



Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH



Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum
Volume 14, Number 2 — Summer 1994

Bank Sponsors Free Rides for Dads

In honor of Father's Day, all fathers visiting the railroad museum on Saturday, June 18 will be treated to a free ride on the miniature train, courtesy of **Goleta National Bank**. Hours will be 1 to 4 p.m.

The complimentary tickets may be picked up in advance at the bank's branch at 5827 Hollister Ave., or in Goleta Depot's Waiting Room during the event. Tickets, at \$1 each, will also be available during the event for other family members and the general public.

"Another Steaming Summer" Is Here

An exciting summer season of miniature live-steam railroading begins Saturday, June 25, at the museum when the seventh annual *Another Steaming Summer* commences. The first day's festivities will be highlighted by **Gene Allen's** 4-4-0 American, a *Steaming Summer* workhorse, built by Allen Models, Inc.

The event continues on July 23 and Aug. 27. 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.

There is no charge for admission to *Another*

Gene Allen's American will highlight June 25 kickoff.



Steaming Summer. Single-ride tickets on the Goleta Short Line will be \$1 and unlimited-ride tickets will sell for \$3.

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.

Museum Receives Recognition

Museum Director Gary Coombs recently completed his third year of service as a field reviewer for the **Institute of Museum Services'** annual General Operating Support grant program. Coombs is one of several hundred professionals from museums across the country who serve as reviewers for IMS, a federal agency that offers programs for the nation's museums.

This year, Gary reviewed applications from a number of transportation museums (air, space, automobile, marine, and railroad) with budgets up to about \$400,000, distributed throughout the United States. In recognition of Dr. Coombs' continuing service, our museum received a handsome certificate, signed by the chairman of the National Museum Services Board, expressing "deep appreciation" for "exceptional contributions to the United States government and the museums of this nation." The certificate is permanently displayed in the Gandy Dancer Theater, joining other honors and awards our museum has received over the years.

"Fiesta Train" Set For Aug. 6

The second annual *El Tren de la Fiesta* ("Fiesta Train") will be held Saturday, Aug. 6, in celebration of Santa Barbara's **Old Spanish Days**.

The event will be held at Goleta Depot from 12 noon until 4 p.m., following the Children's Parade on State Street. There will be free miniature-train rides for all youngsters attending in Fiesta costume or parade attire. Rides will also be available to the general public at regular prices. Festive music and refreshments will round out the event.

"Model Railroading" Will Be July Topic

The World of Model Railroading will be the subject of a presentation on Wednesday, July 20 by **Joe**

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*South Coast Railroad Museum
Institute for American Research*

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Heumphreus, owner of the **Hobby Depot**, a Santa Barbara model-railroad store. Heumphreus will discuss the various modeling scales, describing the advantages and disadvantages of each. His talk will also cover some of the history of model railroading, as well as how to go about planning a home layout.

The program will be held at Goleta Library, 500 North Fairview Ave., starting at 7:30 p.m. Sponsored by the South Coast Railroad Museum, the program is free and open to the public. Refreshments and a social hour will follow.

Attendance Keeps Growing

Museum attendance continues to rise. Last year at this time, we reported record attendance for the first quarter of 1993. The museum has experienced another strong increase in visitor numbers this year, with first-quarter attendance up 23% compared with a year ago. The most dramatic rise was in weekday figures, where daily attendance averaged 22 visitors over the first three months of 1994.

Ridership on the Goleta Short Line miniature train increased by 88%, reflecting expansion of the schedule to include every Saturday. Film attendance also set a first-quarter record this year — up 16% to 880 total viewers.

Info On Computer Software Sought

Are you familiar with a computer program called *Train Master*? Perhaps, you've seen it advertised in a railroading magazine. Designed for the IBM-PC computer family, *Train Master* is purported to simulate the operation of a diesel locomotive, with the software user taking the role of the engineer. The museum is interested in purchasing a copy of this program, if it performs well and has educational value. If you have any information about *Train Master*, Museum Director Gary Coombs (964-3540) would like to hear from you.

Welcome New Museum Members

The museum is pleased to welcome **George and Susan Soltman** of Seattle, Washington as new Sustaining members.

New members of the Junior Engineers Club are **Alexander Bulger, Steven Michael Chung, Clinton Anders Golub, Richard Gregston, Christian Mosbrucker, Forrest Anthony Rucker, and Cameron Westbury.**

Special Happy Birthday wishes to Life Member **Sally Gane** who celebrated her 90th birthday May 31.

