



Goleta

DEPOT DISPATCH

Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum
Volume 14, Number 1 — Spring 1994

Easter Bunny Visits April 2

On Saturday, April 2, the museum will reprise the popular *Easter Bunny Express*, which was first unveiled last year. Hours will be noon to 4 p.m.

The event's egg-shaped tickets, at \$2.50 per person, will be available at the museum throughout the day. Each entitles the bearer to participate in all event activities, including scheduled stops at: *Wabbit-Twacks Station* (to board the museum's miniature train for a 1/3-mile ride around the grounds); *Harvey's House* (where a cookie and beverage await); *Easter-Bunnyville* (to meet the Easter Bunny and select an egg surprise); *Jack-Rabbit Junction* (to enter a drawing for a stuffed bunny); and *What's Up Dock* (to collect another event souvenir).

This year's event will be highlighted by live entertainment by "Showstoppers," a youth musical-theater group, who will perform excerpts from their spring production, *A Wild West Show*. Also, new this year will be the sale of hot dogs and other refreshments, so plan to join us for lunch!

Hop aboard the Easter Bunny Express on April 2. It promises to be another hare-raising eggs-perience for the whole family! About 1,000 visitors attended the Easter Bunny Express last year.

"Safari" Fun Planned for May

High adventure awaits those dauntless members and friends who take part in the 13th annual Asphalt Regatta, slated for the morning of Saturday, May 21.

This year's event, which has been labeled the *Too-Fari Safari*, promises to be a delightful departure from past editions. Participants will be divided into teams, each headed by a pair of Board of Trustee guides. Each team will go on an hour-long "safari" — a group walk through the deep, uncharted jungles of Lake Los Carneros County Park, highlighted by a series of fun adventures and harmless intrigues along the way.

The final adventure for each Safari group will be a ride on the "jungle train" to a secluded spot where refreshments will be served. Prizes will be awarded for the most successful teams in a variety of categories.

The Asphalt Regatta is the railroad museum's primary annual fundraiser, producing about 10% of all operating monies. The goal for 1994 is \$10,000.

This year a share of the proceeds will be applied

toward the miniature railroad, including the purchase of the new engine and the materials needed to construct additional cars and track (see story, below).

More participants are needed to make this year's event a success. So, grab your pith helmet and join the fun! If you'd like to learn more, or if you're ready to sign up, please give Gary or Phyllis a call at the museum (805-964-3540).

Cornish Elected President Board Gains Five New Trustees

Barbara Cornish was elected President of the Board of Trustees at the board's December 9 meeting. Also elected to serve during 1994 were Richard Shelton, Vice President; Mary Cole, Secretary; and Joe Lemons, Treasurer.

Newly elected to the board are Ben Beede, Jack Cogan, Eugene Rantanen, Robert Sponsel, and Hilda Volkman. Each will serve two-year terms. Reelected as trustees were Barbara Cornish, Joe Lemons, Mary Cole, Richard Shelton, and John Starr.

Bank Sponsors Free Rides for Moms

In honor of Mother's Day, all mothers visiting the railroad museum on Saturday, May 7 will be treated to a free ride on the miniature train, courtesy of Santa Barbara Bank and Trust. Hours will be 1 to 4 p.m.

The complimentary tickets may be picked up in advance at Santa Barbara Bank's Goleta branch at 299 N. Fairview Ave. beginning April 4, or in Goleta Depot's Waiting Room during event hours only. Tickets, at \$1 each, will also be available during the event for other family members and the general public.

"Short Line" Stockholders Meet

"Goleta Short Line" was the name chosen for the miniature railroad by shareholders at their first meeting on Dec. 15. The selection was made from a list of 12 alternates which had been offered by museum members and the general public. Goleta Short Line received 19 votes, which was a majority of those cast on the initial ballot. "Goleta and South Coast Railroad" placed a distant second. Shareholders also agreed on a track expansion plan that would provide a passing track to allow two trains to operate at the same time.

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*South Coast Railroad Museum
Institute for American Research*

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<i>Benjamin Beede</i>	<i>Jack Cogan</i>
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Officers — 1994

Barbara Cornish, President
Richard B. Shelton, Vice President
Mary Cole, Secretary
Joe Lemons, Treasurer

Gary B. Coombs, Ph.D., Director
Phyllis J. Olsen, Assistant Director

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The Goleta Short Line Fund currently stands at \$1,975. About \$5,000 is still needed to complete the second engine purchase and implement the track expansion. If you would like to become a shareholder, use the Donor Contribution Form on page 4. You will receive one share for each multiple of \$25 in your gift.

Welcome New Museum Members

New Jr. Engineers Club members are Ritchie Garcia, David Goldsmith, Kyle David Hanks, Scott Kornahrens, Wesley Korpela, Matthew D. Lamboley, Colin Mattingly, Nicholas Mina, David Montgomery, Kevin Seeley-Ruiz, A.J. Smitrovich, Paul Owen Strassel, Dominic A. Ventura, and Alexander von Wiesenberger.

