



Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH



Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum

Volume 19, Number 4 — Winter 1999-2000

“Candy Cane Train” Begins 7th Holiday Run Nov. 26

The 7th annual *Candy Cane Train*, the railroad museum's popular year-end family event, begins Friday, Nov. 26, continuing daily through Dec. 26 (The museum is closed on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Christmas Day).

Event hours are 1 to 4 p.m. on weekends and 2 to 4 p.m. weekdays.

Candy Cane Train tickets are \$2.50 each (adult or child), which includes a ride on the festively-decorated miniature train, plus an assortment of holiday treats and favors. Additional rides will be available for only 75¢ each. Members receive their customary 25¢ discount on all tickets purchased.

Tickets will be sold at the museum during event hours. All train riders must meet the museum's 34-inch minimum-height requirement.

Train Stamp Celebration Draws Big Response

Member and former museum trustee **Michael Gartzke** deserves an enormous amount of credit for all of his efforts in bringing about the highly successful program of activities celebrating the release of five new first-class stamps honoring historic American trains by the U.S. Postal Service.

The Aug. 27 event at the museum drew a crowd of about 100 people, most



Michael Gartzke applies the Goleta Depot Station postmark during a hectic Aug. 27 event.

of whom came to purchase the special cacheted envelopes designed by the museum expressly for the occasion.

More than 1,000 pieces of mail received the unique “Goleta Depot Station” postmark. Most were affixed during the historical landmark's one day of service as an official postal station. The day's mailing included the Fall '99 issue of the *Depot Dispatch* — which was sent to all museum members.

To meet the enormous demand on the day, a cadre of honorary postal clerks were put to work, including **Bob Burtness**, **Betty Mocker**, **Ed Leska**, **Kip Kramer**, **Rich Thom**, **Carolyn Weber** and **Ken Weber**, as well as Museum Director **Gary Coombs** and Assistant Director **Phyllis Olsen**.

Gartzke served as emcee for the opening ceremony, which included an unveiling of the train-stamp art and a ceremonial carrying of the mail on the Goleta Short Line miniature train, operated by **Eugene Allen**. Gartzke's son, **Rollin**, recovered the mailbag when it

was dropped from the passing train.

Mike also was responsible for sending publicity to national stamp-collecting publications that elicited more than a hundred orders for the cacheted envelopes from across the country. He also designed a companion display in the Waiting Room chronicling the depiction of trains and railroad themes on American and international postage stamps.

The cacheted envelopes are still available for purchase at the museum. Printed on each envelope is a full-color image of the S.P. Daylight train as it passes Goleta Depot. The envelopes also have one or more of the train stamps, each canceled with the special Goleta station postmark. Call the museum (964-3540) for more information.

Museum Receives Santa Barbara Foundation Grant

The **Santa Barbara Foundation** announced in September that it has awarded a \$7,500 grant to the railroad museum. The local charitable foundation designated that the museum apply the grant funds toward the creation of a new staff position, a “resource-development coordinator,” who will assist in fundraising and the recruiting of volunteers.

Although the foundation funding is for one year only, the museum hopes to be able to make the part-time position a permanent one.

South Coast Railroad Museum Institute for American Research

Board of Trustees

David Chapman
Art Flores
Kip Kramer
Noel Langle
John C. Locke
Bruce Morden
Richard B. Shelton
Jim Staples
Richard D. Thom
Hilda B. Volkman

Officers — 1999

Noel Langle, President
Rich Thom, Secretary
John Locke, Treasurer

Senior Staff

Gary B. Coombs, Ph.D., Director
Phyllis J. Olsen, Asst. Director

New Jr. Engineers Page

Junior Engineers will find in this mailing the much anticipated list of train-theme books for young readers that are available at the local public libraries. The list was prepared by **Judy Savage**, Children's Librarian at Goleta Library and longtime museum member and volunteer. Thanks, Judy!

Flores Joins Museum Board

Art Flores has been elected to the Board of Trustees for a two-year term. He is the general manager of Pacifica Suites Santa Barbara.

Welcome New Members

New members include **Craig, Laura and Jack Burleigh; Reid and Robin Cederlof (Milepost 100); Joe Gartman; Ed and Jonee Grat and Joseph H. Handlon (Sustaining).**

New Jr. Engineers: **Nicolae Christoffersen, Julia A. Earl, Jacob Martin Jeppesen, Gabriel Knapp, Joe Knapp, Nate Owens, and Shane Williams.**

Warm greetings to all new members of the museum family.

Thom Will Share Sugar Cane Railroads in Nov. 16 Program

International rail traveler and author **Rich Thom** will present *Sugar Steam In Paradise*, a slide lecture on the sugar-cane railroads of the Philippines, on Tuesday, Nov. 16. An article by Thom on the same subject was published in *Trains* (Dec. '98), America's leading railroading magazine. The presentation will include a brief visit to Manila, the Philippine capital, for a ride on its urban transit system.

