



Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH

Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum
Volume 14, Number 3 — Fall 1994

Depot Day Is Sept. 24

The 12th annual *Depot Day*, the South Coast railroad museum's major annual celebration, will be held Saturday, Sept. 24.

Among the highlights of *Depot Day '94* will be the official opening of the expanded *Goleta Short Line*, the museum's 7-1/2-inch-gauge railroad (see page 2 story). Four miniature locomotives, including two steamers and the museum's brand-new diesel-prototype S.P. yard engine (see page 3), will be on hand to haul passengers and join in the celebration.

See the special "Page 5" insert for all of the *Depot Day* details.

Museum Will Develop Guide Program For Amtrak's *Coast Starlight*

Amtrak has invited our museum to develop an onboard guide program for the *Coast Starlight*, the daily train connecting Los Angeles and Seattle. The guide program will cover the portion of the *Coast Starlight* route between the cities of Oxnard and San Luis Obispo. As a first step toward the program's creation, **Trustee Ben Beede** and **Museum Director Gary Coombs** took the Santa Barbara-to-San Luis Obispo roundtrip on July 25, compliments of Amtrak.

The program will involve teams of two interpreter-guides traveling aboard the *Coast Starlight*. Working from a prepared script, one of the guides will use the train's public-address system to interpret the area's natural, cultural, and historical sites and points of interest. The other team member will occupy the upper level of the lounge car, answering passenger questions and distributing literature, including brochures pertaining to regional resources and services of interest to travelers.

Amtrak will cover most of the costs associated with the actual implementation of the guide program (ancillary travel, meals, overnight accommodations when necessary, etc.). The museum will train and use volunteers to staff the interpreter-guide teams, expanding the existing docent group for this purpose. "We expect to have the guide program operational by this time next year," Coombs said.

Onboard guide programs have been developed for other long-distance Amtrak trains by the U.S. Forest

Service, California State Railroad Museum, and National Park Service. Navaho and other Native American guides interpret a portion of the route covered by Amtrak's *Southwest Chief*.

Another Miniature-Train Record Set

July ridership on the Goleta Short Line reached 1,964, smashing the single-month record of 1,702 set last July. Year-to-date passenger totals through July 31 on the miniature-train ride were 5,554, up 28% from 4,348 riders over the same period last year.

Sunday train operations, which began July 10, are doing well, averaging about 38 passengers daily over the 2-3:30 p.m. schedule.

Steaming Summer Concludes Aug. 27

The last day of *Another Steaming Summer* is Saturday, Aug. 27. Event hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Don't miss the finale! **Ed Winnewisser** hopes to bring his 0-6-0 switcher to the event, where it will join **Gene Allen's** American. Please come out, enjoy the
(continued on page 2)

Live-Steamers Ed Winnewisser, Jack Cogan, Tom Braunger, and Gene Allen (aboard) await riders.



*South Coast Railroad Museum
Institute for American Research*

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festivities, and show your support for the hard-working museum volunteers, who make the event possible, and for the **Goleta Lions**, who prepare and serve those delicious hot sandwiches, donating all proceeds to the railroad museum.

Toyota of Santa Barbara (5611 Hollister Ave.) is still giving away coupons good for one-half off on all rides, including unlimited-ride tickets.

A Closing Safari Journal Entry . . .

With a final donation from **Trustee John Starr**, pledges for the *Too-Fari Safari/Asphalt Regatta* reached the \$10,000 goal, making the 1994 spring fundraiser the most successful in museum history.

A *Safari* awards ceremony and party was held at Goleta Library on June 15. Top fundraising honors went to **Trustee Ben Beede** and to Ben's team, the "Walkin' Watusis." **Diana Mina** was recognized for assembling the highest pledge total in the non-trustee category. Both Ben and Diana received *Sweetheart Special* trips for two as their prizes.

Other *Safari* winners included **Bob Sponsel** (Best Costume), **Leah Savage** (Best Lion), the "Plundering Plungers" (Best Song), and **Judy Savage** (Best Trading-Post Proprietress).

Upcoming Series Speakers Announced

On Wed., Sept. 21, local lecturer and history-buff **Neal Graffy** will present *A Liar, a Drunk, and a Piano Teacher — The Story of the Flying A*. The title of Graffy's talk and slide presentation refers to Santa Barbara's historic **American Film Company**. From 1912 to 1918, the "Flying A," as it was popularly known, was one of the largest motion picture studios in the U.S., producing more than 1,000 westerns, dramas, and comedies.

A local resident since 1961, Neal Graffy has writ-

ten and lectured on a number of Santa Barbara-area historical topics. This marks his third appearance in the museum's *Continuing Lecture Series*.

