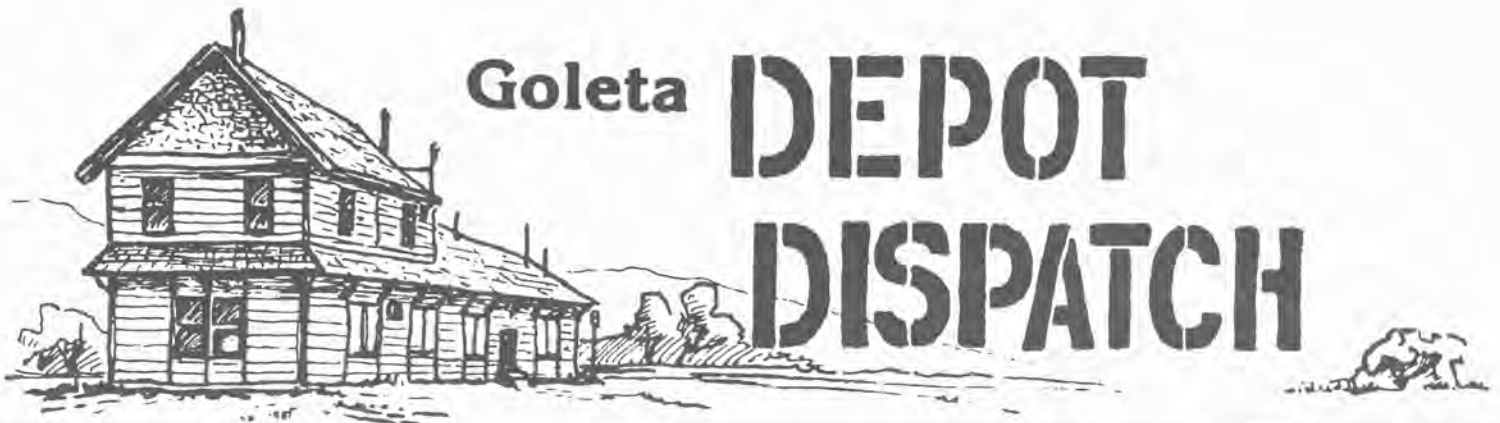


Goleta

# DEPOT DISPATCH



Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum

Volume 17, Number 4 ❖ Winter 1997-98

## Author To Discuss And Sign New Book on Railroad Women At Nov. 19 Event

### *"She's Been Working On The Railroad"*

Do you know about the crucial jobs that women have filled down through the years to keep America's railroads running smoothly?

You can find out on Wednesday, Nov. 19, when author **Nancy Smiler Levinson** comes to town to discuss and autograph her new book, *She's Been Working On The Railroad*. This latest edition of the railroad museum's *Continuing Lecture Series* takes place at Goleta Library, 500 North Fairview Ave., beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Off the press in October, *She's Been Working On The Railroad* has already received some important recognition, including selection by the Women's National Book Association as one of "Eighty Books for 21st Century Girls" and by the American Booksellers Assn. as a "Pick of the List" for Fall '97.

Levinson's presentation will focus on the fascinating story of the women who have worked on railroads, from the 1830s to the present day, including their struggle against stereotyping and prejudice to win the right to work as they choose. She will also share in slide form many of the historical and contemporary photographic images which were compiled for the book by **Shirley Burman**, who rail fans and history buffs may recognize

from her traveling exhibition, *Women and the American Railroad*. Burman's husband is the noted railroad photographer, **Richard Steinheimer**.

Copies of *She's Been Working On The Railroad* will be available at the event for purchase and signing by the author. Refreshments will be served following the presentation.

## *"Candy Cane Train"* Begins Nov. 28

The 5th annual "*Candy Cane Train*," the railroad museum's popular year-end family event, begins Friday, Nov. 28, continuing daily through Dec. 24 (except Mondays and Tuesdays when the museum is closed). Event hours are 1 to 4 p.m. on weekends and 2 to 4 p.m. on weekdays.