The program, which is part of the museum's *Continuing Lecture Series*, will be held at Goleta Library, 500 No. Fairview Ave., at 7:30 pm. 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.

Thom is a local resident and a member of the South Coast Railroad Museum's Board of Trustees. He will be available to answer questions and meet with attendees following the program.

Volunteers Honored At BBQ

Museum volunteers were treated to a complimentary beef and chicken dinner and rides on the Goleta Short Line, as part of a "Volunteers Appreciation Barbecue" held Sunday, Oct. 10 on the museum grounds.

About 50 were in attendance, including volunteers, museum trustees, staff and family members.

Trustee John Locke (left) planned, prepared, and served the delicious meal.



Holiday Gift Ideas Abound At Tracksides Shop

The museum's Tracksides Shop is the perfect place to find gift ideas for those rail fans and history buffs on your holiday shopping list. The shop has a great selection of books, educational toys and games, train videos, T-shirts and specialty items.

Every purchase you make helps the museum and, as a member, you receive a 10% discount on all shop purchases (Be sure to bring your membership card!). We accept Mastercard and Visa, as well as your personal check.

"Super Saturday IV" Kicks Off Jan. 29

The 4th Annual "Super Saturday!" will be held at the museum on Jan. 29, from 1 to 4 p.m. The event marks the first day of unlimited free miniature-train rides during 2000. It is open to the general public. All riders must meet the 34-inch minimum-height requirement.

Super Saturday is made possible by the sponsorship support of local businesses, organizations and museum members. Sponsors of the 1999 event included **Friedlander & Associates Insurance Services; Michael J. Gartzke, CPA; Mid-State Bank; Silicon Beach Communications; and Timbers Restaurant & Catering** — many of which will be returning as supporters in 2000.

Each year, hundreds of free train rides are given on *Super Saturday* to museum visitors. We hope to see lots of members and other *Depot Dispatch* readers on hand for the 2000 event.

Goleta Depot Dispatch: Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum.

Published quarterly by the Institute for American Research, 300 North Los Carneros Rd., Goleta, CA 93117-1502.

To contact us:

Phone: 805-964-3540;

FAX: 805-964-3549

E-mail: museum@goletadepot.org

Web-site: www.goletadepot.org

Members Share Keepsakes In Holiday Display

"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 returning holiday exhibit, which opens Friday, Nov. 26 — in conjunction with the 7th Annual *Candy Cane Train* event — and continues through December in Goleta Depot's Waiting Room.

The display features toy locomotives and rail cars, and a menagerie of stuffed animals — some rare, all precious — borrowed from the homes of our Junior Engineers, museum volunteers, other members, trustees, and staff, as well as from the museum's own collections.

There's still time to take part 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 including your name and phone number.

Depot Day Scores Again

Another festive crowd was on hand to celebrate the 17th annual *Depot Day* on Sept. 26. This year's event would not have been possible without the help and support of the hundreds who donated equipment, supplies, auction items, or their valuable time.

Returning for a third *Depot Day* performance in as many years were the musical youth groups, **Showstoppers** and the **Monte Vista Elementary School** chorus, both directed by **Radu Azdril**. Their spirited renditions of rail-

Young performers were a real Depot Day treat.



road tunes and other favorites were a wonderful addition to the day.

Trustee **John Locke** organized this year's barbecue. Food preparers and servers included **Don Zellet**; **Mary Cole**; Trustee **Kip Kramer**; **Patty Robinett**; **Judy and Hanna Savage**; and **Moria, Morgan and Patrick Ruiz**.

Staffing the silent auction were **Charlene Doty, Diana Mina, Betty Mocker, Margaret Pryde, John Starr, Robert Adams, and Carolyn Weber**. This year's auction was the most successful in *Depot Day* history, thanks to more than 100 businesses, members, and other friends who donated items. **Betty Bazzi, Mike Gartzke, Rose Ann Hill, Noel Langle, John Locke, John McKee, Diana Mina, and Bill Parker** all gave staff a hand in securing auction items.

Members of Santa Barbara's **Jr. ROTC**, under **Capt. Dan Freitas**, handled parking and helped with event setup. Pastor **Paul Hoefler** at **Christ Lutheran Church** approved our use of the church field for overflow parking.

Volunteer crew on the Goleta Short Line included **Joel Bingham, Bob Burtness, Steve Kramer, and Sean VanderJagt**. The handcar ride was manned by **Bill Parker**, while **Bob Mahan** took riders on his Ventura County Railway inspection speeder.

Board President **Noel Langle, John McKee**, Trustee **Dick Shelton** and **Wendy Shelton** greeted visitors and collected donations at the admissions table.

Representatives from **Operation Livesaver** were on hand again this year, promoting safety around trains by distributing literature and souvenirs.

Agents **Bruce Morden** and **Margaret Pryde** were kept busy selling ride tickets in the Freight Office. **Ken Weber, John McKee, and Michael Morden** shared the model railroad with hundreds of Depot Day visitors.

Arlene Radasky and **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 run by **Gene Allen** and **Jim Higman**.

