



Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH

Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum
Volume 13, Number 2 — Summer 1993

"Fiesta Train" Slated for Old Spanish Days

The railroad museum will be participating in the Old Spanish Days celebration for the first time this year with a new event, *Tren de la Fiesta* ("Fiesta Train"). The event is set for Saturday, Aug. 7 at Goleta Depot, from noon until 4 p.m., following the Children's Parade on State St. There will be free miniature-train rides until 2 p.m. for all youngsters attending in Fiesta



Al Jaramillo will help engineer Aug. 7 "Fiesta Train."

dress or parade attire. Rides will also be available to the general public for \$1. Festive music and refreshments will round out the event.

Special thanks to Museum Docent **Al Jaramillo**, longtime member of the Old Spanish Days committee, for his successful effort to add *Tren de la Fiesta* to the 1993 Fiesta schedule of events.

Any members who are interested in helping to plan or staff this exciting new event are urged to contact the museum office at 964-3540.

Museum Added to AAA Tourbook

The name "Goleta" has not appeared in the listing of attractions in the American Automobile Association's *California/Nevada TourBook* for more than a decade.

All that will change in 1994, when the South Coast Railroad Museum at Goleta Depot will be added to the new issue of the widely-circulated travel guide.

We received the good news in a May 13 letter from Norma E. Palmer, *TourBook* Associate Editor.

"Another Steaming Summer" Is Here

Another busy season of live-steam railroading at the museum will begin on Saturday, June 26, the kick-off for our 6th Annual *Another Steaming Summer* event. Highlighting the first day's festivities will be **Gene Allen's** 4-4-0 American, a Steaming Summer favorite built by Allen Models, Inc. Single rides on the miniature train are \$1 and unlimited-ride tickets will also be available for \$3.

The event continues on July 24 and Aug. 28. Hours for all three Saturdays will be 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., with all regular museum areas open for the expanded schedule. There will also be continuous free showings of *Thomas The Tank Engine* videos in the museum's Gandy Dancer Theater throughout the event.

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

Toyota of Santa Barbara is sponsor for *Another Steaming Summer*. Coupons good for 1/2-off on rides, including the unlimited-ride tickets, are available to adults visiting the car dealership at 5611 Hollister Ave.

Director and Asst. Director Ride Sunset Limited Inaugural Train

On March 28, Amtrak inaugurated the first transcontinental train in U.S. history, when the Los Angeles-to-New Orleans *Sunset Limited* was officially extended to Miami. Aboard for the inaugural trip were South Coast Railroad Museum Director **Gary Coombs** and Assistant Director **Phyllis Olsen**, both guests of Amtrak. Although hundreds of people accepted Amtrak's invitation to ride the inaugural train at least part of the way, Coombs and Olsen were the only two to complete the entire 6,132-mile roundtrip, which included the April 2-6 return aboard the first regularly-scheduled *westbound* transcontinental.

During the inaugural trip, Coombs and Olsen rep-
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resented the Goleta Valley Chamber of Commerce, as well as the railroad museum. Along the way they made a number of presentations, of commemorative certificates and Chamber label pins, to many of the VIPs they met aboard the train or among the welcoming groups in the towns and cities, including the mayors of Mobile, Ala. and Orlando and West Palm Beach, Fl.

There was extensive coverage of the historic event by local, regional, and national media. Phyllis was quoted in the April 9 "Cover Story" in *USA Today*. Both appeared in a CNN television special, "The Singing of the Rails: A Ride into History," which aired May 22.



"Miami or Bust" says it all about inaugural adventure.

Sunset Limited Experiences Will Be Shared June 16

Museum Director Gary Coombs and Assistant Director Phyllis Olsen will present a program on the inaugural trip of the *Sunset Limited*, the first transcontinental train in U.S. history, on Wednesday, June 16 at the Goleta Library, 500 N. Fairview Ave. beginning at 7:30 p.m.

The program will include a presentation of slides from the event-filled 10-day trip and a variety of display materials, including historic Southern Pacific travel posters from the museum's collections. Refreshments will be served following the presentation.

The program is part of the South Coast Railroad Museum's monthly evening lecture series. All series programs are free and open to the public.

Volunteers To Be Recognized June 16

The June 16th library gathering will also be the occasion for a Volunteer Appreciation ceremony. There will be presentations and all docents will be honored for their service to the museum. Members are urged to attend to join in honoring the hard work and dedication of the museum's volunteers.

Future Speakers Slated

An interesting assortment of subjects are scheduled for upcoming museum meetings. Postponed from June, "Some Surprises from Recent Goleta Depot Research" will be the subject of the July 21 meeting.