*Candy Cane Train* tickets are \$1.50 for adults and \$2.50 for children, which includes a ride on the festively-decorated miniature train, and an assortment of holiday treats and favors. Two-ride tickets will be available for an additional 50¢ each. Museum members 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, *Toy Trains and Teddy Bears!* (see story on page 3), also opening Nov. 28.

## Museum Receives IMLS Grant

The South Coast Railroad Museum has been awarded an \$18,000 General Operating Support Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS, formerly Institute of Museum Services), a federal agency serving the nation's museums and libraries. IMLS grants are given annually on the basis of a nationwide competition open to museums of all sizes and types, from art museums to zoos. This year, only 202 grants were awarded nationwide, from among more than 1,000 applicants.

The South Coast Railroad Museum was one of only two rail museums to receive a grant and was the smallest of 16 California recipients. This marks the 10th consecutive year that our museum has received this prestigious award — a feat which only a handful of museums across the nation have accomplished.

"To qualify, museums receiving operating support must demonstrate outstanding performance in all areas of museum operations," according to IMLS Director Diane Frankel. Museum Director Gary Coombs commented, "We are honored to have been singled out for recognition again this year. The IMLS grant is a badge of excellence that can be shared by everyone who helps to make the railroad museum a success — all of our volunteers, members, staff, contributors, and supporters, throughout the community and beyond."



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## Annual Holiday Party Planned for Dec. 18

Continuing a tradition begun in 1993, the museum's holiday party will be held Wednesday, Dec. 17 at Goleta Library, 500 N. Fairview Ave. The fun begins at 7 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 the beverages, cups, napkins, and plates.

The holiday party is a great opportunity to meet and enjoy other members of the museum family. Please plan to attend this annual year-end celebration and get-together.

## Thom Shares Rail Journeys With Young And Old

On Sept. 17, international train traveler, author, and photographer **Rich Thom** treated an enthusiastic audience of children and adults to a colorful and informative journey by train to visit children around the world.

Stops along the way included China, India, Thailand, South Africa, El Salvador, Ecuador, Bolivia, and Argentina, where Thom used examples of his beautiful photography to show how other children live and how trains affect their daily lives.

A member of the South Coast Railroad Museum's Board of Trustees, Rich Thom has experienced the railways of 30 countries, reporting his journeys in frequent articles in *International Railway Traveler* magazine.

The program was part of the railroad museum's *Continuing Lecture Series*.

## McNeel Memorial Gift Received

A gift in memory of the late **Robert B. McNeel**, longtime museum member and docent, has been received from **Marjorie and Michael Vendrasco**.



## Goleta Rail Station Construction Begins

### Grand Opening Being Planned

Work on the new Goleta Amtrak station has begun. According to **Robert Crego**, District Manager for Amtrak West, the platform at the Goleta facility could be ready as early as mid-December, at least for those passengers who use the trains going on to San Luis Obispo. Other *San Diegan* trains will continue to terminate at Santa Barbara until the layout track at Goleta is completed.

The railroad museum and Goleta Valley Chamber of Commerce, in cooperation with Amtrak, are now in the process of planning a grand opening ceremony, which will probably be set for a weekend day sometime following the commencement of passenger service.

Since these events are likely to take place before the next *Depot Dispatch* issue, readers may wish to follow the local newspapers and broadcast media for updated information. Or, feel free to call the museum (805-964-3540) for an update.

Earlier projections from Amtrak that the Goleta station would be completed by the end of October have proven incorrect. Initial delays involved the Union Pacific Railroad, which recently acquired the Southern Pacific Railroad, including the Coast Route through Santa Barbara County. Completion of the layover track at Goleta has been held up pending a final agreement for service from the Goleta Water District.



## "Super Saturday! II" Coming Jan. 24

The Second Annual "Super Saturday!" will be held at the museum on Jan. 24, from 1 to 4 p.m. The event marks the first day of unlimited free miniature-train rides during 1998. It is open to the general public. All riders must be at least 34 inches tall.

We hope that members will come out, join the fun, and bring along family and friends!

Among those who are helping to make *Super Saturday II* possible with their sponsorship support are **Friedlander & Associates Insurance Services**, **Michael J. Gartzke, CPA**, **Mid-State Bank**, and **Nancy and Walt Ried**.

