



Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH



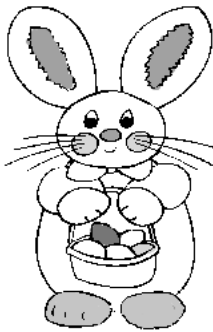
Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum

Volume 20, Number 1 — Spring 2000

Easter Bunny Visits April 22

It's almost spring — time for the *Easter Bunny Express* to make another scheduled stop at the museum. This year's event, the 8th annual, will be Saturday, April 22, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. By that date, as an added attraction, the museum grounds should be ablaze from thousands of blooms of poppy and nasturtium.

Festive egg-shaped tickets — one of many *Easter Bunny Express* hallmarks — will provide entry to a wealth of fun activities, including visits to *Wabbit-Twacks Station* (to board the fancifully-decorated miniature train for a ride around the museum grounds); *Harvey's House* (where a cookie and beverage await); *Easter-Bunnyville* (to meet the **Easter Bunny** and select an egg surprise); *Jack-Rabbit Junction* (to enter a drawing for some marvelous gifts); and *What's Up Dock* (to collect another event souvenir).



The ticket price is \$3 for children and adults, alike. Tickets will be available during the event until 3:30 p.m. Or, they may be purchased in advance during regular museum hours (Wed.-Sun., 1-4 p.m.).

Hot sandwiches and other refreshments will be available for those wishing to enjoy lunch or an afternoon snack during the event, thanks to support from the **Goleta Lions Club**.

Hop aboard the *Easter Bunny Express* on April 22 (Rain date: 4/29). It promises to be another hare-raising eggs-perience for the whole family!

Wood-Claeyssens Foundation Gives \$2,000 Grant

The **Wood-Claeyssens Foundation** has awarded the museum a \$2,000 capital improvement grant.

The funds will be used to repaint the second-story exterior of Goleta Depot.

“March Madness” Returns Thanks To Goleta Nat'l Bank

There'll be free rides on the Goleta Short Line throughout the month of March, thanks to sponsor **Goleta National Bank**.

Last year's inaugural “*March Madness*” event was so popular that it led to all-time record turnouts both for March and for the entire first quarter. Total train ridership reached 1,483 for the month.

To accommodate these larger crowds, the ride schedule will be expanded throughout the month. The train will run Wednesday through Sunday (with the addition of Thursday to the regular lineup) and from 1:15 to 3:45 (increasing weekday hours to match those on the weekends).

This month-long activity is part of the museum's continuing commitment to make its programs and activities available to the widest possible audience.

Please plan to attend. And, be sure to tell your friends, family, teachers and others about *March Madness* at the railroad museum.

Lorentzens Picked As Area “Volunteers Of The Week”

Museum volunteers **Pat and Perry Lorentzen** were chosen “Volunteers Of The Week” in a *Santa Barbara News-Press* ar-

ticle that appeared Dec. 5, along with a nice photograph of the couple. Both are *Coast Starlight* guides and also staff the museum — Perry in the model-railroad exhibit and Pat as depot agent.

In January, the Lorentzens also became the museum's newest trustees, by action of the Board.

Perry and Pat Lorentzen



Did You Know?

Goleta Depot will celebrate its 100th birthday next year. Don't miss the party!

In fact, the museum is planning a year-long centennial celebration to mark the occasion. We hope you'll join the festivities.

Of course, the construction of the community landmark was only one of a long series of events leading up to the completion of the Southern Pacific Railroad's Coast Line linking Los Angeles and San Francisco.

This March 15, for example, marks the 100th anniversary of the commencement of track-laying west from Ellwood. (SP's line from the south had reached Santa Barbara in 1887, but the trackwork stalled in the Goleta Valley, where the end-of-track remained for over a decade.

By March 29, 1900, the new rails had
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reached west from Goleta as far as Eagle Canyon, and on April 7, the first construction train pulled into Naples. In May, the 661-foot-long bridge over Dos Pueblos Canyon was completed while track-building from the north had reached Alegria, four miles west of Gaviota.

Future issues of the *Depot Dispatch* will share additional details on the events leading up to the completion of SP's Coast Route and the building of Goleta Depot. You may also view a more complete chronology on the museum's internet web site: www.goletadepot.org. There are also a number of publications that tell the Coast Route story, including *Southern Pacific's Coast Route* by John Signor and Nan Lawler's *Closing The Gap*, a booklet available in the museum's Tracksides Shop.

