



Goleta

DEPOT DISPATCH

Volume 11, Number 2 — Summer 1991

Major Grant Awarded

The museum has received a 1991 General Operating Support Grant from the **Institute of Museum Services**, the Federal agency serving the nation's museums. The \$8,532 award is a 10% match of the railroad museum's annual operating budget. Of the total, \$1,720 represents one-tenth of the estimated labor contribution made by museum volunteers, while every \$10 received in 1990 from museum members and friends added another \$1 to the grant amount.

Only three grants were made to transportation museums with operating budgets under \$330,000, the category in which we competed; ours was the smallest in that grouping to receive an award. Among this year's 432 recipients are museums with over 2,000 staff persons and budgets exceeding \$70 million. All types of museums are eligible, from aquaria, botanical gardens, arboreta and zoos to science and technology centers, and history, natural history, and art museums.

Our museum has received this prestigious award each of the four years it has been eligible. Underscoring the significance of the achievement, last year's award ceremony was held at the **White House** and was hosted by **First Lady Barbara Bush**. ♦

South Coast Railroad Museum at Goleta Depot

At its April 11 meeting, the **Board of Trustees** adopted the name, "South Coast Railroad Museum at Goleta Depot." There were two main reasons for this decision, which was also supported by Museum Director Gary Coombs and Asst. Director Phyllis Olsen.

Trustees felt that the existing name was confusing to many people, and that it detracted from both the historical landmark and the museum, by apparently merging the two into a single entity. The new name was selected as a way of making it clear that there are two important institutions: the precious community landmark and symbol, Goleta Depot, and the railroad museum, which includes the historical building *plus* a

(cont'd, page 4, See "Museum Name")

Disneyland Getaways By Rail Offered

The museum is pleased to announce a new program of unescorted "getaway" packages to Disneyland and Anaheim, making use of Amtrak's twice-daily *San Diegan* train service. Packages are available for families, single adults, couples, or larger groups. Trips of two, three, or more days can be planned. All packages include rail fares, transfers in Anaheim, and overnight accommodations.

For more information and prices, please contact Gary at the museum, 964-3540. ♦

Asphalt Regatta Report

The largest participant group in the history of the Asphalt Regatta turned out March 30 to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the spring fundraising event. The 71 museum supporters included **Helen Guerry Adams; Lynn Alderman; Jim and Lyla Allen; Gene and Alma Allen; C.B. and Charlotte Baldrige; Edee and Carroll Brown; Robert Burtness; Theresa, Sam, Nick, and Tyler Caccese; Jack and**

(cont'd., page 4, See "Regatta")

It's "Another Steaming Summer"

A new season of live-steam railroading at the museum will commence June 22, the first day of the museum's 4th Annual *Another Steaming Summer* event. July 27, Aug. 24, and Sept. 28 are the other *Steaming Summer* days. Rides are \$1; "all-day tickets," good for unlimited rides, are only \$2.

Event hours will be 12 noon to 4 p.m., with all regular museum areas open for this expanded schedule. A new addition to the event this year will be a special film program for youngsters of all ages, featuring continuous free showings of *Thomas The Tank Engine* videos in the Gandy Dancer Theater.

Members of the **Goleta Lions Club** will again be on hand to prepare and sell hot sandwiches, with all

(cont'd, page 4, See "Summer")

School Rail Trip

Students from **Susan Holmes'** 2nd and 3rd grade class at **El Rancho School** enjoyed a museum-led Amtrak excursion to San Luis Obispo and back on April 23. The trip was postponed from an earlier date when the March rains caused an S.P. freight train derailment that shut down Amtrak operations along the coast. The nationwide rail strike almost necessitated another rescheduling; fortunately, Congress passed the back-to-work legislation just a few days before the second trip date.

