



# Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH



## Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum

Volume 19, Number 3 — Fall 1999

### Sunday, Sept 26 Marks 17th "Depot Day"

*Depot Day*, the South Coast Railroad Museum's big fall celebration, will be held Sunday, Sept. 26. For all of the exciting details on this 17th annual celebration, see the special Depot Day '99 coverage on page 4.

This is one museum event you won't want to miss.

### Youth Group Visits Make Summer A Busy Time

The museum has hosted a number of youth groups and organizations this summer. The August schedule alone included eight children's group visits, representing **Cliff Drive Care Center, First Presbyterian Children's Center, Kids Club, Franklin Education Center, and UCSB Alumni Family Vacation Center.**

Most groups take advantage of the free guided tours of the historical landmark, presented by Assistant Director Phyllis Olsen.

### Real Goleta Depot-Grown Flower Seeds Now Available In Museum Shop

This spring the museum grounds were bursting with color, with golden California poppies and multi-hued nasturtiums blooming almost everywhere. We decided it would be fun — and per-



*Authentic Goleta Depot-Grown Nasturtiums!*

haps a source of some added revenue, as well — for the museum to collect, package and sell the flower seeds in the Trackside Shop.

Though we didn't have much luck harvesting the poppy seeds, we were able to amass thousands of nasturtium seeds during July. Many of these have now been packaged in full-color seed packets. The packets contain instructions for planting and care and also indicate that the contents are "Authentic Goleta Depot Nasturtium Seeds" — "Grown on the Museum Grounds."

The packets sell for \$2 apiece (\$1.80 with member's discount). Look for them at the counter next time you're in the Trackside Shop.

### Web Site Gets New Pages

A number of new sections have been added to the museum's web site since the last *Depot Dispatch* issue.

"Our Corporate Partners" is a new page that acknowledges those in the business community that provide major

support to the museum. Included are **Goleta National Bank, Toyota of Santa Barbara, Mid-State Bank, Santa Barbara Bank & Trust and Silicon Beach Communications.**

Another new section, entitled "*Artists' Views*," honors six artists whose work includes depictions of Goleta Depot. Spanning almost three decades, the paintings, watercolors, sketches, and mixed-media works show the historical landmark along the Southern Pacific tracks as well as at its new home at Lake Los Carneros County Park. Those in the spotlight include **Jan Bish, Robert Dillon, Stu Fredericks, Lorraine Niles, Lynn Sexton, and Frank Stevens.**

The U.S. Postal Service's new "All Aboard!" series of stamps commemorating five 20th Century American trains, including the Southern Pacific *Daylight*, are highlighted on another new page on the museum's web site. The page includes images of each of the train stamps, as well as of the catcheted envelope and "Goleta Depot Station" postmark designed by Museum Director Gary Coombs for the Aug. 27 event at the museum commemorating the new stamps' release (see Summer '99 *Dispatch* issue).

The museum's web-site address is [www.goletadepot.org](http://www.goletadepot.org). Members who do not have Internet access may still view the web site, on the museum's computer. Please contact Gary Coombs for more information.

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## Grand Re-Opening Of S.B. Pass. Station Set For Oct. 2

The mission-styled Santa Barbara passenger station, which has been closed while undergoing extensive restoration will soon re-open.

Plans are now underway for a grand station re-opening ceremony, which has been scheduled for the morning of Sat., Oct. 2. The railroad museum has been invited to participate in the event, as well as to assist in its planning.

## Three Join Museum Board

The Board of Trustees has elected three new members. Those joining the Board, each for two-year terms, are David Chapman, Kip Kramer, and Bruce Morden. At the Board's Aug. 4 meeting, Noel Langle also was elected to serve a second two-year term.

## Welcome New Members

New members include Carlos and Dolores De Anda Guerra, H.W. Lewis, Dr. and Mrs. John McKee, Jim Staples, Sean Vanderjagt, and Wilson Printing.

New Junior Engineers are Matthew Arnold, Michael Bangs, Brooke M. Bianco, Jack O'Reilly Hale, Cody Stocker, and Eric Warner.

Welcome all of our new members!

## Rail Trips Completed To Railfair '99 and Disneyland

As this issue goes to press, a museum group has just returned from another Amtrak rail excursion. This three-day adventure to Disneyland (some in the group spent one of the two days at Knott's Berry Farm) is the second museum-organized rail trip of the summer. The first, the June run to Railfair '99 in Sacramento, was led by Ed Leska, with assistance from Noel Langle and Pat and Perry Lorentzen.

All museum rail trips are open to the general public as well as members.



Brandon Droese, Nicholas Caum and Madeline Kluser were among those on the rail adventure to Disneyland.

## New Jr. Engineers Page

The new edition of the Junior Engineers Fun Page features a word-search puzzle, designed by Museum Docent Margaret Pryde.

The previously-announced list of train-theme books for young readers, being prepared by Judy Savage, Children's Librarian at Goleta Library, has been delayed and will be sent to all Junior Engineers Club members with the next newsletter mailing.

