



# Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH

Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum  
*Volume 13, Number 1 — Spring 1993*

## Hop Aboard "Easter Bunny Express"

A new event, the Easter Bunny Express, will take place at the museum Saturday, April 10, from noon 'til 4 p.m. Highlights include miniature-train rides, children's activities, refreshments, and holiday games and prizes. Don't miss this hare-raising eggs-perience. Hop aboard! Tickets, at \$2.50 each, will cover a ride, refreshments, and activities.

Members who wish to help with the event's planning and staffing are urged to call Assistant Director Phyllis Olsen at 964-3540.

## Team Competition To Highlight 12th Asphalt Regatta

The museum needs your help for a successful 1993 Asphalt Regatta, our big spring fundraiser. The event is slated for Saturday, May 8, with a make-up on May 15 for anyone unable to attend the first date.

This year, the Board of Trustees has set a goal of \$11,000 for the event. All funds raised go to the railroad museum and maintenance of Goleta Depot.

The Regatta is crucial to the museum: In 1992, pledges passed the \$9,000 mark, accounting for more than 10% of the money the museum needed to operate for the year.

A minimum of 200 participants is needed again this year to reach our financial goal. Anyone may participate, including non-members. There's no entry fee and all you need to do is walk, at your own leisurely pace, either of two event courses at Lake Los Carneros Park. One course is about a mile long and the other is about twice that length (Most people take 30-45 minutes to complete.). There are always plenty of folks to accompany you (Last year, we had over 200 Regatta participants!). Some folks like to ride their bikes or jog, instead of walking.

Board members, staff, and others are lining up major sponsors who will pledge a combined total of \$50 for every person participating in the event (Last year, we assembled over \$43 per participant in major-sponsor pledges). When that \$50 target is reached, every participating couple will earn \$100 for the museum, while a family of four will bring in \$200.

Many participants will also be collecting pledges

on their own. This is always a big added boost toward reaching our goal. To encourage this extra effort this year, two teams — composed of trustees, docents, members, and staff — are now forming and a friendly competition to determine the best fundraisers has begun. For more information about the team competition, including details on how to join a team, please consult the accompanying flyer. It is not necessary to join a team in order to participate, however.

Refreshments will be served following the event and, as an added incentive, all participants will receive free miniature-train rides.

## Fridays Added to Train-Ride Schedule for March

During the month of March, the museum will be testing the further expansion of the weekly miniature-train ride schedule. Rides will be offered every Friday, from 2 until 3:30 p.m., in addition to the current schedule, which includes every Wednesday (also 2-3:30) and all second and fourth Saturdays (1-4 p.m.). Al Jaramillo will serve as engineer on Fridays, assisted by Gary Coombs and Phyllis Olsen, who work together to run the train every Wednesday.

If the March experiment is successful and regular volunteers can be found, Fridays may become a permanent part of the miniature-train schedule. The Wednesday train-ride program has been extremely beneficial to the museum since it was started last spring. In the second half of 1992, Wednesday ridership was more than 24 passengers per day, while total museum attendance on Wednesdays jumped 56% compared to 1991, to about 34 visitors daily.

## Sweetheart Special Successful

Unlike last year, the museum luckily found enough dry weather in the midst of another rainy winter season, to hold a successful 1993 Sweetheart Special weekend on Feb. 13-14. A group of 48 took part in this year's festivities.

Having exclusive occupancy of the custom-coach car on the *San Diegoan* for the first time was a big plus.

*(continued on page 2)*

(continued from page 1)

With the cooperation of Amtrak's public relations office and train personnel, we were able to decorate the car — with hearts and colorful Valentine's balloons and streamers — in advance of the group's boarding. The early morning decorating work was accomplished beautifully by Trustee Mary Cole (who also baked muffins for the group) and Ofelia Gomez. As their unexpected "reward," each received a free ride to Oxnard courtesy of Amtrak when the train suddenly pulled out of Santa Barbara station with the two decorators still aboard! Luckily, they got to deadhead back on Train 773 and were home by early afternoon.

This year's Sweetheart Couple, elected by their fellow group members, was Max and Vera Henderson, who were making the trip to celebrate their 4th wedding anniversary.

## Year-End Appeal Results Tallied

More than one-sixth of the museum's total membership responded with a contribution to the year-end appeal from the Board of Trustees. In all, donations reached \$3,100, more than triple the 1991 total.

Contributors were George and Helen Adams, Christine Allen, Joe and Kathy Bahamonde, Banner Construction, Inc., Betty Bazzi, Henry E. Bender Jr., Sue Borgatello, Tom Braunger, Ronald E. Bruns, L.A. Caccese, Charles Chubak, Helen Coffey, Betty J. Coombs, Mrs. Homer Dahms, Sam and Louise Fields, Sally Gane, Mildred E. Gordon, Harry Harrison, Rose Ann Hill, Velma M. Hill, Don H. Hollister, Home Savings of America, Josiah F. Jenkins, Karen Jenkins, Bill and Ruth Johnson, Frank and Gloria Kellogg, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Kramer, Roger Levenson, Eugene and Jean Mangini, Helen McPherrin, Mr. and Mrs. C. Edward Miller Jr., Nancy and Warren Miller, Jim Moyer, Isabel Friend Newman, Mrs. John T. Porter, Santa Barbara Research Center, Security Pacific Bank/Bank of America, Bea Stevens, Thomas Strout, and Earl White.

