



Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH

Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum
Volume 17, Number 1 — Spring 1997

In Memoriam: Raymond E. Baird

Goleta Depot has lost one of its most beloved and valued friends. **Raymond E. Baird**, architect of the Goleta Depot preservation project, died Dec. 22.

Ray Baird was one of five original members of the Goleta Depot Committee, which was charged with developing and implementing the plan to save the historical landmark. He was indispensable to that effort — combining his considerable talents as a professional architect, his willingness to commit hundreds of hours over several years to project planning and supervision, and his wonderful wit and indefatigable good humor.

For his tireless efforts, Baird, together with eight depot-project colleagues, received the 1984 *Golden Deed Award*, Goleta's highest community-service accolade. His name appears on the commemorative bronze plaque that greets museum visitors from the great rock along the entry walk; from the same vantage point, the more discerning eye will also see Ray's initials, "REB," personally etched into once-soft concrete adjoining the loading dock on the depot's north end.

Ray and his wife, **Shirley**, remained good friends of the museum over the years. The Bairds helped to found the Endowment Fund in 1988 and were charter members of the Milepost 100 support group.

Ray Baird will be deeply missed.

Easter Bunny Visits March 29

The 5th Annual *Easter Bunny Express*, one of the museum's most eagerly-awaited family events, will be held on Saturday, March 29, 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 (adult tickets do not include the *What's Up Dock* and *Easter-Bunnyville* activities).

Tickets will be available at the museum during the event until 3:30 p.m.; or they may be purchased in advance during museum hours (Wed.-Sun., 1-4 p.m.).

Members of the **Goleta Lions Club** will be helping out again this year, selling hot sandwiches and other refreshments, with all proceeds benefitting the museum. So please plan to join us for lunch and support the Lions' participation!

Hop aboard the *Easter Bunny Express* on March 29. It promises to be another hare-raising egg-perience for the whole family! If it rains on March 29, the event will be moved to Saturday, April 5.

Annual Dinner Will Be May 29

For the second year, the Annual Dinner will be held at the **Timbers Restaurant**, 10 Winchester Canyon Rd. in Goleta, on Thursday, May 29.

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. The program will feature musical entertainment; announcements of museum plans, achievements, and awards; and a bevy of door prizes.

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

"Great Rail Race" Set For May 17

The museum's spring fundraiser, which celebrates its 16th anniversary this year, takes on a new look for 1997 — becoming the "*Great Goleta Rail Race*". Reminiscent of the legendary saga of John Henry, the *Great Goleta Rail Race* will offer its own version of the epic struggle between man and machine, as the people-powered museum handcar and the Goleta Short Line miniature-train compete to determine which can complete the greatest number of passenger-miles over a three-hour period.

On Saturday, May 17 between 1 and 4 p.m., both the handcar and train will operate continuously, giving free rides to all visitors. Careful record will be kept of the total passengers carried and distance completed by each conveyance. The winner will be determined based on these totals, adjusted using a handicap that will be calculated by several local high-school math classes (At the same time, the classes, themselves, will be competing).
(continued on page 2)

*South Coast Railroad Museum
Institute for American Research*

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(continued from page 1)

ing to determine which can do the best job of coming up with the most accurate handicap figures.).

Museum members, as well as the general public, are cordially invited to attend, not merely to observe the unfolding spectacle, but to actively join in as rider-participants. At the event, you, your family members, and friends may throw your support behind either the handcar or train, simply by riding that vehicle once or as often as you like; or, you may use the opportunity to enjoy the free rides on both the train and handcar. All riders will receive a certificate acknowledging their *Great Race* participation.

The museum's normal, slow operating speeds will be maintained throughout the event on both rides. Train riders must be at least 34 inches tall; the handcar ride has a 48-inch height requirement.

In addition to the day's fun, the *Great Goleta Rail Race* also has a serious side. The spring fundraiser is one of the railroad museum's most important annual income sources, generating more than 10% of all monies needed for operations. Funds are raised by many of the event participants, including members of the Board of Trustees, who obtain financial pledges from sponsors, including area businesses, organizations, members, families, and individuals. Money raised from the event will be used not only to underwrite general museum operations, but also to sponsor three days of free miniature-train rides during 1997, including the *Great Race* day, itself, plus two additional free days in late July and early November.

Everyone who becomes an event sponsor, with a tax-deductible gift of \$10 or more, or who obtains pledges totalling \$50 or more, will be named in the list of *Great Goleta Rail Race* supporters, which will be prominently displayed at the museum during all three free days and for at least one week preceeding the July and November free days.

