



Goleta

DEPOT DISPATCH

Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum
Volume 12, Number 1 — Spring 1992

Asphalt Regatta Slated For May 2 Make-up Will Be May 16

Please mark the morning of Saturday, May 2 on your calendar. If it's already filled, mark May 16, instead. These are the dates for the 1992 Asphalt Regatta, and the museum **needs your help** to make this year's event — planned as the largest fundraiser in museum history — a success. The Regatta is so important this year that it will be the first time that a make-up date has been added to ensure that everyone who cares about the museum will have a chance to participate. All funds from the event benefit the railroad museum and Goleta Depot.

Please plan to attend, and bring along your family, friends, and neighbors, too.

This year, the Board of Trustees, which sponsors the event, has set a goal of \$12,000, the highest amount in the 11-year history of the Regatta. To achieve this goal, board members, staff, and others are busy lining up major sponsors who will pledge a combined total of \$50 for every person participating in the event.

Early pledges have already been obtained from Allen Models Inc., Sue Borgatello, Burton Decker Antiques, Goleta Lions Club, Home Savings of America, Kinko's Graphics by Cole, Santa Barbara Bank & Trust, Ernest and Metta Thomsen, and Trout Computing. If you would like to join these sponsors, please complete and return the accompanying form, which may also be used if you'd like to be a participant, yourself.

When the \$50 target is reached, every participating couple will earn \$100 for the museum, while a family of four will bring in \$200. A **minimum of 200 participants** is needed if we are to

reach our financial goal.

Anyone may participate, members and non-members, alike. There's no entry fee and all you need to do is walk, at your own leisurely pace, either of the event's two courses at Lake Los Carneros County Park. One course is about a mile long and the other is about two miles in length (It takes most people 30-90 minutes to complete a course). There are always plenty of folks to walk with, if you like. Some participants like to ride their bikes or jog, instead.

Please assemble at Goleta Depot **not later than 9:45 a.m.** for registration and the traditional group photograph.

There will be refreshments following the event and, as an added bonus, free miniature train rides will be given, beginning at 11 a.m. **on May 2 only**, for all who participate.

Many participants will also be collecting pledges of their own. This is an important ingredient in the overall fundraising strategy. If you are able to find extra sponsors for yourself, please call Asst. Director Phyllis Olsen at the museum, 964-3540, any weekday from 1 to 5 p.m. for more information.

Las Vegas Rail Trip Will Be April 5-7

It's "All Aboard" for our first-ever *Slow Train To Vegas* which departs Sunday, April 5. The museum group will be staying two nights at the lavish, new Main Street Station Hotel and Casino. Railfans will be especially interested in the four vintage railroad cars integrated into the hotel appointments, including the private car, *Louisa Alcott*, and the parlor car, *Cascade*, which are available for dining at two of the hotel restaurants. Other antiques abound: The grand

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entrance to Chicago's historic Pullman mansion decorates the entry to Lili Marlene's dining room. This is a fun hotel, with lots of things to see and do besides gambling.

The cost for the trip is only \$109 per person, double occupancy (\$140 single), which includes roundtrip rail, two nights lodging, two full breakfasts per person, and all applicable taxes.

Current plans are to limit the group size to 10.

For more information or to make reservations, please call Phyllis at the museum any weekday afternoon.

In Memoriam: Earl Marion Hill

The museum lost a dear friend in January with the passing of Dr. Earl Hill, longtime member and generous patron of the railroad museum and other Institute for American Research programs. In 1989, Dr. Hill and his wife, Rose Ann, founded the Earl and Rose Ann Hill Education Fund for Children's Programs, a special fund of the Museum Endowment. In recognition of their many contributions to the museum, the Hills were honored in 1991 as Life Honorary Trustees.

Miniature Train Will Run Every Thursday In March

The museum will be experimenting with mid-week train rides in March. The miniature train will run every Thursday during the month, with departures at 2 and 3 p.m. (there won't be continuous rides as on Saturdays). All Junior Engineers are receiving four coupons good for free rides for themselves and a friend or family member on each Thursday.

Sunday Film Program Expands

We will also be increasing the afternoon film program during March to include Wednesdays as well as Sundays. The March feature is the Peruvian rail documentary, *Three Miles High*. Showings will be at 1:30 and 2:45 each Wednesday and Sunday during the month. The film is free, but the Gandy Dancer Theater has a capacity of 14, so please call ahead (964-3540) to make reservations.

Year-End Donations Acknowledged

Dozens of members and friends responded to the appeal for contributions at the end of 1991. More than \$700 was received. Donors included Corey Anderson, Betty Bazzi, Jude A. Blau, Sue G. Borgatello, Bob and Lynn Burtness, Jean L.

