



Goleta **DEPOT** **DISPATCH**

Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum
Volume 13, Number 3 — Fall 1993

Depot Day will be Sept. 25

The museum's big 11th Annual Depot Day celebration will be held Saturday, Sept. 28. Please check the special *Depot Dispatch* insert for all of the details.

Did You Know ...

July '93 was the biggest month for miniature-training in South Coast Railroad Museum history. The trains pulled a whopping 1,702 riders during the 31-day period. Weekday operations contributed significantly to the total, with the month's nine weekdays turning in a daily average of 35 passengers. The miniature-train operates every Wednesday and Friday from 2 until 3:30 p.m., as well as on Saturdays.

Train-Ride Improvements Planned

The miniature-train ride has become one of the museum's most popular attractions. To build upon this success, museum planners are reviewing a number of possible improvements to the miniature railroad. The greatest need is a second engine, for which a special fund was established last year.

Other improvements being considered include: a custom-designed riding car for special passengers who have difficulty with the straddle-seat format; replacement trucks for one of the existing cars; and the laying of about 150 feet of additional track on museum property to enhance the ride experience.

Museum's Miniature Train Goes Public

To complete the fundraising for the new engine and to raise funds for other improvements to the miniature-train ride, the museum has begun to offer for sale "stock" in this important enterprise. "Stockholders" will receive a handsome stock certificate and will be entitled to vote their shares at planned meetings. Non-members may purchase shares, but only museum members will have voting rights.

An initial stockholders meeting will be held before year's end. Among the first issues to be addressed will be the selection of a name for the miniature railroad. Possible names are now being sought from the museum's membership and the general public.

Holding shares will not constitute any form of

ownership of the miniature-railroad or its equipment. Collectively, the voting stockholders will comprise a Director's advisory committee.

Shares will sell for \$25 each, until further notice. The purchase of shares is a tax-deductible contribution to the museum. Persons who have already made a contribution to the New Engine Fund will receive one share, retroactively, for every multiple of \$25 in their donation.

All monies generated by the sale of stock will be kept in a separate fund, and used exclusively for miniature-railroad activities, including purchases, maintenance, and operating costs.

Persons wishing to purchase shares may use the "Donor Contribution Form" on page 4 of the *Depot Dispatch*. Please be sure to indicate the number of shares desired and include \$25 payment per share.

Depot Appears in Museum Showcase

Watch your TV listings for a new program on KCOX Channel 8 entitled *Museum Showcase*. The half-hour community-service program features a number of local museums, including the South Coast Railroad Museum, which is showcased in a two-and-a-half minute segment starring many museum regulars, including trustees, staff, volunteers, members, and family. Special mention should be made of those who answered the casting call but were not included in the filming: **Shirley Baird, Stella Kramer, Jim Moyer, Bob Sponsel, and Steve Sullivan.**

Museum Showcase will air daily through the end of 1993. A varying schedule of starting times is being used to help to ensure the largest possible audience.

Cox Cable chose the railroad museum and its Gandy Dancer Theater for a special premiere showing of *Museum Showcase* on Wed., Aug. 11. Attending were directors of the participating museums and representatives from Cox Cable Santa Barbara, including Vice-President and General Manager **Duffy Leone** and Public Affairs Director **Bruce Smith.**

First Fiesta Train Successful

More than 300 visitors, including both area residents and tourists, attended the museum's first Old Spanish Days event, *El Tren de la Fiesta* ("Fiesta

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

Train”), on Aug. 7. Train ridership reached 213, with children attending in Fiesta dress or parade attire receiving free rides compliments of the museum. Among the day’s attendees were **El Presidente Jim McCoy** and his wife, **Jeney McCoy**.

The railroad museum got an extra publicity bonus when Goleta Depot was chosen as this year’s site for



Señor Cogan helped keep “Fiesta Train” running smoothly.

the traditional Old Spanish Days Committee photograph, which appeared in the *Santa Barbara News-Press*’ special Aug. 1 Fiesta section. A second photograph, promoting *El Tren de la Fiesta* and showing Goleta Depot, the miniature-train, and **Al Jaramillo** in costume, also appeared in the Fiesta section, along with an article on our event.

