



Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH

Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum
Volume 13, Number 4 — Winter 1993

Sweetheart Special Set For Feb. 12-13

The weekend of Feb. 12-13 marks the return of the *Sweetheart Special*, the museum's popular Valentine's-theme trip to San Diego, created back in 1989.

The entire custom-class car on Amtrak's San Diegan has been reserved roundtrip for our group. Lots of games, festive decorations, prizes, and other fun things are planned enroute.

The group will stay at the Bayside Inn, which is convenient to the Amtrak station as well as the many 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 \$139 per person (double occupancy; \$159 single), which covers Saturday night accommodations, first-class rail fare, and transfers in San Diego.

Reservations can be made by contacting the museum at 964-3540 any weekday afternoon. Don't be left behind: Sweetheart Special groups have filled quickly once the general public becomes aware of the trip via announcements in the local media.

New Holiday Event Planned

The "*Holiday Train*," a festive new year-end event, will be held at Goleta Depot daily from Nov. 26 through Dec. 24, except Mondays and Tuesdays when the museum is closed. Hours will be 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Event tickets are \$2 each. Ticketholders will receive a ride aboard our specially-decorated miniature train, a holiday treat and favors, and a chance to win a stuffed teddy bear. Attendees will also be able to view the museum's special display, "*Toy Trains and Teddy Bears!*", which also opens Nov. 26.

Tickets will be available at the museum during event hours. Additional ride tickets at \$1 each may also be purchased at those times. During the *Holiday Train* run, "all-day passes" will not be available.

Major Grant Awarded

The railroad museum has received an \$18,000 General Operating Support Grant for the Institute of Museum Services (IMS), the federal agency serving the nation's museums. This is the largest grant in the history of the railroad museum and marks the sixth

consecutive year that our museum has received this prestigious award.

IMS grants are awarded annually on the basis of a competition open to museums of all sizes and types across the U.S. This year, only 300 grants were awarded nationwide. The South Coast Railroad Museum was one of only two rail museums to receive a grant and was the smallest of 19 California recipients.

In 1990, Director Gary Coombs represented the museum at the IMS awards ceremony, hosted at the White House by First Lady Barbara Bush.

Cox Cable Sponsors Youth Visits

Children who tour the historic Goleta Depot with their school class or youth organization can now enjoy a free ride on the railroad museum's miniature train, compliments of Cox Cable Santa Barbara.

The goal of this new program is to encourage greater participation in the museum's guided tours for young people, by including a free train ride with every tour. "Through its generous financial sponsorship, Cox Cable has made it possible for even more children to learn about the colorful history of Goleta Depot," said Museum Director Gary Coombs.

Duffy Leone, Vice President and General Manager of Cox Cable Santa Barbara, added, "We are proud of our partnership with the South Coast Railroad Museum and hope that every teacher and youth-group leader on the South Coast takes advantage of the free tours and miniature-train rides."

Sexton History Volume Reprinted

The Institute for American Research has joined with the Goleta Valley Historical Society in reprinting *Fourteen At The Table*, the late Walker A. Tompkins' historical tribute to the pioneer Sexton family of Goleta. Originally published in 1963, a revised edition of *Fourteen At The Table* was co-published by the society and institute in 1983.

Fourteen At The Table is now available in the railroad museum's Tracksides Shop for \$15 (\$13.50 to members) plus tax. Members may also receive copies by mail: Send \$15 per copy (which includes sales tax, shipping, and your member's discount) to South Coast Railroad Museum, P.O. Box 2125, Goleta, CA 93118.

Depot Aids Law Enforcement

In October, Goleta Depot was the site of a training exercise conducted as part of the State of California's "dignitary protection school," sponsored by the U.S. Dept of Justice. School attendees, which included law enforcement officers from throughout the state, acted out a scenario involving a fictional foreign official's visit to Goleta Depot. The purpose of the exercise was to give law officers throughout the state experience handling the special kinds of problems associated with such visits — everything from protesters to assassins — so they would be able to help federal officials when called upon in a real situation. Two different groups participated in the two-day exercise.

The railroad museum has participated in this program for a number of years.

S.W.A.P. Worker Helps Depot Shine

The railroad museum is once again participating in the Sheriff's Work Alternative Program. For three months, beginning in July, the museum benefitted from the labors of Stephen Crane, who worked at the museum 16 hours each week. During his time with us,



Steve Crane worked at museum under County program.

Steve made an enormous difference around the museum, caring for the grounds, cleaning rest rooms, mopping, and performing countless other chores.