You are urged to assist in the fundraising effort, either by making a personal donation or seeking con-

tributions from others. In any case, please come out on May 17 and join the fun! Mark the date on your calendar now.

Greetings, New Members

Lucille Beckman is the latest addition to the Milepost 100 group. **Robert Harbaugh** is a new Sustaining member. A former museum volunteer, now living in Las Vegas, **Darryl Pritchard** has become a member once again. **Bill Sheehan** is a new Active member.

New Junior Engineers include **Kelsey Beisecker**, **Brett Beisecker**, **Christopher Breton**, **Lucas Budgett**, **Anthony Dobbs**, **Witt Fetter**, **Christina Kataoka**, **Jay Larinan**, **Eric E. Lopez, Jr.**, **Justin Nathanson**, **Daniel Schniepp**, **Ricky Williams**, **Robby Williams**, and **Jacob Winnikoff**.

Welcome to all of our new members!

Goleta National Bank Sponsors Free Rides For Moms, Dads

On Mother's Day, Sunday, May 11, all moms visiting the museum will be treated to a free ride on the Goleta Short Line, compliments of **Goleta National Bank**. Trains will run continuously beginning at 1:15, with the last train pulling out of the station at 3:45.

The complimentary tickets may be picked up in advance at Goleta National Bank's office at 5827 Hollister Ave. beginning April 7, or in Goleta Depot's Waiting Room, during event hours only. Tickets, at \$1 each, 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 museum on Father's Day, Sunday, June 15. The same train schedule will apply.

The bank helped to originate the museum's Father's Day event in 1994, and has sponsored both events ever since.

Coloring Pages Sponsored by Kinko's

Kinko's Graphics has renewed for another year its sponsorship of the coloring pages that are distributed to the museum's young visitors. These include two drawings of museum scenes by **Hilda Volkman**, which are given away daily at the museum, plus an assortment of special coloring pages given out during museum events, including the *Easter Bunny Express* and *Candy Cane Train*. Kinko's has generously underwritten this museum program since 1993. Thousands of children have received these popular complimentary handouts over the years.

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Railroad Museum at Goleta Depot

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Super Saturday Was Super ... Finally!

After a torrential rain-out on its scheduled Jan. 25 date, *Super Saturday* came through with flying colors on Feb. 1. Goleta Short Line trains transported 251 riders — a February record. In fact, it was the largest number of miniature-train passengers ever carried on any date in the November-thru-March period!

Special thanks are due to our *Super Saturday* sponsors: **Alternative Graphics; Friedlander & Associates Insurance Services; Michael J. Gartzke, CPA; Mid-State Bank; and Timbers Restaurant & Catering.**

Super Saturday has proven to be a wonderful addition to the museum's winter calendar. Watch for its return in 1998!

Holiday Train Report

Yuletide visitors couldn't stop talking about the festively colored passenger cars featured during the 4th annual *Candy Cane Train*, from Nov. 19 thru Dec.



Mariah Lippincott of Santa Barbara was the lucky winner of the Candy Cane Train drawing.

22. The Goleta Short Line cars were repainted, using eye-popping red-and-white candy-cane striping.

Despite several rain-out days, *Candy Cane Train* ridership for 1996 reached 1,415, easily surpassing the previous year's mark of just over 1,100.

Holiday Display Earns Applause

Special thanks to all of the museum members who took part in this past holiday-season exhibit, *Toy Trains and Teddy Bears!* Display contributors included **Eugene Allen, Jim Moyer, David Nivin, Susie Nivin, Hilda Volkman, and Maureen Duris**, mother of Jr. Engineer **Sean Urbany**. Junior Engineers sharing keepsakes were **Joshua Habisch, Daniel Henry, Tomofumi Kitamura, Michael Morden, Miranda Morden, James Nivin, Kira Purinton, Ricky Williams, and Robby Williams.**

TV Program Features Museum

Post Cards From Santa Barbara, A Museum Tour, which was announced in the winter *Depot Dispatch* issue, is being shown daily on **KCOX Channel 8** at 10 a.m. and 10 p.m., through May 30.

