplicates that of many historic S.P. inspection car and utility sheds. For the building's large front door, designer Gene Allen was able to make use of some of the

(continued on page 2)

original Goleta Depot hardware, salvaged from one of the station's massive freight- or baggage-room doors.

One innovation is the 7-1/2-inch-gauge track that enters the shed inconspicuously from the back through a smaller hidden door. This spur track joins the miniature railroad line at a switch near the front of the property. This makes it possible to run the miniature train without having to cart or carry the cars between their storage location and the track.

Most of the shed construction was also the handiwork of Gene Allen, who spent 137 hours on the



Gene Allen gets an assist on shed work from Jim ("I'm no relation") Allen.

project over many weeks. He was assisted by several other volunteers, including Jim Allen and Ralph Moore. Even a work detail from the County Jail, on park maintenance duty nearby, was enlisted one day to lend Gene a hand raising the 2x4 framing into place.

A lot of additional work went on in conjunction with the actual shed construction. Elmer Coombs spent a morning building a loading platform for the handcar between the mainline rails in front of the shed. Ed Winnewisser, Dave Hieter, Steve Kramer, and Mike Williams all helped install the miniature train spur.

Antique Implements Join Dock Display

Visitors may now enjoy two recent museum acquisitions: an old hand truck and a small, four-wheeled freight cart. The items have been permanently installed on the depot freight platform by Al Volkman, who was also responsible for their careful restoration.

Model Train Exhibit Nears Completion

Much effort has recently been expended by museum volunteers and staff toward completing the model railroad display. Bill Everett has been busy modeling several of the historic businesses along Hollister Avenue, including Jim Smith's Blacksmith Shop, Bank of America, Goleta Post Office, Coffey's Market, and

others. Mike Leska, Jane Hieter, and Al Petty have also added buildings to the layout in recent months.

Jane, Bill, Mike, and Al Volkman have finished applying the dark blue paint on the room's ceiling and upper walls. The new color does a striking job of accentuating the layout, especially the scenic backdrop. After the wall painting was completed, Hilda Volkman did some touch-up work on the backdrop, itself.

The model railroad exhibit construction has been funded, in its entirety, by two grants from the Alice Tweed Tuohy Foundation. The exhibit is a result of this support, combined with hundreds of donated hours of skilled labor by more than a dozen museum volunteers.

Museum Receives Conservation Grant

The railroad museum has been awarded a \$5,000 grant from the National Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Property. The money will be used for an evaluation and review of the museum's programs for preserving both the historical landmark and our growing collections of artifacts, photographs, and printed materials. To perform the evaluation, the museum has hired two conservation professionals: an architectural conservator from Massachusetts and an objects conservator from Los Angeles. They will visit the museum for an on-site inspection at the end of September.

Our museum was one of only 140 successful applicants from among over 400 museums nationwide who were competing for grants under this new program.

"Sweetheart Special" Slated for February

You might want to mark the weekend of February 16-17 on your calendar, so you'll be sure not to miss the 3rd Annual *Sweetheart Special* trip to San Diego.

This coming year's trip, which again will have a Valentine's Day theme, promises to be better than ever. Among the additions: the museum has reserved the entire Custom-Class car for the round-trip. We are also working on adding a city "trolley" tour and local museum visits as trip options.

The group will again be staying at the Best Western Columbia Hotel. The Columbia offers good accommodations and is convenient to the Amtrak station and the attractions of downtown San Diego and the waterfront.

The cost will be \$109 per person, based on double occupancy, which includes Saturday night accommodations, first-class rail fares, and transportation between the Amtrak station and hotel in San Diego. More information about the trip will be in the next *Dispatch*.

In the meantime, if you're interested in placing your

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name on the reservation list, please contact the museum at 964-3540, Wednesday through Sunday afternoons. The last two groups filled very quickly, so early reservations are recommended.

“Another Summer” Steams Ahead

The museum’s 3rd Annual celebration of *Another Steaming Summer* is at its midway point as of this writing. Attendance has been quite good, with 445 riders enjoying the 7-minute excursion around the museum grounds over the first two dates.

This year, each *Steaming Summer* day offers something different. On June 23, free handcar rides were given to 123 visitors. On July 28, Ed Winnewisser’s 0-4-0 switcher was placed in the spotlight, joining Gene Allen’s American in the museum’s stable of “iron horses.” The Aug. 25 event will feature John Darby’s 2-6-0 mogul; both John and his engine will be making the trip all the way from Cucamonga.

Every event day also features delicious tri-tip sandwiches and hot dogs, prepared by the Goleta Lions



Jr. Engineer Russell Williams flags down pedestrians at grade crossing for (Sr.) Engineer Al Jaramillo.

Club, and special movies shown in our mini-theatre.

The last 1990 *Steaming Summer* day will be Sept. 22. Rides begin at 11 a.m. and the ticket window will close at 3:30 p.m. Tickets are \$1. A visit to the event sponsor, Toyota of Santa Barbara, 5611 Hollister Avenue, will earn you a pair of complimentary tickets.

Zambezi Express Is Sept. Film Feature

Follow the trail of African empire-builder Cecil Rhodes from Cape Town to Victoria Falls in this 1979 rail journey. The 60-minute BBC documentary is another of the *Great Railways Of The World* series.

