



Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH

Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum
Volume 11, Number 4 — Winter 1991

Sweetheart Special Departs Feb. 15

The 4th Annual *Sweetheart Special* trip to San Diego will take place over the weekend of Feb. 15-16. The Valentine's-theme event is one of the museum's most popular activities.

The *San Diegan's* entire Custom-class car has been reserved roundtrip for our group. Expect lots of games, festive decorations, and prizes along the way.

We will again be staying at the Bayside Inn, which is convenient to the train station and the attractions of downtown San Diego and the waterfront. For two years, the Bayside Inn has been a popular choice with *Sweetheart Special* travelers.

We also plan to reprise the city "trolley" tour and a Saturday night group dinner, both as trip options.

Costs are \$129 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.

You may make your reservations by contacting the museum at 964-3540 any weekday afternoon. Don't wait too long, though. Museum members are always given this advance notice, but the *Sweetheart Special* groups fill up quickly once public notices appear in the newspapers.

Try Museum Shop For Holiday Gift Answers

Having trouble finding the perfect holiday gifts? Chances are that the museum's Trackside Shop has something just right for someone on your list.

Many new items have been added over the last year, including the full line of Thomas the Tank Engine products (books, toys, videos). We've also added every railroad game that we could find, including several board and card games, and two for home computers (one especially for model railroaders). "HO" and "N" gauge model train sets have

CALENDAR OF MUSEUM EVENTS

SWEETHEART SPECIAL: Weekend trip to San Diego, Feb. 15-16 (see story, opposite).

MINIATURE TRAIN RIDES: Dec. 14, Jan. 11, Feb. 8, and March 14. Hours: 1 to 4 p.m. Single ride \$1. All-day ticket \$2.

HANDCAR RIDES: Dec. 21, Jan. 18, Feb. 15, and March 21. Riders must be 42 inches tall. Free, donations appreciated.

FILMS: Every Sunday afternoon. Coming features: *Zambezi Express* (during December; rail documentary about southern Africa); *Journey To The Land Beyond The Mountains* (January; train travel in Portugal) *Gold Rush Line* (February; Alaskan adventure), *Three Miles High* (March; Peru). Free. Call for times and reservations (964-3540).

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

also joined the "G" gauge LGB starter set that we've carried.

1992 calendars abound, with subjects ranging from trains and streetcars to Americana and nostalgia. The shop continues to offer one of the area's finest selections of local history and hard-to-find regional books.

We've got some swell stocking stuffers, too: book-marks from less than \$1; a card game for only \$1.50; Goleta Depot note cards and engineer's caps for \$4; whistles for under \$8; to name just a few selections.

We accept personal checks, Visa, and MasterCard. Parking is free and plentiful and the line at the counter is never long. All sales benefit museum programs. Members receive a 10% discount on all shop items except magazines and food.

Projects Benefit From Volunteer Effort

Among the recent additions around the museum is a handsome new donation stand. Bob Mahan built the stand and Gene Allen installed it along the entry sidewalk.

Al Volkman finished painting the freight door that opens into the Tracksides Shop. The new glossy paint, in the familiar S.P. Colonial Yellow and brown, looks terrific! Goleta Valley Paint donated some of the supplies that Al used to prepare the door.

Public Service Announcement Completed

30-Second Promotion Now Running

Have you seen the museum's public service TV spot yet? Well, it's been running on a number of Cox Cable channels since late October.

Filming took place at the museum on Saturday, Sept. 28, the final day of Steaming Summer. It was a



PSA shooting got film crew into the action.

long and busy day for producer/director Kerry Graffy and her film crew, not to mention museum staff, volunteers, and visitors.

The "PSA" is aimed primarily at local people who haven't been to the museum before, and those unfamiliar with the breadth of our programs. The result is a fast-moving collage of sights and sounds — miniature train and handcar rides, bells and whistles, people enjoying the model railroad exhibit and taking a tour, and views of the depot's handsome architecture. Museum volunteers and members appear in various scenes.

The spot will be running through the end of 1991 on 12 channels, including CNN, ESPN, Lifetime, USA, MTV, Prime Ticket, Arts & Entertainment, Nickelodeon, TNT, and others. Watch for it! Showings during 1992 are also planned.

