



# Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH

Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum  
Volume 15, Number 1 — Spring 1995

## Easter Bunny Visits April 15

The 3rd Annual *Easter Bunny Express*, one of the museum's most popular family events, will be held Saturday, April 15 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Those holding the event's egg-shaped tickets may participate in a variety of 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 some marvelous gifts); and *What's Up Dock* (to collect another event souvenir).

Tickets are \$2.75 for children and \$2.25 for adults (who will not take part in the *What's Up Dock* and *Easter-Bunnyville* activities).

Tickets will be available at the museum during the event 'til 3:30 p.m. They may be purchased in advance at the museum during visitor hours (Wed.-Sun., 1-4 p.m.), or at these locations: Hobby Depot, 3016 State St., Santa Barbara; Kinko's Graphics, 451 Lopez Rd., Goleta.; Robitaille's Fine Candies, 900 Linden Ave., Carpinteria.

Members of the Goleta Lions Club will be helping out this year, selling hot sandwiches and other refreshments, with all proceeds benefitting the museum. So please plan to join us for lunch!

Hop aboard the *Easter Bunny Express* on April 15. It promises to be another hare-raising eggs-perience for the whole family! In the event of rain on April 15, the event will be held the following Saturday, April 22.

## Coast Starlight Program Advances

### Volunteer Guides Now Being Sought

The museum has been moving forward on the development of its onboard guide program for Amtrak's *Coast Starlight*, first announced in the Fall '94 issue (Vol. 14, No. 3) of the *Depot Dispatch*. We now have a formal agreement with Amtrak to conduct the program and Museum Director Gary Coombs has been busy working on the script, which is being developed around the *California's Wonderful Corner* theme coined by the late author and historian, Walker A. Tompkins, in his 1962 book of the same name.

Although implementation is several months away,

we're now beginning the search for volunteer guides. If you are interested in becoming a *Coast Starlight* guide, please contact Gary (964-3540) at the museum.

We've also been lining up sponsors to support the guide-program planning. Subscribers to date include Santa Barbara Conference & Visitors Center, Goleta Valley Chamber of Commerce, and Calif. State Parks.

## Shelton Elected President

Richard B. Shelton was elected President of the Board of Trustees at the board's Dec. 9 meeting. Shelton is best known to many area residents as Superintendent of the Goleta Union School District, a position he has held since 1987. Also elected as officers for 1995 were Benjamin Beede, Vice President; Jack Cogan, Secretary; and William Parker, Treasurer.

## Bank Sponsors "Free Rides for Moms"

All moms visiting the museum on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 14 will be treated to a free ride on the Goleta Short Line miniature train, compliments of Goleta National Bank. Hours will be 1 to 4 p.m.

The complimentary tickets may be picked up in advance at Goleta National Bank's office at 5827 Hollister Ave. beginning April 17, 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.

Goleta National Bank is also sponsoring "Free Rides for Dads" on Sunday, June 18, an event the bank helped to originate last year.

## New Youth Program Being Planned

Our museum has begun work on an exciting new educational program for local elementary-school children. This multi-faceted program, called *On Track!*, is being developed collaboratively by railroad museum and Goleta Union School District staff. Joining Museum Director Gary Coombs and Asst. Director Phyllis Olsen on the *On Track!* Planning Committee are GUSD representatives Emily Abello, Linda Hinton, Richard Huff, Stella Kramer, Pam McCabe, Joyce Singelman, and Sue Whisenand. GUSD Asst. Superintendent Ida Rickborn is a special advisor to the committee.

On completion, *On Track!* will be the museum's  
(continued on page 2)

*South Coast Railroad Museum  
Institute for American Research*

*Board of Trustees*

<i>Benjamin E. Beede</i>	<i>Jack D. Cogan</i>
<i>Barbara Joan Cornish</i>	<i>Joe Lemons</i>
<i>John C. Locke</i>	<i>William W. Parker</i>
<i>Gene W. Rantanen</i>	<i>Richard B. Shelton</i>
<i>Robert Sponsel</i>	<i>John Marshall Starr</i>
<i>Hilda B. Volkman</i>	

*Officers — 1995*

*Richard B. Shelton, President*  
*Benjamin E. Beede, Vice President*  
*Jack D. Cogan, Secretary*  
*William W. Parker, Treasurer*

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

(continued from page 1)

educational flagship — a kaleidoscope of interrelated programs, activities, and learning materials. Its goal is to further the broad general-education objectives of the elementary schools — by using the rich themes and recreational capabilities of the railroad museum as a medium for children to apply, explore, and understand the full range of classroom subjects and skills, including mathematics, language, history, science, social studies, and the arts. *On Track!* will also advance the museum's relatively-specialized mission by reaching a larger audience, with greater depth and relevance to everyday life, among local elementary-school children.

