



Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH

Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum
Volume 16, Number 4 — Winter 1996

Candy Cane Train Begins Nov. 29

The 4th annual *Candy Cane Train* pulls out of the station on Friday, Nov. 29, with operations daily through Sunday, Dec. 22, except Mondays and Tuesdays when the museum is closed. Event hours will be 1 to 4 p.m. on weekends and 2 to 4 p.m. weekdays.

Candy Cane Train tickets are \$1.75 each for children or adults, which includes a train ride, holiday treat, and favors. A three-ride ticket will be available for \$3.00. Museum members will receive their customary 25¢ discount on all tickets purchased. Tickets will be sold at the museum during event hours.

Those attending the *Candy Cane Train* event will be able to enjoy the museum's holiday display, *Tby Trains and Teddy Bears!* (see story on page 3), which also opens Nov. 29.

Holiday Train Takes On New Look

As a special addition to this year's *Candy Cane Train* event, all of the Goleta Short Line cars are being festively painted — bright red, accented with white candy-cane stripes.

Holiday Gifts Now Available At Trackside Shop

When you're working on your holiday gift list, don't forget the museum's Trackside Shop. You'll find a terrific selection of books, educational toys and games, videos, surprise gifts for that special someone, and specialty items for the railfans and history buffs on your list.

Neal Graffy To Discuss Historic Santa Barbara Earthquake

On Wednesday, Feb. 19, local historian and lecturer Neal Graffy will present *19 Seconds At 6.3 — The Great Quake of 1925*, as part of the railroad museum's *Continuing Lecture Series*. The slide show and talk will recount how at 6:42 a.m. on June 29, 1925 a sleepy Santa Barbara was jolted awake by a major earthquake. The temblor's devastation would help to transform the town from an architectural hodgepodge into one of the most beautiful cities in the world.

Graffy is chairman of the Santa Barbara County

Landmarks Committee, on which he has served since 1991. He joined the Santa Barbara Historical Society Board of Trustees in 1993. He has penned several short works on local history subjects, including *Naples: The City By The Sea*, *The Masini Adobe*, and *The Ortega Adobe At Arroyo Quemada*.

This will mark Graffy's fourth appearance before a railroad museum audience. Earlier program topics included Santa Barbara's historic Potter Hotel, the silent-era Flying A film studios, and a comparative, *Santa Barbara: Then And Now*.

All *Continuing Lecture Series* programs are held at Goleta Library, 500 North Fairview Ave., and begin at 7:30 p.m. They are free and open to the public. Refreshments and a social hour follow each series presentation.

"Super Saturday" Coming Jan. 25

The museum will be giving free rides on the Goleta Short Line miniature train to all visitors on Saturday, Jan. 25. There will be no restriction on the number of rides per person. However, all riders must be at least 34 inches tall and must meet the train ride's other requirements.

We've named the day "*Super Saturday*" — in part because the Super Bowl football game takes place the following day. If the day is a success with a big turnout, we hope to make *Super Saturday* an annual museum event. Join the fun and bring along family and friends!

Among those who are helping to make *Super Saturday* possible with their sponsorship support is Michael J. Gartzke, CPA.

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

*South Coast Railroad Museum
Institute for American Research*

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Tuohy Foundation Study Completed

Access Unlimited has completed its comprehensive review and evaluation of the historical landmark, grounds, and programs, with the goal of making the museum more accessible to visitors with disabilities. The evaluation report includes a long list of recommendations for possible improvements and enhancements around the museum. The report is now being integrated into the museum's Long-Term Plan.

The accessibility study was made possible by a grant from the **Alice Tweed Tuohy Foundation**.

Holiday Party Slated for Dec. 18

Continuing a tradition started in 1993, the museum's annual holiday party will be held at Goleta Library, 500 N. Fairview Ave. The party will be Wednesday, Dec. 18, with a starting time of 7:30 p.m.

All members and their families are cordially invited to join in the holiday festivities. Please bring a dessert or hors d'oeuvres to share. The museum will provide beverages, cups, napkins, and plates.

Please join us for the merriment at this yearly seasonal celebration.

Beede Welcomes New Trustees

President Ben Beede has announced the recent addition of three new members to the Board of Trustees. They are **Michael Couch**, **Lisa Hernandez**, and **Peter Shamlian**. Each was elected to a two-year term.

Many *Dispatch* readers will recognize Michael Couch's name. He is principal at Dos Pueblos High School in Goleta. Lisa Hernandez is a Santa Barbara Bank & Trust vice president and the new manager at the bank's Fairview Ave. branch. Peter Shamlian is the owner of AdMark Database Marketing.

