



Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH

Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum
Volume 14, Number 4 — Winter 1994

Candy Cane Train Starts Nov. 25

On Friday, Nov. 25, the museum's miniature train will be transformed into the *Candy Cane Train*, specially decorated for the holiday season.

The Candy Cane Train will carry passengers daily through Dec. 24, except Mondays and Tuesdays, when the museum is closed. Hours of operation will be 2 'til 3:30 p.m. (1 to 4 on Saturdays).

Tickets for the Candy Cane Train are \$1.50 each for children or adults, which includes a train ride, holiday treat and favors. A three-ride ticket will also be available for \$2.75. All tickets will be sold at the museum during event hours.

Those attending the Candy Cane Train event will also be able to view the museum's holiday display, *Toy Trains and Teddy Bears!* (see page 4), which also opens Nov. 25.

Sweetheart Special Departs Feb. 11

The weekend of Feb. 11-12 has been set aside for the 1995 edition of the *Sweetheart Special*, the museum's popular Valentine's-theme trip to San Diego, first offered back in 1989.

The entire custom-class car on Amtrak's *San Diegan* has been reserved roundtrip for the museum group. Plenty of games, prizes, festive decorations, 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 attractions of downtown San Diego and the waterfront. A city trolley-bus tour and a Saturday-night group dinner are also being planned as trip options.

Costs are \$139 per person (double occupancy; \$159 single), which includes Saturday night accommodations, first-class rail fare, and transfers in San Diego.

Reservations can be made by contacting the museum office at 805-964-3540 any weekday afternoon. Don't be left out — make those reservations early.

Museum Has Holiday Gift Answers

Don't forget the museum's Trackside Shop when hunting for those holiday gifts. There's a wonderful array of books, educational toys and games, videos, calendars, and specialty items for the railfans and history buffs on your list.

Or, if you'd prefer to shop from the comfort of your easy chair, use the enclosed order form, which offers a variety of local history and railroad publications, including several rare books, at special member prices.

All sales benefit the museum. Members receive a 10% discount on all gift purchases. The museum accepts Visa, Mastercard, and personal checks. The shop is open during all museum hours; Wednesday thru Sunday, 1-4 p.m. Please make telephone inquiries or orders during these hours only.

In Memoriam: George H. Adams

The museum lost a devoted friend on Oct. 19 with the passing of **George Adams**. An original member of the Goleta Depot Committee, formed in 1980, Adams was an integral part of the effort to save and restore the historical landmark. He was a hard worker, whose dedication to purpose and unflagging good humor were personal trademarks.

Although he had lived in the Camarillo area for the past several years, George remained an active museum member, attending events and joining museum travel groups with his second wife, **Helen**.

The park recreational area adjoining the Goleta Depot grounds is named the George Adams Picnic Grove, honoring his long tenure as Santa Barbara County's first Parks Director and his many years of community service and activism.

George will be deeply missed. He was 85.

Train Discount Is New Member Benefit

Effective Jan. 1, all members will receive another new benefit: a 25¢ discount on every ticket purchased for the Goleta Short Line miniature-train. The new discount-ticket policy applies to tickets purchased for special events as well as regular operating days. It also covers both single- and multiple-ride tickets. Discount tickets may be used by the member or anyone accompanying the member to the museum, including friends and family. There is no limit on the number of tickets purchased, but all discount tickets must be used on the date of purchase. Discount tickets may not be re-sold.

To receive your discount, you must show your valid membership card at the time of purchase (Tickets

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Institute for American Research*

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for Junior Engineers must be purchased by their accompanying adult guardians.). Beginning Jan. 1, members will also need to show their membership card in order to receive their 10% discount on purchases in the Trackside Shop. If your card has been lost or stolen, please contact the museum office (964-3540, weekday afternoons) to request a replacement.

Welcome New Museum Members

New members of the museum family include Life Member **Charlaine Sloan** and Active Members **Ken Becker, Raymond and Dana Blum, John Maynes, and Leopoldo Diaz**.

New Junior Engineers are **Brian Anderson, Lesley Anderson, Tyler Luke Benateigha, Brendan Blum, Sydney Irene Bolton, Jonathan Chaconas, Mason Charles, Tynan Daniels, Ryan Falls, Graham Jacob Fishman, Maxwell Pillmore, and Morgan Patrick Ryan**.

Welcome to all of you!

