



Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH

Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum
Volume 16, Number 1 — Spring 1996

Annual Dinner Returns

After a five-year hiatus, a South Coast Railroad Museum tradition will be renewed as we celebrate an Annual Dinner on Thursday, May 30. The event will be held in the cozy fireplace room at the *Timbers Restaurant*, 10 Winchester Canyon Rd. in Goleta.

A no-host social hour will begin at 6 p.m., with dinner at 7. To encourage your attendance, the ticket price has been kept at the museum's cost — only \$13.50 per person, which covers the complete buffet-style meal (both roast beef and chicken breast will be served), dinner beverage, dessert, sales tax and tip. Musical entertainment will be provided by the *Vocal Jazz Ensemble* from *Dos Pueblos High School*, under the direction of *Jack Huber*. The program will also feature announcements of museum plans, achievements, and awards.

Make your reservations now by calling the museum office (805-964-3540).

Easter Bunny Visits April 6

The 4th Annual *Easter Bunny Express*, one of the museum's most eagerly-awaited family events, will be held Saturday, April 6, 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 until 3:30 p.m. They may be purchased in advance during museum 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 are encouraged to purchase their tickets in advance at one of these area businesses.

Members of the *Goleta Lions Club* will be helping out again this year, selling hot sandwiches and other

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 Track-side 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 Assistant Director Phyllis Olsen at 964-3540, any weekday afternoon.

refreshments, with all proceeds benefitting the museum. So please plan to join us for lunch!

Hop aboard the *Easter Bunny Express* on April 6. It promises to be another hare-raising eggs-perience for the whole family! In the event of rain on April 6, the event will be held the following Saturday, April 13.

Tuohy Foundation Awards Grant

The railroad museum has received a \$2,838 grant from the *Alice Tweed Tuohy Foundation*. The grant will be used to commission a comprehensive accessibility study of the museum by *Access Unlimited*, a Santa Barbara-based consulting firm. This study will lay the groundwork for making the museum's facilities and its educational and recreational programs and activities more accessible to persons with disabilities.

The Alice Tweed Tuohy Foundation has been a longtime supporter of the railroad museum. Previous Tuohy grants were used by the museum to purchase computer equipment and all of the equipment, materials, and supplies used in the construction of the model-railroad exhibit.

Bank Sponsors Events for Moms & Dads

All moms visiting the museum on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 12 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 8, or in Goleta Depot's Waiting Room during event hours only. Tickets, at \$1 each,

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*South Coast Railroad Museum
Institute for American Research*

Board of Trustees

<i>Benjamin E. Beede</i>	<i>Michael J. Gartzke</i>
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Phyllis J. Olsen, Assistant Director

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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" at the railroad museum on Father's Day, Sunday, June 16. The bank helped to originate the museum's Father's Day event in 1994.

New Member Group Formed

The Board of Trustees is pleased to announce the formation of "Milepost 100," a new membership category open to individuals, families, organizations, and businesses. The annual dues are \$100. Those making cash contributions of \$100 or more, or substantial in-kind contributions, also are eligible for membership in Milepost 100. You may become a Milepost 100 member by completing the membership application form that appears on page 3 of your *Depot Dispatch*.

Charter members of Milepost 100 include:

Individuals and Families: *Raymond and Shirley Baird, Benjamin Beede, Don and Ruth Beede, Carlo Bottiani, Theresa Caccese, Jack and Harriet Cogan, Betty J. Coombs, Barbara Cornish, Erbie Daw and Family, Sally Gane, Michael and Brenda Gartzke, Rose Ann Hill, Jack Hufford, Ellen Keeter, Clifford and Stella Kramer, Joe and Diane Lemons, Jo Millett, James Moyer, Isabel Friend Newman, Nancy Ried, Richard and Wendy Shelton, John Marshall Starr, Rich and Linda Thom, Ernest and Metta Thomsen, Michael Towbes, Hilda Volkman, and an anonymous friend of the railroad museum.*

Companies and Organizations: *Channel City Lumber Co., Cox Communications, Goleta Noontime Rotary Club, Goleta Lions Club, Goleta National Bank, John Burnham & Co., Kinko's Graphics by Cole (Tom and Mary Cole), Mid-State Bank, Santa Barbara Bank & Trust, Specialty Crane & Rigging (Seth Hammond), The Tile Collection, and Toyota of Santa Barbara (Denny Franks).*

Coloring Pages Sponsored by Kinko's

Kinko's Graphics by Cole has renewed its sponsorship of 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*. Kinko's has generously underwritten this popular museum program since 1993.

