



# Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH

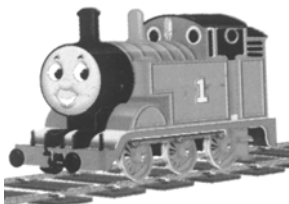


## Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum

Volume 20, Number 2 — Summer 2000

### New "Thomas" Movie Will Benefit Railroad Museum

"*Thomas And The Magic Railroad*," the first-ever big-screen production starring America's favorite locomotive, Thomas The Tank Engine, opens late July. There will be a special screening to benefit the South Coast Railroad Museum on Sat., July 29 at 9:30 a.m. at the Fiesta Five Theatre, 916 State St.



The museum will receive all proceeds from this benefit showing, a generous gift from our friends at **Metropolitan Theatres**. Please support the museum by attending this special performance.

Tickets are \$5 (child or adult) and will go on sale June 16, both at the museum and the Arlington Ticket Agency (1317 State St.; open Mon.-Sat. 9-6, Sun. 9-4).

For more information, call the museum (805-964-3540) any weekday afternoon.

### Museum Passport Program

Staff from the railroad museum has been working this spring with other local museum educators — all members of the **Santa Barbara Museum Educators' Roundtable** — in a new program for local elementary school students.

The program involves thousands of "Museum Passport" booklets that were distributed to all South Coast elementary schools. When a student visits and completes an activity at one of the participating

*(continued on page 4, "Museum Passports")*

### "Steaming Summer" Sizzles July 22 & 23

Every year, the museum invites owners of miniature live-steam locomotives to take part in a special weekend public event called "*Another Steaming Summer*." Usually it is the only chance our visitors have during the year to ride on the Goleta Short Line when the trains are steam-powered.

This year's event — the 14th annual — will be held July 22-23.

*Steaming Summer* will again adopt a circus theme — a tradition started in 1998. One of the trains will be a circus train, including several rare 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 during the event.

The model-railroad exhibit will also take on the circus motif. The exhibit will be augmented with **Ken and Carolyn Weber's**

*(continued on page 4, "Steaming Summer")*

### "Plugged In" Pages Reach Out To Area Youth

Another current project of the Museum Educator's Roundtable is a series of "Plugged In" pages for children that appear monthly in the *Santa Barbara News-Press*. Each full-page issue in the series focuses on a different educational theme.

The Sunday, June 25 issue will deal with transportation and will feature an article on railroad handcars by Museum Director Gary Coombs. The article will include a photo of the museum's handcar in action, with volunteer Bill Parker aboard.

The series, which began last December, is sponsored by the *News-Press*.

### New Hours At Museum

The museum will be open to the public longer hours beginning July 1. Under the new schedule, the doors will open two hours earlier each day, at 11 a.m. instead of 1 p.m. Days of operation will remain Wed. through Sunday, closed Mondays & Tuesdays.

The miniature-train ride will also have expanded hours under the new schedule. Train operations will begin at 11 a.m., with the last train departing the station at 3:50 p.m. The ride will also be available all five days for the first time. Previously, there were no train rides on Thursdays.

To introduce the new schedule, all train rides will be free on Thursday, July 6 and between 11 a.m and 12:30 p.m. over the weekend of July 1-2.

### Museum Leads School Group On Amtrak Adventure

The museum's program of railroad field trips for local children, which has been on hold for several years, came to life on May



*Proud travelers pose for photos at their destination.*

4 when Museum Director Gary Coombs and Asst. Director Phyllis Olsen escorted a group of 28 students, parents and staff from a 1st-2nd grade class from **La Patera**

*(continued on page 4, "Youth Amtrak Trip")*

## South Coast Railroad Museum Institute for American Research

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ganization or business. Sponsors' names appear on two plaques, which are affixed to each side of the adopted piece of rolling stock.

The **Clas Lensander Family**, including Junior Engineers **Bjorn** and **Nicholas**, are currently sponsoring Engine No. 1316 and cars No. 2 and No. 5.

For more details, please contact Museum Director Gary Coombs — in person, by phone (805-964-3540) or via e-mail ([gcoombs@goletadepot.org](mailto:gcoombs@goletadepot.org)).

## Jr. Engineers Party Is July 13

The 9th annual Junior Engineers Club Party will be held Thursday, July 13, from 2 until 3:30 pm. There will be 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.

## Welcome New Members

It's a pleasure to introduce the museum's new members. They include **Michael R. Cole Painting** and **Los Padres Bank** (Milepost 100); **Mary A. Hopson** and **Grace Levin** (Sustaining); and **Stan D. Benda**, **Joel Bingham**, **Judy Blue**, **Pat Brady**, **Aileen Campbell**, **Merlyn Cummings**, **Kaye Foster**, **Devin Freeman**, **Sharr Bryan-Herman**, **Barbara Krebs**, **Sy Lankin**, **Sandra Livelsberger**, **James and Margaret Milner**, **Jerry and Allie Pressman**, **Had and Ellie Reeves**, **D. Scott Schreiner**, **Elizabeth Truesdail**, and **Ron and Donna Zehrung**.