Although the year-end appeal was fruitful compared to the previous year, the total did fall below the Board target by \$1,900. At their February meeting, trustees decided to add this shortfall to the goal for this year's Asphalt Regatta (see page 1 story) set for May 8 and 15.

## Memorial, Honorary Gifts Received

A contribution in memory of longtime docent Bev Casselman was received from John Marshall Starr. Robert Mayo Failing, M.D. and Nancy Ann Failing made a gift to the museum in memory of David E. Gillespie. A contribution was also given by Gene and Alma Allen, in memory of Elmer Coombs, father of Museum Director Gary Coombs, who died Nov. 26.

A donation honoring the 50th wedding anniversary of George and Vivian Obern was received from Gary Coombs.

## Docents-in-Training Attend Orientation

Four volunteers have finished the first phase of their docent training. On Dec. 12, Ryan Lugo, Ben Beede, Gene Rantanen, and Dan Saragosa attended the two-and-a-half-hour orientation class. When all requirements are completed, they will become full-fledged museum docents. All four in the group have selected the model railroad exhibit as their primary area of interest.

## Next Docent Orientation Meeting Slated For March 19

An orientation class for prospective docents will be held Friday, March 19, from 7 until 9:30 p.m.

The museum's docents are vital to the staffing of most areas and activities when the museum is open to the public. Docents operate the miniature-train and handcar rides, staff the Tracksides Shop, and share the historical landmark and model railroad exhibit with visitors.

If you would like to learn more about the docent program, please plan to attend the March 19 orientation. To sign up, please call Assistant Director Phyllis Olsen at 964-3540, any weekday afternoon.

## Santa Barbara Bank Assumes Endowment Responsibility

The Board of Trustees has obtained the services of Santa Barbara Bank & Trust as financial advisor and manager of the organization's endowment funds.

The endowment principal totals over \$119,000, which is divided into three distinct funds: the Richard and Georgia Thomas Endowment Fund of the South Coast Railroad Museum, which exceeds \$72,000; the Deborah Spalding Pelissero and Godwin Joseph Pelissero Publication Fund, over \$27,000; and the Earl and Rose Ann Hill Education Fund for Children's Programs, \$20,000.

Gifts to the endowments are held in perpetuity and invested. Income from the investments are used to advance the specific objectives of the respective fund.

## Holiday Tree-Trimming Party

After a one-year hiatus, the museum resumed the tradition of a holiday tree-trimming party on Thursday, Dec. 10. Many thanks are due to Barbara

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Cornish for arranging for the music and all of the delicious refreshments. The tree was donated by the Dos Pueblos Christmas Tree Farm and fetched by Gene Allen, with special assistance from the crew of Fire Station No. 14 in getting the massive evergreen up the depot's stairs.

## Bedroom Exhibit Update

The agent's bedroom exhibit was shared with those in attendance at the Christmas party, including sister and brother Isabel Friend Newman and John Friend, who had recently donated a number of items to the museum toward completion of the bedroom refurbishing. The items, all from the estate of their mother, the late Dorothy Metcalf, included a family heirloom crocheted bedspread in the popcorn pattern; toiletries, including a mirror, nail buffer, and buttonhook; a teddy bear; and an appropriately-framed photograph of a young Dorothy Metcalf.

## Braunger Shares Career Highlights

Retired railroader Tom Braunger presented a fascinating and very personal look at "The Life of a Locomotive Engineer" to a group of 21 members and local residents at the Feb. 17 museum meeting. His talk was a colorful blend of interesting facts, amusing anecdotes, and tales of misfortune and tragedy — all drawn from his 44-year career with American railroads.

## Neal Graffy To Be March Program

Neal Graffy will present his popular "Santa Barbara: Then and Now" slide program at the March 17 museum meeting. Graffy, a Santa Barbara resident since 1961, uses twin slide projectors and screens to show a variety of well-known Santa Barbara-area scenes. On one screen, the audience sees a historical scene — a building or site from the past, while on the other screen they see how the same place looks today.

## Future Speakers Announced

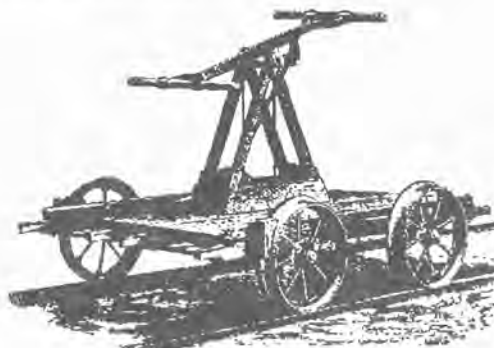
Gene Allen will discuss "How a Steam Locomotive Works" at the April 21 meeting. Robert McNeel will reprise his slide presentation on railroad depots in America and world-wide at the May 19 meeting. At the June 16 gathering, Museum Director Gary Coombs will speak on "Some Surprises from Recent Goleta Depot Research."