Raves For Holiday Display

Special thanks to all of the Junior Engineers who participated in this past holiday-season exhibit, *Toy Trains and Teddy Bears!* They include *Kevin Blum, Tynan Daniels, Julianna Driskel, Ritchie and Celina Garcia, Rollin Gartzke, Joshua Habisch, Daniel Henry, Megan and Charles Mason, Sarah and David Montgomery, Miranda and Michael Morden, Hanna Scholle, William Terry, and Max Wiedmann.*

The 1995-96 edition was the biggest holiday-season exhibit the museum has ever had. It was seen by more than 1,000 visitors.

Records Falling In '96

The museum's 850-plus visitors in both January and February were all-time records for those two months. The 565 January miniature-train riders was another record, even though the train ride was cancelled several times during the month, including two weekend days, both due to rain and wet grounds. Readers may recall that January '95 was marked by torrential rains and flooding, which adversely affected museum operations and cut attendance by half.

February figures received a boost from the many birthday parties and group visits that took place. On Feb. 17-18, we set a record for most miniature-train tickets issued during a non-event weekend: The *Goleta Short Line* carried 278 passengers over the two days.

Greetings to New Members

New museum members include *Mike and Marjorie Hillebrand (Contributing), Robert Halverson, David Kuehn, and Bob Shoemaker (Active).* New Junior Engineers Club members are *Nicholas Behrman, Jackson Ronald Cook, Vail Cook, Chelsea Fletcher, Kyle Fletcher, Timmy Killian, David Mead, Michael Plotkin, Tyler J. Salzberg, Zachary E. Salzberg, Spencer R. Salzberg, Jenny Ziesenhenné, and Jean Ziesenhenné.*

A warm welcome to all of our new members!

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Railroad Museum at Goleta Depot

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Candy Cane Train Brings Holiday Joy

The 1995 *Candy Cane Train*, which ran from Nov. 24 thru Dec. 24, was another great success. More than 1,100 tickets were sold for the event. Longtime members and friends may recall when the period between Thanksgiving and Christmas used to be one of the museum's slowest times of year. Thanks to this happy holiday event, it is now one of the busiest.

The winner of the event-long *Candy Cane Train* drawing was *Russell Chamberlin* of Los Osos, Calif., who claimed his prizes in January.

Beede Elected President

Benjamin E. Beede was elected president of the Board of Trustees at the board's Dec. 14 meeting. Ben is a partner of *The Cultured Abalone*, the only onshore abalone farm in Santa Barbara County. A South Coast resident since 1978, Ben attended UCSB, where he received his bachelor's degree in environmental biology. His wife, *Gayle*, and son and daughter, *Austin* and *Amelia*, are frequent attendees at museum functions.

Ben has been a museum docent for a number of years, serving as agent and miniature-train crew member, as well as sharing the model-railroad exhibit with visitors. He has served on the Board of Trustees since 1994.

Ben was born into a railfan family. Among his fondest childhood memories are vivid recollections of visits to Cajon Pass with his dad to watch and photograph the trains working their way slowly up and down the mountains.

Also elected as officers for 1996 were *John Locke*, vice president; *William Parker*, secretary; and *Richard Shelton*, treasurer.

How To Reach Us

Two important changes have been made to the museum's addresses and phone numbers. We have closed the post office box (P.O. Box 2125, Goleta 93118). All future correspondence to the museum should be sent to the street address: *South Coast Railroad Museum, 300 North Los Carneros Road, Goleta, CA 93117-1502*.

A second change involves our phone numbers. For voice communications, please use 805-964-3540. We still have a second line, 805-964-3549, but incoming calls to this number are all directed to the museum's fax machine.

Please note these changes in your address book.

Staff Members Attend Meetings

Museum Director *Gary Coombs* will be in Washington, DC in mid-March, attending a workshop organized by the *Institute of Museum Services* (IMS), a federal agency. The purpose of the workshop, which draws participants from most of the 50 states, is to provide specialized training for museum professionals who serve as peer reviewers for the IMS's General Operating Support Grant program. Gary has been an IMS reviewer since 1992, evaluating dozens of transportation and history museums nationwide. IMS

is covering all travel and other costs associated with Gary's participation in the workshop.

IMS has been a longtime supporter of the South Coast Railroad Museum. Our museum has received IMS grant funds for nine consecutive years, most recently, a two-year grant of \$20,500, awarded in 1995.

Asst. Director *Phyllis Olsen* attended a Feb. 5 Community Training Bank seminar on corporate gifts to nonprofit organizations. Phyllis thought that the seminar, which was sponsored by the newly established *Nonprofit Support Center of Santa Barbara County*, was "very informative and worthwhile" for the many organizations represented among the attendees.