New Junior Engineers are **Patrick Michael Brown**, **Jake DeLaurier**, **Connor Rowe**, **Robert Stone** and **Erin Wood**.

Warm greetings to all new members!

## "March Madness" Was Wow!

"March Madness," the month-long event featuring free miniature-train rides, really hits its stride in 2000, its second year of operation. The event set an all-time record with 2,154 train rides, the most ever given at the museum in one month and only the second time in museum history that a month's total passed the 2,000 mark. The

record included six days in which there were more than 150 free rides — one day had more than 300!

"March Madness" was made possible this year through the generous sponsorship support of **Goleta National Bank**.

## Graffy To Speak On "Montecito's Hilltop 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 profiles 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*, also president of Union Carbide); Frederick Forrest Peabody (*Solana*, president of Arrow Shirts), David Gray (*Grahholm*, vice-president, Ford Motor Co.), and publishing magnate William H. Cowles (*Eucalyptus Hill*).

Neal Graffy is Santa Barbara County's most prolific historical lecturer, presenting almost 40 talks in 1999 alone. Program topics cover a wide range of subjects — from the origins of Santa Barbara street names, to the Flying 'A' Film Studio, to the lavish Potter and Arlington hotels, among several others.

A former member and chairman of the Santa Barbara County Landmarks Commission, Graffy has written on local-history  
*(continued on page 4, "Graffy To Speak")*

## Dads Get Free Rides Thanks To Goleta National Bank

All dads and granddads visiting the museum on Father's Day, Sunday, June 18, 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 at the museum, in advance or during the event. Ride 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.

## Goleta Short Line Rolling Stock Needs Sponsors

The museum is looking for sponsors to "adopt" Goleta Short Line Engine No. 2655 (fondly referred to as "The Gray Engine") and two of the passenger cars, No. 3 and No. 4.

Annual sponsorship cost is \$150 for each car and \$200 for the engine. The sponsor can be an individual, couple, family, or

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Easter Bunny Express photos on pages 3 and 4 courtesy of David Chapman.

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E-mail: [museum@goletadepot.org](mailto:museum@goletadepot.org)

Web-site: [www.goletadepot.org](http://www.goletadepot.org)

## In Memoriam: Betty Mocker

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of a museum volunteer who was dear to so many of us, **Betty Mocker**. Betty served both as a week-day agent and as a shop clerk. She died May 25.



In tribute, Museum Assistant Director Phyllis Olsen, who knew Betty back when their sons attended kindergarten together, said "The highest praise I could ever offer a friend or museum volunteer is to say 'You remind me of Betty Mocker.'"

## Mid-State Bank Supports Summer Reading Program

The railroad museum will again be participating in the Summer Reading Program of the Santa Barbara Public Libraries, thanks to the generosity of the folks at **Mid-State Bank**.

Every 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 a minimum of 15 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.

## Race Was May Highlight

The 4th annual *Great Goleta Rail Race*, held Saturday, May 20, marked the 19th consecutive year that a spring fundraiser has been held to benefit Goleta Depot and support the programs of the railroad museum.

The handcar, operated by the team of **David Chapman, Noel Langle and Bruce Morden**, was declared the winner again this year. The handcar crew completed 12.57 rider-miles, which included 99 free rides given to museum visitors. This, combined with a 37 rider-mile handicap based on last year's results, gave the handcar a slim edge over the miniature train, which logged 47.37 rider-miles, including 128 free rides to the visiting public. Train operations were handled by **Ken Becker** and Gary Coombs.

The names of those making pledges

that were reported by May 18 were added to the "Campaign 2000" list in time for the day's festivities. This donor list is displayed daily at the museum entrance.

## Campaign 2000 Donations Are Needed; Are You On The List?

Pledge totals for the spring fundraiser currently stand at just over \$8,000, far short of the \$15,000 goal. Although a number of participants have yet to report final pledge amounts, it is likely that, for the first time in several years, the target set by the Board of Trustees will not be reached.

It's not too late to add your name to the "Campaign 2000" list that greets all visitors when they enter the museum grounds. The list, which receives periodic updates, will be displayed until early next year. The listing is tiered, with larger gifts appearing near the top.

To add your name(s), send your tax-deductible gift to: South Coast Railroad Museum, Attn: Campaign 2000, 300 North Los Carneros Rd., Goleta, CA 93117-1502. Be sure to indicate how you wish your name to appear on the acknowledgment list. Make checks payable to: South Coast Railroad Museum.

