



Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH

Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum
Volume 16, Number 3 — Fall 1996

14th Annual Depot Day Will Be Sept. 29

The 14th annual *Depot Day*, the South Coast railroad museum's major annual celebration, will be held Sunday, Sept. 29. Among the day's highlights: an original script, signed by the cast, from the legendary soap opera, *The Guiding Light*, going up for bids in the *Depot Day* silent auction. For all of the other exciting details, see the special full-page coverage of *Depot Day '96* on page 4.

Mid-State Bank Helps Library Program

The museum is participating again this year in the Summer Reading Program of the **Santa Barbara Public Libraries**. All children reading 15 or more books receive a coupon good for two Goleta Short Line rides — one for themselves, plus a second for a friend or family member. The museum's involvement is made possible by support from **Mid-State Bank**.

The next *Depot Dispatch* will include a final report on this year's program, which ends Sept. 28.

China Is Oct. 16 Program Topic

International rail traveler **Rich Thom**, now a member of the South Coast Railroad Museum Board of Trustees, will share highlights of his recent rail travels in China at an Oct. 16 installment of the museum's *Continuing Lecture Series*.

Rich Thom's multi-media presentation, provocatively titled *China: The Final Chapter*, tells how the "final chapter" of steam-hauled trains in regular main-line service is being played out in China, the last country on earth to build and use these magnificent machines in significant numbers.

The presentation is based on over 11,000 kilometers of rail travel completed by Thom in three Asian trips during 1995 and 1996, spanning the country from north to south, from the Russian border in Inner Mongolia to Zhanjiang on the South China Sea, plus an additional route westward along the Yellow River to the seldom-visited Ningxia Autonomous Region. Sights along the way range from steelworks and mines to more familiar tourist attractions, to myriad railroad scenes that capture the sunset of the steam era.

Rich Thom has ridden and photographed the rail-

ways of over 30 countries, concentrating on South America, India, and China. He writes regularly for *International Railway Traveler* magazine. This will mark his fourth 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.

"Steaming Summer" Draws Big Crowd

The 1996 edition of *Another Steaming Summer* was a marked departure from its predecessors. More publicity and more equipment, of both the operating and display varieties, meant better attendance and lots more for our visitors to do.

Many took advantage of the privilege of enjoying the rides as often as they liked for the \$2.50 admission price. The result: ridership soared to 1,090, including 930 rides on the Goleta Short Line and the balance on the museum handcar. In terms of train ridership, it was the second busiest weekend in museum history, falling only 23 rides short of the record set during the 1994 Goleta Lemon Festival.

The bulk of the work both days was performed by **Gene Allen's** 4-6-0 American and **Ed Winnewisser's** 0-6-0 switcher. Each steamer usually pulled its own two-car train, but sometimes they doubleheaded to haul five passenger cars together. No. 2655, one of the museum's diesel-prototype switchers, played a supporting role — moving cars about in the yard, or acting in the capacity of a helper when only one steamer was available to pull a five-car train. On Saturday, **Ron Ferguson** and **Pete Thorp** steamed up their moguls, both of which saw limited service on longer multi-engine trains during the day.

Art and Barbara Reiter came down from Atascadero to share their wrecking train, a six-foot-long scale-model complete with an operating steam-powered crane. And, **Jim Marchiando** was on hand with his steam plant, helping to keep the air filled with the sounds of steam whistles and powering a water pump and a variety of smaller mechanical devices demonstrated by **Jim Higman**.

Operating model steam engines and equipment on

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*South Coast Railroad Museum
Institute for American Research*

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display during *Steaming Summer* included the South Coast Railroad Museum's Little Engines American, plus a three-truck "Climax" logging locomotive and an American La-France horse-drawn steam-pumper fire engine, both supplied by **Gene Allen**.