In honor of Halloween, Museum volunteer and retired railroader **Tom Braunger** will tell some *Real Ghosts Stories*, drawn from the annals of the **Southern Pacific** railroad, on Wed., Oct. 19. Many of you will recall Tom's thrilling talk on *The Life of a Locomotive Engineer* back in February 1993.

All *Continuing Lecture Series* programs are held at Goleta Library, 500 North Fairview Ave., and begin at 7:30 p.m. They are sponsored by the railroad museum and are free and open to the public. Refreshments and a social hour follow each presentation.

Toy Trains, Teddy Bears Needed

The museum's annual *Toy Trains and Teddy Bears!* holiday display will open Nov. 25 and run through Jan. 29. Each year, dozens of museum members, trustees, employees, volunteers, and friends make possible this festive exhibition by loaning their stuffed animals and toy locomotives and rail cars to share with visitors in the display.

We try each year to increase the number of keepsakes shared and we're always looking for new items to include. If you'd like to add your own personal touch to this year's display, please call Museum Secretary Stacy Krant (964-3540) any weekday afternoon.

Short Line Getting Longer

Museum volunteers have been hard at work building and laying new track for the Goleta Short Line miniature train. A target date of Depot Day (Sept. 24) has been set to complete the work, which will increase Short Line trackage by about 600 feet and will allow for the simultaneous operation of multiple trains.

Track workers include **Jack Cogan**, **Scott Cogan**, **Ron Ferguson**, **Bill Parker**, and **Eugene Allen**, who is supervising the overall effort.

Library Gift Received

A collection of 39 railroad books has been donated to the museum library by member **Charles Gaspar**. Included in the gift are *Night Trains: The Pullman System in the Golden Years of American Rail Travel* by Peter T. Maiken and a first edition of Lucius Beebe's 1963 *The Overland Limited*.

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Dads Get Free Rides

In honor of Father's Day and with the generous sponsorship of **Goleta National Bank**, the museum gave free rides to dads on June 18. Total rides reached 161, including 115 rides on the Goleta Short Line and 46 handcar rides.

Special thanks to Goleta National Bank and to **Executive Vice President Randy Shaffer** for making this new museum project possible.

Roger Levenson Passes

Longtime member **Roger Levenson** died on May 29. He was 79. Roger made a number of contributions to the museum over the years, including gifts of rare Southern Pacific railroad artifacts and photographs. He also helped prepare some of the museum's earliest displays of collection items. He had been living in the Bay Area for several years before his death.

Paths, Food-Service Pad Added

Museum visitors will now have an easier time reaching the Goleta Short Line boarding area and nearby picnic tables. Two new paths, including one that is wheelchair-accessible, have been built from the sidewalk to this eastern portion of the museum grounds. Volunteers who worked on this project are **Gene Allen, Al Jaramillo, and Bill Parker**.

The **Goleta Lions Club** commissioned the construction of an 11x14-foot pad near the flagpole, to be



Al Jaramillo and Bill Parker work on path construction.

used for the preparation and sale of food during special events, or for other museum activities. The contractor that the Lions engaged did a terrific job. Matching the concrete to the "Western Gold" color of the sidewalks around Goleta Depot was a touch indicative of their careful attention to detail.

The Lions deserve our heartiest thanks for this handsome and useful addition to the museum grounds. The project was undertaken during the presidency of **Lion Phil Meyers**.

Welcome New Museum Members

New museum members are **Anna's Fairview Bakery, Gary and Lori Blum, Susan and David Cavalli, Sue S. Freitag, Margaret Harris, Judy Hilton, Dave and Gina Kosmo, Joseph and Shirley Kunze, Andrew Lefley, Loren and Pat and Zack McFarland, Brian and Ann Montgomery, Darryl and Joyce Prichard, Joan Rakowski, Richard Shaw, Ellen Sidenberg, and The Tile Collection.**

New members of the Junior Engineers Club are **Kevin C. Blum, William Campbell, Xander Campbell, Teddy Killian, Thomas Killian, Brian T. Missman, and Kevin C. Missman.**

We are pleased to welcome all new members of the museum family.

Need For Volunteers Urgent

There is a pressing need for more museum volunteers in all areas. For persons interested in joining the volunteer corps, there will be an orientation class on Saturday, Sept. 3 and another on Saturday, Dec. 3. Each three-hour session begins at 9 a.m.

Volunteer docents are essential to many of the activities and services that museum visitors enjoy. Volunteers 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 one of these two orientations. To sign up, please call Asst. Director Phyllis Olsen at 964-3540, any weekday afternoon.

New Engine Arrives

The museum's new diesel-prototype miniature locomotive arrived in May and is being painted and detailed to model a modern-day Southern Pacific EMD switch-engine. The gray body coat was donated by **Precision Auto Body and Painting**, thanks to the *(continued on page 4)*

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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generosity of **John Peterson**. **Gene Allen** applied the red safety overcoating and has been doing other preparatory work on the engine.