Library Summer Reading Program Ends With A Flourish

Sept. 28 marked the successful conclusion of another year of participation in the Summer Reading

Program of the **Santa Barbara Public Libraries**. In recognition of their reading achievement, every child who completed the program, by reading 15 or more books, received a certificate good for a free ride on the Goleta Short Line for themselves plus one friend or family member. A record 1,600 children fulfilled the 15-book requirement, according to Children's Librarian **Shirley Morrison**.

The reading program is open to children ages 2-14 throughout most of Santa Barbara County, including Santa Barbara, Goleta, Carpinteria, Montecito, and Solvang. The museum's participation in this year's reading program was made possible by the financial support of **Mid-State Bank**.

Welcome New Museum Members

New Sustaining Members include **Ruth and Richard Bogue** and **Peter Shamlian**. **Lela Cline**, **Marilyn Benedict-Smith** and **Michael Yrizarris** have recently joined the ranks of the Docents-In-Training. **Angeline S. Kloppenberg** and **Mark Vehrencamp** are new Active Members.

The newest members of the Junior Engineers Club are **Tyler Brainard**, **Paul Gherini**, **Daniel Hughes**, **Sam Kulchin**, **Alyssa Lyon**, **Deomar Amadeus Uribe**, **Audrey Witt**, and **Calvin Witt**.

Welcome to all of you!

Depot Tree Marks Holiday Season

The Goleta Depot tree will be lighted every night in December, creating a lovely Victorian scene that may be enjoyed as you travel past the museum grounds on Los Carneros Road. The decorated tree, which each year occupies the historical landmark's second-floor window bay, has special significance for the Yuletide. It preserves the custom, practiced over the years by countless rail-station agent 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 Renews Youth-Program Support

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 Communications**. Cox recently renewed its support of the educational program designed to encourage greater participation in the museum's tours for children. This will mark the fourth year of sponsorship by Cox Communications.

Over the past 12 months, the free program has benefitted hundreds of local children, representing

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public and private schools and youth groups from Goleta, Santa Barbara, Montecito, and Carpinteria.

Thom Shares Chinese Rail Experiences

Continuing Lecture Series attendees were treated to a multimedia presentation on the railroads of mainland China by international rail traveler **Rich Thom**. The Oct. 16 program, sponsored by the railroad museum and held at Goleta Library, was based on three trips to China taken by Thom in 1995-96 and featured authentic music and sound images, some extraordinary slide photography, and live first-hand narrative. Appropriately titled *China: The Final Chapter*, the colorful and highly informative presentation emphasized that this was the sunset of steam railroading in China, the last country on earth to build and use steam locomotives in significant numbers.

Six Attend Orientation: More Volunteers Needed

Completing docent orientation on Sat., Nov. 9 were Docents-In-Training **Lela Cline, Marilyn Benedict-Smith, Neil Fetter, Ken and Carolyn Weber, and Michael Yrizaris**.

More volunteers are still needed in most staffing areas. The shortage is especially acute on weekends, where the museum needs more crew members for the miniature train and additional "agents" to sell tickets and share depot history and the model railroad exhibit with visitors. The museum is also accepting trainees for the Trackage Shop and handcar ride.

Presently, many of our volunteers are working extra hours each month to provide the thousands of visitors with a enjoyable and rewarding experience. In September and October, for example, additional staffing hours "Above and Beyond" the once-a-month requirement were performed by **Gene Allen, Ben Beede, Edee Brown, Theresa Caccese, Jack Cogan, Neil Fetter, Stella Kramer, Ed Leska, Bruce Morden, Jim Moyer, Bill Parker, Dan Saragosa, and Hilda Volkman**.

The museum needs your help. If you would like to learn more about the docent program, please call Assistant Director Phyllis Olsen at 964-3540, any weekday afternoon.

Holiday Display Features Member 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."

So reads the label that introduces the museum's annual holiday exhibition, which opens Nov. 29 and continues through Jan. 12 in Goleta Depot's Waiting Room. Displayed are toy locomotives and cars and a menagerie of stuffed animals — some rare, all precious — borrowed from the homes of Junior Engineers Club members, museum volunteers, members, trustees, and staff, as well as from the museum's own collections.

Museum Loses Two Friends

Sadly, we must report the recent deaths of two dear friends of the railroad museum, **Lani Strobel** and **Evelyn Studebaker**. A member of the Board of Trustees, Lani Strobel was perhaps best known around the museum for the beautiful and delicious cakes that she donated through the years in support of countless museum events and fundraisers. Evelyn Studebaker was a granddaughter of Goleta Valley pioneers Joseph and Lucy Foster Sexton and a longtime museum patron. Lani and Evelyn will be missed by all who knew them or benefitted from their generosity.

Gifts to the museum in memory of Lani Strobel have been received from **Michael and Brenda Gartzke** and from **Rich Thom**. The museum has received a memorial donation honoring Evelyn Studebaker from **Ryland and Bob Stacy**.