Volunteers Needed

The museum's pressing need for volunteers in all staffing areas persists. Many of our hard-working volunteers are generously giving extra hours each month to fill the shortage. Please lend a hand. If you have at least one afternoon (only about three hours) available each month to give and would like to share our wonderful historical landmark and activities with museum guests, give Asst. Director Phyllis Olsen a call at 964-3540. There's no obligation, and you'll learn more about this rewarding volunteer program.

Volunteer docents are crucial to many of the activities and services that our visitors enjoy. Some volunteers operate the miniature train and handcar rides; others staff the Trackage Shop, operate the Gandy Dancer Theater, or share Goleta Depot and the model railroad exhibit.

"Safari" '96 Will Bring High Adventure

The 15th annual *Asphalt Regatta* is scheduled for Saturday, May 18. This will be the third year that a *Too-Fari Safari* theme, which has become quite popular with participants, will be used. The morning event promises to be a lot of fun for all who take part.

There will be two teams in competition this year, one led by Board officers *Ben Beede*, *John Locke*, *Bill* (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
 Milepost 100 - \$100 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.

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Parker, and Dick Shelton and the other headed by Museum Director Gary Coombs. Additional members for each team will be recruited by the respective captains from the museum membership and other community supporters.

Each team will go on an hour-long "safari" — a group walk through the 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.

Despite all its frivolity, the event has a very serious purpose. The *Asphalt Regatta* is the railroad museum's primary annual fundraiser, producing more than 10% of all monies needed for operations. Funds are raised by the event's participants, who get pledges from sponsors in support of their involvement in the activities. In addition to team members, the *Regatta's* perennial top pledge-getter, Assistant Director Phyllis Olsen ("a team unto herself") will also be hunting for sponsors as in years past. The fundraising target for 1996 is \$14,000.

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 requesting a pledge, please be generous. To learn more or, if you're ready to sign up, please contact Phyllis at the museum (964-3540).

Trackside Shop News

Phyllis reports that some exciting new items have been added to the museum store inventory. These include, for the youngsters, a new Thomas The Tank Engine character, "Rusty," and a new, hour-long Thomas video, entitled *Thomas and His Friends Help Out*. Also, the popular new "D199 Diesel" is back in stock and there is a new supply of T-shirts on hand.

We've also added several rail magazines, including *Pacific Rail News*, *Passenger Train Journal*, and a new quarterly publication from Pentrex, *Vintage Rails*.

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

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Thanks to Year-End Givers

We gratefully acknowledge everyone who responded with generosity to the annual year-end appeal. Gifts were received from *Christine Allen*, *Mrs. Elsie Boeseke*, *Ronald Bruns*, *Mrs. Nellie Casselman (in memory of Bev Casselman)*, *Helen Coffey*, *Bill Crow*, *Nils Froula*, *Michael and Brenda Gartzke*, *Michael Glassow*, *Rose Ann Hill*, *Josiah F. Jenkins*, *John Burnham & Co.*, *Kinko's Graphics by Cole*, *Noel Langle*, *Mr. and Mrs. John Murchison*, *Isabel Friend Newman*, *Richard and Wendy Shelton*, *Mr. and Mrs. Tallant Smith*, *Specialty Crane & Rigging Co.*, *John Marshall Starr*, *Rich and Linda Thom*, *Michael and Gail Towbes*, *Dana Trout*, and *Hilda Volkman*.

The total amount received exceeded \$4,000, including more than \$2,200 that has been added to the museum endowment.

Museum Hosts Visiting Groups

There have been a number of group visits to the museum in recent weeks. In January, *Stacy Allison's kindergarten class from Montecito Union School* toured the museum, taking advantage of the free miniature-train rides for South Coast youth groups sponsored by *Cox Communications*. Students of the *Braille Institute* were treated to a special tour of the historical landmark in early February. An after-school group from *San Roque School* also visited in February. All of the museum's group tours are conducted by Assistant Director Phyllis Olsen.

Bigger, Better Steaming Summer Ahead

Museum staff and volunteers are busy working out the details for a revitalized *Another Steaming Summer* event for 1996. This year, instead of running one day a month across a three-month span, *Steaming Summer* will take place over a single weekend, Aug. 10-11. There will be at least three miniature steam locomotives operating each day, carrying passengers on the trains of the Goleta Short Line. Efforts are also underway to embellish the event with demonstrations, displays, and special activities appropriate to the steamin' theme.

Watch for a detailed *Steaming Summer* report in the next issue of your *Depot Dispatch*.