Please help the museum and "get on the list."

## Easter Bunny Express Draws Large, Appreciative Crowd

The *Easter Bunny Express* on April 22 was blessed with beautiful weather and one of the largest crowds in all of the event's eight years.

Special thanks are due to everyone who helped in its success, including Bunny **Kari Adams**, with Bunny Helper **Robert Adams** in support.

Ride volunteers included **Joe Gartman, Noel Langle, Bruce Morden, and Sean Vanderjagt**.

Ticket sales and other agent duties were handled with aplomb by **Pat Lorentzen** and **Margaret Pryde**.

The model-railroad exhibit was shared with event-goers by **Perry Lorentzen** and **Rich Thom**.

The food booth was

staffed by **John Locke, David Chapman, Olivia Leonard, Kip Kramer** and **Dick Shelton**.

Special-stop volunteers included **Mary Hopson** and **Judy and Leah Savage** ("What's Up Dock"), **Judy Connors, John McKee** and **Hilda Volkman** ("Jack-Rabbit Junction") and **Judy Blue, Mary Cole, Patty and Kendra Robinette** and **Hannah Savage** ("Harvey's House").

Lemonade was provided by **The Country Meat Market** and plants by **Central Coast Wholesale**, while food supplies for the sandwich sales were donated by the **Goleta Lions Club**.

Assistance on event setup and/or cleanup was given by volunteers **Tim and Colleen Ballinger, Judy Blue, David Chapman, Mary Cole, Judy Connors, Joe Gartman, Mary Hopson, Kip Kramer, Noel Langle, John Locke, Bruce Morden, Margaret Pryde, and Peter Tiersma**.

Wearing many hats that day, **David Chapman** also served as the event's official photographer.



*Easter Bunny Kari Adams was the center of attention at this year's event.*

*The day's bunnies included Hannah Savage, Judy Connors, Mary Cole, Phyllis Olsen and Judy Blue.*



## Graffy To Speak *(cont'd. from page 2)*

subjects for *Santa Barbara Magazine* and the *Santa Barbara Independent*.

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 those in attendance following his presentation. Refreshments also will be served after the program.

## Volunteer News

The museum has received a real boost in the number of volunteers who help to keep the museum in business and its programs running smoothly. New volunteers who are helping with visitor services at the museum include **Stan Benda**, **Judy Blue**, **Mary Hopson** and **Sy Lankin**. **Eva Soohoo**, a UCSB history and anthropology student, has been helping to organize and update the museum's collection records.

Now training to become Coast Starlight guides are **Pat Brady**, **Aileen Campbell**, **Kaye Foster**, **Sharr Bryan-Herman**, **Barbara Krebs**, **Sandra Livelsberger**, **James and Margaret Milner**, **Jerry and Allie Pressman**, **Had and Ellie Reeves**, **D. Scott Schreiner**, and **Elizabeth Truesdail**.

**Ed Grat**, **Jonee Grat**, **Patricia Edgerton**, **Donna Zehrung**, and **Ron Zehrung** have all successfully completed their Coast Starlight guide training.

## Steaming Summer *(from page 1)*

HO-scale "K&C Famous Family Circus," which they are bringing back after its popular inaugural run last summer. 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 are 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).

Daily 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, while 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 Trackside Shop.

**Gene Allen** has been busy assembling another great collection of steam locomotives and other steam equipment for operation or display. As of early June, 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 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; an Allen Models 2-6-0 mogul, owned by **Bill Hoey**; and Jim Marchiando's steam plant, which will drive a water pump, a set of steam whistles, and a number of smaller machines and devices on a table-top display shared 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.

Tri-tip sandwiches, "Depot Dogs," beverages, and other lunch and snack items will be available for purchase during the event.

Don't miss this once-a-year chance to see and ride the Goleta Short Line under a full head of steam. It's great fun.

## Museum Passports *(from page 1)*

institutions, a stamp is applied to the student's passport. Ten or more stamps from different museums earns the student a special program T-shirt.

The passport program has meant a huge boost in attendance at the railroad museum. Over the March-April-May period, more than 400 passport-bearing youngsters have visited the museum, while participation in the self-guided tour of Goleta Depot (the required activity at the railroad museum) has soared beyond the 1,000 mark.

The Museum Passport program is being sponsored by the **City of Santa Barbara**, with additional financial support from the **Williams-Corbett Foundation**.

## Youth Amtrak Trip *(from page 1)*

**Elementary School** on an excursion from Goleta to Ventura via Amtrak.

The roundtrip was completed comfortably between 9 am and noon, with almost

an hour available for a quick beach visit and snack-time at the destination. The excursion was a unique opportunity for the youngsters to learn, not only about trains and rail travel, but also about the history and natural wonders of the area traveled. Teacher **Toni Schinnerer** described the adventure as "a trip ... my students ... will always remember."