## Display Features U.S. and Foreign Train Stamps

*All Aboard! Stamps Celebrate America's Trains* is the title of a new display in Goleta Depot's Waiting Room. Featured are rare stamps and philatelic memorabilia from the collection of Michael Gartzke, who also prepared the accompanying text.

The display also features a Golden State Railway Post Office car from the model collection of Robert Sponsel.

## Spring Fundraiser Reaches Financial Target

Pledges for the *Great Goleta Rail Race*, held May 22, have now passed the goal set for the fundraising event. The \$13,043 reported to date is the largest ever in the 18-year-old spring fundraiser, which for many years was known as the "Asphalt Regatta."

It took only a handful of devoted pledge-getters to amass the record amount — more than \$2,000 over the previous high. Those participating were Members Theresa Caccese, Stella and Kip Kramer and Diana Mina; Volunteers Eugene Allen and Pat and Perry Lorentzen; Trustees Mike Couch, Noel Langle, John Locke, Richard Shelton, Rich Thom, and Hilda Volkman; and Museum Staff Gary Coombs and Phyllis Olsen.

All donors are acknowledged in the "Campaign '99" listing displayed daily at the museum entrance.

## Wilson Printing Donates Pages For Children

For many years, the museum has distributed free "coloring pages" — depictions of museum and railroad scenes printed on heavy paper — to our young visitors. These souvenir handouts have become one of the most popular activities for children offered by the museum.

Wilson Printing of Goleta recently donated 1,200 copies of these pages to the museum to help keep this program going. Dale Wilson is owed a debt of gratitude for making this valuable contribution possible.

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Page 4 photo (left) by Kail Wathne

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## Programs Slated For Library

Two upcoming programs are the latest additions to the museum's *Continuing Lecture Series*.

*Sugar Steam In Paradise* is the title of a Nov. 16 lecture and slide presentation by international rail traveler and South Coast Railroad Museum Trustee **Rich Thom**. The program focuses on the sugar-cane railroads of the Philippines, which were featured in a Dec. '98 article by Thom in *Trains*, America's foremost railroading magazine. The program will also include a visit to Manila, the Philippine capital, for a ride on its urban transit system.

The program will be held at Goleta Library, 500 North Fairview Ave., beginning at 7:30 p.m. It is free and open to members and the general public.

Rich Thom has ridden and photographed the railways of 30 countries, concentrating on South America, India, and China. He has chronicled his journeys in a number of railway publications, including regular contributions to the *International Railway Traveler* magazine. He will be on hand to answer questions and meet with attendees following the program.

Also watch for news in the next issue of the *Depot Dispatch* of a program slated for the first quarter of 2000, when **Bob Burtness** will present *Losing a Liberator: The Rest of the Story*. Based on his own research, Burtness' presentation will chronicle one of the two largest plane crashes in Santa Barbara County history — involving an ill-fated 1943 flight of a B-24 bomber.

## Jr. Engineers Have July Party

There were many in attendance at the 8th annual Junior Engineers Club Party in July, including members, their families and friends.

Everyone was treated to unlimited free rides on the Goleta Short Line, along with special showings of Thomas The Tank Engine videos, and some delicious refreshments, including a yummy Junior Engineers cake.

## Volunteer News

**Sean Vanderjadt** is a new docent-trainee. He has been training to operate the miniature train and handcar and to share the model-railroad exhibit.

**Mary Lee Sanders** has completed her guide training for the Coast Starlight Interpretive Program.

## Starlight Program Reopens

The museum is again accepting applications for the *Coast Starlight Interpretive Program*. Applicants must be in good health and willing to devote a minimum of two afternoons per month as an on-board program guide. Persons interested in becoming *Coast Starlight* guides should contact the museum office and request an application packet.

The interpretive program aboard Amtrak's western flagship celebrated its first anniversary this past spring. Thousands of *Coast Starlight* passengers have enjoyed the live presentations about "California's Wonderful Corner," the coastal lands from Santa Barbara to San Luis Obispo. The program narrative covers the natural and cultural history of the area, and points of interest including Point Conception, the Channel Islands, and Vandenberg Air Force Base.

## Steaming Summer Report

The weekend of July 24-25 marked the 13th annual *Another Steaming Summer*. It was terrific having the circus theme again this year, thanks to **Ted Cheesman** and **Lavonne Sanchez**, who brought cars from their 7-1/2-inch-gauge circus train for the event (The car with the water-squirting elephant was a real crowd pleaser!) and to **Ken and Carolyn Weber**, whose "K & C Famous Family Circus" was a great addition to the model-railroad exhibit. The Weber's HO-scale circus, complete with operating circus train, will remain in the model-railroad room through *Depot Day*, Sept. 26.

The trains and handcar carried 1,013 passengers over the two days. It was the fourth consecutive year in which *Steaming Summer* ridership passed

the 1,000 mark.

