



Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH

Newsletter of the Goleta Depot Railroad Museum

Volume 10, Number 4 — Winter 1990

Museum Shop Has Holiday Gift Answers

When working on your holiday gift list, don't forget the museum's book and gift shop. It has lots of goodies, from stocking-stuffers for about \$1 to an LGB train set for over \$200.

We're sure to have something for the history buffs and rail fans on your list. New books include Phyllis Olsen's *Stow House: Threshold to Valley History* and *Cathedral Oaks: Last of the Pioneer Schools*, by Olsen and Gary Coombs.

Children's items include educational coloring books, wooden trains, American history paper dolls, and an assortment of cute stuffed animals with tiny Goleta Depot T-shirts. Our list of local history and railroad titles for general readers continues to grow. Other gifts include a handsome new Goleta Depot note card (see article on page 2), railroad posters and blueprints, calendars, authentic telegraph insulators and Santa Barbara County lemon labels, and nostalgic sign reproductions. Video tapes range from travel documentaries to feature films with a railroad theme, including *The Great Train Robbery*, *The Harvey Girls*, *The General*, and many other terrific titles.

We gladly accept personal checks, VISA, and MasterCard. Parking is easy and the line at the counter is never long. Members receive a 10% discount on all shop items except magazines and food.

"Sweetheart Special" Draws Near

Last call for passengers for the Sweetheart Special, bound for San Diego on the weekend of February 16-17.

This will be our 3rd Annual Valentine's-theme trip and some noteworthy additions are planned. We have reserved the entire Custom-Class car for the full trip. We're also working on adding a city "trolley" tour and local museum visits as trip options.

We will again stay at the Best Western Columbia

CALENDAR OF MUSEUM EVENTS

HOLIDAY PARTY AND TREE-TRIMMING.

December 11. Hours: 7-9 p.m.

HANDCAR RIDES: December 15, January 19, and February 16. Hours: 1 to 4 p.m. Free.

MINIATURE TRAIN RIDES: December 8, Jan. 12, and Feb. 9. Hours: 1 to 4 p.m. Tickets \$1.

FILMS: Every Sunday afternoon. Coming features: *Three Miles High* (Peru), in December; *Coast to Coast* (U.S.), January; *The Other Poland*, February; and *Deccan* (India), March. Free. Call the Museum for times and to make reservations (964-3540).

SWEETHEART SPECIAL: Weekend trip to San Diego, February 16-17.

RAILFAIR '91: Mid-week museum excursion to Sacramento, May 6-9.

MUSEUM HOURS: 1 to 4 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday.

Hotel. It is convenient to the Amtrak station and the attractions of downtown San Diego and the waterfront; it was well-received by last year's group members.

Costs are \$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. To make your reservations, please contact the museum at 964-3540 any weekday afternoon. Don't wait too long, however. Museum members are given early notice, but the Sweetheart Special groups always fill up in just a few days after public notices appear in the newspapers.

Docent News

By Jane Hieter, Docent Assn. Chairman

The Docent Association is growing in both membership and activities. We have added three new people in the last several months. Welcome aboard Karen and Randy Fallgatter, who have completed docent orientation, and Jim Breen. We are always looking for new people to help us share the museum with the public. If you are interested in becoming an active volunteer, please join the Docent Assn.

The Docent Assn. had a very successful Potluck Dinner the first weekend in October. The docents brought delicious foods to share. It was a time for the docents and their families to visit and get to know one another better. We hope to make the Potluck a yearly happening.

The Goleta Depot Christmas Party will be hosted by the Docent Assn. again this year. It is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 11 from 7 to 9 p.m. There will be lots of good food and good cheer. We are looking forward to seeing all of the museum members there.

Membership Renewal Time Is Here

All annual memberships expire on Dec. 31. Please help the museum by using the renewal envelope that accompanies this mailing of the *Depot Dispatch*; it costs the museum more than \$100 a year to send out additional renewal notices. If you're a Life Member or have already paid your 1991 dues, please pass the envelope on to a friend, or use it to make a year's-end donation or for other correspondence with the museum.

You will notice that we have again resisted the growing temptation to increase the basic membership rates. Instead, a new premium membership category has been created for those who would like to support our programs and activities at a higher level.

New Note Card Features Depot Sketch

When you visit the museum shop, be sure to pick up a set of the attractive new note cards featuring an original pen-and-ink drawing of Goleta Depot by local artist Stu Fredericks. Commissioning of the sketch was made possible by a donation from Institute President Anna Dato.

Upcoming Films Announced

Three Miles High, a BBC film on rail travel in Peru, will be shown at the museum every Sunday in December. The 50-minute documentary features two Peruvian rail journeys. The first takes viewers from the sea-level capital of Lima to the city of Huancayo, high in the Andes mountains, on a line built to recover the rich mineral wealth of the country's interior.

Learn how the railroad builders used 60 tunnels, 45 bridges, and an elaborate system of zig-zag track to achieve an elevation of 16,000 feet. Toward journey's end, car attendants offer passengers bottled oxygen to supplement the rarified air!