Special thanks to **Bruce Morden** for his help both with this article and in preparing the web-site chronology.

Welcome New Members

New museum members include **Patty and Terry Bliss** (Milepost 100), **George Thorpe** (Contributing), **Gabor and Julie Dobos** (Active), and **Patricia Edgerton** and

Joseph A. Hieke (Volunteers).

New Junior Engineers Club members include **Sam Calvert**, **Nicholas Ford** and **Sarah Michele Rasmussen**.

June 28 Program Profiles Montecito Barons

"*Montecito's Hilltop Barons*" will be the subject of a talk and slide presentation by popular local lecturer and historian **Neal Graffy**. The program will be held on Wed., June 28 at Goleta Library, 500 North Fairview Avenue, beginning at 7 p.m..

The program focuses on five men — their backgrounds, families, and magnificent hilltop estates — who adopted Santa Barbara and, through their philanthropy, dramatically improved local health care, enhanced community schools, preserved our beach fronts, and helped rebuild the city after the 1925 earthquake.

Profiled are: C.K.G. Billings of Union Carbide and his estate *Asombrosso*; George Owen Knapp (*Arcady*, President of Union Carbide); Frederick Forrest Peabody (*Solana*, President, Arrow Shirts), David Gray (*Grabholm*, Vice-president, Ford Motor Co.) and Publisher William H. Cowles (*Eucalyptus Hill*).

Neal Graffy is Santa Barbara County's most prolific historical lecturer, presenting almost 40 talks in 1999 alone. His repertoire covers a wide range of historical subjects — from Santa Barbara street names, to the Flying 'A' Film Studio, to the lavish Potter and Arlington hotels, to the neighborhoods of Mission Canyon and San Roque, among several others.

His local-history writings have appeared in Santa Barbara Magazine, the Santa Barbara Independent, and publications of the Santa Barbara Historical Society and Santa Barbara Trust for Historical Preservation.

A former member and chairman of the Santa Barbara County Landmarks Commission, Graffy remains active with a number of local history organizations, including the Santa Barbara Corral of Westerners and E Clampus Vitus.

The program, which is part of the museum's *Continuing Lecture Series*, is free and open to members and the general public. Neal Graffy will be on hand to answer questions and meet with attendees following his presentation. Refreshments also will be served after the program.

Museum Honored With "Goleta Pride" Award

The South Coast Railroad Museum was recognized as recipient of the "Goleta Pride Award" for the month of January. The award, which recognizes excellence that contributes toward community betterment, is co-sponsored by **Goleta Beautiful**, the **Goleta Valley Chamber of Commerce** and the two Goleta-based **Rotary** clubs.

In November 1998, Museum Director **Gary Coombs** was a Goleta Pride Award recipient.

The award sign greeted museum visitors.



Volunteer News

The latest additions to the corps of museum volunteers include **Patricia Edgerton** and **Ed and Jonee Grat**, who are training to become *Coast Starlight* guides. In February, **Eva Scheel** completed her training and is now a full-fledged *Coast Starlight* guide.

Joe Hieke, another new volunteer, has been sharing the model-railroad exhibit with visitors and recently completed the training to operate the miniature train ride. (While at work, Joe is a sleeping-car attendant aboard Amtrak's Los Angeles-to-Chicago *Southwest Chief*).

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Members and Friends Share Personal Treasures in Year-End Display

Goleta Depot's Waiting Room was again alive with the holiday spirit thanks to those members who loaned keepsake items to complete the "Toy Trains and Teddy Bears?" exhibition that delighted museum visitors from Thanksgiving into the new year.

A new contribution this year came from **Bob Miesbauer**, one of the *Coast Starlight* guides, who showed off the American Flyer electric train he acquired in the late 1940s.

Another vintage train, assembled by collector **Robert Sponsel**, was comprised of Lionel standard-gauge engine and cars from the 1918-1926 era.

Longtime volunteer and former trustee **Eugene Allen** has placed at least one toy live-steam locomotive in the annual holiday display since its inception. This year, it was his "Birmingham Dribbler," manufactured in England circa 1925.

Another popular keepsake returning to the display was "Merry-Lee," a giant stuffed bear shared by **Scotty Becker**, son of docent **Ken Becker**. Also on display was "Ginger," a beloved stuffed bear given to docent **Edee Brown** by her grandchildren in 1994.

