



# Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH

Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum  
Volume 15, Number 4 — Winter 1995

## Candy Cane Train Starts Nov. 24

On Friday, Nov. 24, 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 and Sundays).

Tickets for the Candy Cane Train are \$1.75 each for children or adults, which includes a train ride, holiday treat and favors. A three-ride ticket will also be available for \$3.00. All tickets will be sold at the museum during event hours.

Those attending the Candy Cane Train event also will be able to view the museum's holiday display, *Toy Trains and Teddy Bears!* (see page 3), which also opens Nov. 24.

## Sweetheart Special Departs Feb. 10

The weekend of Feb. 10-11 has been set aside for the 1996 edition of the *Sweetheart Special*, the museum's popular Valentine's-theme train 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 Vacation Inn Old Town State Historic Park. Shops, museums & over 34 restaurants are steps away. A city trolley is convenient to further explore San Diego's many fine attractions.

Costs are \$149 per person (double occupancy; \$169 single), which includes Saturday night accommodations, first-class rail fare, and transfers in San Diego.

Museum members get first opportunity for making reservations. If you are looking for a unique Christmas, birthday, anniversary or Valentine's gift this trip could make a welcome surprise.

V.I.P.s who will be on board this year are Nancy Ried and Hilda Volkman. These museum volunteers both won Sweetheart Special trips as top fundraisers during the Museum's 1995 To-Fari Safari. 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.

## 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.

## 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, great surprise gifts for that special someone and specialty items for the railfans and history buffs on your list.

## Good News!!!

In August Diane Frankel, Director of the Institute of Museum Services, announced the names of the 275 museums that will receive General Operating Support grants. The South Coast Railroad Museum is one of those proud recipients. Museums of all types from around the country sent applications to the I.M.S. The recipients represent a wide range of museum disciplines from zoos and aquariums to art, history, science and children's museums.

Ms. Frankel commented: "Since 1978, I.M.S. General Operating Support has taken a substantial role in encouraging the best in museum practice. The grant provides national recognition for museums that have the highest approval of their peers. It is a stamp of achievement that sparks vital public-private partnerships. Museums will use these awards to do what they do best: educate, fascinate, inspire, illuminate, inform, enhance, and enrich the lives of hundreds of thousands of visitors each year."

Museums receiving General Operating Support grants have demonstrated outstanding performance in all areas of museum operations. To apply, each institution must perform a complete self-evaluation involving  
*(continued on page 2)*

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(continued from page 1)

every aspect of their operation from collections care and maintenance to educational programs and exhibits. Applications are evaluated by peer reviewers, professionals in the museum field with an average of 13 years experience.

Museum Director, Gary Coombs adds: "We are the smallest museum of any type nationwide - and the only California institution of any size - to have received this I.M.S. support for nine consecutive years. The two-year, \$20,500 grant was the largest in the history of our railroad museum." Congratulations! The museum recognizes the important role that our volunteers and members played in this single achievement.

### Shelton Welcomes New Trustees

Richard B. Shelton, President of the Museum Board of Trustees has announced the names of two new trustees to be elected at the December 14th meeting of the Board. The two men, who will be elected to 2 year terms are Michael Gartzke and Rich Thom.

Michael Gartzke is a local CPA, who has his offices in Goleta. Gartzke has been active as a volunteer in Goleta for many years.

Rich Thom is a Program Executive for Santa Barbara Research. Thom has ridden and photographed the railways of over 30 countries, most recently in China. He writes regularly for International Railway Travel Magazine.

On behalf of the Board, Shelton welcomes Thom and Gartzke, and looks forward to their participation in Board matters.

### Welcome New Museum Members

New members of the museum Active Members are **Susan Canter**, and **Jay Harwitt**.

New Junior Engineers are **Ethan & Richard Brown**, **Charlie & John Butcher**, **Maurice Gregory**, **Daniel Henry**, **Trevor Leal**, **John Eliot &**

### Raymond Michael & Georgia Ann Macy and Hanna & Ryne Scholle.

Welcome to all of you!

### Junior Engineer Special Item

Our Junior Engineers members are an important component of our Museum family.

In recognition of their special relationship to the Museum, we have ordered T-shirts with the logo "Junior Engineer", a colorful engine, with an Engineer Bear and the name of the Museum.

Junior Engineers can show their membership card and purchase the shirts for \$8.95 plus tax.

The shirts are presently on order and will be available in the next weeks, for Holiday or Birthday giving.

### Library Program Concludes

On Oct. 31, 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 915 free-ride certificates for the Goleta Short Line miniature railroad over the July-October period. This is nearly triple the number of certificates given during last year's program, according to Judy Savage, Children's Librarian.

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**.

### Holiday Party Slated for Dec. 20

For the third year, the museum's annual holiday party will be held at Goleta Library, 500 N. Fairview Ave. The party will be Wednesday, Dec. 20, 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 1996. 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.

This evening event will also herald the return of Museum Director Gary Coombs from the University of Delaware, where he has been since August, working on his Graduate certificate in Museum Studies.

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Railroad Museum at Goleta Depot

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## Depot Tree Heralds Christmas Season

The Goleta Depot tree will be lighted every night in December, creating a lovely Victorian scene that may be enjoyed as you pass by 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 third year its support of the 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.

## Volunteers Needed

The museum needs volunteers in all staffing areas. There will be an orientation class on Saturday, Dec. 2 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.