The PSA production costs, valued at \$2,200, were covered by a grant from Cox Cable. The railroad museum was one of 12 local nonprofit organizations to receive the grant this year.

9th Depot Day Also Best

If you didn't make it to Depot Day '91, you missed the cream of the crop. With the weather cooperating nicely, the gate was up a whopping 32% over last year. Overall the event netted \$5,500 for the museum, making it the most successful Depot Day financially as well.

This year, nearly all of the organizing was done by museum volunteers, who deserve a big round of applause for their skillful planning and for handling most of the staffing chores, too. Special mention should be made of Dave and Jane Hieter, who served as co-chairs for the event.

A splendid addition this year was the children's area, coordinated by Charlotte Moore, which afforded young visitors and their parents a variety of fun and interesting projects and activities.

The silent auction was particularly successful, thanks to outstanding support from the business community.

Museum Consultant Visits Oct. 28-29

On Oct. 28-29, Robert Nysten, Curator of History at the Nevada State Museum in Carson City, came to our museum as a consultant for collections care and management. One of his many job responsibilities is supervising all of the record-keeping for the Nevada State Railroad Museum, also located in the Nevada capital.

During his visit, Mr. Nysten met with staff and trustees and reviewed the museum's collection records, procedures, and storage facilities. We've already benefitted enormously from his brief time with us and expect to gain a lot more when we receive his written report. Watch for an update in a future issue of the *Depot Dispatch*.

We were able to engage Bob Nysten's services thanks to a \$1,400 grant from the Institute of Museum Services. The grant covers all travel expenses and a small stipend for the consultant; we can use any remainder to care for our collections.

County Gives \$7,500 For Landmark Preservation Work

The museum has received a \$7,500 grant from the County of Santa Barbara, from its Special District Augmentation Funds. The money will be used

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for implementing some of the recommendations made by Dr. Sarah Chase, the architectural conservator that the museum hired last year. Foundation support is being sought for the additional money to cover the urgently-needed preservation work (improved drainage system, exterior painting, other measures) on Goleta Depot.

Supervisor Bill Wallace, who serves on the Board of Trustees as our liaison with county government, was instrumental in securing the allocation.

Match Contribution Received

Member Andrea Karle has made a contribution toward the match of John Starr's \$1,200 challenge. The Karle donation was received shortly after the Fall '91 issue of the *Depot Dispatch* went to press. In that issue it was reported that the match campaign had successfully reached its goal.

Street Sign Now Features Train Silhouette

The next time you visit the museum, be sure to take a look at the delightful rendition of a train that's been added to our street sign. The double-sided painting was donated by local graphic artist Paul Fraser, who adapted Hilda Volkman's engine-and-tender sketch that we've used for several years, adding two matching cars and a caboose.

Many thanks to Paul for his eye-catching contribution, and to trustee Mary Cole for her help in arranging the gift.

Greetings To New Members

We are pleased to welcome all of our new members: Leonard B. Evans (Sustaining); Charles Chubak, Debbie and Logan Prosser, Craig and Juleine Schmidt (Active); and David Blomgren (Corresponding).

New Junior Engineer's Club members are Carly Chubak, Benjamin Chubak, David Honsberger, Timmy Kaufler, Zachary McVicker, Aaron Schmidt, and Tanda Schmidt.

Las Vegas By Rail

We've added Las Vegas to the growing list of Amtrak destinations available to members and the general public in the form of unescorted rail packages. You won't believe how low the prices are!

Please call Gary Coombs at the museum, 964-3540, for more information. Packages to Disneyland/Anaheim, Morro Bay, and Hearst Castle are also available.

We are also considering a Museum-escorted group trip to Las Vegas, possibly for April. If you're interested, please give Gary a call; it will help us to evaluate its feasibility.

Busy Summer For Train, Volunteers

The expansion of the miniature train ride to a weekly schedule during the summer was a tremendous accomplishment for the museum and its



Goleta Lions helped make summer a big success.

hardworking volunteers. Total summer ridership hit 2,614, which covers the four Steaming Summer dates and all other Saturdays from June 22 through the end of September.

We have now gone back to our off-season schedule of monthly rides every second Saturday. Hours are 1 to 4 p.m. This schedule will apply until next June, when we will return to a weekly program.