*On Track!* will serve both as an umbrella for the museum's existing educational activities, such as our participation in the Summer Reading Program of the Santa Barbara Public Libraries, as well as a framework for the planning and introduction of new activities. The Planning Committee is presently working on several new *On Track!* components.

A number of corporate sponsors are helping to underwrite the planning and implementation of *On Track!*. Current sponsors include John Burnham & Co., Mid-State Bank, and Cox Cable Santa Barbara. Additional sponsors are being sought.

### **"Safari" Fun Set for May 20**

High adventure awaits those who take part in the 14th annual *Asphalt Regatta* on the morning of Saturday, May 20. The 1995 event will reprise the *Too-Fari Safari* theme favored by last year's dauntless "explorers," according to Ben Beede, event chair.

This year will feature three trustee-led teams, which 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.

Each safari will end with a ride on the "Jungle Train" to a secluded spot where refreshments will be served. Prizes will be awarded for the most successful

teams and individuals in a variety of categories.

The *Asphalt Regatta* is the railroad museum's primary annual fundraiser, producing more than 10% of all operating monies. The goal for 1995 is \$12,000.

More participants are needed to make this year's event a success. So, grab your pith helmet and join a team! Or, if someone calls you for a pledge, please be generous. To learn more or, if you're ready, to sign up, please contact Phyllis at the museum (964-3540).

### **Welcome New Museum Members**

James R. Wozny is a new Sustaining Member of the museum. Other new members are Richard Abbott, Jennifer Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Elvin Ostler, Tom and Katie Rogers Family, Russell Clay Ruiz, Bruce Smith, Kerby Steiner, and Frank Whitmore.

The museum is also pleased to welcome its new Jr. Engineers: Niall Rhai Belton, Tristan Cronshaw, Michael Curtis, Brandon Droese, Celina Garcia, Timothy Garfinkel, Matthew Gartzke, Rollin Gartzke, Zachary David Hamber, Andrew McDonough, Eleanor Pettus, Erle W. Pettus, Walter Pettus, and Carol Ziesenhenne.

### **Holiday Exhibit Concludes**

Thank you to all who shared keepsakes with our visitors in the *Toy Trains and Teddy Bears!* exhibit which closed in January. Contributors included Jr. Engineers Brian Anderson, Lesley Anderson, Ryan Fearon, Ritchie Garcia, Scott Kornahrens, Kortney Korpela, and Wesley Korpela. Others who shared were Eugene Allen, Katelin Cogan, Gary Coombs, Ronald Ferguson, Jim Moyer, Gene Rantanen, Robert Sponsel, and Hilda Volkman. This year's exhibition also included a toy locomotive from the museum's own collections, originally donated by Louise Marr.

### **New Volunteers Join**

The museum is pleased to welcome five new docents-in-training: Ken Becker, Dave Cavalli, Susan Cavalli, Bruce Morden, and Frank Whitmore.

### **Next Docent Orientation Slated**

An orientation class will be held Saturday, June 3 for persons interested in becoming museum docents. The three-hour session begins at 9 a.m.

Docents are essential to many of the activities and services that museum visitors enjoy. Docents operate the miniature-train and handcar rides, staff the Trackside Shop, and share the historical landmark and model railroad exhibit. If you'd like to learn more about being a museum volunteer, please call Asst. Director Phyllis Olsen at 964-3540, any weekday afternoon.