Cady, Mary Cole, Mildred E. Gordon, Earl and Rose Ann Hill, Mrs. Velma M. Hill, Harry and Elaine Iddings, Karen Jenkins, Josiah F. Jenkins, Mrs. Alma C. Jones, Frank and Gloria Kellogg, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Kramer, Susan and Andy Lentz, and Jim M. McCulloch.

Also, Robert McNeel, Robert and Helen McPherrin, Isabel Friend Newman, Wendell and Suzanne Nichols, Colleen and Steve Ozab, Wilma Q. Patton, George R. Potter, Robert and Louise Prottengeier, Bill Rehart, Dan and Liz Sauro, Judy Savage, Mrs. Madeline V. Schroll, John Starr, Col. and Mrs. James A. Wasil, and Phil and Alice Watkins.

This is also an appropriate place to acknowledge those members who have renewed for 1992 at the Contributing, Corporate, and Sustaining levels, since these also represent significant contributions.

Renewing members at the Contributing and Corporate levels are Lucille Beckman, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Kramer, Nancy J. Miller, Isabel Friend Newman, Raytheon Co., John and Evelyn Schaller, and Security Pacific National Bank.

Renewing Sustaining Members include Christine Allen, Corey and Jill Anderson, Lisbeth Caccese, Helen J. Coffey, Mr. and Mrs. Homer Dahms, Leonard B. Evans, Albert C. Hardy Jr., Harry L. Harrison, Gregory W. Hawkins, Ellen G. Keeter, Frank and Gloria Kellogg, G. Ronald Larrieu, Daniel and Suzanne Lopez, William O. McKeag, Mr. and Mrs. C.E. Miller Jr., Nick and Susie Nichols, Lee and Suzanne Polansky, George R. Potter, Price & Sieber, Betty Rosness, Theresa M. Ruether, Santa Barbara Historical Society, Thomas and Beulah Strout, Stuart Wallace, Mrs. Evelyn Woods, and Fred and Linda Ziesenhenné.

Olsen Chosen Vice-Chair of Oral History Group

At their recent election, members of the Santa Barbara Regional Oral History Clearinghouse selected Museum Asst. Director Phyllis

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Olsen as the group's vice-chairman. The purpose of the clearinghouse is to promote the orderly development and coordination of oral history in Santa Barbara County.

Welcome New Members

We are pleased to extend warm greetings to all of our new members: Penfield & Smith (Life Member); Russ and Celia Clarke, Keith Grimes, Bruce Schumikowski, and Bruce R. Walley (Sustaining Members); and Angie Kloppenberg, Ryan Lugo, Dr. and Mrs. W.A. Radasky, and Phil and Alice Watkins (Active Members).

David Beerer is the newest member of the Junior Engineer's Club.

South Coast Railroad Museum Collection Started At UCSB

A new collection, named after the railroad museum, has been created at the UCSB Library, Dept. of Special Collections, in an agreement between the university and the museum's Board of Trustees. About 300 items from the museum's printed-materials collection — including timetables, brochures, manuals and other publications, representing the Southern Pacific and other U.S. and foreign railroads — have been placed in the "South Coast Railroad Museum Collection."

The main reason for moving these valuable items to UCSB is to provide better long-term protection, according to Museum Director Gary Coombs. UCSB's Dept. of Special Collections, which also houses the Pearl Chase and Walker A. Tompkins historical collections, and many other rare book and archival collections, offers state-of-the-art controls of temperature and humidity, two of the most serious threats to preservation.

Another benefit is better access for scholars, students, and other researchers. Head of Special Collections David C. Tambo said, "I am very pleased to add this fine assemblage of railroad materials to the Special Collections Dept. of the UCSB Library. It will provide a wealth of information to researchers locally and throughout the country."

Rummage/Collectibles Sale Will Be June 27.

Another "Unclaimed Freight and Baggage Sale" will help kick off the 1992 edition of Another Steaming Summer on Saturday, June 27. Needed are sale items — including rummage, furniture, collectibles, appliances, antiques, and

railroadiana. Also needed are a place to store the goods before the event, and more volunteers to assist with the pricing and selling. If you can help in any of these areas, please call Reda at the museum any weekday, 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Last year's event earned about \$600 to support museum operations and programs.

Groups Visit Museum

In the past quarter, the museum has been visited by groups from a number of local and regional organizations, including Montecito Union School, Lompoc Valley Baptist Church, La Patera School, and the Southern California Chapter of the Railway and Locomotive Historical Society.

Rain Postpones Sweetheart Trip

The February rains shut down Southern Pacific operations along the coast for several days, forcing us to reschedule the Sweetheart Special trip to San Diego. The change — to the weekend of March 7-8 — had to be made on Thursday, Feb. 13, only two days before the planned departure, affecting 53 persons — from Cambria, Lompoc, Goleta, Santa Barbara, Carpinteria, Camarillo, and Torrance — who had made reservations for the trip.

As of this writing, it's not known whether there will be additional space available for the March trip. Please call the museum any weekday afternoon if you are interested in joining the group.

