

# Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH



## Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum

Volume 18, Number 4 ❖ Winter 1998-99

### 6th "Candy Cane Train" Starts Friday, Nov. 27

The 6th annual "Candy Cane Train," the railroad museum's popular year-end family event, begins Friday, Nov. 27, continuing daily through Dec. 27 (except Mondays, Tuesdays, and Christmas Day, when the museum is closed). Event hours are 1 to 4 p.m. on weekends and 2 to 4 p.m. 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 75¢ 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 also will be able to enjoy the museum's holiday display, *Toy Trains and Teddy Bears!* (see story on page 2), also opening Nov. 27.

*Candy-cane striping is applied to one of the Goleta Short Line cars by Peter Mann.*



### Holiday Party Is Dec. 16

Continuing a tradition begun in 1993, the museum's holiday party will be held Wednesday, Dec. 16 at Goleta Library, 500 N. Fairview Ave. The fun begins at 7 p.m.

All members and their families are encouraged 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.

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.

### Welcome New Members

It is a pleasure to greet our newest museum members. They include **Constance L. Allen, Dirk Kolff Breymann, Sylvelin Edgerton, Caron Garliepp, Randy Garliepp, Betty Mocker, Eva R. Scheel, Lynn Smith, Ellen Somdahl and Leonard Somdahl.**

New Junior Engineers Club members are **Peter Chaconas and Ryan Hall.**

Welcome one and all!

### \$12,000 Received From Santa Barbara Foundation

The **Santa Barbara Foundation** has awarded the museum a \$12,000 capital-enhancement grant. These funds will be applied toward the grounds project begun in the spring. These improvements include the new entrance, group-picnic area, additional post-and-rail fencing, and paved walkways between the depot

and miniature-train boarding area.

Combined with \$20,059 in funds previously received from the **Wood-Claeyssens Foundation, Alice Tweed Tuohy Foundation, and La Vista Foundation for the Blind and Physically Handicapped,** the Santa Barbara Foundation award will allow the museum to complete all remaining elements of the grounds project.

### Birthdays Celebrated On Museum Grounds

The new group area has been receiving quite a workout since its spring completion. Birthday parties continue to be one of the most popular uses for all of the picnic tables distributed about the grounds.

Celebrating recent birthdays with parties at the museum include **Madera Calderwood, Joshua Cox, Nolan Fewell, and Logan Michaels** (in Sept.); **Richard Gonzales** (in Oct.); and **Peter Chaconas, Lucas Derflinger, and Ryan Hall** (in Nov.).

The new area also was used in October by **The Nature Girls**, a senior women's group.

### "Super Saturday! III" Coming Jan. 30

The Third Annual "Super Saturday!" will be held at the museum on Jan. 30, 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

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### South Coast Railroad Museum Institute for American Research

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the fun, and bring along family and friends!

Among those who are helping to make *Super Saturday III* possible with their sponsorship support are **Friedlander & Associates Insurance Services**; **Michael J. Gartzke, CPA**; **Mid-State Bank**; **Silicon Beach Communications**; and the **Timbers Restaurant & Catering**.

More than 500 free rides were given during the first two *Super Saturday!* events, setting single-day records in both 1997 and 1998 for the most train rides during the November-through-February period.

## Book Closes On Youth Summer Reading Program

Another year of museum participation in the Summer Reading Program of the **Santa Barbara Public Libraries** came to a successful close on Sept. 26.

In recognition of their reading achievement, every child who completed the program, by reading 15 or more books, received a coupon good for a free ride on the Goleta Short Line for themselves plus one friend or family member. The museum's participation in this year's reading program was made possible by the generous financial support of **Mid-State Bank**.

A record 2,300 children fulfilled the 15-book requirement this year, according to Library Director **Carol L. Keator**. More than 346 free rides were given by the museum as its contribution 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.

## 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. 27 and continues through the month of December in the Waiting Room at Goleta Depot. The display features 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.

## Wood-Claeyssens Awards Foundation Grant

The museum has received a grant from the **Wood-Claeyssens Foundation**. The \$1,500 award will be used to replace several outmoded pieces of equipment, including the museum's ancient refrigerator. The money will also allow us to purchase computer software to help manage the museum's collections of railroad artifacts, memorabilia, books, and other printed materials.

## Museum's Holiday Tree Part Of A Long Tradition

The Goleta Depot tree will be lighted every night in December, creating a lovely Victorian scene that you may enjoy as you travel past the museum grounds on Los Carneros Road.

