



# Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH

Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum  
*Volume 12, Number 4 — Winter 1992*

## Sweetheart Special Will Be Feb. 13-14

The museum reprises its popular Valentine's-theme trip to San Diego over the weekend of Feb. 13-14, continuing a tradition started back in 1989.

The entire custom-class car on Amtrak's *San Diegan* has been reserved roundtrip for our group. There will be lots of games, festive decorations, and prizes enroute to our destination.

The group will stay at the Bayside Inn, which is convenient to the Amtrak station as well as the attractions of downtown San Diego and the waterfront.

A city trolley-bus tour and a Saturday night group dinner are also planned as trip options.

Costs are \$129 per person (double occupancy; \$149 single), which includes Saturday night accommodations, first-class rail fare, and transportation between the Amtrak station and hotel in San Diego.

Reservations may be made by contacting the museum at 964-3540 any weekday afternoon. This will be the only announcement in the *Depot Dispatch*. Sweetheart Special groups have filled quickly after reservations are opened to the general public when announcements of the trip appear in the local media.

## Holiday Tree-Trimming Party

Members and friends, young and old, are invited to join trustees and staff on Thursday, Dec. 10 to help decorate the Goleta Depot Christmas tree. Please come between 4 and 7 p.m. to enjoy light refreshment, holiday music, and good company. Bring along an ornament, bearing your name and the year if you wish, which will join the museum's permanent collection of holiday decorations.

The depot tree, which each year occupies the landmark's upstairs window bay, has special historical significance. It renews the custom, practiced over the years by countless railroad station agents and families across the country, of placing their Christmas tree in a prominent spot, where its message of hope and wonder could be shared with the passengers and crews on passing trains. The Goleta Depot tree will be lighted every night until New Year's, creating a lovely Victorian scene that may be viewed by car from North Los Carneros Road.

## Museum Shop Has Holiday Gift Ideas

Looking for the perfect holiday gift for that railfan or history buff on your list? Whether they're young, old, or somewhere in between the museum's Trackside Shop has something just right for them.

More than 100 new items have been added to the gift shop selection this year — from books and games to calendars and electric trains. A museum or Junior Engineer's Club membership also makes a perfect gift. Miniature-train charters for birthday parties or other occasions can also be reserved at the Trackside Shop.

For the youngster who enjoys Thomas the Tank Engine, you'll find dozens of Thomas items from which to choose, including a new video (we carry all six!), stuffed toys, puzzles, dinnerware, books, and clothing items.

The shop also has a wonderful selection of railroad and nostalgia stocking stuffers, starting at under \$1.

We accept personal checks, Visa, and MasterCard. Shopping at the museum is always convenient, with plenty of free parking and no lines at the counter.

Best of all, every sale benefits the museum.

Members receive a 10% discount on all gift purchases. The shop is open during all museum hours: Wednesday thru Sunday from 1-4 p.m.

## Museum Supports Youth Reading

The Summer Reading Program of the Santa Barbara Public Libraries encourages local young people to develop and use their reading skills. This year, 2,633 youngsters, ages 2 through 13, participated in the program in Santa Barbara, Goleta, Montecito, Carpinteria, Solvang, Santa Ynez, and Los Olivos.

The South Coast Railroad Museum has supported the summer reading program for a number of years. Our involvement began in 1989, when the museum organized a train trip to Simi Valley, complete with story-time and other activities, for reading-program youngsters and their families.

This year, the museum again promoted reading excellence among local youth by providing all 414 youngsters who read 25 or more books with certificates good for complimentary miniature-train rides for

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themselves and a friend or family member.

Children are still redeeming the certificates, which are valid through the end of 1992.