The South Coast Railroad Museum is among several local museums featured in the 30-minute program produced by **Cox Communications.**

Thanks to Year-End Givers

We gratefully acknowledge everyone who made year-end contributions to the museum for 1996. Gifts, totalling more than \$1,100, were received from or honored **Christine Allen, Don and Ruth Beede, Ronald Bruns, Betty J. Coombs, Gary Coombs, Mike and Betsy Couch, Sally Gane, Michael and Brenda Gartzke, Memory of Ruth C. Hammond, Mr. and Mrs. Josiah C. Jenkins, Josiah F. Jenkins, John Locke, Jim Moyer, Isabel Friend Newman, Goleta Valley Paint, Rich and Linda Thom, and Hilda Volkman.**

Chamber Supports Brochure Distribution

A debt of gratitude is owed to the **Goleta Valley Chamber of Commerce** for approving the use of about \$1,500 of County of Santa Barbara bed-tax monies to print 10,000 copies of the new museum brochure and to pay for its distribution in racks in area hotels and visitor spots.

The Goleta Chamber has helped to promote our efforts since the project to save Goleta Depot began in 1980, largely in the form of advertising support under the auspices of the chamber's Tourism Committee.

Ride and Visitor Records Set

Last year marked the first time that the museum handcar carried more than 1,000 riders. This achievement would not have been possible without the efforts (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

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(continued from page 3)

of museum trustee and volunteer **Bill Parker**, who was aboard the car, manning the brake, for practically every one of the hundreds of runs completed during 1996. Docent **Bruce Morden** also helped out on the handcar at several special events during the year.

It was also a record year for total museum visitors, estimated at over 19,000 for the 12 months, and on the Goleta Short Line, which carried 12,665 miniature-train passengers around the grounds.

Member Input Sought By Committee

Museum members are being encouraged to attend a Wednesday, April 16 meeting to hear and comment on ideas, now being considered by the Planning Committee of the museum's Board of Trustees, for enhancing the grounds and finding additional interior space for museum activities. According to committee chairman **Rich Thom**, the group is also interested in members' own ideas on these planning topics.

The meeting will be held at Goleta Library, 500 North Fairview Ave., beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Tuohy Foundation Grant Received

The railroad museum has been awarded a 1997 grant from the **Alice Tweed Tuohy Foundation**. The \$400 grant will be used to purchase of a communications modem and data-storage equipment for the museum computer.

The Tuohy Foundation has been a longtime railroad museum supporter. Last year, a Tuohy grant made possible a comprehensive accessibility study of the museum's programs and facilities. And, in the 1980s, a two-year grant from the foundation covered the purchase of all of the equipment, materials, and supplies used in the construction of the model-railroad exhibit, *Railroading On The South Coast*.

Locke Elected President

John C. Locke has been elected by the Board of Trustees to serve a one-year term as president of the

organization. Catering Director of **Timbers Restaurant & Catering**, Locke has worked in the local restaurant business for 18 years. A native of Cincinnati, Ohio, Locke came to the Santa Barbara area in 1976. John and his wife, **Betsy**, have an eight-year-old son, **Woody**, a member of our Junior Engineers Club, who was responsible for John's initial involvement with the railroad museum. Locke has served on the Board of Trustees since 1995.

Also elected as officers for 1997 were **William Parker**, vice president; **Benjamin Beede**, secretary; and **Michael Gartzke, CPA**, treasurer.

Newly-elected Board members include longtime museum volunteer and supporter **Neil Fetter** and **Noel Langle**, Deputy Director of Santa Barbara County's Dept. of Planning & Development.

Graffy Rocks Quake Audience

It was another earth-shaking performance from local historian and lecturer **Neal Graffy**, who spoke Wednesday, Feb. 19 before an appreciative audience of 40-plus, composed about equally of museum members and representatives from the general public. The amply-illustrated presentation, *19 Seconds At 6.3 - The Great Quake of 1925*, was Graffy's fourth contribution to the railroad museum's *Continuing Lecture Series*, a free quarterly program.

House Track Extended

A short addition of about 22 feet has been made to the standard-gauge "house track" in front of the depot, north of the caboose. This extension will allow us to move the caboose a few feet to provide our visitors with a more unobstructed view of the building's handsome front architecture.

The track-laying project was organized by **Gene Allen** and carried out by County SWAP workers assigned to the museum. The rail and some of the ties were obtained by donation in the late 1980s.

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 Assistant Director Phyllis Olsen a call at 964-3540. There's no obligation to 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 Trackside Shop, operate the Gandy Dancer Theater, or share Goleta Depot and the model railroad exhibit.

Answer To Last Issue's Photo Quiz:

The "Junior Engineer" was **Museum Director Gary Coombs**, photographed in the early 1950s.

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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