Each year, the decorated tree is placed in the historical landmark's second-floor window bay. This has special Yuletide significance, preserving 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.

## Caboose Stove Donated By Out-Of-Town Visitor

A caboose stove has been donated to the museum by **Denise Powell**. A resident of Bakersfield, Ms. Powell has been a frequent visitor to our museum.

The stove has been installed in the Waiting Room, replacing a replica pot-bellied stove that has occupied the west side of the room for more than a decade. **Frank Dziuba** made the necessary modifications so that the existing stovepipe could accommodate the antique stove. Proper positioning of the stove was based on historical photographs and architectural remnants, which reveal where Goleta Depot's chimneys and vent pipes were originally located (see stove photo on page 4).

Caboose stoves were commonly used in railroad depots. The cast-iron appliances can be distinguished from domestic pot-bellied stoves by the absence of legs. Instead, the belly of a caboose stove was bolted directly to the floor of the rail car. This design lowered the stove's center of gravity, improving its stability — a characteristic that could be especially important in a rapidly decelerating caboose.

## Welcome New Volunteers

Volunteers are an indispensable part of the museum. We are indeed fortunate that so many friends care enough to give their time to keep the museum open and available to the public.

Many others have been responding to the museum's on-going plea for more volunteer participation. It is a pleasure to greet the new volunteers who are now hosting visitors at the museum. They include **Stacey Lydon**, **Betty Mocker**, and **Pat and Perry Lorentzen**. New applicants for the Coast Starlight Program include **Constance Allen**, **Dirk Breyman**,

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Caron Garliepp, Randy Garliepp, Kathleen McDermott, Thomas McDermott, Mary Lee Sanders, Eva Scheel, Lynn Smith, Ellen Somdahl, and Leonard Somdahl,

## Board Chooses Officers For 1999 Terms

At its Nov. 11 meeting, the Board of Trustees elected officers for the coming year. They include **Noel Langle**, president; **Rich Thom**, secretary; and **John Locke**, treasurer.

## Member Giving Sought For Funding Campaign

During 1999, everyone who makes a financial contribution to the museum will be included on a donors list which will be displayed throughout the year in the new entrance area during museum hours.

The list will first appear in January and will include all gifts made since the start of the fiscal year, Oct. 1. Periodic list updates during the year will ensure that new donors are also acknowledged.

Persons making donations before the end of 1998 will be included on the initial donors list and every list revision, as well as receiving their usual tax-deduction for the current tax year.

Those readers whose memberships are now up for renewal may include their qualifying contribution with their dues payment. Other members are receiving a separate donor's card and return envelope for this purpose.

The Board of Trustees decided to create this donors list as part of a new Annual Campaign, designed both to ensure that all contributors are properly recognized and to better unify museum fundraising. The Board has set \$25,000 as the fundraising target for the year.

"I urge all members and museum friends to join me and my fellow trustees in this important effort," said president-elect **Noel Langle**. "Your gift will allow the museum to prosper and grow, with valuable new activities like the Coast Starlight Interpretive Program begun this year, and to successfully meet challenges such as the El Niño assault of 1998."

## Members Join In Amtrak Station Opening

Scores of museum members were in attendance for the long-awaited opening on Saturday, Sept. 19 of the Goleta Amtrak station. The event included a South Coast Railroad Museum information booth, staffed by trustees **Noel**

## More Volunteers Needed

There remains a shortage of volunteers at the museum.

Volunteer docents are critical to many of the activities and services that our visitors enjoy. Some volunteers are engineers, conductors, and crew on the miniature-train and museum handcar. Others are clerks in the Trackside Shop, operate the Gandy Dancer Theater, or share Goleta Depot and the model railroad exhibit with our guests.

Many of our volunteers are generously giving extra hours each month to fill the existing gap. They are waiting and hoping that the cavalry will soon arrive.

Get on your horse! Please consider joining this terrific group of dedicated members. If you have at least one afternoon (only about three hours) available per month to give to your museum and would like to share our wonderful historical landmark and activities with museum guests, please give Assistant Director **Phyllis Olsen** a call at 964-3540. She will be happy to tell you more about the rewards and benefits of the museum's volunteer program.

### Langle and Rich Thom.

The highlight of the opening ceremony was the inaugural train, which carried hundreds of event attendees on a round-trip ride to Santa Barbara, compliments of Amtrak.

