



# Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH



Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum

Volume 19, Number 2 — Summer 1999

## Don't Miss Steaming Summer, July 24 & 25

A circus theme will again highlight the museum's 13th annual "Another Steaming Summer," which will be held over the weekend of July 24-25.

*Steaming Summer* is best known for the operating live-steam locomotives that have hauled passengers on the Goleta Short Line throughout the history of the event. Reprising a popular addition made last year, one of the

*(story continued on page 4)*

Ted Cheesman inspects a Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus poster from his collection.



## Museum To Host Postal Event Honoring New Train Stamps

On Friday, Aug. 27, the U.S. Postal Service will hold a special event at the South Coast Railroad Museum celebrating the release of a set of new first-class stamps commemorating five 20th Century American trains, including the Southern Pacific Daylight. Hours are 1

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## Family "Adopts" Goleta Short Line Rolling Stock

Clas Lensander, father of Junior Engineers Bjorn and Nicholas Lensander, came to Museum Director Gary Coombs with a proposal: His family wanted to help support the museum by sponsoring one of the Goleta Short Line locomotives and two of the passenger cars. Young Bjorn wanted to adopt Car No. 2 (the blue car), while brother Nicholas had his eye on the red car (No. 5). The entire family wanted to sponsor Engine No. 1316.

The director liked the idea, which was soon approved. In recognition of the Lensander's support, plaques have been affixed to the three cars, acknowledging their respective sponsors.

Engine No. 2655 and two other passenger cars are now available for adoption. If you would like to learn more



Bjorn and Nicholas Lensander show off the Goleta Short Line passenger cars they are sponsoring.

about how you, your family, organization, or business can join the Lensander family as Goleta Short Line sponsors, please contact the director in person, by telephone (805-964-3540) or via e-mail ([gcoombs@goletadepot.org](mailto:gcoombs@goletadepot.org)).

## Museum Web Site Has New Name, Many New Features

There have been lots of big changes at the museum's Internet web site. The site now has a new, easier-to-remember address: [www.goletadepot.org](http://www.goletadepot.org), a change made possible by the generosity of Silicon Beach Communications.

The site also has undergone a major remodeling since the first of the year. Besides stylistic changes, there have been many new features added, including sound, animation, and several new pages.

*(continued on page 4)*

## We're Going To Disneyland!

See Page 2 story for all the details.

## Self-Guided Landmark Tour Now Available To Visitors

Museum visitors can now learn about the history and architecture of Goleta Depot by taking the museum's new "Self-Guided Walking Tour." The full-color tour card contains a detailed building floor-plan and 18 other illustrations, including a number of rare pho-

*(continued on page 4)*

## South Coast Railroad Museum Institute for American Research

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## Goleta National Bank Gives Free Rides for Dads

On Father's Day, Sunday, June 20, all dads and granddads visiting the railroad museum will be treated to unlimited free rides on the Goleta Short Line, compliments of **Goleta National Bank**. There will be four trains per hour, beginning at 1:15, with the last train pulling out of the station promptly at 3:45.

The complimentary tickets may be picked up in advance at Goleta National Bank's office at 5827 Hollister Ave., or in Goleta Depot's Waiting Room during the event. Tickets will also be available, at regular prices, for other family members, and the general public.

Goleta National Bank has sponsored every *Free Rides For Dads* since the event was begun back in 1994.

## Welcome New Members

The museum's newest members are W. Dow Hoyt and Michael Melvin.

New Junior Engineers include Alexander De Venne, Drake Gilliland, Dolan Ingraham, Max Johnson, Alexa Johnson, and Ryan Mori.

Welcome to all new members!

## Try Disneyland By Rail

The museum is organizing a group rail trip to Disneyland for Aug. 16-18.

The excursion price includes transportation via Amtrak's *San Diegan* trains (group members have their choice of boarding at Goleta, Santa Barbara, or Carpinteria); two nights stay at the Best Western Park Place Inn across from Disneyland's main entrance; continental breakfasts; and one-day's admission to Disneyland (The schedule will permit a second full day at the Southern California park, if desired). Typical cost: \$116 per person for a family of four.

For more details, including prices for your family or group, call Gary or Phyllis at the museum (964-3540).

## Jr. Engineers Party Is July 15

The eighth annual Junior Engineers Club Party will be held Thursday, July 15, from 2 until 3:30 pm. The party will include lots of free rides on the Goleta Short Line, special showings of Thomas The Tank Engine videos, prizes and surprises, and delicious refreshments, including a Junior Engineers cake!

Don't miss this special summer get-together, Junior Engineers! The event is free for members and one parent (\$1 each for additional guests) but is limited to the first 60 reservations received. To hold your place, call 805-964-3540.

## "March Madness" To Return

The month-long free miniature-train rides in March was very well received, producing record turnouts both for the month and for the entire first quarter. Total train ridership for March fell only 17 passengers short of the 1,500 mark.

**Randy Shaffer at Goleta National Bank** was so impressed with the event that he arranged for the financial institution to sponsor *March Madness* next year, guaranteeing a triumphant return!