It was great having **El Presidente** and the other Old Spanish Days committee members here for the photo session. Thanks to museum volunteers **Hilda Volkman**, **Ron Ferguson**, **Al Jaramillo**, and **John Schaller** for supplying the refreshments and helping to host this landmark occasion.

Specialty Crane & Rigging Helps Us

Special thanks to **Specialty Crane & Rigging** and owner **Seth Hammond** for donating the use of a boom-truck and operator to repair our flagpole. The halyard had broken, leaving the museum without a way to fly its flags until Seth came to the rescue.

Greetings To Our New Members

New museum members include **Laurel Peterson**, and **Edd Williams II** (Active) and Junior Engineers **Ryan Fearon**, **Matthew Korpel**, **Michael S. Ruiz**, and **Andrew Wieting**. Welcome to you all!

New Bike Rack Arrives

The museum has received a nice, reconditioned bicycle rack courtesy of the **County Parks Dept.** Many of our visitors ride their bikes and bicycle parking has long been a problem. It’s really great to see bicycles parked neatly in the rack, which is located at our entry gate, instead of leaning against the historical

landmark or parked in the way of pedestrians along the sidewalk or in front of doorways. Thanks to **Ron Acquistapace** and **Rick Wheeler** of the Parks Dept. for arranging this gift to the museum.

Director Completes National Service

Museum Director **Gary Coombs** recently wrapped up a second year of service 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. Each year, IMS awards more than \$20 million in general operating support grants to about 400 institutions across the country.

As a field reviewer, Coombs joined some 600 other museum professionals nationwide who evaluated about 1,500 applications for 1993 and 1994 grants. His areas of specialization include historical museums, historic houses and sites, and transportation (railroad, air, automobile, maritime, and space) museums.

In its latest Annual Report, IMS expressed gratitude to its field reviewers “for their willingness to participate, for their concern for the museums they evaluate, and for furthering the highest professional standards in the field.”

Miniature Train Donation Received

A generous donation toward the purchase of the second engine for the miniature-train ride has been received from **Daniel and Suzanne Lopez**. \$4,175 is needed to complete the order. Persons wishing to contribute toward the new engine should purchase shares in the miniature railroad (see Page 1 story).

Rolling Stock Improved, Expanded

Ed Winnewisser has built and donated another car for the miniature railroad. The three-passenger car was outfitted by **Gene Allen** with a set of spare trucks.

All five of our passenger cars have now been painted, using bright, primary colors to appeal to our younger riders. Children enjoy selecting where they will ride among the red, blue, green, and yellow choices. **Jack Cogan** and **Gene Allen** both helped with the painting project.

Cable Bills Carry Museum Message

When you receive your next Cox Cable bill, watch for an insert advertising Depot Day. Cox Cable

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generously agreed to include 62,000 of these inserts in their September billings. The museum, in turn, offered the second side of the insert to the Goleta Lemon Festival, with the railroad museum picking up the printing and shipping (to Atlanta, GA!) costs.

To make the whole package feasible, Trustee **Craig Schmidt** donated most of the printing to the museum, saving us about \$500.

Speaker's Program Thrives

At the June 16 museum meeting at Goleta Library, Museum Director **Gary Coombs** and Asst. Director **Phyllis Olsen** shared their experiences from the inaugural trip of Amtrak's transcontinental *Sunset Limited*. It was also an occasion for recognizing the hard work and dedication of the museum's volunteers, with those in attendance receiving special commemorative certificates prepared in honor of the *Sunset Limited* inaugural.

At the July 21 library gathering, Gary was again in the limelight. A highlight of his presentation, "Some Surprises from Recent Goleta Depot Research," were slides of two rare photographs of the original 1887 Goleta depot, which was moved to Sunnyvale, Calif. after the "new" Goleta station was built in 1901. The old Goleta stationhouse served as Sunnyvale's depot for several decades. Gary acknowledged colleague **Henry Bender**, author of a forthcoming book on California railroad stations, who provided the photographs and documentation on the Goleta-Sunnyvale station.