Showings will be at 12:15, 1:30, and 2:45 each Sunday afternoon in September in the museum’s mini-theatre. The film is free, but seating is limited, so please call ahead (964-3540) for reservations.

Another rail documentary will be shown every Sunday in October except Depot Day (Oct. 21). Please call after Sept. 15 for the title and times.

Museum Office Staff Grows

In July, Julia Gray joined the museum staff as office assistant. A Santa Barbara native, Julia attended local public schools and UCSB. While living in the East, Julia had the distinction of working at Colonial Williamsburg — in visitor services, sales, and as a member of the Company of Colonial Performers, the national historic park’s renowned living history program.

Alma Allen, recently retired Executive Director of the Santa Barbara Scholarship Foundation, is back to work . . . as a museum volunteer. She has been helping with the bookkeeping and Museum Shop for several months. Alma has also been marketing the growing list of Institute publications to area book shops and businesses with good success. You will usually find Alma at the museum on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Theresa Caccese continues as the mainstay of the Museum Shop. Her duties include purchasing, inventory control, and bookkeeping related to the shop. She is here Fridays and many weekend days. Incidentally, did you notice a “Liz Caccese” on TV’s *Super Jeopardy* July 21 and wonder if she was any relation to Theresa and Larry? Well, she’s their daughter and a five-time *Jeopardy* champion, with over \$38,000 in winnings!

Handcar Fund Goal Reached

Recent donations, primarily from members, have put the Handcar Fund over the top. Since the last *Depot Dispatch* report, contributions have been received from George H. Adams, Mr. and Mrs. C.B. Baldrige, L.A. Caccese, Jean L. Cady, Helen Coffey, Sally Gane, Earl and Rose Ann Hill, Josiah F. Jenkins, Gene and Jean Mangini, Tom and Beulah Strout, and Hilda B. Volkman. Several of these represent second or third contributions by the same donor.

Donations received to date total \$1,718.36, while project costs were \$1,643.36. The \$75 difference will be placed in the museum’s General Fund.

Welcome To New Members

Recent additions to the Institute family include Andromeda Bookshop, Carpinteria Valley Historical Museum, Rachael Creed, John Darby, Randy and Karen Fallgatter, Sarita Y. Gonzales, Gregory W. Hawkins, Rev. Paul Hofer, Mrs. Shirley Keith, Mike and Ruth Marple, Dorothy Norton Pahos, The Printed Word, and Rodrick Soria, and La Tiendita del Presidio.

New Life Members are Erbie Daw, Jr. of Banner Construction and Dana Trout. Alex and Andrew Hawkins are the latest Junior Engineer’s Club members.

A hearty welcome to all!

Coombs, Olsen To Attend Convention

Museum Director Gary Coombs and Asst. Director Phyllis Olsen will attend the 50th Annual Meeting of the American Association for State and Local History, scheduled for Sept. 5-8 in Washington, D.C.

Depot Day is October 21!

The 8th Annual Depot Day will be held Sunday, Oct. 21. Hours are 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. Depot Day will again serve as the closing event of the Goleta Valley Days Festival.

Rail Rides Highlight

The miniature train, hand-car, and inspection car rides are sure to be top attractions again this year. Visiting steam locomotives as well as the



museum's diesel-prototype engine will be available to haul passengers on the 1/3-mile ride around the grounds.

On the Museum's mainline track, Bob Mahan will be giving rides in his Fairmont "speeder", while other volunteers will show visitors how to power themselves down the track on the museum handcar. Ride tickets are \$1 for the train and 50¢ each for the handcar and speeder.

Donation Requested Upon Admission

This year, a \$1 donation will be requested of everyone upon admission to Depot Day.

Members may elect to make this donation or not. You will not need to show your membership card.

"Dining Car" Will Offer Tri-Tip Barbecue

A delicious tri-tip barbecue meal will be served from noon until 3 p.m. The Native Sons of the Golden West and Institute board members again will work together in preparing and serving the food.

The meal includes tri-tip, green salad, toasted french bread, and barbecue beans. Advance ticket prices are \$6.50 for adults and \$4.50 for children 12 and under, 50¢ per ticket savings off the regular prices.

Get your tickets from any member of the Board of Trustees or the Docent Association.

Everyone is urged to purchase their barbecue tickets before Depot Day. Not only will this earn you the advance price discount, but it will also help planners to estimate the number of meals that will be needed.

Silent Auction Offers Great Deals

During Depot Day, don't forget to stop by the Silent Auction tables and place bids on your favorite items. This is an important revenue source for the Museum and those who participate usually come away with some real bargains. Among the items up for auction this year are toys,

travel and recreation items, railroadiana, and collectibles.

Attention members among the merchant and professional communities: Please call in your pledges of merchandise or services to add to the auction list. Some homemade and good used items also will be included among the items going up for bids.

Super Refreshments Served In "Club Car"

Hot dogs, lemonade, soft drinks, baked goods, and other tasty treats will be also sold throughout Depot Day.

Steam Display Returns

Also returning for Depot Day '90 is the popular exhibit of stationary steam engines, which will be coordinated again this year by Ernest Thomsen.

Don't Be Left Out!

This year's Depot Day promises to be another super one. Please don't miss out on all the fun and excitement! Hope to see you there.



Wear your Depot T-Shirt on Depot Day and get a free "Triple-Play" pass for all three rides!!!!