## New Jr. Engineers Page

**Judy Savage**, Children's Librarian at Goleta Library is preparing a list of train-theme books for young readers, which all Junior Engineers Club members will receive with their next newsletter.

## A Message From The Director

For several years, our newsletter has carried a plea for more members to consider joining the ranks of museum volunteers. Although this has met with some success, the museum still has a ways to go before we can claim a full complement of volunteers, either at the museum or aboard the *Coast Starlight*.

Please take a few moments to review your monthly routine and see if there isn't an afternoon or two when you could help share our museum and its educational and recreational programs. Or, you may know someone — in your family or among your friends and neighbors — who you think might be able to help.

The museum has a lot of different volunteer positions — something for just about everyone. The new cash register has added a new dimension to clerking in the Trackside Shop. There's nothing to compare with giving rides on the miniature-train or handcar, or sharing the model-railroad with our museum guests — especially the little ones! No matter what you choose, you're going to meet plenty of interesting people — many from far away places — and put smiles on a lot of faces. And, you'll earn enormous satisfaction from keeping a wonderful community resource open and available to an enthusiastic public.

A small museum like ours is, of necessity, heavily dependent on its volunteers to keep the doors open and the activities flowing. Please call Assistant Director Phyllis Olsen or myself at 964-3540. We're eager to discuss the museum's many volunteer opportunities with you.

Gary B. Coombs, Museum Director

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## Train-Order Boards Return To Goleta Depot Home

It's been more than two years since there have been train-order boards atop the historic signal pole in front of Goleta Depot. In May, all that changed when **Bruce Morden** climbed the pole to install a pair of new replacement boards.

Historically, train-order boards had the job of notifying crews on approaching trains when they needed to stop at the depot for orders from the train dispatcher. One board alerted eastbound and the other westbound trains. The Goleta agent, who typed the dispatcher's orders when they came in via telegraph (replaced in later years by a dedicated-line telephone), would raise the appropriate order board using a pair of control levers inside the Freight Office.

The order-board mast and the two counter-weighted "quadrant" units that hold the order boards in place are all authentic Goleta Depot artifacts, but the boards themselves had to be recreated by museum volunteers. Initially, **Gene Allen** made the substitutes out of plywood, but when these failed to hold up against the elements, Gene convinced **Seth Hammond of Specialty Crane and Rigging** to fabricate new boards for the museum out of sheet metal, the same material used by the railroads.

Morden gladly offered to install the boards. Like many fellow volunteers, he was eager to resume one of the museum agent's favorite duties — showing our visitors how the order-boards operated.

*Bruce Morden installed the replacement order boards.*



## Race Was Great Fundraiser

The 3rd annual *Great Goleta Rail Race*, held on Saturday, May 22, may not have set any mileage records, but it reached an even more important milestone, becoming the most successful fundraising event in the railroad museum's history.

Last year's record of \$10,700 was easily smashed several days before the event, as pledges roared past the \$11,000 mark. As this issue of the *Depot Dispatch* goes to press, the figure stands at \$12,255, with several participants yet to turn in their final pledge numbers.

The names of all contributors to the spring fundraiser were added to the "Campaign '99" list in time for the day's



*Handcar racers included Noel Langle (right), Diana Mina and Nicholas Mina.*

festivities. This donor list is prominently displayed daily at the museum entrance.

During the event, itself, 239 free rides on the miniature-train and handcar were given to museum visitors, who were also awarded "I Survived the Great Goleta Rail Race" certificates. The miniature-train was operated throughout the competition by **Joel Bingham** and **Michael Melvin**, while Board President **Noel Langle** led the effort aboard the handcar.

The handcar was declared this year's winner. It completed 12.75 rider-miles which, when added to its 50 rider-mile handicap (based on previous years' results), easily outpaced the 49.71 rider-miles logged by the miniature train.

## Campaign '99 Donations Still Needed; Are You On The List?

It's not too late to earn your place on the "Campaign '99" list that greets all visitors as they enter the museum grounds. The list will continue to be displayed until early next year.

To add your name, use the accompanying form to make your contribution or to add to the gift you've made earlier this year. The listing is tiered, with larger gifts acknowledged toward the top.

Please help the museum and "get on the list" with your tax-deductible gift.

## Summer Reading Support Renewed By Mid-State Bank

The railroad museum is again participating in the Summer Reading Program of the Santa Barbara Public Libraries, thanks to the generous, renewed support of **Mid-State Bank**.

Each year, thousands of area youngsters receive free miniature-train rides at the museum for themselves and a guest when they complete the summer program by reading 15 or more books. Participating libraries include Santa Barbara (Central and Eastside), Goleta, Solvang, Carpinteria, Montecito, Santa Ynez, Los Olivos, Lompoc, and the Bookmobile!

The South Coast Railroad Museum has actively supported the summer reading program since 1987.