Member Numbers Hit Record High

Museum membership has reached an all-time high. There are currently 310 members. The greatest growth has been in the Junior Engineers Club, which now comprises about 24% of the total membership.

Library Program Concludes

On Oct. 30, the museum wrapped up another year of participation in the Summer Reading Program of the **Santa Barbara Public Libraries**. In recognition of reading achievement by children enrolled in the reading program, the museum gave 375 free rides on the Goleta Short Line miniature railroad over the July-October period. This is more than double the number of rides given during last year's program.

The reading program is open to children ages 2-14 throughout most of Santa Barbara County, including

Santa Barbara, Goleta, Carpinteria, and Montecito.

The museum's involvement this year was made possible by the financial support of **Mid-State Bank**.

Basic Dues Rate Increased

Members who renew at the Active Member level will now be paying \$15 annually, an increase of \$5 over the previous rate. This is the first time that the museum's basic membership rate has been raised since the museum was established in 1983.

Holiday Party Slated for Dec. 21

For the second year, the museum's annual holiday party will be held at Goleta Library, 500 N. Fairview Ave. The party will be Wednesday, Dec. 21, with festivities getting under way at 7:30 p.m. The evening's program will feature a slide-show review of the year ending and a look ahead to 1995. It will also be an occasion for recognizing the service of many of the museum's dedicated volunteers.

Members, family, and friends are cordially invited to attend. Please bring a dessert or hors d'oeuvres to share. The museum will provide beverages, cups, napkins, and plates.

New Museum Secretary

It is a pleasure to introduce our new museum secretary, **Chail Topping**. Chail is a 16-year area resident who attends SBCC. She began working for the museum in September, replacing **Stacy Krant**, whose senior-year schedule at UCSB conflicted with the museum's weekday afternoon hours.

Volunteers Ride TALGO Train

Several museum docents were guests of Southern Pacific Transportation when the high-speed TALGO train visited the area on Oct. 3. **Ron Ferguson, Jack Cogan, Ben Beede, Tom Braunger, and John Schaller** rode from Santa Barbara to Los Angeles aboard the Spanish TALGO, a tilt-train based on a technology distinct from that of the Swedish X-2000. Like the X-2000 and the German ICE train, the TALGO is being evaluated by Amtrak for possible intercity use.

Depot Tree Heralds Christmas Season

The Goleta Depot tree will be lighted every night in December, creating a lovely Victorian scene that

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may be enjoyed from your car on Los Carneros Road. The decorated tree, which each year occupies the historical landmark's upstairs window bay, has special significance. It preserves the custom, practiced over the years by countless railroad station agents and families across America, of placing their Christmas tree in a prominent spot, where its message of hope and wonder could be shared with passengers and crews on passing trains.

Cox Cable Renews Youth Sponsorship

Children who tour the historic Goleta Depot with their school class or youth organization will again be able to take a free ride on the Goleta Short Line, compliments of **Cox Cable Santa Barbara**. Cox Cable recently renewed for a second year its support of the



Cliff Drive Care Center kids enjoy Cox Cable-sponsored visit.

educational program designed to encourage greater participation in the museum's tours for children.

Over the last 12 months, the free program served hundreds of children, representing public and private schools and youth organizations from Goleta, Santa Barbara, Montecito, and Carpinteria.

Memorial Gifts Made

Donations in memory of **George H. Adams** have been received from Gary Coombs and Phyllis Olsen.

A donation honoring the memory of **Howard A. Wilcox** was made by Hilda Volkman.

Volunteers Needed

The museum needs volunteers in all staffing areas. There will be an orientation class on Saturday, Dec. 3 for anyone interested in the museum's volunteer program. The 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 the Dec. 3 orientation. To sign up, please call Assistant Director Phyllis Olsen at 964-3540, any weekday afternoon.

Museum Library Benefits From Gift

A collection of 27 railroad books has been given to the museum library by **Louise Lusk** of Carpinteria. Titles included in the gift are second printings of S. Kip Farrington, Jr.'s *Railroads at War*, published in 1944, and James Marshall's *Santa Fe: The Railroad that Built an Empire*, which first appeared in 1945.

New Engine Shines On Depot Day

The museum's new diesel-prototype miniature locomotive was put into active service on Depot Day, Sept. 24. Assigned number 2655, after an actual Southern Pacific yard engine, the new engine received final detailing and lettering a scant few days before Depot Day, compliments of **Freedom Signs**, operated by **Betsy Harris** and **Suzy Williams**.