Thanks are owed to these individuals, and to the many others who helped to make the event possible. We commend the **Goleta Lions** for their support again this year. The tri-tip sandwiches and hot dogs were delicious and the sale proceeds will be put to good use by the museum. Thanks especially to the Lions' cooking-and-booth crew: **John Adam, Mark Bottiani, George Dussault, Bob Lehman**, Lions President **Bob Mangus**, Food Chairman **Bob Parker, Ron Plourde, Harry Reed, Jack Rutten**, and **Tom Tucker**.

Thanks also to all of the museum's rank-and-file volunteers, who performed their ordinary staffing chores under extraordinary circumstances: **Julianne Bentley, Edee Brown, and Stella Kramer** in the Trackside Shop; **Bob Burtness, Ed Leska, Bruce Morden, and Hilda Volkman** serving as depot "agents"; **Neil Fetter** sharing the model-railroad exhibit; and **Bruce Morden** and **Bill Parker** operating the handcar ride.

It was great to have an old friend back for the weekend: **Steve Kramer**, who was one of our most accomplished miniature-train steam-engineers in the late '80s, was on hand throughout the event to help run Gene's engine.

Members of the museum **Board of Trustees** performed the bulk of the admissions-table duties. They included President **Ben Beede, Mike Couch, Mike Gartzke, John Locke, Dick Shelton, Lani Strobel, and Rich Thom** — again, with help from **Bruce Morden**.

Assistant Director **Phyllis Olsen** served as floater throughout the event, while Director **Gary Coombs** functioned as senior train dispatcher and occasional conductor or diesel engineer on the Goleta Short Line.

To protect the equipment and event materials left on the grounds, members of the **Beede, Morden, and Saragosa** families shared sentry duty, camping overnight on Friday and Saturday.

Local musician **Steve McPeters** graciously donated several hours of his time on Sunday afternoon, entertaining the crowd with his fine vocal, guitar, and banjo renditions of a variety of popular songs.

Special acknowledgment should be made of those who graciously assisted museum staff with the arduous cleanup chores after the event: **Gene Allen, Ron Ferguson, Jim Higman, and Steve Kramer**.

Finally, *Steaming Summer* wouldn't exist without the continuing support of event sponsor **Toyota of Santa Barbara** and owner **Denny Franks**. Thanks, Denny, for all of your help over the years.

Miniature-Train Yard Upgraded

To enable *Steaming Summer* to expand this year, it was necessary to make a number of improvements to the Goleta Short Line's boarding area and yard. These included the addition of a third yard track, switch, and switch-stand — to facilitate the movement of trains — plus two extra leads to the turntable — for rolling-stock storage and steaming-up and displaying the locomotives. The expanded yard was designed by **Gene Allen**, who was assisted in the construction by **Ed Winnewisser** and **Ron Ferguson**. **Bruce Morden and his family** assisted with some last-minute ballasting on the eve of *Steaming Summer*.

Museum Will Be In AAA's '97 TourBook

Our museum has been chosen as a featured attraction in the **American Automobile Association's 1997 California/Nevada Tourbook**. AAA estimates that about 4 million copies of the new *TourBook* will be distributed next year to its members through more than 1,000 district-office locations throughout the United States.

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

Toy Trains And Teddy Bears Needed

The museum's annual *Toy Trains and Teddy Bears!* holiday display opens Nov. 29. 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 try to increase the number of keepsakes that are shared each year and always hope to include new

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Fall family photo on page 3.
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items and new members of the museum family. If you would like to add your own personal touch to this year's display, please contact the museum office (964-3540), any weekday afternoons, or leave a message with your name and phone number.

Welcome New Museum Members

New museum members include **David DeHeras, Neil Fetter, David Hackleman, Karen Kramer, Dr. and Mrs. Art Reiter, R.P. Ruth, and Ken and Carolyn Weber.**

Recent additions to the Junior Engineers Club are **Nicky DeHeras, Stewart Green, Kevin Parker, Kohji Gabriel Sugioka, Dylan J. Walsh, and Sydney Westbury.**

It's a pleasure to welcome all of you!