Currently our museum volunteers are working extra hours monthly to provide the hundreds of visitors to our Museum with a rewarding and worthwhile experience.

We need your help. On any given weekend the number of volunteers staffing the building and the train consists of 12 or more people.

We want to continue this valuable community service to our visitors who seek us out from across America and the world. As well as serving as a resource for our local schools, recreational visitors, family celebrations and so much more.

Our museum, like every other museum, depends on the commitment and the quality of our volunteers.

If you would like to learn more about the docent program, please plan to attend the Dec. 2 orientation. To sign up, please call Acting Director Phyllis Olsen at 964-3540, any weekday afternoon.

## 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. 24 and continues through Jan. 14. 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.

## Coming Attractions

In September Goleta Depot played a starring role as a backdrop for a Kawasaki motorcycle commercial. The filming was done by Momentum Films, a film production company in Santa Monica. The company has produced hundreds of national commercials as well as several feature films as 2nd unit. Their most recent film credits include "True Lies" and "Forrest Gump". Jill Lewis, the producer was on hand to supervise the crew of approximately 45 to 60 people.

Watching these professionals do their job was a pleasure. The techniques used to safeguard the building and grounds were very enlightening.

The 2-day job yielded a handsome donation to our museum, taking a bit of an edge off the fact that it was accomplished the same week as Depot Day.

## Birthday Parties

Birthday parties held at the Depot continue to increase in popularity. The Museum provides a Party Pack "A" in advance of the date, including \$.50 miniature train rides for members; \$.75 for non-members, reserved tables, and a coupon good for a discount on any Trackside Shop purchase up to and including the party date. Party Pack "B" is the same as "A" with the addition of party favor coupons at \$.50 each, for a return-visit train ride that are valid for three months after the Party.

If you're interested in arranging your own party, brochures are available in the Trackside Shop or call Phyllis Olsen at the Museum office (805)964-3540 to  
(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 - \$15 ( special rate for Docent Assn. members only - \$7)

Sustaining - \$25  Contributing \$50

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, 300 N. LOS CARNEROS RD.,  
GOLETA, CA 93117

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.

(continued from page 3)

arrange your reservations. A \$10.00 non-refundable deposit is required to confirm your tickets. Nov. 24th thru Dec. 24th, special Candy Cane Train prices will apply.

### Museum featured in Showcase

Cox Communication is currently airing a community service program, which features many of our Santa Barbara area museums

This unique approach is an armchair visit to the museums, that familiarizes visitors and residents alike with our great local cultural resources.

The show is called Museum Showcase and aires on Channel 8 at 8a.m. and 7p.m. daily. South Coast Railroad Museum is included near the beginning of the program you recognize including Gary Coombs, Nancy Ried and Thom Braunger.



Depot Day Tradition...McNally Family Serves. Grandmother Flo McNally, Bill & sons, Willie, Cyrus and Charlie.

### Depot Day '95 Thank You Letter

For those of you unable to join us on Depot Day, we missed you. Over the past twelve years Depot Day has grown a lot. Our goals of celebrating our landmark and providing a family fun day have not changed.

We strive to improve each year. This year's event was one of our finest ever. Depot Day has become an important revenue source and this year our business community came thru with flying colors. They provide the items for our Silent Auction and this year was our most successful financially, in the history of Depot Day.

I would like personally to thank all of you who helped to make the event so special.

The Native Sons of the Golden West were on hand as usual to cook those great tri-tips. Board member, John Locke burned the midnight oil and while he was at it, cooked up huge pots of BBQ beans. Junior R.O.T.C. from Santa Barbara High School took care of the parking. Our neighbor, Christ Lutheran Church and pastor Paul Hoefer donated the use of the church field for our visitors. Bluescasters, a local musical group led by Jeff Bosset, provided music on the day — special steam exhibits were done to everyone's delight by Ernie Thompson, Jim Marchiando, Gene Allen and Jim Higman — Bob Mahan brought his Speeder car. To list all the help individually would take more room than we have here. So please allow me to say thank you to the following people, for what you did to help us provide a special day for our community: Gene Allen, Ben & Gayle, Austin & Amelia Beede, Dave & Susan Cavalli, Barbara Cornish, Ron Ferguson, Albert & Alice Jaramillo, Stella Kramer, John Locke, Farrol Mertes, Diane & Mike Mina, Bill & Catherine Parker, Dan & Cathy Saragosa, Alan Way, Edee Brown, Bob & Louise Prottengeier, Lee & Suzanne Polansky, Jim Moyer, Bruce Morden, John Marshall Starr, Mary Cole, the Kinkos crew, Jim & Susan Smith, Bill & Jo McNally, Cyrus, Willie & Charlie McNally, Flo McNally, Carol Matthew & family, Ann Montgomery & family, Elsie Pliha, Lani, Hannah & Susan Strobel, Jack & Harriet Cogan, Judy Savage, Steve Sullivan, Rose Ann Hill, Kathy, Ed & Mike Leska, Bob Sponsel, Patricia Chidlaw, "Murray", Lorraine Macomber, Jeannine Priester, Gene Rantanen & family, Wendy & Dick Shelton, Ruby Yenkala, Larry Ware, Helen Coffey.

Thank you. Phyllis Olsen, Depot Day Coordinator

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE MUSEUM

## TO YOU AND YOURS

#### 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, 300 NORTH LOS CARNEROS RD., GOLETA, CA 93117

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.