Vivian Obern will speak on historic Hope House at the Aug. 18 gathering. No one can give the subject of Hope House a more personal touch than Vie Obern, who, with her husband, George, bought the dilapidated mansion in 1967 and saw to its restoration and eventual listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Sept. 15 speaker will be **Alexandra Cole**, who will discuss "The Architecture of Goleta Depot." A local historic preservationist, Cole is chairman of the County's Historical Landmarks Advisory Committee.

All programs begin at 7:30 p.m. and are free and open to the general public. They are held at the Goleta Library, 500 N. Fairview Ave.

Audiences Grow For Speakers Program

Attendance at the museum meetings has been growing steadily over the months. Audiences for the last three presentations averaged just over 28 attendees. All three programs — **Neal Graffy's** "Santa Barbara: Then and Now," **Gene Allen's** discussion of "How a Steam Locomotive Works," and the reprise of "Railroad Stations" by **Robert McNeel** — were skillfully done and favorably received by their audiences.

Train-Ride Schedule Expands

Fridays have been added to the permanent schedule of the miniature-train ride, which will also now operate every Saturday afternoon.

The decision to include Fridays was based on the success of a test begun in March. Over the 12-week trial period, daily participation on Fridays averaged about 13 riders. During the same period, an average of about 16 visitors rode the train on Wednesdays, which

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Page 1 photo by Greg Bennett Photography.
Photo on page 4 courtesy of Mary Cole.
Printing courtesy of Kimberly Press, Goleta.

joined the regular train-ride schedule last July.

The train ride affects the museum in a number of positive ways. Because of the ride's recreational value, it further encourages school and youth groups to tour the museum. In fact, *overall* museum attendance is generally much higher on the days that the train runs. During the test period, Friday attendance averaged 23 visitors, up 70% from the daily figures recorded within the same time-frame a year ago.

The museum has also increased the weekend ride schedule to include all Saturdays. Previously, weekend operations were limited to second and fourth Saturdays, a practice started last November.

Memorial Gifts Received

Donations in memory of **David E. Gillespie** have been received from **Alfred Haij** and **Gilbert Lieberknecht**.

Museum Gains Three New Docents

Three new docents-in-training have been added to the museum's volunteer ranks. **Ronald Ferguson**, **Kenny Lin**, and **Ed Leska** attended the orientation session on March 19 and have begun staffing the museum as their training continues.

Docent Session Will Be July 10

There will be an orientation class on Saturday, July 10 for persons interested in becoming museum docents. The three-hour session begins at 9 a.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 Trackage Shop, and share the historical landmark and model railroad exhibit with museum visitors.

If you would like to learn more about the docent program, please plan to attend the July 10 orientation. To sign up, please call Assistant Director Phyllis Olsen at 964-3540, any weekday afternoon.

Asphalt Regatta Report

The 1993 Asphalt Regatta garnered \$8,440 in pledges, eclipsing the final proceeds from last year's event by \$79. The total, however, did fall about \$2,500 short of the \$11,000 goal set by the Board of Trustees.

More than 100 members and friends participated in this year's event. The museum's Docent Association was especially well-represented: docents and their families comprised about one-third of the total participant group. Junior Engineers and their families supplied another 23 participants.

Joe Lemons, with strong assistance from his wife, **Diane**, led all trustees by securing \$850 in pledges. **Hilda Volkman** was the number-one money-raiser among all docents with \$360 pledged. **Nancy Ried** raised \$200, tops from the general membership.

In the team competition, the **Blue Team** was victorious, raising \$4,544 or about 54% of the total, compared with a respectable \$3,896 from the **Red Team**.

All Asphalt Regatta participants and sponsors will be acknowledged in an upcoming Santa Barbara *News-Press* advertisement in which major sponsors and participants raising \$200 or more will be listed by name.

Depot Day will be Sept. 25

The 11th Annual Depot Day celebration will be marked by two important scheduling changes. This year, in a break with tradition, the event will take place on a Saturday rather than a Sunday. And, Depot Day '93 has been moved up on the calendar by almost a month to Sept. 25. The event's customary day, the third Sunday in October, has been abandoned this year to avoid the scheduling conflict encountered last fall with the Goleta Lemon Festival. The railroad museum will again participate in the Lemon Festival, which is slated for Oct. 17.

Watch for more Depot Day and Lemon Festival details in the next issue of your *Depot Dispatch*.

Museum Ads Appear In Rail Magazines

If you keep up with the various magazines for railfans and railroad-history buffs, you've probably run across one of the advertisements for the South Coast Railroad Museum at Goleta Depot. Thus far, the ads have appeared in the May issue of *Trains* magazine, on page R8 of its "Recreational Railroading Travel Guide;" in *Passenger Train Journal* (page 8 of the May '93 issue); and in the May-June *Locomotive and Railway Preservation's* special "Summer Travel Guide" section.