New active members include Mr. and Mrs. Victor Annowada, Dave Bacon, Nike and Chuck Dreier, Sylvain Edgerton, Mike and Marji Hillebrand, Jeanne Kahre, Ralph Kornahrens, George A. McDonald, Frances Tieszen, and Lynne Tracy. New corresponding members are Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Bingham, Larry Gapinski, and Marjory and Jack Jansen.

Congratulations to Ron Ferguson...

...for being the first volunteer to complete docent training under the new program started in 1993.

Holiday Exhibit Concludes

Thank you to all who provided keepsakes to the *Toy Trains and Teddy Bears!* exhibit. Contributors included Jr. Engineers Julianna Driskel, Ritchie Garcia, Kortney Korpela, Brian and Jonathan Romofsky, and John Dana Stuster. Items were also loaned by Robert and Benjamin Adams, Eugene Allen, Ben Beede, Katelin Cogan, Dan Lopez, Gene Rantanen, Robert Sponsel, Ernest Thomsen, and Hilda Volkman. Staff members Gary Coombs, Phyllis Olsen, and Administrative Asst. Stacy Krant also contributed items.

The exhibit also included objects from the

museum's own collections, including items donated by Robert Burtness, Bruce Lucas, Louise Marr, Isabel Friend Newman, and Robert Sponsel.

Surf and S.P. Program Earns Raves

On Jan. 19, an appreciative audience was treated to one of the best programs in the two-year history of the museum's lecture series. John Roskoski's multimedia presentation, *Surf and the Southern Pacific*, is a captivating blend of photographic images and music that tells the nostalgic story of Surf, the pint-sized ghost town and railroad station stop on the coast west of Lompoc.

New Volunteers Join

The museum is pleased to welcome four new docents-in-training: Dave Bacon, Bill Parker, Frances Tieszen, and Lynne Tracy.

Next Docent Orientations Slated

There will be an orientation class on Saturday, March 5 for persons interested in becoming museum docents. Another will be held Saturday, June 4. Each three-hour session will begin at 9 a.m.

Docents are essential for many of the activities and services that museum visitors enjoy. Docents operate the miniature-train and handcar rides, staff the Tracksides 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 either the March or June orientation. To sign up, please call Asst. Director Phyllis Olsen at 964-3540, any weekday afternoon.

Volunteers Spruce Up The Place

Hilda Volkman organized an afternoon gardening session in January. She was joined by John Schaller and Al Jaramillo. The trio put in several hours of weeding, trimming, and pruning in the beds behind the depot. The results were superb.

Train Boarding Area Improved

Gene Allen and Al Jaramillo have been extending the rustic post-and-rail fencing that delineates the miniature-train boarding area. The additional fencing will improve visitor safety, while also enhancing the appearance of the museum grounds.

Goleta Depot Dispatch: Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum at Goleta Depot

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Theresa Caccese played Santa's helper during Holiday Train.

Future Speakers Announced:

— McNeel To Speak On Tri-County Railroads

The Railroads of the Tri-Counties will be the subject of a talk and slide presentation by Robert McNeel on Wednesday, March 16. The program will cover the Southern Pacific, Santa Maria Valley, and Ventura County Railroads, the Pacific Coast Railway, and the streetcars systems of Tri-County cities.

A Santa Barbara native and South Coast Railroad Museum docent, Bob spent all of his working life, more than four decades, in close association with railroads — as a Southern Pacific engineman, a rail-tour escort, the owner-operator of a local rail-travel service, and an Amtrak ticket agent.

— Thom Will Share Latin American Rail Saga

The first of a series on *Latin America's Living Railway Museums* will be presented on Wednesday, May 18 by Richard Thom. The first installment, "Equador," will be followed on future dates by presentations on Argentina and Paraguay, also by Thom.

Museum member Rich Thom is an international rail traveler and author, who has chronicled his far-flung journeys in a number of railway publications.

All programs are held at Goleta Library, 500 North Fairview Ave., and begin at 7:30 p.m. They are sponsored by the South Coast Railroad Museum and are free and open to the public. Refreshments and a social hour follow each presentation.

Museum Attendance Rises

About 16,300 people visited the railroad museum in 1993, an increase of almost 11% over 1992. Miniature-train ridership totalled 9,326, up over 39%. Attendance at showings in the Gandy Dancer Theater reached 4,200, including more than 1,100 at special Thursday and Sunday showings. Some 650 visitors rode the handcar during 1993.

Holiday Train Draws Record Crowds

The museum hosted about 1,350 visitors during the four-week run of the *Holiday Train*, our new year-end event. This more than doubled attendance figures for any previous year over the same period, which is traditionally a time of low attendance. The miniature-train carried 1,019 *Holiday* passengers, four times the 1992 ridership during the same four weeks.