Project Progress; More Help Needed

A number of construction, maintenance, and conservation projects have advanced in recent months, thanks in large part to the volunteer efforts of Gene Allen.

Gene has done a lot of repair work inside of the caboose, fixing the entry door, patching holes, painting, and generally making it more suitable for visitors. The old rail car is now open five days a week, during all museum hours.

Re-creation of the agent's bedroom is also proceeding. The antique bed frame donated by Bob Sponsel and Patricia Chidlaw has been reassembled; a full-size mattress and box spring are now needed (condition is unimportant). Can you help?

Gene has also finished the model railroad guard railing, which serves both to protect the exhibit and to improve visitor safety. Dan Lopez recently repaired the exhibit's Daylight engine, while Bob McNeel helped by pruning the roses

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behind the stationhouse. Edee Brown has applied lots of elbow grease during recent stints as weekday agent to help keep the freight office and other rooms sparkling. Some touch-up painting in the Trackside Shop has improved the appearance of the little train that circles the room. Much recent effort, by volunteers and staff alike, has been directed at combating the adverse effects of the February rains, including flooding in the handcar shed and underneath Goleta Depot.

Participation in the Conservation Days, on Jan. 4 and Feb. 1, has been disappointing, however. Only Gene Allen showed up to assist staff members Gary Coombs and Phyllis Olsen.

The need, however, is greater than ever. The recent heavy rains have accelerated the peeling of paint from the depot exterior, as well as causing flood damage and other problems.

Help is needed from throughout the museum membership. The next two Conservation Days will be April 4 and June 6. Work will start at 8:30 a.m. There will not be a work day on March 7, due to the rescheduled Sweetheart Special, or on May 2, the date of the Asphalt Regatta.

Smith Family Bequest Received

The Institute for American Research has received a \$24,500 gift from the estate of Verna Smith, who died last June. Mrs. Smith and her husband, Carl, who passed away several years ago, were staunch supporters of Institute programs, including Goleta Depot, the railroad museum, and the *Publications In Local History* series. The entire bequest has been placed in the endowment funds, in the names of Carl and Verna Smith, as follows: \$14,500 to the Richard and Georgia Thomas Endowment Fund; \$5,000 to the Earl and Rose Ann Hill Education Fund for Children's Programs; and \$5,000 to the Deborah Spalding Pelissero and Godwin Joseph Pelissero Publication Fund.

Coombs Chosen As IMS Reviewer

Museum Director Gary Coombs was honored recently with his selection as a field reviewer for the Institute of Museum Services (IMS), the federal agency that administers programs in support of the nation's museums, zoos, historic sites, and science and technology centers. In 1991, IMS awarded over \$20 million in general operating support grants to about 430 institutions.

As a field reviewer, Coombs joins about 400 other museum professionals nationwide who are responsible for evaluating the applications for 1992 grants. His area of specialization is

CALENDAR OF MUSEUM EVENTS

ASPHALT REGATTA: Saturday, May 2. Makeup on May 16. Help keep the museum going with your care and support!

SWEETHEART SPECIAL: Weekend trip to San Diego, March 7-8 (rescheduled).

SLOW TRAIN TO VEGAS: April 5-7. Don't miss Main Street Station! Call for reservations.

MINIATURE TRAIN RIDES: Every Thursday in March at 2 and 3 p.m. Rides \$1. Continuous rides from 1 to 4 p.m. on March 14, April 11, and May 9. Single ride \$1. All-day ticket \$2.

HANDCAR RIDES: March 21, April 18, and May 16. Riders must be 42 inches tall. Free, donations are appreciated.

FILMS: Every Sunday afternoon. Coming features: *Three Miles High* (March; documentary covers two Peruvian rail adventures; also shown every Thursday); *Coast To Coast* (April; travel Amtrak across the U.S.); *The Other Poland* (May). Free. Call for times and reservations (964-3540).

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

transportation (railroad, air, automobile, space, and maritime) museums.

Special Meeting For Docents and Prospective Volunteers

There will be a meeting and reception on the evening of May 20 for all current museum docents and anyone interested in joining or learning more about the museum's volunteer program. The event will be at the Goleta Library, 500 North Fairview Avenue, beginning at 7:30 p.m. There will be a short program, followed by a social hour with refreshments.

Docents play a central role in the museum's overall program; they are responsible for staffing the museum and sharing the historical landmark with visitors. Specific volunteer duties include giving rides on the miniature train and handcar, serving as gift shop clerks, interpreting the model railroad exhibit for visitors, giving guided tours of Goleta Depot, and serving as museum "agents." The museum currently needs more help in all of these areas.

Anyone interested in serving in any of these areas of volunteer responsibility is encouraged to attend the May 20 get-together. If you'd like more information, please call Phyllis Olsen at the museum any weekday afternoon.