Birthday Parties Are Popular Here

Scores of area families have held birthday and other parties on the museum grounds, usually in conjunction with the Goleta Short Line train rides. If you would like to plan a party, please contact the museum office (805-964-3540) or pick up the brochure, "Let's Have A Party," during your next visit.



Birthday party for Ryan Fall featured familiar faces.

Youth Groups Enjoy Museum Visits

July and August have been especially busy months for youth-group visits to the railroad museum. More than 100 children, plus parents and group leaders have enjoyed tours of the historical landmark and complimentary Goleta Short Line rides, courtesy of **Cox Communications.** Visiting summer groups have included **Kids Club, Girls Inc., the UCSB Blue Door program, and the Santa Barbara School District's We Care program,** with youngsters from **Harding and Monroe Schools.**

Moms and Dads Got Free Rides

Thanks to the generous support of **Goleta National Bank,** moms and dads visiting the museum on Mother's Day and Father's Day were treated to complimentary rides on the Goleta Short Line. About 175

rides were given on the two holidays in May and June. **Goleta National Bank** has been a "free rides" sponsor since 1994.

First "Annual Dinner" Since '90 Held

A cordial gathering of about 40 museum trustees, volunteers, members, and staff comprised the May 30 *Annual Dinner* at the **Timbers Restaurant.**

Board President **Ben Beede** joined with **Gary Coombs** and **Phyllis Olsen** in sharing the evening's emcee duties, presenting a program peppered with awards, acknowledgments, and other expressions of appreciation. Special awards for long and distinguished service to the organization were presented to **Eugene Allen, Robert McNeel, Ernest Thomsen, and Hilda Volkman.** Also recognized, for fundraising excellence as top participants in the 1996 *Asphalt Regatta,* were **Ben Beede, Dos Pueblos High School students, Mike Gartzke, Kip and Stella Kramer, Diana Mina, and Hilda Volkman.**

A wonderful musical interlude was supplied by the **Vocal Jazz Ensemble** from **Dos Pueblos High School,** under the skilled direction of **Jack Huber.** Their colorful rendition of *I'm A Train* was especially appropriate for the group assembled.

The program also included a slide presentation on the museum's history, programs, and activities.

Door prizes included a number of beautiful and exotic New Guinea-variety impatiens plants, donated by **Central Coast Wholesale.**

Jr. Engineers Party

The 4th annual *Junior Engineers Club Party* on Wednesday, July 17 was another big success. Club members and their invited guests were treated to free rides on the Goleta Short Line, special showings of *Thomas The Tank Engine* videos, and some delicious refreshments, including a festive Junior Engineers cake and cupcakes donated by Trustee **Lani Strobel.** The record attendance passed the 100-mark.

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.

Depot Dispatch Special Report

DEPOT DAY is Sept. 29!

The 14th Annual Depot Day celebration will be held Sunday, Sept. 29, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Depot Day, which is made possible by the museum's members and friends, is the museum's main annual community fundraising event, commemorating the preservation of the historic Goleta Depot.



Rail Rides

Rail rides will again highlight this year's festivities. Two miniature trains will operate throughout the day on the Goleta Short Line. There will also be rides on the museum handcar and on an inspection "speeder," formerly used on the Ventura County Railway, which Bob Mahan brings once a year on 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

Music has become an important part of the Depot Day tradition. This year's event promises to be no exception.

Tri-Tip Barbecue

As they have for many years, members of the Native Sons of the Golden West will prepare their delicious tri-tip barbecue for Depot Day. The meal will include sliced tri-tip, green salad, toasted french bread, and ranch beans.

Advance BBQ tickets are \$6 for adults and \$4 for children 12 years and under. Tickets may be purchased at the museum's Tracksides Shop. (Purchases of three or more tickets can be made by major credit card.)

Please buy your BBQ tickets before Depot Day. You'll save \$1.50 off every ticket (\$1 off children's tickets), as well as helping event planners to 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, and other foods, refreshments, and treats throughout the day.

Silent Auction

Please 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.

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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