When we discovered that he was a roofer by trade, we put him to work on roof repairs, which alone saved hundreds of dollars. His most important contribution to the museum was in restoring the decorative staggered-butt shingles in the depot's second-story eave to their proper historical arrangement.

Steve was a conscientious and hard worker, who is already sorely missed around the museum.

Museum Hands Gains Members

Additions to the "Museum Hands" support group over the past quarter are Rose Ann Hill, Lorraine Macomber, and Gerry Stone.

The purpose of the Museum Hands is to meet the growing need for volunteer help in a number of different areas, from special-event activities, including planning, decorating, and staffing, to helping with gardening or mailings. Membership in the Museum Hands is open to all regular members, who will then be eligible for the same dues discount extended to docents.

Each Museum Hand selects the specific activities in which he or she wishes to participate, and is contacted when the need arises for help in those areas.

Many more Museum Hands are needed to make this program viable and strong. If you would like to learn more about the Museum Hands, please give Gary or Phyllis a call at the museum (805-964-3540).

Mid-State Bank Helps Library Program

The railroad museum is nearing completion of another year as sponsor of the Summer Reading Program of the Santa Barbara Public Libraries, whose purpose is to encourage local youngsters to develop and use their reading skills.

This year, more than 3,000 children ages 2 through 13 participated in the program in Santa Barbara, Goleta, Montecito, Carpinteria, Solvang, Santa Ynez, and Los Olivos. More than 1,000 youngsters read 25 or more books to complete the program, receiving certificates redeemable for rides on our miniature train in recognition of their achievement.

To date, we've already given more than 150 complimentary reading-program rides — a tally which should continue to increase since the certificates remain valid through the end of 1993.

This year, our participation in the reading program was made possible by a generous gift from Mid-State Bank. Special thanks to Mid-State and Calle Real branch manager Harry Pollard for their support of this important children's program.

Vegas Train Is Slow But Fun

Ideal weather and a great group of people helped to make the second annual "Slow Train To Vegas" on Oct. 31-Nov. 2 one of the museum's most enjoyable trips ever. Our 14 travelers appreciated the richness of the Golden Nugget, but most couldn't resist a trip out

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to the strip to take a look at the exciting new hotels, Treasure Island and Luxor.

We found the *Desert Wind* was comfortably uncrowded, while Tuesday's return to Santa Barbara on the *San Diegan* was enhanced when we were given permission to visit the engineer in the cab-car.

Holiday Party Will Be Dec. 15

For the museum's holiday party this year, we'll be trying something a little different. The party will be held at Goleta Library on Wednesday, Dec. 15. The social program will include a slide show, a review of the year ending, and a look ahead to 1994.

Festivities will start at 7:30 p.m. Members, family, and friends are all cordially invited. Please bring along a dessert or hors d'oeuvres to share. The museum will provide beverages, cups, napkins, and plates.

Depot Tree Heralds Christmas Season

Although the holiday party will be held away, the museum will continue the tradition of decorating and lighting the tree in Goleta Depot's upstairs window bay, where it can be viewed from Los Carneros Road.

Members are again invited to contribute a personal ornament for the tree. Please bring your ornament to the holiday party, or drop it by the museum.

Mini-Train Stockholders To Meet

The first meeting of the miniature-railroad "stockholders" will held at Goleta Library on Wednesday, Dec. 15 at 8:30 p.m., following the museum's holiday party. Among the issues to be addressed will be selection of a name for the miniature rail line. Stockholders receive one vote for each share owned.

Current stockholders are: Gene Allen, Benjamin Beede, Austin Beede, Gary Coombs, Sally Gane, Morse and Opal Jeffers, Daniel and Suzanne Lopez, Jim Moyer, Isabel Newman, Craig Schmidt, Ernest Thomson, Al Volkman, and Bruce Williamson.

The miniature-train fund presently stands at \$1,275. If you would like to become a shareholder, use the Donor Contribution Form on page 4 and send a contribution of \$25 for each share desired.

Names for Miniature Railroad Sought

We need some good name ideas for the museum railroad. If you have a suggested name, put it on a postcard or 3x5 card and mail it to "Railroad Name", South Coast Railroad Museum, 300 North Los Carneros Road, Goleta, CA 93117; or, drop it off at the museum in the Director's Box in the Tracksides Shop.

Displays Interpret Turntable, Caboose

The next time you visit the museum, be sure to take a look at the new interpretive displays in the caboose and next to the miniature-train turntable. Making use of photographs and text, the new displays help our visitors to understand the history and functions of the caboose and turntable.