Year-End Gifts Acknowledged

End-of-year contributions totalled \$4,969. This included \$3,020 in unrestricted donations from Christine Allen, Betty J. Coombs, Goleta Lions Club, Goleta Valley Paint, Harry L. Harrison, Don and Jo Hollister, Harry and Elaine Iddings, Josiah F. Jenkins, Mid-State Bank, Josephine A. Millett, Isabel Friend Newman and John L. Friend (in memory of Dorothy Metcalf), Jane C. Peirce, Santa Barbara Bank & Trust, John Marshall Starr, Frances Tieszen, Toyota of Santa Barbara, the Wieting Family, Xerox Corp., and Fred and Linda Ziesenhenn.

Gifts to the Endowment, totalling \$1,274, were given by Ray and Shirley Baird, Theresa and Larry Caccese, Nellie Casselman, Jack and Harriet Cogan, Goleta Valley Athletic Club, David Hieter, James Higman, Dana Trout, and Hilda and Al Volkman.

Year-end donations for improvements to the Goleta Short Line reached \$675 and were received from Ben Beede, Jack Cogan, Ron Ferguson, Kinko's Graphics by Cole, and Ernest Thomsen.

Holiday Party Celebrated at Library

The Dec. 15 Holiday Party proved a pleasant occasion, with festive decorations and music, lots of holiday refreshments, and a short program featuring a slide show of activities and accomplishments during 1993. It was also one of the best-attended holiday gatherings in many years, with more than 40 members, members, family, and friends participating.

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.

Members Renew Their Support

The museum is pleased to recognize and thank all of those who have renewed their support for 1994.

New Life Members are Joe and Diane Lemons. Those renewing at the Contributing Member level include Charles Gasper, Ida Hartnett, Ellen G. Keeter, and John and Evelyn Schaller.

Sustaining Member renewals have been received from Christine Allen, Bob and Lynn Burtness, Helen J. Coffey, Marguerite Dahms, Harry L. Harrison, T.M. Hartigan, Mrs. Josiah C. Jenkins, Albert C. Hardy Jr., Michael Lambole, Noel Langle, G. Ronald Larriou, William O. McKeag, Nancy and Warren Miller, Ed and Kathy Miller, Mr and Mrs John Murchison, Nick and Susie Nichols, George and Vivian Obern, Steve and Colleen Ozab, Lee and Suzanne Polansky, George R. Potter, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Rouse, Gerry and Barb Stone, Thomas and Beulah Strout, Mrs. Evelyn Woods, and Fred and Linda Ziesenhenn.

There are also 71 additional Life Members and 74 members who have paid 1994 dues as Active, Corresponding, or Junior Engineer Club members.

Sweetheart Special Returns

The Feb. 13-14 *Sweetheart Special* to San Diego was another successful museum trip. The weather couldn't have been better, the trains all ran on time, and we received great support from Amtrak personnel aboard the *San Diegans*. Several group travelers enjoyed the trip so much that they became museum members on the spot.

One of the VIPs along this year was former Santa Barbara Mayor Don MacGillivray, accompanied by his wife, Dee. Also aboard were Stanley and Doris Northenscald, who chose the trip to celebrate their 52nd wedding anniversary. Group members selected Edward and Rebecca Kelly as the 1994 Sweetheart Couple.

Deep gratitude is owed to our dear friend, Bruce Heard, in Amtrak's Public Affairs office, for again making special travel arrangements for the Sweetheart Special entourage. Our Custom Class car

was beautifully decorated for the event by Trustee Mary Cole, ably assisted by Ofelia Gomez. Mary also prepared many of the delightful refreshments that were thoroughly enjoyed by the group.

Little Luv' Train Ran Feb. 12

For the younger set, a Valentine's-theme *Little Luv' Train* event was held at the museum on the afternoon of Saturday, Feb. 12. Those attending were treated to a miniature-train ride, heart-shaped cookie, keepsake pencil, and other goodies. Winner of the Victorian Bear drawing was Jennifer Santana of Goleta.

Special thanks to Mary Cole for all of her hard work preparing for this new museum event, and to Jack Cogan, Ron Ferguson, Gene Rantanen, Craig and Juleine Schmidt, and Hilda Volkman for their extra efforts on the day.

Youth Tours Grow with Cox Support

The Cox Cable-sponsored program of free miniature-train rides for school and youth groups touring the historical landmark has already begun to make a world of difference. Since the program started last October,



Youngsters learn "rules of road" from Conductor Phyllis Olsen.

seven area schools, representing Santa Barbara, Goleta, Carpinteria, and Montecito, have participated and 170 local youngsters have learned about the history of Goleta Depot and American railroading.

Kinko's Sponsors Coloring Pages

For the second year, Kinko's Graphics by Cole is generously sponsoring the coloring pages that are distributed to young museum visitors. These coloring pages include two drawings by Hilda Volkman (one depicting Goleta Depot and the other our caboose), which are given away every day at the museum by our volunteer agents, plus an assortment of special coloring pages distributed during museum events, including the Easter Bunny Express and Fiesta Train.

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.