The entire group rode compliments of **Amtrak**, which has been working with the museum to expand their partnering activities, which currently includes the popular interpretive program conducted by museum volunteers aboard Amtrak's *Coast Starlight* and a summer display in Goleta Depot's Waiting Room to introduce museum visitors to Amtrak's new *Pacific Surfliner* trains.

## Meet Thea

Thanks to a startup grant from the **Santa Barbara Foundation**, there's a new member of the museum staff. Her name is **Thea Cremers**, and her primary job is to help the museum build its volunteer and financial base, as the museum's resource-development coordinator. You can find her at the museum most weekday afternoons, as well as many Saturdays and Sundays.

Thea is from The Netherlands and has graduate degrees in social sciences from both the Univ. of Amsterdam and UCSB. She is also a lecturer at UCSB.

When she isn't working, Thea likes to go kayaking with her husband, Peter, or to tend her vegetable garden.

*Thea Cremers — not always in rabbit ears.*





# Goleta **DEPOT** **DISPATCH**

Volume 20, Number 2 (Page 5 “Extra”)

## **CENTENNIAL SPECIAL**

*First of a Series Celebrating  
Goleta Depot's 100th Anniversary*

### **DEJA VU**

If the color of this page brings back distant memories, you've probably been a supporter of Goleta Depot for a very long time.

It was 19 years ago – June 5, 1981 – that the “inaugural issue” of the *Goleta Depot Dispatch* was published. It was printed on this same unmistakable **goldenrod** paper (originally chosen because the printers who donated the earliest editions of the newsletter had a surplus of the stuff, but used for several years [until 1987] in the newsletter because it was a rough match of Goleta Depot's distinctive SP Colonial Yellow color).

The newsletter banner was also the same as you see it above – the same as it has been for 19 years. The sketch of the historical landmark was executed by **Blake Miller**, then a graduate student in Public History at UCSB. And, we could have really used the wonderful typographical capabilities of today's home and small-business computers for the banner lettering: A crude stencil was employed to produce “DEPOT DISPATCH” while “Goleta” was created from press-apply letters.

The *Dispatch* quickly became the principal information source for those following the activities and status of the Goleta Depot Project – the same role that it plays today for the railroad museum that carries on the responsibility – first held by Goleta Beautiful – for maintaining and safeguarding the historical landmark.

We thought it would be appropriate to bring back this relic from our past, as a special way of calling your attention to the fact that Goleta Depot will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2001.

We plan to continue use this “Page 5 Extra” to bring you news of the Centennial celebration – as it unfolds.

2001 will also be the 20th anniversary of the relocation of Goleta Depot and the main thrust of the Goleta Depot Project. So, we'll use this space to reminisce about the project.

There will also be more about those early issues of the *Dispatch*, itself – and the history of the publication – when its 20th anniversary rolls around next spring – including an explanation for newcomers of the seeming paradox that we're already six months into Vol. 20, though the newsletter is only 19 years old!

### **A LOOK BACK: 100 YEARS AGO**

In the previous issue of the *Depot Dispatch* (Vol. 20, No. 1, pages 1-2), we began to tell you about what was going on 100 years ago – work that would lead up to the completion of SP's Coast Route and, with it, the construction of Goleta Depot.

It was reported that 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.

By the end of June 1900, “The Gap” had been reduced to only 17.9 miles, from Cuarta Canyon (Sacate) to Gato Canyon, between Naples and Capitan.

A major milestone in the long history of the Central Pacific and Southern Pacific Railroads was reached Aug. 13, 1900 with the death of Collis P. Huntington, the last of the “Big Four” founders of the CP/SP.

Coast Route crews reported completion of the 634-foot Alegria Canyon Viaduct in September 1900.

You can view (and copy) the entire chronology on the museum's web site ([www.goletadepot.org/Timeline0.htm](http://www.goletadepot.org/Timeline0.htm)), which is divided into four pages:

1. The Railroad Arrives In Santa Barbara County
2. Completion Of The Coast Route, 1887-1901
3. Goleta Depot: The Southern Pacific Years, 1901-1975
4. A New Chapter: Goleta Depot, 1975-present

### **A LOOK AHEAD**

In the next “Page 5 Extra” issue, we'll be unveiling some of the events, activities, and other special things that are going to be happening during 2001 in celebration of Goleta Depot's 100th year. These will include some Centennial touches and birthday additions to the museum's regularly scheduled annual programming, as well as some entirely new programs and activities expressly for the occasion. Along the way, we'll be bringing back a lot of nostalgic elements from Goleta Depot's colorful past.

We'll also be giving the Centennial celebration its own section of pages on the museum web site.

Please stay tuned!