Members, Friends Respond To Appeal

The year-end request for donations has been well-received. Among the early contributors are Sue G. Borgatello, Earl and Rose Ann Hill, Colleen and Steve Ozab, Wilma Q. Patton, George R. Potter, Dan and Liz Sauro, Judy Savage, and Mrs. Madeline V. Schroll.

Additional donations will be acknowledged in an update report in the next *Depot Dispatch*.

Monthly Conservation Days Set For '92

There is a pressing need for maintenance, restoration, and repair work around the museum. To meet this demand, the first Saturday of every month in 1992 has been designated a "Conservation Day." A variety of projects are planned, with an emphasis on activities essential to preserving Goleta Depot.

In previous efforts, there has been disproportionate representation from the museum docents, trustees, and staff. It's essential that these work

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crews be expanded, to include more people from the general membership as well. Please come out and lend a hand — Goleta Depot needs your loving care!

Each work day will begin at 8:30 a.m. (but you're welcome to come later) and will continue into the afternoon (you're not expected to stay all day). Museum Director Gary Coombs will be on hand to supervise the effort.

10th Anniversary of Depot Move

It was a cold November night back in 1981 when a forlorn and long-abandoned Goleta Depot left its familiar spot along the tracks for a promising new home at Lake Los Carneros County Park. A handful



The late Paul Heuston took this dramatic shot of the Fairview Overpass and an unusual traveler, Nov. 19, 1981.

of the faithful were around for the whole affair: from the last minute preparations on the morning of Wednesday the 18th, to the late-night finale during the wee hours of Thursday the 19th.

It was about 3 a.m. when the trucks, laden with the precious cargo, reached their destination, an empty field now monikored "300 North Los Carneros Rd." Motors silent, the depot movers from Fontana left for a well-deserved Motel 6 night's sleep, while the Goleta Depot Movers went off to Carrow's Restaurant for a pre-dawn strategy session. They had gone many hours without sleep, but there was still much to do. Come to think of it, there still is!

To those of you who've been around from the start, as well as to those who are relative newcomers to the "Goleta Depot Project" — Congratulations and Happy Anniversary!

Holiday Exhibit Features "Toy Trains and Teddy Bears"

A holiday exhibit, "Toy Trains and Teddy Bears: A Holiday Gift," will run from Dec. 4 through Jan. 12 in Goleta Depot's Waiting Room. As the title suggests, the exhibit centers around a menagerie of stuffed bears and a railyard-ful of toy trains, all drawn from the museum collections and the private collections of museum trustees, staff, volunteers, and members, including Junior Engineers.

Featured are two rare live-steam locomotives loaned by Eugene Allen and Phyllis Olsen's 10-year-old friend, "Teddy," who has traveled over 30,000 miles across America aboard Amtrak trains.

There's a train that Junior Engineer Russell Williams, age 5, made with Lego blocks and Bob Burtness's "O"-gauge rendition of an engine and tender from Southern Pacific's *Daylight*, "The World's Most Beautiful Train." Trustee Mary Cole shares her "Teddy," a dear companion since he became an 11th-birthday present.

A 1933 Lionel standard-gauge passenger train, *The Pennsylvania Limited*, is also on display, borrowed from the collection of member Robert Sponsel. From docent Jane Hieter, the exhibit includes a colorful wind-up train that's been in the family since she was a youngster. Eight-year-old Kortney Korpela, another Junior Engineer, has supplied two cuddly bears, one tiny and one giant, from her growing collection.

We hope you will have a chance to drop by and enjoy these and the many other toy trains and teddy bears that form this special holiday gift from some fellow members of your museum family.

Christmas Tree At Depot Has Special Meaning

If you drive by the museum this holiday season, be sure to take a look at the lighted tree in the upstairs window bay. Goleta Depot's Christmas tree has become one of the most famous in the area.

The depot tree renews the popular custom of railroad station agents and their families to place the traditional tree in a prominent spot, so that its message of hope and wonder could be shared with the passengers and crews on passing trains.

The Goleta Depot tree will be lit every evening through New Year's, creating a lovely Victorian scene that can be viewed by car from Los Carneros Road. Each year's tree is donated by the Rancho Dos Pueblos Christmas Tree Farm.