All meetings are held at the Goleta Library, 500 North Fairview Ave., beginning at 7:30 p.m. They are free and open to members and the general public. Refreshments are served following the presentations which usually run 30 to 60 minutes.

## Welcome New Members

New museum members are Noel Langle (Sustaining); Ronald Ferguson, Janet and Peter Kayfetz-Gaum, Ed Leska Family, Donald J. Love, David G. Purinton, and Daniel Saragosa (Active); and George McGowan (Corresponding). New Junior Engineers are Alexander Kayfetz-Gaum and Matthew Parker.

Welcome to all of our new members!



## Holiday Exhibit Concludes

The holiday exhibit, "Toy Trains and Teddy Bears!" was a big success again this year. The Waiting Room exhibition opened Dec. 2 and concluded Jan. 31.

Special thanks to all who made the festive display possible. Animal companions were shared by Jr. Engineers Erik Purinton, Kira Purinton, Brian Romofsky, Jonathan Romofsky, and Russell Williams. Also loaning stuffed-animal keepsakes were Assistant Director Phyllis Olsen, Robert Sponsel, Hilda Volkman, and little Katelin Cogan, granddaughter of Jack and Harriet Cogan. The holiday exhibit menagerie also included a stuffed bear from the museum's collections, donated recently by Isabel Friend Newman.

Trains in the exhibit were supplied by Eugene

(continued on page 4)

### 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  Trustee's Club - \$250

Contributing \$50  President's Circle - \$500

Life Member - \$200

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.

(continued from page 3)

Allen, Bob Burtness, Gary Coombs, Ed Leska, Dan Lopez, Gene Rantanen, the Craig and Juleine Schmidt family, and Robert Sponsel.

If you would like to be included in the 1993 rendition of "Toy Trains and Teddy Bears!" please contact Museum Director Gary Coombs.

## New Membership Categories Offer Special Benefits

Two new classes of membership have been established by the Board of Trustees — the *President's Circle* (annual dues \$500) and *Trustees' Club* (\$250 annually). Besides the regular member benefits, both of the new categories offers a selection of additional benefits that will be of interest to potential corporate, organizational, or individual members.

*Trustees' Club* members receive their choice of either (a) a private party (for a birthday or other occasion) on the museum grounds, for up to 50 persons, including a one-hour miniature-train or handcar charter; (b) 100 free train-ride tickets, good for all operating days within a one-year period, except for major museum events; or (c) 40 all-day passes, good for unlimited miniature-train rides on any operating Saturday, except for major events.

Members of the *President's Circle* receive their choice of any **two** of the above.

These special benefits may be used by the member, distributed to customers or employees, or donated to a community organization, if desired (The museum can supply names of potential recipient organizations upon request.). Moving up to one of these new membership categories is an excellent way to support the museum and its educational, recreational, and preservation programs.

The membership application on page 3 now includes these new categories.

### 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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## New Exhibition Examines Rural Railroad Station in America

The new exhibit in the Waiting Room uses Goleta Depot and other Southern Pacific stations in southern Santa Barbara County to exemplify an American institution: the historic country railroad station.

The display utilizes a number of items from the museum's collections, including one of the original "Goleta" signboards, wall and pocket timepieces, telegraphy equipment, station tools, and a handsome O-gauge model of Southern Pacific's Palmdale depot, scratch-built by Orlyn Glover.

### CALENDAR OF MUSEUM EVENTS

#### EASTER BUNNY EXPRESS

Saturday, April 10. 12 Noon'til 4 pm. Tickets \$2.50, includes miniature-train ride, refreshments, and special holiday activities.

#### MINIATURE TRAIN RIDES:

Every Wednesday and Friday, 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.

#### SPEAKER'S PROGRAM

March 17, Neal Graffy, *Santa Barbara Then & Now*  
April 21, Eugene Allen, *How a Steam Locomotive Works*

May 19, Robert McNeel, *Railroad Stations*

June 16, Gary Coombs, *Some Surprises from Recent Goleta Depot Research*

ALL PROGRAMS HELD AT GOLETA LIBRARY  
500 N. Fairview Ave., 7:30 p.m.

#### FILMS: Every Thursday and Sunday afternoon.

*Railroads, Robbers & Rebels* (March; documentary view of American railroad history of the 19th century); *The Long Straight* (April; cross Australia by rail); *Zambezi Express* (May; railroads of southern Africa); *Journey to the Land Beyond the Mountains* (June; a Portuguese rail odyssey). Free. Call for times and reservations (964-3540).

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