The turntable display includes reproductions of

two historical photographs taken by docent Bob McNeel of steam locomotives on the Santa Barbara turntable. Bob also helped assemble the other photographic scenes in the display. The caboose exhibit shows train workers at the job, with an emphasis on conductors and train-orders. Gene Allen was responsible for fabricating and mounting the displays.

Exhibit Stars Toy Trains, Teddy Bears

"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 museum's annual holiday exhibition, which opens this year on Nov. 26. Displayed are toy locomotives and cars and a menagerie of stuffed animals — some rare, all precious — borrowed from the homes of museum members, volunteers, trustees, and staff, as well as from the museum's own collections. Among the more than two dozen items on display will be:

- A rare 6-car U.S. Army train set, manufactured in 1940 by the Marx toy company, from the collection of museum trustee Robert Sponsel;
- A fuzzy white bear from "U.C. Santa Bearbeara" shared by Julianna Driskel, a member of the museum's Junior Engineers Club;
- Two antique toy steam-powered locomotives, from the collection of museum volunteer Eugene Allen;
- Two cuddly stuffed bears, shared by Robert and Benjamin Adams, grandsons of museum assistant director Phyllis Olsen; and
- A Lionel electric trolley car, No. 60, a childhood gift to museum docent Eugene Rantanen from his grandmother and uncle.

The display will continue through Jan. 16.

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.

Depot Day Report

The 11th Depot Day celebration on Sept. 25 was a big success. Attendance was up almost 50% over last year, based on a comparison of gate receipts. All-time Depot Day records were set in a number of areas, including barbecue sales and ridership for all three of our rides: miniature-train, handcar, and speeder.

Scores of people and organizations joined together to make Depot Day '93 another great day. Special mention should be made of the many hours of planning and preparation given by Mary Cole and Barbara Cornish, who organized all of the food-activity areas this year.

“Surf and S.P.” Will Be January Topic

John Roskoski will share his popular multi-media presentation, “Surf and the Southern Pacific,” at the museum’s first meeting of 1994, slated for Wednesday, Jan. 19., beginning at 7:30 p.m.

The free museum-sponsored lecture series is held at Goleta Library, 500 N. Fairview Ave. Members and the general public are cordially invited to attend.

Depot Move Plans Halted

After much study and discussion, the museum has withdrawn its proposal to incorporate the historic Goleta Depot and railroad museum into the planned Goleta Amtrak passenger station.

The final decision was made at an Oct. 22 Board of Trustees’ Executive Committee meeting. In a letter to County architect and project coordinator Erich Brown, Museum Director Gary Coombs cited several reasons for the decision, including “uncertainties surrounding the entire site-selection process” and “the growing realization that the railroad museum would have to curtail or compromise some of its most valued programs, especially in the youth-education area.”

The letter goes on to declare, “We remain strongly supportive of the goal to bring an Amtrak station to Goleta, and trust that you will continue to call upon our expertise and advocacy toward the realization of this important and beneficial transportation project.”



Gunter Ernst, president of ICE Train builder Siemens Duewag Corp., brunches with Museum’s Phyllis Olsen.

Museum Staffers Take ICE Train Ride

On Aug. 30, Museum Director Gary Coombs and Asst. Director Phyllis Olsen were guests of Amtrak on a demonstration run of the German ICE (Inter-City Express) train. On their roundtrip Oceanside-San Diego ride, Coombs and Olsen met a number of VIPs and had the chance to discuss the South Coast Railroad Museum with Secretary of Transportation Federico Peña. Old friends from Amtrak Public Affairs Dept., in Washington, D.C. and Los Angeles, were also on hand.

Notable features of the ICE equipment include pressurized passenger cars, extensive use of monitoring and other electronics, and ultra-modern styling featuring automatic all-glass doors connecting vestibule and seating areas. The ICE train is currently undergoing several months of on-the-job testing, carrying rail passengers between Washington and New York on Amtrak’s regular Metroliner schedule.

Try Museum Shop for Holiday Gift Ideas

Looking for the perfect present for that railfan or history buff on your gift list? The museum’s Trackside Shop is sure to have something just right for them.

The museum shop carries a wide assortment of items for young and old, from books and games, to videos and puzzles. A museum or Junior Engineers Club membership also makes a popular gift.

We’re especially well-stocked with dozens of Thomas The Tank Engine items, including toys, clothing, books, and the complete video line. The shop also carries a wonderful selection of railroad and nostalgia stocking stuffers, starting at under \$1.

The Trackside Shop accepts personal checks, Visa, and MasterCard. Shopping at the museum is always convenient, with plenty of free parking and no long lines at the counter.

Best of all, every sale benefits the museum and members receive a 10% discount on all gift purchases.

The Trackside Shop is open Wednesday thru Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m.

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.