The second rail excursion begins at the ancient Incan capital of Cuzco, still a thriving population center, and ends in neighboring Bolivia. It includes a side-trip to the lost city of Machu Pichu and a steamboat cruise on Lake Titicaca. The 1981 documentary is part of the "Great Railway Journeys Of The World" series.

Showings will be at 1, 2, and 3 o'clock each Sunday afternoon. The film is free, but seating is limited, so please call ahead (964-3540) to reserve seats.

Future offerings include *Coast To Coast*, about U.S. rail passenger travel (scheduled for Sunday afternoons in January); *The Other Poland*, a look at how steam trains continue to serve there (slated for February); and *Deccan*, about the railroads of India (March). Please contact the museum during the month of showing for starting times and to make your reservations.

The film program is made possible by the Richard and Georgia Thomas Endowment Fund.



Native Sons members cooked a great Depot Day barbecue.

Welcome New Members

Recent additions to the Institute family include Tom Bazemore, Paul D. Condon, Glenn G. Crites, Joel Jaffe, and Edgard Rincon. New members of the Junior Engineer's Club are Nicholas Laird Caum, Brian Doose, Timmy Jones, Jason Olin, and Kelly Olin. The Goleta Lions Club recently became a Life Member.

A hearty welcome to all new members!

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Contest To Find Theater and Shop Names

The Museum is conducting a contest to find names both for the mini-theater and for the book and gift shop. Names that serve to emphasize the theater's offerings and the shop's wares and railroad and local-history themes are especially encouraged.

The contest is open to members only. Winners will each receive a \$50 gift certificate for your choice of items from the museum shop.

Entries may either be mailed (send to: Goleta Depot RR Museum, P.O. Box 2125, Goleta, CA 93118) or delivered in person to the museum shop. To be eligible, entries must be received by Jan. 31, 1991. Winners will be announced in the *Depot Dispatch*. In case of duplicate names, the earliest entry will be the winner.

Groups Make Museum Visits

In recent months, the museum has hosted a number of local organizations and groups, with guided tours or miniature train charters. They include visits from Devereux School, Sunrise Rotary Club, Roots & Wings Pre-School, a Montessori school, and two scout groups.

Guided group tours and charters of the miniature train are available by advance reservation. There is no fee for guided tours for youth groups.

New Signs Help Motorists Find Museums

If you've been to the museum lately, you may have noticed one of the two new directional signs near the intersection of Calle Real and Los Carneros Road. Blue with white lettering, the signs say "Museums," with an arrow pointing the way to the railroad museum and to the Goleta Valley Historical Society's Sexton Museum and Stow House.

The County installed these signs at the request of the Tourism Committee of the Goleta Valley Chamber of Commerce. Museum Director Gary Coombs, who has served on the Tourism Committee for a number of years, suggested the new signage as a way of attracting more visitors to the Los Carneros Road museums.

Depot Day Report

Sunday, Oct. 21 marked another successful Depot Day, the 8th annual celebration. This year's event was unusual because, in the weeks leading up to the day, Assistant Director Phyllis Olsen, who coordinates Depot Day, was bedridden with pneumonia. Fortunately, Theresa Caccese and Alma Allen jumped into the breach, to help with the staffing and other arrangements. Depot Day would have been a disaster without their hard work and dedication. Special mention should also be made of Gene Allen, who devoted many long hours, as he does every year, to make sure Depot Day is successful.

The chairmen for the various Depot Day activities are to be commended for their first-rate performances. They were Theresa Caccese and Diana Mina (auction), Gene Allen (train ride), Dave Hieter (handcar), Bob Mahan (speeder), Ernest Thomsen (steam display), Judy Savage (admissions and storytime), Alma Allen

(membership), Edee Brown (hot dogs and drinks), Bill McNally (BBQ serving), Al Jaramillo (BBQ cooking), Anna Dato (BBQ tickets and cleanup), Jane Hieter (BBQ tickets), and Hilda Volkman and Helen Jeffares (publicity).

Depot Day would not have been possible without all of the volunteers who gave time to prepare for and staff the event. Helpers included Lynn Alderman, Bob Alexander, Jim and Lyla Allen, Jon Bartel, Mark Baum, Jim and Joan Breen, Carroll Brown, Bob Burtness, Sam Caccese, Liz Caccese, Bev Casselman, Helen Coffey, Paul and Mary Conover, Barbara Cornish, Charlene Doty, Bill Everett, Randy and Karen Fallgatter, Sandy Filippello, Louise Fisher, Norm Gordon,



Auction was well-attended and proved a good fundraiser.