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

Published quarterly by the Institute for American Research  
300 N. Los Carneros Rd., Goleta, Calif. 93117  
Mailing address: P.O. Box 2125, Goleta, CA 93118  
Phone: (805) 964-3540 or 964-3549

## Pet Painting Project Helps Museum

If you'd like a custom painting of your pet or another animal subject, here's a way that will also benefit the railroad museum. Contact Trustee Hilda Volkman (805-967-4706), who will accept your commission for a modest fee, which she will donate to the museum. For \$50, you will receive a framed 12x18 painting (larger formats are also available) by Hilda, the local artist who painted the colorful scenic backdrop for the museum's model railroad exhibit.

Hilda came up with this idea after last year's *Depot Day* auction. She had contributed two custom paintings to the auction, which led to a request for a third painting. She accepted the commission, donating her fee to the museum.

## Thom Program To Explore India By Rail

The next installment of the museum's Continuing Lecture Series will be *By Rail Across India*, a multimedia program by international rail traveler Richard Thom. The program will be held at Goleta Library, 500 N. Fairview Ave. on Wed., March 15, at 7:30 p.m.

The 40-minute program is intended for general audiences. It chronicles a 3,512-mile journey across the breadth of India, through eight of the nine regions of the national Indian Railways, riding a variety of trains and traveling on four different track gauges.

Our journey begins in Bombay, roughly following the Ganges River to Calcutta. Next, we head south to Vishakapatnam on the Indian Ocean, then cross the Deccan plateau to Nagpur and Secunderabad. Along the way, we'll squeeze aboard busy commuter trains; visit Princely State Railways — originally built as playthings for maharajahs; and walk the dusty, crowded streets of villages that we encounter. A detour to India's northern border takes us into Nepal, where we'll ride that country's only railroad, then on to one of the railway wonders of the world: the incomparable Darjeeling Himalaya railroad, which climbs within view of majestic Kanchenjunga, showpiece of the Himalayan range.

Richard Thom has ridden and photographed the railways of 30 countries, concentrating on South America and India. He has chronicled his journeys in a number of railway publications, including regular contributions to the *International Railway Traveler* magazine. He will be on hand to answer questions and meet with attendees following the program, when refreshments also will be served.

Continuing Lecture Series programs are sponsored by the railroad museum. They are free and open to the public.

## Candy Cane Train Draws Large Crowds

December '94 became the second busiest month in museum history, thanks largely to the overwhelming success of the *Candy Cane Train* event.

More than 2,000 visitors attended the *Candy Cane Train*, which was held Wednesdays thru Sundays over the Nov. 25-Dec. 23 period. On weekends, *Candy Cane Train* sales averaged 161 tickets, while an average of

61 tickets were sold on weekdays. Both figures represent substantial increases over 1993, the first year of the event, then called the "Holiday Train."

Visitors loved the gaily decorated train and grounds, the souvenir tickets, the train rides and other fun activities, and, of course, the candy canes. Many attendees came back again and again to take part in the festivities.

The 1995 *Candy Cane Train* will begin Friday, Nov. 24 and run through Sunday, Dec. 24.

## Attendance Record Set in '94

About 18,000 people visited the railroad museum in 1994, an increase of more than 10% over 1993. Miniature-train ridership totalled 12,277, up about 3,000 riders or 32% compared with a year ago. Attendance at showings in the Gandy Dancer Theater reached 4,300 viewers, also passing the 1993 figure. Some 761 visitors rode the museum handcar during 1994, while 391 others enjoyed guided tours of the historical landmark — both topping the totals for 1993.

## Year-End Gifts Acknowledged

End-of-year contributions totalled \$3,924. This included \$1,336 in unrestricted donations from Christine Allen, Tom and Polly Bazemore, John M. Carroll Jr., Betty J. Coombs, Barbara Cornish, T.M. Hartigan, Rose Ann Hill, Don H. Hollister, Jeanne and Kenneth Kahre, Kinko's Graphics by Cole, Travis Lyon, Marguerita Dahms Matala, Mid-State Bank, Mr. and Mrs. John Murchison, Isabel Friend Newman, David and Susan Nivin, Santa Barbara Bank & Trust, Richard and Wendy Shelton, Mr. and Mrs. Tallant Smith, George and Susan Soltman, Paul Owen Strassel, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Strout, Carol Talley, Rich and Linda Thom, and Bruce Williamson.