Killdeer Add Relish To Train Ride

Did you hear about the killdeer? Back in March, a pair of the birds built their nest on the miniature-train tracks, in the pea-gravel directly between the rails and two ties. After momma-bird had laid four eggs, she became understandably belligerent whenever the miniature train came along, chasing her off the nest.

Finally, on April 2, only hours before the *Easter Bunny Express* began carrying its 549 passengers on the Goleta Short Line, Museum Director Gary Coombs moved the nest, eggs and all, a few feet out of harm's way. Miraculously, Mrs. Killdeer accepted the new situation and returned to the relocated nest. For the next couple of weeks, the killdeer and the riders on passing trains enjoyed one another's company, without further incident.

The youngsters hatched during the week of April 18 and have now flown away to lives of their own.

Motorcar Indicator Repaired

Caps off to volunteer **Ron Ferguson** for repairing the motorcar-indicator exhibit in Goleta Depot's Waiting Room. The exhibit uses an actual indicator signal to demonstrate how the device warns track workers and inspection crews of approaching trains. One of the museum's most popular small exhibits, it allows visitors to press a button to activate the signalling equipment.

Museum Receives Major In-Kind Gift

Sam Dabney of Santa Barbara has donated a valuable assemblage of equipment and materials to the railroad museum. Included in the gift were a 7-1/2-inch gauge gas-powered locomotive and flat car, 1000 feet of aluminum rail, 500 redwood ties, and a box of miscellaneous track hardware — all for miniature-railroad

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 Photos by Greg Bennett Photography.

use. The locomotive, which is not suitable for hauling trains on the Goleta Short Line, will be sold, while the flat car will be adapted and the track materials used to expand and maintain the miniature railroad.

Two years ago, Mr. Dabney donated to the museum a miniature live-steam road tractor kit, which **Eugene Allen** assembled for the purpose of eventual sale. In April, the completed road tractor was sold, with the \$3,500 in proceeds applied toward purchasing the new locomotive for the Goleta Short Line, and for museum operations.

McNeel Talk Reaches Senior Groups

After his successful March 16 program on *The Railroads of the Tri-Counties*, museum volunteer **Robert McNeel** has taken his show on the road. Bob has repeated the talk and slide presentation for two area seniors groups — a crowd of about 160 at **Trinity Baptist Church**, followed a few weeks later by a **Friendship Manor** audience of about 30.

Sunday Train Rides Start July 10

The Goleta Short Line's schedule of train rides will be expanded to include Sundays beginning July 10. The additional operating day was approved by the Board of Trustees' Executive Committee in April after the matter was discussed with volunteers and members at the March gathering at Goleta Library.

Sunday hours will be 2 to 3:30 p.m. The miniature train also runs 2 to 3:30 p.m. every Wednesday and Friday, and 1 to 4 p.m. every Saturday.

Thom Shares Ecuadoran Adventure

Richard Thom's May 18 program on the Guayaquil & Quito Railway of Ecuador was a multi-media event, featuring live narration by the international rail traveler and author. The presentation was a masterful blending of visual and audio images — beautiful scenery, regional music, the brightly-colored clothing of the native people, the sights and sounds of market day, and all of the small-town excitement occasioned by the arrival and departure of steam trains.

We hope to have Rich back for a presentation on another of his Latin American rail adventures in early 1995. Watch the *Depot Dispatch* for more information.

Jr. Engineers Will Party July 15

The second annual *Junior Engineers Club Party* will be held Friday, July 15, from 2 until 3:30 p.m. There will be free rides on the Goleta Short Line, special showings of *Thomas The Tank Engine* videos, prizes and surprises, and delicious refreshments, including a Junior Engineers cake!

Don't miss this special summer get-together!

Steam Loco Class To Be Offered

The museum is offering a short course on *The Operation and Maintenance of a Steam Locomotive* beginning June 1. **Eugene Allen** will serve as instructor of the two-session class, which will utilize his 4-4-0 American for demonstration purposes.

The class is open to museum staff and volunteers. If successful, future classes may be given and opened to the full museum membership or the general public.

Intrepid Moms Enjoy Free Rides

Rainy weather dampened the turnout at the "Free Rides for Moms" event on May 7. Despite the inhospitable conditions, 58 hardy souls took advantage of the special opportunity to ride the Goleta Short Line miniature-train, until about 3:15 p.m. when operations had to be halted due to the increasing downpour.