On board were El Rancho principal **Tully Johnson**, Holmes, six parents, and 24 youngsters. The field trip was escorted by Museum Director Gary Coombs and Asst. Director Phyllis Olsen. ♦

Valentine's San Diego Trip Was Sweet

The 3rd Annual Sweetheart Special trip to San Diego was held Feb. 16-17. The group of 56 filled the custom-class car, which allowed us to decorate and frolic to our hearts' content. The conductors on both trains let us use the public-address system in the car, which really helped with announcements and making for a group feeling.

Many volunteers assisted in making the event a memorable one. **Mary Cole** brought along dozens of delicious home-baked muffins, in three varieties, to go with the coffee and juice provided in custom class. In San Diego, **John and Evelyn Schaller** escorted many from the group on a Saturday afternoon city tour aboard the Old Town Trolley. **Hilda Volkman** assisted with the decorations en route. Games, prizes, and Valentine sweets capped off the event.

The group chose **Paul and Elfreda Higgins** as the traditional "Sweetheart Couple." **Tom Cole** serenaded them with an *a cappella* rendition of *My Funny Valentine*. Gary Coombs and Phyllis Olsen chaperoned the playful group. ♦

Museum Group Enjoys Railfair

There was much to see, learn, and marvel at during our group trip May 6-9 to Railfair at the Calif. State Railroad Museum in Sacramento. The group of 27 included members, area residents, and the museum director and assistant director. It was the fifth and largest group from our museum to visit the state capital since our first trip in 1983.

Incidentally, did you catch the goof in the spring *Depot Dispatch*? Virginia & Truckee's *Inyo* and S.P. No. 1233 haven't been renovated beyond recognition; rather, the photos of the two Railfair engines were inadvertently switched at the print shop, causing a caption mismatch. ♦

Conservation Days Were Held In February and April

A "Museum Conservation Day" took place Feb. 23. Volunteers included **Gene Allen**, **Paul Conover**, **Dave Hieter**, **Hilda Volkman**, and **Mike Williams**.

Also on hand were staff members **Phyllis Olsen** and **Gary Coombs**. A number of worthwhile jobs were performed, including various housekeeping chores, caboose painting, and electrical work.

Paul and Hilda took on the drudgery of depot window-washing. Yes, they are the ones responsible for conjuring up the March miracle of torrential rains that followed, breaking the drought pattern.

The twosome weren't able to finish their work in one day, so they returned to finish up on March 9. For his efforts, **Paul** banged his head while searching for a screwdriver and ended up with a half-dozen stitches. No good deed goes unpunished, as the wags say.

Undaunted, the **Docent Association** organized another Conservation Day for April 20. In attendance were **Gene Allen**, **Jane Hieter**, **Karen Fallgatter**, **Randy Fallgatter**, and **Phyllis Olsen**. Tasks included more housekeeping, painting several of the benches around the building, and applying the facia to the handcar/utility shed.

For the most part, these are unpopular tasks and the dedicated volunteers who give their valuable free time to see that this necessary work gets done deserve the deepest gratitude. ♦

Model Railroad Exhibit Grows

A number of replica buildings have been added to the model railroad exhibit thanks to the efforts of **Bill Everett**. Of particular note are accurate re-creations of the old Hotel Southern, the Crane Co. plumbing supply house, and the warehouses of the Coast Wholesale Grocery Co. and Great Western Produce Co. All of these historical buildings, which survive today, are located near the intersection of State St. and the Southern Pacific tracks in Santa Barbara. ♦

Goleta Depot: TV Star

Did you recognize our historical landmark in the current Carrow's Restaurants TV commercial saluting Operation Desert Storm? Goleta Depot was used as the setting for two scenes showing troops arriving home and reuniting with loved ones. Trustee and docent **Dave Hieter**, all decked out in station agent's costume, was hired as an extra, but his scene ended up on the cutting-room floor.

Member **Nancy Smith** was responsible for recommending Goleta Depot as location for the commercial, for which the museum received a fee. ♦

Goleta Depot Dispatch: Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum at Goleta Depot

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Photograph on page 4 courtesy of David Hieter.