Gifts to the Endowment totalled another \$2,588. They were given by Barbara Cornish, Michael A. Glasgow, Goleta Valley Athletic Club, David C. Hieter, Rose Ann Hill, Dana Trout, and Hilda and Al Volkman.

### 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.

## Volunteers Honored at Holiday Party

The annual Holiday Party, held Dec. 21, was the largest year-end gathering in museum history. About 60 people attended, including trustees, docents, members, staff, family, and friends. They were treated to lots of delicious holiday refreshments and a short program featuring a slide show of museum activities and accomplishments during 1994.

Awards were presented to museum volunteers for their devotion and contributions of time during the year. Honored for most hours served in 1994 were Albert Jaramillo and Hilda Volkman. Recognized for "service above and beyond the call of duty" were Eugene Allen, Ben Beede, Theresa Caccese, Jack Cogan, Ronald Ferguson, Jim Moyer, Gene Rantanen, Daniel Saragosa, and Ernest Thomsen. William Parker joined Allen, Ferguson, and Cogan in the spotlight when work on the *Goleta Short Line* expansion and other projects were applauded. Beede, Ferguson, Rantanen, Saragosa, and Volkman were also acknowledged for best attendance at monthly meetings.

## Coloring Pages Sponsored by Kinko's

For the third year, Kinko's Graphics by Cole is sponsoring the coloring pages that are distributed to the museum's young visitors. These coloring pages include two drawings of museum scenes by Hilda Volkman, which are given away daily at the museum, plus an assortment of special coloring pages distributed during museum events, including the *Easter Bunny Express* and *Candy Cane Train*.

## Sweetheart Special Returns

The Feb. 11-12 *Sweetheart Special* to San Diego was another successful museum trip. The group enjoyed good weather, the trains didn't run too late, and we received terrific service from the Amtrak personnel aboard the *San Diegans*.

To assist the museum in publicizing this year's trip, Radio KTMS ran a two-week promotion which included several announcements each day, plus a call-



"Sweetheart Couple" were Peter Bie and Catherine Remak.

in contest for listeners with a *Sweetheart Special* Trip for Two as the Grand Prize.

The contest was won by Tom and Kathy Fayram. A more appropriate and deserving couple would have been hard to find: Kathy was celebrating her birthday on our departure day, while Tom had been working countless hours in recent weeks, battling the January floods and their aftermath in his capacity as Deputy Director of County Water Resources.

Among the VIPs aboard this year's *Sweetheart Special* were KTMS Programming Director Peter Bie and his wife, Catherine Remak. Peter and Catherine were selected by their fellow group members as the 1995 Sweetheart Couple. Also aboard were Ben and Gayle Beede and Diana and Mike Mina; both couples had won Sweetheart Special trips as top fundraisers during the museum's 1994 Asphalt Regatta.

This year's trip was helped enormously by our good friend, Bruce Heard, Amtrak's Director of Special Projects. Among other special assistances, Bruce arranged for Trustees Jack Cogan and John Locke to board the train early Saturday morning to decorate our car for the occasion. Thanks are owed to John, Jack, and Jack's wife, Harriet, who baked scores of muffins as part of the group's breakfast enroute to San Diego.

## Members Renew Their Support

The museum is pleased to acknowledge and thank those who have renewed their memberships for 1995.

Those renewing at the Contributing Member level include Don H. Hollister, Mrs. Ruth Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Kramer, and Noel Langle.

Sustaining Member renewals have been received from Christine Allen, Corey and Jill Anderson, Lucille Beckman, David Blomgren, Helen J. Coffey, Charles Gasper, Albert C. Hardy Jr., Harry L. Harrison, Thomas M. Hartigan, Alwyn and Dolores Hartnett, Marjory and Jack Jansen, Ellen G. Keeter, G. Ronald Larriue, Lorraine D. Macomber, Robert B. McNeel, Nancy and Warren Miller, Ed and Kathy Miller, James A. Moyer, Mr. and Mrs. John Murchison, Nick and Susie Nichols, Jane C. Peirce, John and Evelyn Schaller, Bruce Schumikowski, Gerry and Barb Stone, Thomas and Beulah Strout, Evelyn Woods, and Fred and Linda Ziesenhenné.

### 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.