Museum Appears In Cox Video

The railroad museum will be showcased in a new video production from **Cox Communications** entitled *Postcards Of Santa Barbara: A Museum Tour*. The 30-minute program should be airing on local cable channels by the end of the year. Several museum personalities appear in our segment of the video, including Director **Gary Coombs**, Docent **Ed Leska**, Trustee **Bill Parker**, Junior Engineer **Matthew Parker**, and members of Asst. Director **Phyllis Olsen's** family.

Santa Barbara Foundation Supports Drainage Project

A potential solution to a serious drainage problem at the railroad museum has been implemented, thanks to the **Santa Barbara Foundation** and two county-government agencies. The foundation provided the museum with the grant funds necessary to purchase about 200 feet of high-capacity drain pipe which was installed by a **County Parks Dept.** crew, using fill dirt supplied by **County Flood Control**. The buried pipe

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

NAME _____
(IF THIS IS A GIFT, PLEASE USE RECIPIENT'S NAME HERE, GIVER'S NAME BELOW)

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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: _____

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eliminates an open ditch which has carried rain water across the museum grounds from north to south in front of Goleta Depot.

Over the years, water action had eroded and deepened the ditch, creating a safety hazard. The pipe project not only has removed this hazard, correcting a troublesome drainage problem in the process, but also has significantly enhanced the appearance of the museum grounds.

Depot Day Report

Depot Day '96 was a terrific family-fun event and a great fundraiser for the museum. Special thanks are owed to all who donated equipment and supplies, auction items, or their own valuable time to help make this year's event a resounding success.

Members of the **Native Sons of the Golden West** were on hand again this year to skillfully barbecue the tri-tip, while **John Locke** cooked up the BBQ beans and played a lead role in the other food preparation activities. Helpers in serving the food included **Susan Cavalli, Mary Cole, Samantha Glassman, Cynthia Harding, Bill McNally, Flo McNally, Cyrus and Charlie McNally, Ed Menders, Juleine Schmidt, and Raul Zaragosa.**

The silent auction was ably staffed by **Lisa Hernandez, Diana Mina, Ann Montgomery, Catherine Parker, John Starr, and Carolyn Weber.** More than 100 businesses and other museum friends donated items to make this year's auction one of the most successful in the 14-year history of Depot Day. Assisting museum staff in obtaining auction items were **Ben Beede, John Locke, Mike Couch, Mike Gartzke, Diana Mina, Bill Parker, Peter Shamlian, and Dick Shelton.**

Event parking was handled by **Junior R.O.T.C.** representatives from **Dos Pueblos High School** and **Santa Barbara High School,** under **Col. Margret Christensen.** Our good neighbor, **Christ Lutheran Church (Pastor Paul Hoefler)** donated the day's use of the church field for overflow parking.

Managing Depot Day rides were **Bob Burtness,**

Jack Cogan, Al Jaramillo, and Ken Becker on the Goleta Short Line, **Bill Parker** on the museum hand-car, and **Bob Mahan** on his Ventura Ry. inspection car.

The Admissions table was staffed by **Mike Couch, Mike Gartzke, and Dick Shelton,** while clerks **Theresa Caccese** and **Edee Brown** managed the activity in the Trackside Shop. Agents **Ben Beede** and **Bruce Morden** manned a busy Freight Office and **Ken Weber** and **Dan Saragosa** shared the model-railroad exhibit with Depot Day visitors. The steam-engine exhibit, operated by **Jim Marchiando** and **Jim Higman,** was one of the day's more popular areas.

Ben and Austin Beede performed sentry duty, camping out at the museum on the eve of Depot Day, to protect the equipment, supplies and materials, and other preparations on the grounds. Helpers for event setup and/or cleanup included **Gene Allen, Susan Cavalli, Mary Cole, Ron Ferguson, Al Jaramillo, Jim Higman, John Locke, Carol Matthew, Diana Mina, Catherine Parker, and Raul Zaragosa.** **Judy Savage** kindly organized the bakers: **Edee Brown, Theresa Caccese, Susan Cavalli, Helen Coffey, Charlene Doty, Lani Hendrick, Alice Jaramillo, Judy Johnson, Lorraine Macomber, Andrea Morden, Catherine Parker, Jeannine Priester, Cathy Saragosa, Wendy Shelton and Ruby Yenkala.**

Local guitarist-vocalist **Steve McPeters** gave the Depot Day crowd hours of wonderful musical entertainment with his superb renditions of popular music, as well as a few railroad tunes.

Happy Holidays! From the Museum to You and Yours.

*Can you identify this "Junior Engineer" from years past?
(Answer will appear in the next Depot Dispatch)*



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