A much smaller number — all museum members — took advantage of the opportunity to ride the train out from Santa Barbara before the opening ceremony, a special treat for members that was announced in the previous *Depot Dispatch* issue. Among those in the museum party were **Gene Allen; Kari, Robert and Ben Adams; Kip and Stella Kramer; Ed Leska; Bruce Morden; Nancy Reid; Museum Director Gary Coombs; and Assistant Director Phyllis Olsen.**

The group received the royal treatment from Amtrak during that first short trip to Goleta, including exclusive use of the Pacific-Class car, champagne to toast the occasion, and other food and beverages.

Above all, it was a great feeling to know that, after more than 30 years, a Goleta train station was open for business once again!

*Phyllis Olsen and Coast Starlight head Brian Rosenwald enjoy the station opening.*



## 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! You will need your membership card to receive your 10% discount, good on everything that you buy!

## Depot Day Report

The 16th annual *Depot Day* was celebrated on Sunday, Sept. 27 by another large and receptive crowd.

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.

Returning for the second consecutive year to entertain a *Depot Day* audience were the musical youth groups, **Showstoppers** and the **Monte Vista Elementary School chorus**, both under the direction of **Radu Azdril**. Their endearing performances of railroad tunes and other popular favorites were a perfect complement to the day's other activities.

**John Locke** took charge of the barbecue this year, handling most of the food purchasing and preparation. Food servers included **Mary Cole, Barbara Cornish, Derry Godar,**

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*Bob Mahan gave rides on his inspection car, to the delight of the Depot Day crowds.*

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Zeynep Gunday, Eisie Pliha, Mariene Rodriguez, and Kay Woolsey,

Staffing the silent auction were **Charlene Doty, Peggy Langle, Diana Mina, Betty Mocker, Katherine Parker, John Starr, Robert Adams, and Carolyn Weber.** This year's auction was one of the best from a fundraising standpoint, thanks to the more than 100 businesses, members, and other friends who donated items for the tables. **Noel Langle, John Locke, Mike Couch, Mike Gartzke, Diana Mina, Bill Parker, Rich Thom, and Hilda Volkman** all gave museum staff a hand in securing auction items.

Event parking was handled capably by members of the **Dos Pueblos High School Junior R.O.T.C.,** under the direction of **Gersain Garcia,** including **James Arnold, Esmeralda Basave, Marian Casillas, Javier Diaz, Alvira Kahn, Ilyas Kahn, Kevin**

**Larsen, Synthia Mendosa, and Alfredo Solis.**

**Pastor Paul Hoefler** at **Christ Lutheran Church** approved our use of the church's field north of the parking lot for handling the day's overflow traffic.

Volunteer crew members on the Goleta Short Line included **Gene Allen, Joel Bingham, and Lauren Tanaka.** Handcar ride duties were shared by **Noel Langle and Bill Parker.**

Renewing a *Depot Day* tradition, **Bob Mahan** was also on hand to give rides on his Ventura County Railway inspection speeder.

**Dick and Wendy Shelton** and **Rich Thom** greeted visitors and collected donations at the admissions table in the museum's new entrance. **Judy and Hannah Savage** helped with the sales in the Trackside Shop.

Agents **Bob Burtness** and **Margaret Pryde** were kept busy selling ride tickets in the Freight

Office. **Ken Weber** and **Bruce Morden** shared the model-railroad exhibit with hundreds of *Depot Day* visitors.

**Hilda Volkman** opened the agent's apartment upstairs in Goleta Depot, giving visitors a rare glimpse at the second-floor living area.

The steam-engine exhibit was kept in operation and shared by **Jim Higman.**

**Donna and Dino Silvestre** staffed an **Operation Lifesaver** booth, a *Depot Day* first. They distributed information about safety around railroads and also handed out souvenir key chains, bookmarks, and other fun items for young and old alike.

Helpers for event setup and cleanup included **Kari, Harold, Robert and Ben Adams; Gene Allen; Charlene Doty; Jim Higman; Noel and Peggy Langle; John Locke; Carol and Scott Matthew; Diana Mina; Bruce Morden, Katherine Parker;** and members of the **Dos Pueblos High School Interact Club,** under the direction of President **Stacey Lydon.**

## Goleta Valley Paint Lends Museum A Big Hand

The railroad museum has long benefitted from the generosity of **Steve and Colleen Ozab,** owners of **Goleta Valley Paint.** For years, the store has donated paint and paint supplies for various projects around the museum and grounds.

Recent donations have included primer and top-coat for the new shed, several gallons to repaint the picnic tables, and a premium latex for touch-up of the historical landmark, itself.

The museum is indebted to the Ozabs for all of their help, in 1998 and in years past.

*Caboose stove now graces Waiting Room.*