The steam locomotives that hauled the Goleta Short Line's passenger-carrying trains included **Gene Allen's** coal-burning 4-4-0 American, **Ed Winnewisser's** 0-6-0 switch-engine, and **Dan O'Brien's** 2-6-0 mogul. Volunteers who ably assisted with the train-ride operations included **Joel Bingham**, **Jay Carsman**, **Ted Cheesman**, **Steve Kramer**, **Michael Melvin**, and **Lavonne Sanchez**.

The handcar ride was staffed by **Bill Parker**, **Bruce Morden** and Board President **Noel Langle**.

**Jim Higman** spent a busy weekend sharing a wide assortment of operating miniature stationary steam engines and steam-driven tools and devices with visitors. His tabletop display borrowed power from two steam plants this year — one supplied by **Gene Allen** and the other by **Jim Marchiando**. The latter — which also powers a water pump and a variety of steam whistles — is a frequent attraction at museum events and a favorite with event-goers.

Trustee **John Locke** did a super job organizing the food booth this year, with help from **Olivia Leonard** and fellow trustees **Kip Kramer** and **Noel Langle**. Most of the supplies for the booth were donated by the **Goleta Lions Club**.

Staffing the admissions table and model-railroad exhibit were Trustee-elect **David Chapman**, **Peggy Langle**, **Pat and Perry Lorentzen**, **Betty Mocker**, **Bruce Morden**, **Margaret Pryde**, **John Starr**, Trustee **Rich Thom** and **Ken Weber**.

Other Steaming Summer '99 volunteers included **Robert Adams**, **Susan Cavalli**, **Sean Vanderjagt**, Trustee **Hilda Volkman** and **Carolyn Weber**.

**Michael Morden** kept his dad, **Bruce**, company overnight both Friday and Saturday. As they did last year, the duo camped out on the grounds, watching over the event equipment stored there.

Event sponsor **Toyota of Santa Barbara** and owner **Denny Franks** deserve a big thank you for their generous support again this year.

# DEPOT DAY Special Report

The 17th Annual Depot Day will be held Sunday, Sept. 26. Event hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Depot Day is held each fall to commemorate and celebrate the preservation of Goleta Depot. The event, which is made possible by members and friends, is the museum's main annual community fundraiser.

## *Depot Day Celebrates Saving of Landmark*



*Goleta Depot Then (1979) ...*



*... And Today*

## **A Donation Will Be Requested**

A donation of \$1 per person will be requested upon entering the museum grounds on Depot Day.

## **Rides, Rides, Rides**

In addition to train and handcar rides, Bob Mahan will be giving rides on his Ventura County Railway inspection speeder. Tickets are \$1 for the train, 50¢ for the handcar and speeder.

## **Silent Auction**

There are always lots of great buys on items for yourself or gifts for friends and family at the silent auction.

This year, the tables will be jammed with nearly 200 items going up for bid, including luxury hotel stays, golf, admission to Southern California amusement parks, tickets to regional performing arts productions, and winery tours.

Always represented in the auction are fine restaurants such as the five-star Citronelle, Four Seasons Biltmore, and Beckham Place in Pasadena.

The auction also includes round-trip rail transportation for two to San Diego. The lucky bidder will enjoy Amtrak's "Pacific Class" service, which includes complimentary food and beverage service at your seat, and many other amenities.

The auction is an important revenue source for the museum. Please help the organization and yourself by

## **Barbecue Features Choice Of Tri-Tip Beef or Chicken**

A delicious barbecue meal will be served. For the first time, attendees will have their choice of entree — either tri-tip beef or chicken breast — along with green salad, toasted french bread, and ranch beans.

Ticket prices on the day are \$7 for adults and \$5 for children under 12.

BBQ tickets can also be purchased in advance, which includes \$1 off the regular price. Advance tickets are available in the museum's Tracksides Shop, (purchases of three or more tickets can be made by credit card), or from museum trustees and staff.

You are encouraged to buy your BBQ tickets before Depot Day. In addition to saving \$1 on every ticket, you'll be helping event planners to estimate the number of meals to prepare.

## **Other Refreshments**

There will also be hot dogs, soft drinks, and other refreshments served throughout the day by our volunteers.

## **Musical Entertainment**

Back by popular demand will be the energetic youth singing group, Showstoppers, and the Monte Vista Elementary School Choir, both under the direction of Radu Azdril.

## **Steam Display**

A steam display will feature a tabletop array of operating steam-driven machines, shared by Jim Higman and powered by Jim Marchiando's and Gene Allen's steam plants.

## **Special Displays**

Depot Day will be your last chance to see Ken and Carolyn Weber's HO-scale "K&C Famous Family Circus" in the model railroad exhibit room.

All Aboard! Stamps Celebrate America's Trains (see page 2 story), on display in Goleta Depot's Waiting Room, also will be closing shortly after Depot Day.

## **Train Films**

Films on a variety of railroad topics will be shown throughout the day in the museum's Gandy Dancer Theater.

stopping by the tables and placing bids on some of these wonderful items.

If you have new items, collectibles, or valuable services to donate to the auction, please call Asst. Director Phyllis Olsen in the museum office (964-3540).