## Toy Trains and Teddy Bears Return for Holidays

### *"Toy Trains and Teddy Bears!"*

*What better symbols are there of the Holidays, Past and Present.*

*In that spirit, these cherished keepsakes are shared anew this Joyous Season — as their gift to you — by members of our Museum Family, young and old."*

So reads the label that introduces the exhibition that opens Wednesday, Dec. 2 at the museum. Displayed in the waiting-room exhibit case are stuffed teddy bears and toy locomotives and rail cars — some rare, all precious — borrowed from the homes of museum members, volunteers, trustees, and staff, as well as from the museum's own collections.

Those who enjoyed last year's holiday display — the first edition of "Toy Trains and Teddy Bears!" — will find that this year's assemblage includes many new and different pieces. Don't miss this special treat when you visit the museum during the holiday season.

"Toy Trains and Teddy Bears!" continues through Jan. 17. Museum hours are Wed.-Sun., 1-4 p.m.



*Depot Day attracted another big crowd.*

## Volunteers Urgently Needed

It's wonderful to see our museum growing. Serving more people — area visitors and especially local residents — is one of the main reasons for the museum's existence. But these swelling numbers also mean rising demands on the physical plant and the museum's financial and human resources.

The shortage of volunteer docents is now becoming particularly acute. More volunteers are urgently needed to share Goleta Depot and the rest of the museum with the public, by making the museum's exhibit areas and programs available to visitors.

Each museum volunteer selects the area or areas

where he or she wishes to specialize. Some give the rides on the miniature-train or handcar; others show visitors the model railroad exhibit; some are clerks in the museum gift shop. Tour-guides and "agents" are the volunteers responsible for sharing the historical landmark, itself.

If you care about Goleta Depot, are enthusiastic about the museum's educational and recreational programs, and would like to help make them available to young and old, please consider becoming a museum volunteer. To find out more, give Asst. Director Phyllis Olsen a call any weekday afternoon at 964-3540.

## Conservation Days Discontinued

The Board of Trustees has decided to remove "Conservation Days" from the museum's 1993 Program Plan. This year, the first Saturday of every month was set aside for maintenance, small projects, housekeeping, and other cleanup around the museum. The decision to discontinue these monthly Conservation Days was based on the low participation by the general membership.

The cancellation of Conservation Days leaves unanswered the question of how the museum, especially the historical landmark, will be cared for. There is no provision in the budget, for example, for hiring an outside cleaning service.

## Final Steaming Summer Report

*Another Steaming Summer* closed with a bang on Sept. 26. Total miniature-train ridership for the four-day event which began June 27 reached 1,308, up 43% (almost 400 passengers) over last year's record pace of 913 riders.

Special thanks to Denny Franks and Toyota of Santa Barbara for sponsoring Steaming Summer again this year and for making hundreds of discount train-ride tickets available to the public through a summer-long giveaway. A debt of gratitude is also due to members of the Goleta Lions Club, coordinated by Dave Hieter, for selling hot sandwiches to event attendees and donating the proceeds to the museum.

It wouldn't be Steaming Summer, of course, without those marvelous miniature steam locomotives that huff-and-puff around the museum grounds. More than hauling passengers, they fill our senses with smoke and steam; the wonderful sounds of bell, whistle and hissing water vapor; and the pleasant rhythms of piston, rod, and driver. This year's guest engines included Dan O'Brien's mogul, Gene Allen's American,

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John Darby's mogul, and Ed Winnewisser's 0-6-0 switcher.

Equally indispensable were dozens of rank-and-file museum volunteers, who did their part: crewing the trains and staffing the museum and shop each day.

*Another Steaming Summer '92* was a terrific success and will be difficult to match, much less surpass, when the water begins to boil again, in 1993.

## Depot Move Discussed

At the Sept. 16 museum meeting, Director Gary Coombs led a discussion of the pros and cons of returning Goleta Depot to the tracks, to become part of the new Goleta Amtrak passenger station, scheduled to be built in 1993-94. He indicated that there were three main concerns: the preservation of Goleta Depot, the perpetuation of the railroad museum and existing programs, and the financial viability of any proposed project.