Last year's inaugural *Super Saturday!* event, held Feb. 1 after a Jan. 25 rain-out, was a big success: Goleta Short Line trains carried 251 passengers — the largest one-day total ever during the November-thru-March period!

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## Library Reading Program Ends On High Note

### *Elks Made It Possible*

Another successful year of museum participation in the Summer Reading Program of the **Santa Barbara Public Libraries** came to a close on Sept. 28.

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 member of their family.

A record 2,100 children fulfilled the 15-book requirement this year, according to Children's Librarian **Shirley Morrison**. And, more than 480 free rides were given by the museum as its contribution to the program in support of reading excellence.

The 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 the **Santa Barbara Elks Lodge**.

## More Birthday Parties Held At Museum

Those recently celebrating birthday parties at the museum, through the end of November, include **David Anfonson**, **Christian Carpenter**, **Gus Degisis**, **Brendan Fay**, **Steven Jimenez**, **Dimitri Lam**, **Michael Lemus**, **Will Lorenzen**, and **Ryne Thomas**.

## Holiday Gifts Available At Trackside Shop

You won't find a better place than the museum's Trackside Shop for gift ideas for those rail fans and history buffs on your holiday gift list. We have a great selection of books, educational toys and games, videos, T-shirts and specialty

items.

And, of course, every purchase that you make helps to keep the museum on track! Don't forget to bring your membership card to receive your 10% discount on everything you buy.

## Welcome New Members

New museum members include **Kathleen McNeel Barber**, **Carla Cabanatuan**, **Ted Cheesman**, **James Chronis**, **Fran Corcoran**, **James and Susan Felland**, **Margaret A. Foster**, **Mrs. Derry Godar**, **Dennis K. Hand**, **Margarete Lanzendorfer**, **Perry and Pat Lorentzen**, **Francis and Marie Mackey**, **Marilyn McCarty**, **Robert Miesbauer**, **Morgan Provan**, **Lavonne Sanchez**, **Hazel Shepard**, **Ronald H. Stern**, **Cathy Vasek**, **Anna N. Weiss**, **Harry J. Wilmott**, and **Kay Woolsey**.

New Junior Engineers Club members include **David Anfonson**, **Lane Fuller**, **Jake Hirsch**, **John-Paul Kascsak**, **Edward Kascsak**, **Sam Katz**, **Kevin Kerrigan** and **Emerson Temrin**.

A warm welcome to all of our new museum members!

## Coast Starlight Guide Program Update



To date, the museum has received applications from 31 area residents who wish to train to become guides for the *Coast Starlight* interpretive program. Many of these are new members to the museum.

Script testing and guide training for the *Coast Starlight* program will begin shortly, with full implementation slated for this coming spring.

Sponsors of the interpretive program include **California State Parks**, **Goleta Valley Chamber of Commerce**, **Santa Barbara Conference & Visitors Bureau**, and **Santa Barbara County Parks**.

## 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 Friday, Nov. 28 and continues through Jan. 5 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.

It's still not too late to participate in this year's exhibition. If you would like to add your own personal touch to this popular display, please contact the museum office (964-3540), any weekday afternoon, or leave a message with your name and phone number.

## Depot Day Report

Sunday, Sept. 28 marked the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual *Depot Day* celebration. With warm weather and a large and receptive crowd, it was a terrific family-fun event and a great fundraiser for the railroad museum and its programs. As always, special thanks are due to everyone who donated equipment, supplies, auction items, or their valuable time to help make this year's event another resounding success.

One of the real treats during Depot Day '97 was the wonderful musical entertainment from the youth groups, **Showstoppers** and the **Monte Vista Elementary School** chorus, both under the direction of **Radu Azdril**. These energetic and talented youngsters gave an uplifting performance that affected everyone on hand.