Many Junior Engineers and their families also participated this year. Club member **Matthew Arnold** was pleased to share his dear "Tigger" with the museum's visitors. **Kevin Kerrigan**, another Jr. Engineer, contributed two special items, a teddy-bear engineer and a glass-crystal locomotive. Jr. Engineer **Cody Stocker** was five years old when he received Diesel Engine No. 5, a colorful addition to this year's presentation.

Members of the **David and Susan Nivin** family added several items to the display, including stuffed animals handmade by Mom, "Freeway" and "Snowflake," the latter belonging to daughter, **Heather**, a Junior Engineer. Young **James** brought us his wooden train set, each car a handmade Christmas gift from his uncle.

Every year, all museum members are invited to participate in the upcoming holiday-season display. It's not too early to add your name to the list of contributors to the 2000 presentation of *Toy Trains and Teddy Bears!* by contacting the museum office (964-3540).

Bank Sponsors Free Rides for Moms and Dads

On Mother's Day, Sunday, May 14, all moms visiting the museum will be treated to free rides on the Goleta Short Line, compliments of **Goleta National Bank**. Trains will run continuously from 1:15 until the last train pulls out of the station at 3:45.

The complimentary tickets may be picked up in advance at Goleta National Bank's office at 5827 Hollister Ave. beginning April 24, or in Goleta Depot's Waiting Room, during event hours only. Tickets, at \$1 each, will also be available during the event for other family members and for the general public.

Goleta National Bank is also sponsoring "Free Rides for Dads" at the museum on Father's Day, Sunday, June 18. The same train schedule will apply.

The bank helped to originate the Father's Day event in 1994, and has sponsored both events ever since.

Gifts To Museum Are Gratefully Acknowledged

Last year, all contributors to the museum were acknowledged on a list that was prominently displayed throughout the year at the entrance to the grounds.

This practice is being repeated this year. The initial donors list can be viewed at any time that the museum is open. The list will be updated periodically with the names of new contributors.

The current listing covers everyone who has made a financial contribution since the beginning of the fiscal year, including program sponsors, year-end givers, and those starting or renewing memberships at the Sustaining Member level or above.

Listed are **Christine Allen, Junior Engineers Brian & Lesley Anderson, Betty Bazzi, Lucille Beckman, Patty and Terry Bliss, Ron Bruns, Larry and Theresa Caccese, Reid and Robin Cederlof, Helen H. Coffey, Betty J. Coombs, Mike and Betsy Couch, William Crow, Chuck and Nike Dreier, Patricia Edgerton, Nils Froula, Mike and Brenda Gartzke, Robert Halverson, Jim Harasta, Harry Harrison, RoseAnn Hill, Don and Jo Hollister, Morse and Opal Jeffers, Josiah F. Jenkins, Josiah C. and Karen Jenkins, Ellen G. Keeter, Kip and Stella Kramer, Noel and Peggy Langle, Joe and Diane Lemons, Lensander Family, Perry and**

Pat Lorentzen, William O. McKeag, Dr. and Mrs. John McKee, Robert W. Miesbauer, Kathleen Miller, Jo Millett, Isabel Friend Newman, George and Vie Obern, Godwin and Deborah Pelissero, Sally Pierce, Lee and Suzanne Polansky, George and Helen Potter, Ed and Judy Savage Family, Tallant and Nancy Smith, Tom and Beulah Strout, Rich and Linda Thom, George Thorpe, Michael Towbes, Dana Trout, Hilda Volkman and Jon Wordsworth.

Organizations appearing on the list include **California State Parks, Foundation Roundtable, Friedlander & Associates Insurance Services, Goleta Valley Chamber of Commerce, Goleta Valley Paint, Goleta National Bank, Mid-State Bank, Paradise Machining Corp., Santa Barbara Stone, Silicon Beach Communications, Tilford Welding and Toyota of Santa Barbara.**

On behalf of everyone who benefits from the museum, special thanks to all of these generous contributors.

Scouts Learn About Train Travel At Museum

Cub Scout Pack 7 (below) recently visited the museum to learn about riding the train, in preparation for a February trip to Legoland via Amtrak's *San Diegans*.



Volunteers Are Needed

The museum needs more volunteers to share the historical landmark and museum with visitors.

If you have one afternoon (about three hours) that you can give each month, please call Asst. Director Phyllis Olsen at 964-3540. She can tell you more about the rewards and benefits of the museum's volunteer program.