Gordon Hawley, Jim Higman, Chuck and Matt Hieter, Ron and Diane Hlinka, Helen Jeffares, Judy Johnson, Mildred Kern, Shirley Keith, Mike Leska, Ed and Kathy Leska, Lorraine Macomber, Dolly McKernan, the McNally Family, Bob McNeel, Sgt. Major Dick Montalvo and the Dos Pueblos Jr. ROTC, Ralph and Charlotte Moore, Jim Moyer, Virginia Myers, Native Sons of the Golden West, Charlene Owens, Candice Pennington, Suzanne Polansky, Jeannine Priester, Dana Schneider, Janis and Bill Shinn, Ruth Smith, Ellery and Doris Smythe, John Starr, Lani and Susan Strobel, Hilda Volkman, Mike and Russell Williams, and Ed Winnewisser.

Local Firm Donates Roof for Shed

The new roof that you see on the recently-built handcar and utility shed is the result of a donation from H & H Roofing of Santa Barbara. The company donated both the materials and labor, completing the installation in time for Depot Day.

Sincerest thanks to Guadalupe Lopez, owner of H & H Roofing, for seeing the museum's need and coming to our aid with this generous and timely contribution.

Model RR Exhibit Progress Announced

A number of important additions to the model railroad exhibit have been made in recent weeks. Gordon Hawley has completed construction of a model of Luton-Bell No. 1, the first well of the historic Elwood Oil Field. Jane Hieter painted the lower portion of the

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It wouldn't be Depot Day without the steam display.

exhibit room walls an earthy brown and made a matching curtain to hide a storage area.

Gene Allen and Ralph Moore installed a low screen of sheet acrylic around the viewing areas to protect the trains, buildings, and other delicate features on the exhibit surface from roaming fingers.

"Steaming Summer" Ends With Sizzle

Sept. 22 marked the last day of another successful "Steaming Summer" event. Over the four event Saturdays, which began on June 23, 1,090 passengers rode, including 967 train riders plus, on June 23, another 123 riders on the handcar. The daily average of 241 train riders set an event record; on Aug. 25, a single-day record of 301 passengers was established.

A number of new features made this year's event a landmark one. The tri-tip sandwiches and hot dogs, prepared and served by members of the Goleta Lions Club, added importantly to the event. So did the spotlighting of different guest engines during the course of the event, including Ed Winnewisser's 0-4-0 switcher, John Darby's mogul, and Gene Allen's American.

Trip to Railfair '91 Slated for May 6-9

Railfair '91 will be held next May in Sacramento, to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the California State Railroad Museum. To partake of the festivities the Goleta Depot Railroad Museum is planning a group tour over the May 6-9 period.

The *Railfair* theme will be "Railroads on Parade: The Evolution of the Iron Horse." The first and only *Railfair* to date, held back in 1981 to mark the opening of the state rail museum, is generally considered a benchmark celebration of Western railroading, but *Railfair '91* promises to eclipse its predecessor by a considerable margin. An impressive list of visiting locomotives and other equipment is being assembled,

along with many special exhibits, displays, and demonstrations. Watch for further particulars in the next *Depot Dispatch*.

Our trip will include three nights at the Holiday Inn (located on Sacramento's downtown shopping mall and a short walk to the railroad museum and Old Town), and roundtrip rail from Santa Barbara. We will depart midday on Monday, May 6 and return Thurs. the 9th. The cost is \$289 per person, based on double occupancy.

Don't miss this once-in-a-decade event! For reservations or further information, call the museum at 964-3540 any weekday afternoon.

Planning for Bedroom Restoration and Refurnishing Begins

Refurnishing of the agent's bedroom as an exhibit space has long been a museum goal. When the Audubon Society elected not to renew its lease of this room last year, realization of this goal became a near-term possibility.

Museum staff has now begun the background research and planning needed for this historic room exhibit. A number of furnishings have already been placed on the list of potential exhibit elements. They include a dressing table, bed, chest-of-drawers, mantel clock, framed prints, ceiling fixture, rug, and chair.

If you have an item from this list, manufactured before 1940, that you would like to have considered for this major permanent exhibit, please contact Phyllis Olsen at the museum (964-3540) any weekday afternoon. Sorry, museum policy prohibits the acceptance of loans for exhibits of this type; only offers to donate these furnishings can be considered.

Conservation Assessment Completed

Sara Chase, an architectural conservator from Lexington, Mass. and John Twilley, a collections conservator from Los Angeles have completed an evaluation of Goleta Depot and of the museum's collections of artifacts, photographs, and printed materials.

The evaluation was commissioned by the museum, with a grant from the National Institute for Conservation. Its purpose was to identify ways in which the museum could improve its preservation and conservation practices. Chase and Twilley visited the museum at the end of September before preparing their written reports. These contain a number of valuable recommendations — from how to keep out pests to controlling temperature and humidity — which the museum will now use to develop plans for the future.

Coombs To Chair New ARM Committee

Director Gary Coombs has been selected to chair a new committee of the Assn. of Railway Museums (ARM). The purpose of the committee is to evaluate "the feasibility and benefits of developing a uniform nomenclature for classifying railroad artifacts."

ARM is the North American organization of railroad museums, with about 70 member-institutions in the U.S. and Canada.