Although the rains were a disappointment, the event was still successful in terms of publicity and good will, for both the museum and sponsor **Santa Barbara Bank & Trust**. More than 400 complimentary tickets were distributed in advance by the museum and bank, and we received expressions of gratitude from countless women and family members for the attractive ticket-invitations and the sentiments they signified.

Depot Day will be Sept. 24

The 12th annual *Depot Day*, the railroad museum's major annual celebration, is slated for Saturday, Sept. 24. Hours will be 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Mark the date on your calendar and watch for complete *Depot Day* details in the fall issue of your *Depot Dispatch*.

Safari Fundraiser Earns Big Dividend

It appears likely that the May 21 *Too-Fari Safari*, the 1994 edition of the *Asphalt Regatta*, will be the most successful spring fundraiser in the event's 13-year history. As this issue of the *Depot Dispatch* goes to press, pledges have reached \$9,082 — already matching the record figure set two years ago — with many pledges yet to be counted.

A bevy of teams, each headed by a pair of trustees, competed to raise the most money for the museum and to earn the highest point total in a "safari" walk around

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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

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scenic Lake Los Carneros. After registration, each team was outfitted with a map, an "Emergency Survival Kit," and a *Safari Journal*, whose pages were completed as the teams encountered and mastered a series of six adventures during their park expedition. Near the midpoint, teams came to the "Trading Post," where they enjoyed cool refreshments served by volunteer **Judy Savage** and four-year old daughter, **Leah**, appropriately dressed in a lion costume.

Each safari began and ended with a ride on the "Jungle Train" which carried team members from the "Last Chance Outpost" embarkation point to a festively-decorated "Bwana Junction," their final destination, where participants enjoyed a potluck luncheon and sharing tales of their exploits.

Winning teams and individuals will be announced and prizes awarded at the museum's June 15 meeting at Goleta Library. All museum members are invited to attend the 7:30 p.m. gathering and help honor all Safari participants.

Porter Collection Donated to Museum

The railroad museum has received a valuable collection of books from **Josephine A. Millett** of Santa Barbara. The 45 books, all on railroad subjects, are from the collection of the late **John T. Porter**, Mrs. Millett's father. John Porter and his wife, **Esther Porter**, who died last year, were longtime members and supporters of the South Coast Railroad Museum.

The jewel of the Porter family gift is a rare 19th century promotional booklet, entitled *Wonderland '98*, which the Northern Pacific Railway used to attract settlers to its lands. For its protection and conservation, the booklet will be added to the collection that the museum has established at the UCSB Library's Dept. of Special Collections.

All of the other books will be added to the railroad museum's library at Goleta Depot. Included are some of the most definitive works and recognizable titles — many out-of-print — on American railroading: John H.

White, Jr.'s *The American Railroad Passenger Car* and first editions of Lucius Beebe's *Mansions On Rails*, *Nevada County Narrow Gauge* by Gerald M. Best, and David F. Myrick's two-volume *Railroads of Nevada and Eastern California*.

Bunny Express Big As '93

Last year's inaugural **Easter Bunny Express** firmly established the springtime event as one of the railroad museum's most popular and delightful family activities. Thus, it was no surprise that the second annual *Easter Bunny Express*, held April 2, drew another large crowd. Ridership on the miniature train reached 549 passengers, surpassing last year's 500+



Bob Burtness played the title role in *Easter Bunny Express*.

total. Overall attendance was again estimated at about 1,000 visitors.

Contributions to the event were made by several local businesses, including **Anna's Fairview Bakery**, the **Elephant Bar & Restaurant**, **Kinko's Graphics by Cole**, and printer **Craig Schmidt**.

Volunteers who helped make the day successful included "Bunny" Bob and "Helper" Lynn Burtness, Edee Brown, Jack Cogan, Mary Cole, Ron Ferguson, RoseAnn Hill, Ed Leska, Lee and Suzanne Polansky, Gene Rantanen, Judy Savage, Craig and Juleine Schmidt, Kenn Sipes, Jim and Susan Smith, Bob Sponsel, Lani, Susan and Hannah Strobel, Hilda Volkman, and Evelyn Woods.

The spirited young people of **ShowStoppers**, under the caring direction of **Radu Azdril**, added a wonderful new dimension to this year's *Express*, providing all in attendance with a lively assortment of songs from their spring show.

Easter Bunny Express drawing winners were Katie Main, Jessica Roberts, and Kristi Starlin.

DONOR CONTRIBUTION FORM

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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,
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