Vivian Obern's Aug. 18 talk and slide presentation on the history of Hope Ranch drew the largest library crowd to date, with a packed house of 51. It was also one of the best received programs, and included a number of interesting artifacts and display items from Mrs. Obern's personal collection.

Future Programs Announced

"Variety" aptly describes the lineup of upcoming library offerings. 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 Landmarks Committee.

For Halloween, the Oct. 20 program will reveal "Goleta Depot Ghosts, Goblins, and Things That Go Bump In The Night." The whole family should enjoy this haunting experience.

Neal Graffy will entertain us Nov. 17 with a talk on the Potter Hotel, Santa Barbara's magnificent beachside resort developed in conjunction with the Southern Pacific Railroad's 1905 passenger depot.

The lecture series is sponsored by the South Coast Railroad Museum. All programs are held at the Goleta Public Library, 500 N. Fairview Ave. They begin at 7:30 p.m. and are free and open to the general public. Refreshments are served following each presentation.

Memorial Gift Received

A donation in memory of **Maurice Goldman** has been received from **Eugene and Alma Allen**.



Al Jaramillo takes El Presidente and his wife for a ride.

New Docents Join Museum

Chris Braunger and **Jeremy Root** are new museum docents-in-training. They attended the orientation session on July 10 and have begun sharing the museum with visitors as their training continues.

Next Orientation Will Be Dec. 4

There will be an orientation class on Saturday, Dec. 4 for persons interested in becoming museum docents. The three-hour session begins at 9 a.m.

Docents are essential to many of the activities and services that museum visitors enjoy. Docents operate the miniature-train and handcar rides, staff the Trackside Shop, and share the historical landmark and model railroad exhibit.

If you would like to learn more about the docent program, please plan to attend the Dec. 4 orientation. To sign up, please call Assistant Director Phyllis Olsen at 964-3540, any weekday afternoon.

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.

Junior Engineers Have a Party

The museum held a party for its Junior Engineers Club members on Wednesday, July 14. Invitations went out with the Summer Junior Engineer's Fun



Jr. Engineers Club celebrated summer with a party.

Page. Attendees were treated to a complimentary train ride, special showings of Thomas The Tank Engine videos, prizes and surprises, and delicious refreshments, including a wonderful Junior Engineers cake.

We hope to make the Junior Engineers Club party an annual event at the museum.

Museum Needs A Hand

The railroad museum has a continuing need for volunteer help in many different areas, from special-event activities, including planning, decorating, and staffing, to helping with gardening or mailings. In the past, these activities have become an extra responsibility of the museum docents, who already have the

critical and time-consuming assignment of sharing the museum and historical landmark with our visitors.

To meet this growing challenge, the museum is now organizing a new support group, the "Museum Hands." Membership in the Museum Hands will be open to all regular members, who will be eligible for the same dues discount extended to docents.

Each Museum Hand will be able to select the specific activity or activities in which he or she wishes to participate. You will be called when the need arises for help in an area you've chosen, but you won't be required or expected to help every time. Meetings will be limited only to those Museum Hands who elect to be involved with event planning. Please check the accompanying flyer, which contains a list of these activities.

If you want to make a real difference for the museum and its growing audience, please join the Museum Hands by filling out the flyer and returning it to the museum. Or, if you'd like to learn more about the group, please give Gary or Phyllis a call at the museum (805-964-3540).

Slow Train To Vegas Departs Oct. 31st

The museum is putting together a second annual *Slow Train To Vegas* trip. We will leave Santa Barbara via Amtrak on Sunday, Oct. 31 (Yes, we'll be in Vegas on Halloween night!) and return Tuesday, Nov. 2. The cost is \$149 per person, based on double occupancy (\$225 single), which includes rail fare and two nights lodging at the Golden Nugget, the premiere hotel in downtown Las Vegas. For more information, or to make reservations, please contact Phyllis Olsen at the museum (964-3540) any weekday afternoon.