Miniature Train To Run Every Saturday

In addition to the days of *Steaming Summer*, the museum's miniature train will run every Saturday



Miniature RRers — including Jack Cogan, Karen and Randy Fallgatter — are ready for another busy summer.

during July-September. Hours will be 1 to 4 p.m. Engine No. 1316, our diesel-prototype yard-switcher, will see service; steam equipment will not be used. Rides are \$1, or \$2 for an unlimited-ride ticket. ♦

Summer Volunteers Needed

The museum wants to recruit a few temporary volunteers for summer service only, to assist with the busy schedule. Persons interested in lending a hand with the miniature train ride or other activities are encouraged to contact Phyllis at the museum. ♦

Welcome New Members

New Life Members are **Mary Sonne** and **Michael Towbes**. New to the Sustaining Member ranks include **Paul and Elfreda Higgins**, **Daniel and Suzanne Lopez**, **Daniel and Doris Macken**, **Brian and Marcia Nelson**, **Nick and Susie Nichols**, and **Dan and Liz Sauro**.

Recent additions among Active Members are **James Charles Duerr** and **Gerry Stone**. New recruits for the Junior Engineers Club include **Matthew Garfinkel**, **Matthew Irwin**, and **Dominick Kunze**.

Welcome and thank you all for your support! ♦

Visiting Groups

The museum has had visits from several groups in recent months. February 15, the miniature train was chartered in conjunction with a birthday party held on the grounds. A class of 2nd- and 3rd-graders from **El Rancho School** were treated to a guided tour of the landmark and museum on March 18.

On May 4, we hosted the mid-year meeting of the **National Recreation and Park Association Board of Trustees**. Members of the **Docent Association** kept the museum open additional hours and gave train rides to the group's representatives.

Two 3rd-grade classes, also from **El Rancho School**, toured the museum on May 14. The next day, a local cub scout den followed suit. On May 23rd, a large contingent from the **Goleta Boys & Girls Club** made a visit.

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

Docent News: "Unclaimed Freight and Baggage Sale"

The Docent Association is gearing up for the first 1991 *Steaming Summer* day, June 22. This year, along with the steam-train rides and the hot sandwiches, we are adding a rummage sale. It will be called the "Unclaimed Freight and Baggage Sale," in keeping with the railroad theme. We need many items to sell to make it a success. We will be accepting donated items (NO CLOTHES, PLEASE) at Goleta Depot on Saturday, June 15 from 1 to 4 p.m., or call me at 967-3824.

— Jane Hieter

Docent Assn. Chairman

Congratulations ...

... to member and volunteer **Diana Mina** and her husband, **Mike**, on the April birth of their son, **Nicholas**. ♦

Get-Well Wishes ...

... are extended to docent **Helen Jeffares**, following her hiking accident. Hurry back, we miss you! ♦

Agent's Bedroom Exhibit Project Gets Donation of Key Furniture

Plans to restore and refurnish the second-floor agent's bedroom received a big boost recently with the acquisition of a vintage oak bedroom set, including headboard and frame, chest of drawers, and mirror.

The furnishings were donated by members **Robert Sponsel** and **Patricia Chidlaw**. The pieces are from the Sponsel family collection.

When completed, the exhibit will depict how the bedroom might have looked during the period of Goleta Depot's railroad service, 1901-1973. Plans call eventually for the room's time-sensitive appointments to be changed periodically to re-create the contrasting ways the room might have been furnished at different times and during the occupancies of the various Goleta Depot agents and their families.

The bedroom exhibit will be added to the guided tour of the historical landmark and will also be available for unescorted viewing during other hours. ♦

REGATTA (cont'd. from page 1)

Harriet Cogan; Anna Dato; Roberta and Colleen Eby; Gregory, Alex, and Andrew Hawkins; Dave, Jane, Chuck, and Matt Hieter; James and Susan Higman; and Helen Jeffares.