## New Bunny Rides In During Easter Express

The *Easter Bunny Express* on April 3 featured a new Bunny, as **Janet Cornish** took over for **Bob Burtness**, who had served in that capacity since the event's inception in 1992. This year, Bob filled the role of "Bunny Helper."

Special thanks are owed to **Margaret Pryde**, who made the bunny suit for this year's event when the costume we've used in the past became unavailable.

## Self-Guided Tour (cont'd. from page 1)

Members are also encouraged to partake of this latest addition to the museum's educational repertoire. "Even long-time members will benefit from the experience," according to Museum Director Gary Coombs, who spearheaded the tour's development. "There's something new here for everyone," he said.

The tour is free and can be checked out at the Tracksides Shop anytime that the museum is open. A Spanish-language version is also available, thanks to the translation skills of **Stella Kramer**. An armchair version of the tour is also now readily accessible to an international audience on the museum's web site ([www.goletadepot.org](http://www.goletadepot.org)).

## Museum Web Site (cont'd. from page 1)

In the "Meet The Museum Family" section, you can see photos of your favorite museum volunteers, divided into separate docent and *Coast Starlight* guide pages. There is also a new page on "Railroading On The South Coast," the museum's model railroad exhibit and another on the *Coast Starlight* program.

One of the more interesting additions is an internet version of the museum's new Self-Guided Walking Tour of Goleta Depot (see Page 1 story).

Web site visitors will still find all of the sections they've become used to, including the museum-events calendar, with many Year 2000 dates already posted, and the animated Junior Engineer's Page, announced in the previous *Depot Dispatch*, which gives young and old alike the chance to assemble and run their own train on the Internet.

## Steaming Summer (cont'd. from page 1)

*Steaming Summer* trains will again be a circus train, featuring several circus cars from the collection of **Ted Cheesman**. Event attendees will be able to ride the circus train, as well as the other trains operating that day.

The circus motif will be carried over into the model-railroad exhibit, where **Ken and Carolyn Weber** will be shar-

ing their HO-scale "K&C Famous Family Circus," which they're assembling expressly for this year's event. The three-ring circus includes a big top, operating 20-car circus train, and much more.

The museum's only two-day event, *Steaming Summer* is sponsored by **Toyota of Santa Barbara**. Hours both days will be 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Museum members are invited to come early (10-11 a.m.) to watch the locomotives being steamed-up in preparation for the day's activities (Early-bird attendance is limited to members and their accompanying guests only, please).

Admission to the event is \$3, which includes unlimited rides on both the Goleta Short Line and handcar. The admission charge applies to everyone, including those who elect not to ride; infants and any others who are unable to ride the train will be admitted without charge. For late arrivals, the admission price will drop to \$2 after 3 p.m.

Advance tickets, at 50¢ off (75¢ off with membership card) are now available in the museum's Tracksides Shop.

**Gene Allen** is putting together another great collection of steam locomotives and other steam equipment for operation or display. As of late May, when this issue of the *Depot Dispatch* went to press, the list of scheduled visiting operating equipment included:

Gene's own 4-4-0 American — a working 500-lb., coal-burning replica of an engine built in 1888 by the Cook Locomotive and Machine Co. of Patterson, N.J.; an 0-6-0 switch-engine owned by **Ed Winnewisser** of Atascadero, another *Steaming Summer* mainstay; a pair of Allen Models 2-6-0 moguls, owned by **Bill Hoey** and **Dan O'Brien**; and the wondrous steam plant of **Jim Marchiando**, which will drive a water pump, a variety of steam whistles, and a number of smaller machines and devices on a table-top display prepared by **Jim Higman**.

The program will also include continuous free showings of railroad films, with an emphasis on steam power, including tutorials on how to operate and maintain a steam locomotive — shown

in the museum's Gandy Dancer Theater.

The **Goleta Lions** will be on hand to sell tri-tip sandwiches and "Depot Dogs," with all proceeds to the museum.

Don't miss this once-a-year chance to see the steamers in action! It's a lot of fun, not to mention a terrific bargain for anyone who enjoys riding the trains!

## Exhibit Offers Advance Look At Steaming Summer Circus

If you'd like to have a preview of what this year's *Steaming Summer* holds, don't miss the new display in the Waiting Room. It contains the calliope from Ted Cheesman's circus train, plus many elements from the Weber's K&C Famous Family Circus.

## Rail Stamp Event (cont'd. from page 1)

to 4, opening with a brief ceremony.

The museum has designed a unique postmark, featuring both the Daylight and Goleta Depot, which will be used by postal officials only during this one-day event at the museum. The postmark is based on a photograph from the museum's historical collections.

Those attending the free event will be able to purchase the new stamps or send mail, which will be stamped with the commemorative postmark.

Also available, from the museum, will be a cacheted envelope, bearing a full-color rendition of the Daylight-Goleta Depot photo. The \$2.50 envelope price includes the train stamp of your choice and the special postmark. The envelopes may also be ordered in advance (see accompanying order form).

*Aug. 27 event will feature special postmark (actual size).*