CALENDAR OF MUSEUM EVENTS

11th ANNUAL DEPOT DAY

Saturday, Sept. 25. 11 a.m. to 4 pm. Rides, food, auction.
Fun for the whole family. \$1 donation per person will be requested upon admission.

SLOW TRAIN TO VEGAS - AMTRAK RAIL EXCURSION

Oct. 31 thru Nov. 2. See Page 4 story for details.

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
(All-day ticket not available on Depot Day.)

FREE HANDCAR RIDES:

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

SPEAKER'S PROGRAM

Sept. 15, Alexandra Cole, *The Architecture of Goleta Depot*.
Oct. 20, *Goleta Depot Ghosts, Goblins, and Things That Go Bump In The Night*

Nov. 17, Neal Graffy, *The Potter Hotel*.

ALL PROGRAMS HELD AT GOLETA LIBRARY

500 N. Fairview Ave., 7:30 p.m.

FILMS: Every Thursday and Sunday afternoon.

Three Miles High (Sept.; a Peruvian rail odyssey);

Trolley: The Cars That Built Our Cities (Oct.)

Coast to Coast (Nov., travel Amtrak from the Atlantic to the Pacific.)

Free admission. Showings at 1:30 and 2:45 p.m.

Please call for reservations (964-3540).

MUSEUM HOURS: 1 to 4 p.m., Wednesday thru Sunday.

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.

Depot Dispatch Special Report

DEPOT DAY is Sept. 25

The 11th Annual Depot Day celebration will be held Saturday, Sept. 25, from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. The event, which is made possible by members and friends, is the museum's big annual fundraiser.

❑ Rail Rides

Miniature train, handcar, and inspection-car rides for all ages will again be event highlights. Don't miss the once-a-year appearance of Bob Mahan and his "speeder," which will be huffing and puffing its way once again up and down the track. Rides are \$1 for the train and 50¢ for the handcar and speeder.



❑ Donation Requested

A \$1 donation per person will be requested upon admission to Depot Day. Members may elect to make this donation if they wish.

❑ Tri-Tip Barbecue

The Native Sons of the Golden West will again be preparing their delicious tri-tip barbecue.

The meal includes tri-tip, green salad, toasted french bread, and ranch beans.

Advance tickets are \$6 for adults and \$4 for children 12 years and under. Tickets may be purchased at the museum's Tracksides Shop or from Kinko's Graphics at 451 Lopez Road, Goleta. Purchases of three or more tickets can be made by major credit card, at the Tracksides Shop only.

Please buy your barbecue tickets before Depot Day. It will earn you the advance price discount and will also help planners estimate the number of meals to prepare.

❑ Other Refreshments

If a full meal isn't to your liking, museum volunteers will also be serving hot dogs, soft drinks, baked goods, ice pops, and other foods, refreshments, and treats throughout the day.

❑ Silent Auction

Plan to shop at our Silent Auction tables. Lucky bidders can come away with a wide variety of delightful items, including a Sunday brunch for two at the Four Seasons Biltmore, a weekend at the luxurious Century Plaza Hotel, or Orient Express travel posters for those who collect memorabilia.

The auction is an important revenue source for the museum. If you have new or collector's items to donate to the auction, please call the museum office (964-3540).

❑ Special Activities for Children

Youngsters won't want to miss the popular children's area, organized by Charlotte Moore. This year's "Children's Freight Yard" will feature train-building projects, a scavenger hunt, railroad race, and other fun and educational activities.

❑ Steam Engine Display

One of Depot Day's most popular annual attractions, the steam display, will be expanded again this year. Jim Marchiando is bringing his exciting steam plant, which will power a variety of stationary engines, whistles and other steam gadgets. The display will be coordinated this year by Ernest Thomsen and Jim Higman. Don't miss this one!