In addition to supporting the general concept of a new Amtrak station in Goleta, the museum continues to investigate the feasibility and implications of incorporating the historical landmark into the new station complex.

## Volunteers Honored

Also at the September meeting, Hilda Volkman and Gene Allen were recognized as the museum volunteers who had contributed the most hours for the year to date. Gene had logged a reported 209 hours of service to the museum and Hilda 137 hours. Each received a congratulatory box of treats and the applause of those in attendance.

## Depot Day '92 Report

Many people joined together again this year, to make the 10th Anniversary Depot Day celebration a memorable event and another solid success.

New for '92 was Gene Rantanen's O-gauge train setup; while the traditional Depot Day steam display was expanded several fold this year, thanks to Jim Marchiando and Bob Alexander, who each brought their trailered steam plants for the occasion.

There were lots of nice words about the fine job turned in at the children's area by Story Teller Child Care Center, a local nonprofit group that works with homeless children. The barber shop renditions of Quartet DuJour were another pleasant addition to the day.

Thanks to all who volunteered: Bob Alexander; Brent Anderson; Jon Bartel; Riven Barton; Ben, Gayle, Amelia, and Austin Beede; Christine and Steve Boilard; Edee and Carroll Brown; Lynn Burtness; Theresa, Sam, and Nick Caccese; Helen Coffey; Jack and Harriet Cogan; Mary Cole; Barbara Cornish; Steinunn Danley; Victoria DeLoreto; Charlene Doty; Tom Drake; Sandy Filippello; and Patti Gaultney.

Also, Lani Hendrick; Dave and Jane Hieter; Jim Higman; Rose Ann Hill; Al and Alice Jaramillo; Judy Johnson; Audrey and Peter Kaufman; Jeff, Kortney, and Wesley Korpela; Stella Kramer; Peter and Julia Laraway; Kathy Leska; Kenny Lin; Haisly Lytle; Dan and Suzanne Lopez; Ryan Lugo; Bob Mahan; James



*Expanded steam-engine display was a big hit..*

Marchiando, Jr.; Bob McGee; Bill, Flo, and Cyrus McNally; Bob McNeel; Diana Mina; Native Sons of the Golden West; and Robert Pike.

And, Lee and Suzanne Polansky; Jeannine Priester; Arlene Radasky; Ida Rickborn; Dan and Cathy Saragosa; Judy Savage; John Schaller; Craig Schmidt; Sgt. Major Dick Montalvo and Santa Barbara High School Jr. ROTC; Don Scott; Dick and Wendy Shelton; Janis Shinn; Jackie and John Sieckowski; John Marshall Starr; Lani, Susan, and Hanna Strobel; Steve Sullivan; Ernie Thomsen; Hilda and Al Volkman;

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### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
(IF THIS IS A GIFT, PLEASE USE RECIPIENT'S NAME HERE, GIVER'S NAME BELOW)

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Please enter/renew my membership (mark desired category):

Active - \$10 ( special rate for Docent Assn. members only - \$5)

Sustaining - \$25

Contributing Member/Corporate Member - \$50

Life Member - \$175

Jr. Engineer's Club - \$10 ( w/adult member at same address - \$5)

GIFT. Giver name for gift card: \_\_\_\_\_

RETURN COMPLETED FORM WITH CHECK, PAYABLE TO:  
SOUTH COAST RR MUSEUM, P.O. BOX 2125, GOLETA, CA 93118

South Coast Railroad Museum is an educational program and business name of the Institute for American Research, a local nonprofit organization. Contributions are deductible from state and federal income taxes.

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Bob Wilke; Evelyn Woods; and Ruby Yenkala.

Outstanding support was provided by Christ Lutheran Church, Goleta Union School District, and more than 100 merchants and businesses.

### Great Pumpkin Winners

Lucky winners in the Depot Day "Great Pumpkin Drawing" were Thomas Clark, Brian Dunlap, Kortney Korpela, Philip Levien, Randy Saragosa, and Michelle Sieckowski.