Also, Jeff, Kortney, and Wesley Korpela; Eric Linkjendal; Sarah McLean; Ruth Niemi; Robert



Large group celebrates 10th spring fundraiser.

and Louise Prottengeier; Nancy Ried; Supervisor Tom Rogers; Ed, Judy, Hannah, and Leah Savage; John Schaller; William and Janis Shinn; Ruth Smith; Tom and Beulah Strout; Jane Tompkins; Max Tyler; Hilda and Al Volkman; Supervisor Bill and Dr. Kentha Wallace; Darel Ware; Anne and Charles Weger; and the museum staff.

Representing the Goleta Lions Club were Bob Ammons; Jack Carlson; Dennis Ito; Russ Johnston; J.C. and Terry Kelley; Mac McDougall; Bruce Schumikowski; and Mike and Carolina Thompson.

Pledges reached \$5,993, including the \$1 per entrant pledged by Trustees **Gene Allen, Anna Dato, Dave Hieter, John Starr,** and **Bill Wallace,** and by Director Gary Coombs.

Of the museum volunteers, the most successful fundraisers were **Anna Dato,** with \$706 in pledges, and, among the young participants, **Nick Caccese** with \$191. Both will receive prizes for their exemplary efforts. Asst. Director Phyllis Olsen led all fundraisers with \$1,631 pledged. ♦

SUMMER, cont'd. from page 1

proceeds benefitting the railroad museum.

Toyota of Santa Barbara is event sponsor again this year, thanks to the efforts of owner **Denny Franks.** Coupons good for 1/2-off on rides, including all-day tickets, are available to adults visiting the car dealership at 5611 Hollister Avenue.

Please patronize the Docent Assn.'s "Unclaimed

CALENDAR OF MUSEUM EVENTS

MINIATURE TRAIN RIDES: June 8 and every Saturday July-Sept. Hours: 1 to 4 p.m. Single ride \$1. All-day ticket \$2

ANOTHER STEAMING SUMMER: June 22, July 27, Aug. 24, and Sept. 28. Live-steam train rides; refreshments; *Thomas The Tank Engine* films; and much more! Hours: Noon to 4 p.m.

"UNCLAIMED FREIGHT AND BAGGAGE SALE": June 22, Noon to 4 p.m., during the first day of *Another Steaming Summer '91.* Sale of railroadiana, collectibles, furniture, and rummage.

HANDCAR RIDES: June 15, July 20, Aug. 17, and Sept. 21. Hours: 1 to 4 p.m. Riders must be 42 inches tall. Free, donations appreciated.

FILMS: Every Sunday afternoon. Coming features: *Red Express: The Trans-Siberian Railroad* (during June), *Slow Train To Olympia* (July; about rail travel in Greece); *The General* (Aug.; Buster Keaton's silent classic); *Changing Trains* (Sept.; European rail documentary) Free. Call for times and reservations (964-3540).

MUSEUM HOURS: 1 to 4 p.m., Wed. thru Sun.

Freight and Baggage Sale" on June 22, part of the *Steaming Summer* kickoff. See **Docent News** on page 3 and **Calendar,** above, for more information. ♦

MUSEUM NAME (cont'd. from page 1)

number of educational programs, exhibits, and activities, and a growing collection of artifacts, photographs, and memorabilia.

The name choice is also intended to reach out and to increase the museum's audience, membership, and base of support — factors which both the board and administration see as essential to the long-term vitality of the organization.

Since the museum's founding, a high proportion of our visitors have been non-residents, especially tourists, and it is expected that the adoption of a regional name will encourage even more visitors from outside the area. More than half of the membership also resides outside of the Goleta Valley. Most importantly, a larger audience means that the museum's educational and recreational programs are serving more people, and that's why we're here.

Don't expect an overnight transition in name use or a media blitz. Rather, a gradual changeover will be effected as the museum's limited budget allows. ♦