No. 2655 joined **Gene Allen's** American and **Dan O'Brien's** mogul in hauling passengers throughout the day. It was the first time that old No. 1316, the museum's first engine and sister to No. 2655, was able to rest on a day of train operations. Since being placed into service in 1989, No. 1316 has pulled trains carrying more than 30,000 total passengers.

Depot Day also marked the grand opening of the expanded Goleta Short Line which our volunteers had been working on for several months. The new route, which includes about 600 feet of additional track, allows us to operate multiple trains at the same time.

The augmented system performed flawlessly on Depot Day. Final testing of the trackage and switches, including the first carrying of revenue passengers, had been conducted on Sept. 21 and 23.

Those who have ridden the Short Line both before and after the improvements can attest to the added enjoyment of the ride experience. A debt of gratitude is owed to all those who worked on the track project, especially **Jack Cogan** and **Ron Ferguson**, who built most of the track, and layout designer **Gene Allen**. Also contributing significantly to the effort were **Scott Cogan**, **Scott Davis**, **Leo Diaz**, and **Bill Parker**.

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 - \$15 (special rate for Docent Assn. members only - \$7)

Sustaining - \$25

Trustee's Club - \$250

Contributing \$50

President's Circle - \$500

Life Member - \$200

Jr. Engineer's Club - \$15 (add'l. 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.

Holiday Display Features Keepsakes

"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."

Thus reads the label that introduces the museum's annual holiday exhibition, which opens Nov. 25 and



Holiday display is popular with year-end visitors.

continues through Jan. 15. 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.

Lecture Series Speakers Announced

On Wednesday, March 15, international rail traveler **Rich Thom** will present *By Rail Across India*, a 40-minute multi-media program chronicling a 3,512-

mile journey. We'll travel from Bombay to Calcutta; turn south to Vishakapatnam on the Indian Ocean; then cross the Deccan plateau. Along the way, we'll ride crowded commuter trains; visit Princely State Railways, built as playthings for maharajahs; and tour villages encountered enroute. A detour north takes us into Nepal, to ride its only railroad, and then to one of the railway wonders of the world — the incomparable Darjeeling Himalaya route.

Rich Thom has ridden and photographed the railways of over 30 countries, concentrating on India and South America. He writes regularly for *International Railway Traveler* magazine.

Earthquakes vs. Trains will be the subject of a Wednesday, Feb. 15 talk by **Robert McNeel**. The 30-minute program will feature slides showing the harm that earthquakes can bring to railroads — damaging tracks, overturning trains, and disrupting rail operations. Focusing on California, the presentation will cover most of the 20th century, from the San Francisco Earthquake of 1906 to the 1994 Northridge quake.

A local authority on railroad history, McNeel spent all of his working life, more than four decades, in close association with railroads — as an S.P. engineman, rail-tour escort, owner-operator of a local rail-travel service, and Amtrak ticket agent.

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.

Endowment Gift Received

Museum benefactor **Rose Ann Hill** has made a generous year-end gift to the Earl and Rose Ann Hill Education Fund for Children's Programs. The Education Fund was established in 1989 by Mrs. Hill and her husband, the late **Earl M. Hill**.

Company Photo Features Depot

Medical Concepts Inc., a Goleta-based research firm, used Goleta Depot recently as the setting for its company photograph. All operations at company headquarters on Cremona Drive were brought to a halt for more than an hour on the afternoon of Sept. 14, while the entire staff car-pooled to the railroad museum. The final photograph captured 140 Medical Concepts employees assembled on Goleta Depot's loading dock, including workers at all levels.

Staff Members Attend Conferences

Museum Director **Gary Coombs** participated in the 2nd Annual *Partnership for Excellence Conference* on Sept. 12-13 in Santa Barbara. The conference is sponsored each year by Santa Barbara-area foundations and other grant-making agencies that serve the local nonprofit community.

On Aug. 19, Asst. Director **Phyllis Olsen** took part in a seminar on *Becoming Master Teachers in the Galleries* held at the Huntington Library in San Marino. Phyllis is a member of the sponsoring organization, the Museum Educators of Southern California.

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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 _____

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P.O. BOX 2125, GOLETA, CA 93118

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