



Goleta

# DEPOT DISPATCH

Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum  
Volume 15, Number 3 — Fall 1995

## Depot Day Returns To Sunday (Sept. 24)

The 13th annual *Depot Day*, the South Coast railroad museum's major annual celebration, will be held Sunday, Sept. 24.

For all of the exciting details, see the special full-page coverage of Depot Day '95 on Page 4.

## Santa Barbara Foundation Awards Grant to Museum

The railroad museum has received a \$2,210 grant from the **Santa Barbara Foundation**. About 75% of the grant funds will be used for the purchase of drain pipe to improve the drainage of the museum grounds and to protect Goleta Depot, the museum's historical and architectural centerpiece. The remainder of the grant was used to purchase a fax machine/copier for the museum office.

The Santa Barbara Foundation has been a longtime supporter of the railroad museum and Institute for American Research programs and activities. In the early 1980s, the Foundation was a major benefactor of the Goleta Depot Project to save and restore the historical landmark.

## Steaming Summer Wrap-Up Is Aug. 26

The last day of 1995's *Another Steaming Summer* is Saturday, Aug. 26. The finale will feature two miniature-steam locomotives — **Gene Allen's** American and **Ed Winnewisser's** 0-6-0 switcher.

Event hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please plan to attend 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, with all proceeds benefitting the museum.

Free coupons still are available at **Toyota of Santa Barbara**, 5611 Hollister Ave. The coupons may be used to buy up to six single-ride or three-ride tickets at 50% off the regular price. Toyota of Santa Barbara sponsors *Another Steaming Summer* each year.

## Museum Will Be In AAA's '96 TourBook

The South Coast Railroad Museum has been selected to be included as an attraction in the American Automobile Association's 1996 *California/Nevada*

## HELP WANTED

The museum has an urgent need for volunteers in all staffing areas. 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 with the public. If you would like to learn more about the docent program, please call Acting Director Phyllis Olsen at 964-3540, any weekday afternoon.

*Tourbook*. The AAA estimates that about 4 million copies of the '96 *TourBook* will be distributed to members next year through more than 1,000 district-office locations throughout the United States.

The railroad museum first appeared in the *TourBook* in 1994. It was the first time that a Goleta Valley attraction had been listed there since the 1970s.

## Cox Cable Renews Youth-Tour Program 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 third year, its support of the educational program designed to encourage participation in the museum's educational tours for children.

Over the past two years, the free program has served hundreds of children, representing public and private schools and youth organizations throughout the South Coast (see Page 4 story).

## Coombs Takes Museum-Studies Leave

### Olsen Will Serve As Interim Director

At the end of August, Museum Director **Gary Coombs** begins a 15-week leave of absence, during which he will pursue a post-graduate Certificate in Museum Studies at the **University of Delaware**. Delaware's museum-studies program is aligned closely with the prestigious museums of the Wilmington, Delaware area, including Winterthur, Longwood Gar-

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dens, and the Hagley Museum.

Asst. Director **Phyllis Olsen** will serve as Acting Director until Gary returns in mid-December.

## New Museum Secretary Joins Staff

**Farrol Mertes** is the new Museum Secretary. An incoming Brooks Institute of Photography student, Ms. Mertes previously worked for three years at the San Francisco Craft & Folk Art Museum.

Farrol is replacing **Chail Topping**, who has completed her studies at Santa Barbara City College. In August, Chail continues her education, advancing to the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Chail will be missed deeply by all at the museum who have come to know her over the past year. We wish her all the best!

## Dads Receive Free Rides

The museum gave free rides on the Goleta Short Line miniature-train to all dads visiting on Father's Day, June 18. Ridership reached 152 on the day, during which the museum hosted about 200 visitors.

The free rides were made possible by a second year of support from **Goleta National Bank**, which also sponsored *Free Rides For Moms* on Mother's Day.

## Spring "Safari" Sets New Record

Pledges for the 1995 *Asphalt Regatta/Too-Fari Safari* have reached \$10,271, eclipsing last year's total by \$271. That makes this year's Regatta the most successful fundraiser of any type in the museum's history.

Remarkably, all of the Regatta fundraising was accomplished by only 20 members, trustees, and museum staff. To honor their dedication and accomplishment, a *Safari* awards party was held at Goleta Library on June 21.

Top fundraising honors went to Trustee **Hilda Volkman** and to **Jack Cogan's** "Leaping Leopards" team. Jack also received an award as the "Most Im-

proved Fundraiser." **Nancy Ried** was recognized for compiling the highest pledge total among the non-trustees. Both Hilda and Nancy received *Sweetheart Special* trips for two as their prizes. All participants received certificates and/or memberships in the **Elephant Bar & Restaurant's** "Safari Club."

## Toy Trains And Teddy Bears Needed

The museum's annual *Toy Trains and Teddy Bears!* holiday display opens Nov. 24. Each year, dozens of museum members, trustees, employees, volunteers, and friends make this festive exhibition possible by loaning stuffed animals and toy locomotives and rail cars to share with our visitors in the display.

We strive to increase the number of keepsakes shared each year and we're always looking for new items to include. If you would care to add your own personal touch to this year's display, please contact Museum Secretary Farrol Mertes (964-3540), weekday afternoons, at your earliest convenience.