Watch for more in *Pacific Rail News* (both June and August issues); *Passenger Train Journal* (Sept. '93); and the July-August issue of *Locomotive and Railway Preservation*.

All of these publications are available in the railroad museum's Trackage Shop. Give us a call if you'd like to have any copies set aside for you.

Ads will also be appearing in the July and October issues of *Trainline*, the publication of the Southern

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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

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.

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Pacific Historical & Technical Society.

The **Goleta Valley Chamber of Commerce** is generously funding this national and regional advertising for the railroad museum through its Tourism Committee and county bed-tax monies.

Easter Bunny Express Sold Out

The Easter Bunny Express held April 10 was one of the greatest successes in the annals of special events at the railroad museum. Enthusiasm ran high among the estimated 1,000 attendees, for the holiday-theme event featuring volunteers and staff sporting fluffy bunny ears and an abundance of colorful decorations.

The entire supply of 450 special egg-shaped Easter Bunny Express tickets were sold out long before the event came to a close. Each ticketholder was entitled to participate in all event activities, which were listed as a "schedule of stops:" *Wabbit-Twacks Station* (to board the miniature train); *Harvey's House* (for a cookie and beverage); *Easter-Bunnyville* (to meet the Easter Bunny, ably rendered by Docent **Bob Burtness**, and select an egg-filled surprise); *Jack-Rabbit Junction* (to enter a drawing for a stuffed bunny [won by **Patty Burns**]); and *What's Up Dock* (to collect a sketch of the Easter Bunny Express train for coloring).

Many volunteers helped to bring this wonderful new event to fruition. **Kinko's Graphics** by Cole made a major contribution in the form of free printing services. Decorative plants were donated by **Paul and Carolyn Nielson's Central Coast Wholesale**; balloons by **Ginny Bryant's Fairview Florist**; and cookies by **Anna's Fairview Bakery**.

The idea for the Easter event came from Trustees **Craig Schmidt** and **Mary Cole**, who puzzled over what might be done with Craig's set of paper-cutting dies that turned out egg-shaped ovals. The result was the trademark Easter Bunny Express ticket. The rest is history.

The second-annual Easter Bunny Express is already set for April 2, 1994! Don't miss out!



Docent Lynn Burtness was helper to a familiar "Bunny."

Welcome New Members

New museum members include **Albert M. Acuna** (Contributing); **Christopher Braunger, Neal Graffy, Ray Hutton, James H. Koons, John Locke, David and Susan Nivin, Dave and Anna Robey, Jeremy Root, and Carol Talley** (Active).

New Junior Engineers are **Allan W. Curtis, Julianna Driskel, Riley Chase Giffin, Woody Locke, Robbie McConnell, James Nivin, Tyler Sparks, and Max Wiedmann**.

Heartiest greetings to all of our new members!

CALENDAR OF MUSEUM EVENTS

ANOTHER STEAMING SUMMER

Saturdays, June 26, July 24, and Aug. 28. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Free Admission. Rides \$1. Unlimited-ride ticket \$3.
Discount coupons available at Toyota of Santa Barbara.

TREN DE LA FIESTA ("Fiesta Train")

Saturday, Aug. 7. Noon to 4 p.m.

MINIATURE TRAIN RIDES:

Every Wednesday and Friday, 2-3:30 pm. Tickets \$1.
Every Saturday, 1-4 p.m. Rides \$1. All-day ticket \$2.50
(\$3 on Steaming Summer dates.)
Sunday, July 4, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Rides \$1.50.

FREE HANDCAR RIDES:

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

SPEAKER'S PROGRAM

June 16, Phyllis Olsen and Gary Coombs, *Sunset Limited: America's First Transcontinental Train*.
July 21, Gary Coombs, *Some Surprises from Recent Goleta Depot Research*.
Aug. 18, Vivian Obern, *Hope House: Hub of Hope Ranch History*.
Sept. 15, Alexandra Cole, *The Architecture of Goleta Depot*.
ALL PROGRAMS HELD AT GOLETA LIBRARY
500 N. Fairview Ave., 7:30 p.m.

FILMS: Every Thursday and Sunday afternoon.

Journey to the Land Beyond the Mountains (June; a Portuguese rail odyssey); *Ustinov and the Orient Express* (July; ride the world's most famous train); *Gold Rush Line* (August, travel the White Pass & Yukon Railway)
Free. Call for times and reservations (964-3540).

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

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

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.