### Lemon Festival

Having the Goleta Lemon Festival scheduled a mere eight days before Depot Day presented a real challenge for the museum's hardworking volunteers. Fortunately, we were able to cover all staffing areas and emerged from the swirling dust and debris relatively unscathed.

As one would expect, having two major events in less than two weeks also led to many firsts and bests at the railroad museum. The record 1,440 total miniature-train riders for October — by far the most for any month since we began hauling passengers — is but one indication of the hectic pace. The "It's A Real Lemon" rummage and baked-goods sale was a big success, bringing in over \$800.

Workers during the Lemon Festival included Ben and Austin Beede; Jack Cogan; Mary Cole; Gary Coombs; Victoria DeLoreto; Ophelia Gomez; Dave and Jane Hieter; Albert Jaramillo; Dan Lopez; Bob McNeel; Reda Meanor; Phyllis Olsen; Judy Savage; Jim and Sue Smith; and Hilda Volkman. All deserve much gratitude for their participation.

Special assistance was provided by Santa Barbara Airport, Goleta Library, and Kinko's Graphics by Cole.

### Myrick Shares Nevada Railroad History

A receptive crowd of museum members and area residents was treated to a highly informative talk on the railroads of Nevada by the leading authority on the subject, David F. Myrick.

Attendees at the November museum meeting at Goleta Library all received a comprehensive map of Nevada railroads and mining towns, which was used for reference purposes by Mr. Myrick during his 45-minute presentation. Following the talk, he autographed copies of his *Railroads of Nevada and Eastern California*. Refreshments were served.

The audience of 32 persons made the November gathering the best-attended library meeting since the program was inaugurated in May.

Museum meetings are held the third Wednesday of every month, beginning at 7:30 p.m., at the Goleta Library, 500 North Fairview Ave. They are free and open to members and the general public.

### Membership Renewal Time Is Here

All annual memberships — including yours — are now up for renewal. The only exceptions are Life Members and persons who joined the museum after Oct. 1, 1992 (whose annual memberships extend through the end of 1993). If you joined this year between Jan. 1 and Sept. 30, you may renew for all of 1993 by sending only 50% of the normal annual dues.

Please use the membership application/renewal form on page 3 of the Depot Dispatch. Your prompt renewal will save money and help us keep member rates low.

### Welcome New Members

New museum members include Arthur Chard; Steve, Kenna and Nicholas Conti; Dr. and Mrs. Ian Crow; Tracy Ireland; Mrs. Paul Kunze; Kenny Lin; Lynne M. Lombard; Bruce Morden; Gene Rantanen; and Bruce Williamson. New Junior Engineers are Samson Anderson-Magazzino and Brendan Cronshaw.

On behalf of everyone in the museum family, welcome to you all!

#### DONOR CONTRIBUTION FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed please find my check, made payable to South Coast Railroad Museum, in the amount of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please use my contribution for \_\_\_\_\_

Return completed form to: SOUTH COAST RAILROAD MUSEUM, P.O. BOX 2125, GOLETA, CA 93118

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#### CALENDAR OF MUSEUM EVENTS

**SWEETHEART SPECIAL:** Weekend trip to San Diego, February 13-14.

**MINIATURE TRAIN RIDES:**  
Every Wednesday, 2-3:30 pm. Tickets \$1.  
Every 2nd and 4th Saturday, 1-4 p.m.  
Single ride \$1. All-day ticket \$2.50.

**FREE HANDCAR RIDES:**  
Every 3rd Saturday, 1-4 p.m. Riders must be 42 inches tall. Free, donations are appreciated.

**FILMS:** Every Thursday and Sunday afternoon.  
Coming features: *Slow Train To Olympia* (December; explore Greece by rail); *Changing Trains* (January; European railroad documentary); *Terror By Night* (February; Sherlock Holmes railroad classic). Free.  
Call for times and reservations (964-3540).

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