**Tony Campos** took care of the barbecuing duties this year, with lots of help from **John Locke**, who handled most of the food purchasing, and prepared the beans and salad. Food

servers included **Mary Cole, Mike Gartzke, Rollin Gartzke, Bill McNally, William McNally, Flo McNally, Charlie McNally, Robert Morris, John Norris, Jr., and Theresa Scarano.**

The silent auction was ably staffed by **Debi Badger, Charlene Doty, Diana Mina, Katherine Parker, Margaret Pryde, 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 15-year history of Depot Day. Assisting museum staff in obtaining auction items were **Noel Langle, John Locke, Mike Couch, Mike Gartzke, Diana Mina, Bill Parker, Rich Thom, and Hilda Volkman.**

Parking was handled this year by **Lt. Col. Margaret Christensen** and representatives from the **Dos Pueblos High School Junior R.O.T.C.,** including **James Hogg, Josh Goldsworthy, Nick Siebert, Mike Siebert, Alfred Solis, and Jaime Serrato.** Our good neighbor to the north, **Christ Lutheran Church (Pastor Paul Hoefler)** donated day use of the church field for all of the overflow parking.

Volunteers on the Goleta Short Line included **Gene Allen, Jack Cogan, and Joel Bingham.** Handcar ride duties were shared by **Noel Langle and Bill Parker.**

The Admissions table was staffed by **Dick and Wendy Shelton, Barbara Cornish, and Elsie Pliha.** Crowds in the Trackside Shop kept clerks **Edee Brown, Ellyn Roberts, and Judy Savage** jumping all day long.

Agents **Bruce Morden** and **Jim Moyer** sold tickets and kept the Freight Office running smoothly, while **Ken Weber** and **John Sanchez** shared the model-railroad exhibit with hundreds of Depot Day visitors.

**Rose Ann Hill** and **Hilda Volkman** opened the agent's apartment upstairs in Goleta Depot, giving visitors a rare look at this second-floor living space.

The steam-engine exhibit, a perennial Depot Day favorite, was the domain of **Jim Marchiando** and **Jim Higman.**

Helpers for event setup and cleanup included **Kari Adams, Gene Allen, Tony Campos, Mary Cole, Charlene Doty, Mike Gartzke, Jim Higman, Noel Langle, John Locke, Jim Marchiando, Carol Matthew, Scott**

**Matthew, Diana Mina, Bruce Morden, Robert Morris, Katherine Parker, Ed Savage, Judy Savage, and Theresa Scarano.**

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## Cox Renews Support Of Youth-Program

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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.** In September, Cox renewed its support of the educational program designed to encourage greater participation in the museum's tours for children. This is the fifth year of program sponsorship by Cox Communications.

Over the past year alone, the free program has benefitted hundreds of local children, representing public and private schools and youth groups from Goleta, Santa Barbara, Montecito, and Carpinteria.

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## Foundation Awards Grant To Museum

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The museum has received a capital-enhancement grant from the **Wood-Claeyssens Foundation.** The \$8,600 award will be used to cover about 30% of the costs of the proposed improvements to the museum grounds, which were described in a report in the Fall '97 issue of the *Depot Dispatch.*

The proposed grounds plan includes four elements: (1) construction of a new museum entry structure, patterned after a country rail passenger stop, which visitors will pass through as they enter the museum grounds; (2) resurfacing of pathways between the depot and miniature-train boarding area for improved accessibility, especially for visitors in wheelchairs; (3) construction of a group-picnic area, to accommodate better the museum's usage for birthday parties and other public group gatherings; and; (4) installation of additional wooden post-and-rail fencing near the museum's eastern border, to provide greater visitor safety, especially with regard to the miniature train.

The County Parks Commission gave

in-concept approval for the grounds project in July. The proposal was developed by the museum's Planning Committee and staff, with input from the general membership at a special April 16 meeting.

This is the first grant from the Santa Barbara-based foundation that the railroad museum has received. Three other local foundations have been contacted regarding grants to make up the remaining \$20,000 needed to complete the \$28,600 project.

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## Depot Tree Celebrates The Holiday Season

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The Goleta Depot tree will be lighted every night in December, creating an enchanting Victorian scene that you and your family and friends may enjoy 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.

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## Volunteers Needed

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The museum has a pressing need for volunteers in all staffing areas. Most 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 and 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 train and handcar rides; others staff the Trackside Shop, operate the Gandy Dancer Theater, or share Goleta Depot and the model railroad exhibit.