## Welcome New Museum Members

**Mary Lou Williamson** is the museum's latest Life Member. Other new members are **Roger Aceves, Tammy Dobrotin, Tom Frontera, Don Guillaume, James D. Harris, David Lee Jones, Karen Kramer, Dean J. Kunze, Kevin Lynn, Joseph Manser, Richard Mires, Jesse Rose, Dr. Alfred Runte, Susan Soria, and Alan Way.**

The newest additions to the Junior Engineers Club include **Keith Avery, Lennon Ganz, Steven D. Jimenez, Garrett Ledesma, Breanna Ledesma, Sarah Montgomery, Miranda Morden, Connor Patterson, Cole Patterson, William James Terry, and Scott Michael Terry.**

It's a pleasure to welcome all of our new members.

## 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. 2 and another on Saturday, Dec. 2. Each three-hour session begins at 9 a.m.

Volunteer docents are critical 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 with the public.

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 Acting Director Phyllis Olsen at 964-3540, any weekday afternoon.

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

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 300 N. Los Carneros Rd., Goleta, Calif. 93117  
 Mailing address: P.O. Box 2125, Goleta, CA 93118  
 Phone: (805) 964-3540 or 964-3549

Printing courtesy of Kimberly Press.

## Starlight Program Side-Tracked 'Til '96

The museum's interpretive guide program for Amtrak's *Coast Starlight* did not get under way as expected this summer. Despite a successful May 2 test run, the program has been temporarily delayed, due largely to problems related to Amtrak's financial troubles and ongoing reorganization.

We anticipate that the full program will begin on a weekly basis during the first quarter of 1996.

## Volunteer Makes Exhibit Video For Handicapped Visitors

One of the museum's more enterprising docents, **Bruce Morden**, has prepared a videotaped presentation of the model-railroad exhibit, which is designed to be shown to wheelchair-bound visitors or others who are unable to view the layout in person. The draft video was first shared with a handicapped visitor on June 17. Bruce hopes to find time to revise and improve his video production in the near future.

## Jr. Engineers Party

The 3rd annual *Junior Engineers Club Party* was held Friday, July 14. There were about 80 in attendance, including more than 30 Junior Engineers, plus their guests and parents. Party-goers were treated to miniature-train rides and special showings of *Thomas The Tank Engine* videos. There were also prizes and delicious refreshments, including a Jr. Engineers cake!

## Argentina Is Nov. 15 Program Focus

International rail traveler **Rich Thom** will present a multi-media program on the "Railways of Patagonia" at a Wednesday, Nov. 15 edition of the museum's *Continuing Lecture Series*.

The armchair tour begins in Buenos Aires, crossing the pampas region aboard one of Argentina's last long-distance trains to the resort of Bariloche. Next, its on to the Esquel Branch and the weekly all-steam mixed-train, the *Patagonian Express*, popularized by writer Paul Theroux. Finally, we travel to Argentina's extreme south, to ride another steam-powered line, the Rio Turbio, the southernmost railway in the world.

Rich Thom has ridden and photographed the railways of over 30 countries, concentrating on South America and India. He writes regularly for *International Railway Traveler* magazine. This will mark his third appearance before a South Coast Railroad Museum audience.

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.

## Youth Groups Enjoy Landmark Tours

It's been another busy year for group visits to the museum. Many tours of the historical landmark by youth groups have resulted from the special program sponsored by **Cox Cable Santa Barbara** which

provides complimentary miniature-train rides on the Goleta Short Line (see Page 1 story).

School classes participating in Goleta Depot tours have included **Julia Cirincinone's** Special Education class from **Ellwood School**; two classes (teachers **Beverly Bostok** and **Joyce Wagner**) from **Santa Barbara Christian School**; **Cindy Martin's** students from **Montecito Union School**; **El Rancho School's** second-grade class of **Barbara Moore**; and three **La Patera School** classes (teachers **Joyce Singelman**, **Nancy Shutt**, and **Toni Schinnerer**).

Youth organizations visiting the museum have included the **Sunshine Daisies** from **Mt. View School** and **Kid's Club** groups from both Goleta and Ventura.

Among upcoming group visitors to the museum are youngsters from **Devereux School**.

## Depot Is Favorite Birthday Spot

The museum has become a popular site for birthday and other parties with area residents. The attraction seems to be a combination of factors: the museum's beautiful setting, the availability of the miniature-train ride and other diversions, and the affordability of a party held on the museum grounds.

The museum has produced a brochure entitled "Let's Have A Party" which describes what we can offer for birthday parties and other group gatherings held on the grounds. The brochure discusses museum "Party Packs," which include discount miniature-train tickets; explains how tables and party location may be reserved in advance; and details special benefits for museum members. The brochure is available in the Trackside Shop or by calling the museum office (805-964-3540).

## Mid-State Bank Helps Library Program

The museum is again participating in the Summer Reading Program of the **Santa Barbara Public Libraries**, thanks to support 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.

### 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.

## Depot Dispatch Special Report

# DEPOT DAY is Sept. 24

The 13th Annual Depot Day celebration will be held Sunday, Sept. 24, from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. Made possible by members and friends, Depot Day is the museum's big annual fundraising event.

### ☐ Rail Rides

Following a Depot Day tradition, rail rides will highlight this year's festivities. Two miniature trains will operate throughout much of the day on the



Goleta Short Line. Motive power will be supplied by Gene Allen's steamer, as well as the museum's pair of diesel-prototype yard-engines.

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 Bluescasters will be on hand to provide lively music, featuring vocals by lead singer Sabine. Those who attended this year's Easter Bunny Express will no doubt recall the Bluescaster's great sound.

### ☐ 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 BBQ tickets before Depot Day. You'll earn the advance-price discount and will 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 list of more than 100 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 or valuable services 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.



Goleta Depot