Heumphreus Shares Modeling Know-How

One of the area's leading authorities on model railroading, **Joe Heumphreus**, owner of the **Hobby Depot**, gave a July 20 audience an hour-long overview of the subject. His discussion focused on the various modeling scales, including the history and advantages of each. In addition to bringing examples of track and rolling stock for each scale, he also shared slides of several local model railroads.

Steam Class Held

The museum's class on *The Operation and Maintenance of a Steam Locomotive* took place in early June. The two-day course, organized by **Gene Allen**, included a "chalk talk" at the museum on the 8th, followed three days later by first-hand experience in firing-up, servicing, and operating Gene's 4-4-0 American, No. 614.

Enrolled in the class were **Chris Braunger**, **Tom Braunger**, **Jack Cogan**, **Ron Ferguson**, **Dan Saragosa**, **Gene Rantanen**, and **Museum Director Gary Coombs**. Several of the class' students have been helping haul passengers with Gene's engine during *Another Steaming Summer*.

"Fiesta Train" Delights Museum-Goers

The second annual *El Tren de la Fiesta* ("Fiesta Train") was held Saturday, Aug. 6, in celebration of Santa Barbara's **Old Spanish Days**. The festive event took place at the museum from noon until 4 p.m., following the Children's Parade on State Street. All youngsters wearing fiesta costumes or parade attire received free rides on the Goleta Short Line. Total ridership on the day reached 131, and there were more than 200 people attending the event.

Special thanks are due to **Mary Cole**, Al

Jaramillo, **John Locke**, **Bob Sponsel**, and **Hilda Volkman** for their help in the event's planning, decorating, and clean-up.

Thanks also to **McNally & Loftin, Publishers** and to **Santa Barbara Bank & Trust** for donating prizes for the *Fiesta Train* drawing.

Jr. Engineers Celebrate

The second annual *Junior Engineers Club Party* was held Friday, July 15. There were about 47 in attendance, including 19 Junior Engineers, plus their guests



Jr. Engineers party was great fun for all!

and parents. All were treated to free rides on the Goleta Short Line, special showings of *Thomas The Tank Engine* videos, prizes, and delicious refreshments, including a Junior Engineers cake!

Groups Enjoy Landmark Tours

The summer months have been a busy time for guided group tours of Goleta Depot and the railroad museum. Many of those touring the historical landmark have been youth groups that are taking advantage of the complimentary rides on the Goleta Short Line, sponsored by **Cox Cable Santa Barbara**. These include the **Tiger Cub Scouts** (in June), **Cliff Drive Care Center** (July), and **Boys & Girls Club of Carpinteria** (August). Also receiving guided tours recently were the **Pasadena Breakfast Club** and **UCSB Seniors School**.

Several more guided tours are planned for groups in August and early September, including the **Santa Barbara Boys & Girls Club**, **Kid's Club** (La Patera), and **Val Verde Care Home**.

Mid-State Bank Helps Library Program

The museum is participating again this year in the Summer Reading Program of the **Santa Barbara Public Libraries**, thanks to a generous sponsorship gift from **Mid-State Bank**. Check the next issue of your *Depot Dispatch* for all of the details and final numbers on this year's program.

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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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. 24

The 12th Annual Depot Day celebration will be held Saturday, Sept. 24, from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. Made possible by members and friends, Depot Day is the museum's big annual fundraiser.

☐ Rail Rides

Don't miss the official opening of the expanded Goleta Short Line and the largest assemblage of



operating passenger equipment in museum history, including our new diesel-prototype yard-engine and two miniature live-steam locomotives, Dan O'Brien's mogul visiting from El Monte and Gene Allen's American.

There will also be rides on the museum handcar and on Bob Mahan's "speeder," formerly with the Ventura County Railway, which makes a once-a-year appearance here every Depot Day. 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.

☐ Musical Entertainment

The energetic youth group, *ShowStoppers*, will be on hand to sing excerpts from their summer production, "Dr. Seuss on the Loose."

☐ 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 Trackside Shop. (Purchases of three or more tickets can be made by major credit card.)

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 dinners at fine restaurants, luxury hotel stays, tickets to regional performing arts productions, and a bevy of goods, services, and gift ideas for all ages.

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).

☐ Steam Engine and Train Displays

One of Depot Day's most popular annual attractions, the steam display, will feature Jim Marchiando's exciting steam plant, which will power a variety of stationary engines, whistles and other steam gadgets.

Also returning this year is the popular operating "O"-gauge train display, hosted by Gene Rantanen, with assistance from Don Norris.



Goleta Depot