Authentic Goleta Depot nasturtium seeds and cacheted envelopes were sold

at a booth staffed by **Connie Allen, Olivia Leonard, Bob Miesbauer** and **Anna Weiss**. **Susan Cavalli** and **Edee Brown** were kept busy with customers in the Trackside Shop.

Helpers for event setup and cleanup included **Kari Adams, Gene Allen, David Chapman, Mary Cole, Charlene Doty, Kip Kramer, Noel Langle, John Locke, Carol and Scott Matthew, Diana Mina, Bruce Morden, Katherine Parker, Judy and Hanna Savage** and **Sean VanderJagt**.

Museum's Christmas 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.

For almost two decades, ever since the depot building was moved to its new home at Lake Los Carneros County Park, the decorated tree has been placed in the historical landmark's second-floor window bay. This has special Yuletide significance and preserves a much older 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 the passengers and crews on passing trains.

For the second year, simple white "Remembrance Stars" will be placed on the depot tree, memorializing those special friends who are no longer with us.

Burtness Program Will Chronicle Local Air Disaster

Local historian and museum member **Bob Burtness** will share the status of his research on one of the largest plane crashes in Santa Barbara County history in a March 2 program at Goleta Library, beginning at 7 p.m.

According to Burtness, whose investigations began in 1991, the 1943 crash of a World War II B-24 bomber prob-

(continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3)

ably also created the largest Fourth of July fireworks show in our history, but only one person saw it. And, while there was nobody aboard the aircraft when it slammed into a hillside, 16 deaths would eventually be attributed to the incident — occurring shortly before it happened, the following day, and eleven years later.

The free program is part of the museum's *Continuing Lecture Series*. Bob Burtness will be on hand to answer questions following his presentation.

Channel Communications Sponsors Free Handcar Rides

Continuation of the program of monthly free rides on the museum handcar has been assured, thanks to **Channel Communications**. The Santa-Barbara-based cellular telephone service has offered to sponsor the free rides over the next year.

The rides are available to museum visitors on the third Saturday of the month, from 1 to 4 p.m. All riders must meet the 48-inch minimum-height requirement.

New Label Interprets Freight Office For Visitors

A new interpretive label is now available to inform visitors about the functions of Goleta Depot's Freight Office, the landmark building's most complex and important room. The label includes a full-color wide-angle photograph of today's restored Freight Office, with a key explaining many of the room's most significant features and furnishings.

The label is designed so that it can be used by the "agent" — the museum volunteer based in the Freight Office — or consulted by visitors, themselves, when an agent is unavailable.

The Freight Office was the action center at Goleta Depot, as with hundreds of other country railroad stations across America. Southern Pacific's station agent sold tickets, managed train traffic in the Goleta yard, handled train orders and other railroad communica-

tions, maintained shipping records, and protected company valuables — all in this room. The Freight Office also served as the Goleta agency for Western Union and the Railway Express Co. (formerly Wells Fargo Express).

Examples of the 22 appointments described in the label include the station clock, ticket window, telegraph key and sounder, "annunciator" (which alerted the agent of approaching trains), dispatcher's bell, teletype, express scale and tariff books.

A version of the Freight Office interpretive label can also be found on the internet at the museum's web site. The page, entitled "A Visit To The Freight Office" is at www.goletadepot.org/freightoffice.htm.

Holiday Party Is Dec. 16

Leave an opening on your holiday calendar for the evening of Thursday, Dec. 16, when the museum will hold its annual year-end party. The event will be at Goleta Library, 500 N. Fairview Ave, beginning at 7 p.m.

All members — with their families or guests — are encouraged 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. The party has been held at Goleta Library since 1993.

Reading Program Has Happy Ending

Sept. 25 marked the conclusion of another highly successful year of museum participation in the Summer Reading Program of the Santa Barbara Public Libraries.

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 fam-

ily member. The museum's participation in the reading program was made possible again this year by the generous financial support of **Mid-State Bank**.

Nearly 5,000 boys and girls signed up for this year's reading program according to **Library Director Carol L. Keator**. As its contribution to reading excellence, the railroad museum gave 396 free miniature-train rides to program participants.

The Summer Reading Program is open to children ages 2-14 throughout much of Santa Barbara County, including Santa Barbara, Goleta, Carpinteria, Montecito, Santa Ynez, and Solvang.

Volunteer News

Joe Gartman and **John McKee** have recently joined the museum's corps of volunteers.



JOHN McKEE

A retired physicist, John has been serving as a museum agent, sharing the Freight Office, Waiting Room and model-railroad exhibit with our visitors. Joe is a

SBCC student and has been working on the Goleta Short Line miniature train and also helps to keep the model railroad room available to museum guests.



JOE GARTMAN

Station Reopening Delayed

Restoration of the Santa Barbara passenger station has fallen behind schedule. If floor-tile work is not completed by mid-December, the reopening will be postponed until early next year.

A new date for a Grand Opening event has not been set.