Board Chooses Officers and New Trustees; Rich Thom Is President for 2000

Rich Thom has been elected President by the Board of Trustees at their January meeting. A member of the Board since 1995, Thom served as the organization's secretary in 1999. An author and international rail traveler, he is a frequent program contributor to the museum's *Continuing Lecture Series*. Now retired, Thom was Director of Technology for Raytheon Systems (formerly SBRC).

Other officers elected are **Noel Langle**, Vice President; **Jim Staples**, Secretary; and **Kip Kramer**, Treasurer. All officers serve one-year terms.

In other action, the Board elected **Pat Lorentzen** and **Perry Lorentzen** to two-year terms as new trustees (see Page 1 story).

Retiring trustee Hilda Volkman was recognized for years of service at the holiday party in December in a presentation by incoming president Rich Thom.



"Super Saturday IV" Draws Huge Crowd; Record Set

The 4th Annual *Super Saturday!*, held Jan. 29, generated the largest crowd in the history of the event. In fact, the 300 free train rides given that afternoon made it the busiest single day at the museum in any year over the Nov.-Feb. period.

Deepest gratitude is expressed to our five *Super Saturday!* sponsors: **Cox Communications**; **Friedlander & Associates Insurance Services**; **Michael J. Gartzke, CPA**; **Mid-State Bank**; and **Timbers Res-**

taurant & Catering. The event would not have been possible without their support.

Also contributing to the success of the day were volunteers **Edee Brown**, **Joe Hieke**, **Bruce Morden**, and **John Starr**, who traveled all the way from Ridgecrest for the occasion.

18th Spring Fundraiser Set For Saturday, May 20

The museum's spring fundraiser celebrates its 18th anniversary on Sat., May 20. It will be the fourth year in which the event will use a "*Great Goleta Rail Race*" theme.

Reminiscent of the tale of John Henry, the *Great Goleta Rail Race* offers its own version of the epic struggle between human and machine, as the people-powered museum handcar is pitted against the Goleta Short Line miniature-train in a competition to determine which can complete the greatest number of passenger-miles over a three-hour period.

From 1 until 4 p.m. on race day, both the handcar and train will operate continuously, giving free rides to all visitors. Race officials will keep careful record of the total passengers carried and the distance completed by each conveyance.

The Great Race winner will be based on these totals, adjusted using a handicap based on the results from previous years (In the three earlier races, the train completed an average of 3.18 times as many passenger-miles as the handcar.). Each team also will be trying to break the all-time records of 77.5 passenger-miles for the train and 27.45 passenger-miles for the handcar.

Museum members, as well as the general public, are invited to attend, to observe the action and cheer on the participants, as well as to actively join in as rider-participants, themselves. At the event, you, your family members, and friends may throw your support behind either the handcar or train, simply by riding that vehicle once or as often as you like; or, you may use the opportunity to enjoy the free rides on both the train and handcar. All riders will receive a certificate acknowledging their *Great Race* participation.

The museum's normal, slow speeds will be maintained throughout the event. Train riders must be at least 34 inches tall; the handcar ride has a 48-in. height requirement.

In addition to the day's fun, the *Great Goleta Rail Race* also has a serious side. The spring fundraiser is one of the railroad museum's most important annual income

sources, generating more than 10% of all monies needed for operations. Funds are raised by many of the event participants, including members of the Board of Trustees, who obtain financial pledges from sponsors, including area businesses, organizations, members, families, and individuals.

Last year a record **\$13,000** was raised. Money from the event is used not only to underwrite general museum operations, but also to sponsor the free rides on the day of the *Great Race*, itself, and on other occasions during the year.

The museum is asking all members to support the event by completing and returning the enclosed donation form with a tax-deductible check or credit-card payment. All contributors, as well as those who secure pledges for the event, will be acknowledged on the Campaign 2000 List (See Page 3 story, "*Gifts To Museum ... Gratefully Acknowledged*").

Please come out on May 20 and join the fun! Mark the *Great Goleta Rail Race* date on your calendar now.

"Candy Cane Train" Turns In Shining Performance

The 1999 *Candy Cane Train* was a huge success, easily eclipsing the results of the preceding year. Total ridership on the holiday train reached 1,645, compared with 1,332 in 1998.

The absence of rain between Thanksgiving and Christmas contributed a lot to the event's strong showing. Much credit also goes to the *Santa Barbara News-Press*, which published an eye-catching *Candy Cane Train* display advertisement more than a dozen times without charge to the museum.

Laura Sweeney of Santa Barbara was the lucky winner in the Candy Cane Train drawing.

