



Goleta **DEPOT** **DISPATCH**

Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum

Volume 20, Number 3 — Fall 2000

“Depot Day” Sunday, Sept. 24

Sunday, Sept. 24 will mark the 18th annual *Depot Day*, the South Coast Railroad Museum's big fall celebration.

For all of the exciting details on this year's event, see the special full-page *Depot Day* coverage on page 4.

George Pullman Heir Will Speak On Famous Ancestor

Warren Miller will present an illustrated lecture, “Palace Car Pioneer: George Pullman's Legacy,” on Tuesday, Oct. 3 at Goleta Library, 500 North Fairview Avenue. The program will begin at 7 p.m.

George M. Pullman rose to prominence in the post-Civil War era marked by rapid railroad expansion in America. His Pullman Palace Car Company instituted major advances in passenger rail travel, but the Pullman name also is inexorably linked to major events in American labor history and industrial town planning.

A great-grandson of George Pullman, Warren Miller can bring a personal touch to the Pullman saga. Born and raised in Chicago, Miller has been a Santa Barbara resident since 1989. He is a member of the South Coast Railroad Museum and a director and Secretary of the Wilding Museum. Now retired, Miller and his wife, Marlene, live in Hope Ranch.

The program, which is part of the museum's *Continuing Lecture Series*, is free and open to members and the general public. Warren Miller will be on hand to answer

questions and meet with attendees following his presentation. Refreshments also will be served after the program.

McKees Adopt No. 2655

Members **John and Helen McKee** have adopted Goleta Short Line Engine No. 2655, known to most museum regulars simply as “The Gray Engine.”

John McKee is a museum regular. He volunteers several days each month, both



John and Helen McKee

as a weekday agent and as conductor aboard the miniature train.

The museum is still looking for sponsors for two passenger cars, No. 3 and No. 4 (currently painted yellow and green, respectively). The annual sponsorship donation is \$150 for each car, which includes a pair of handsome brass-finish plaques bearing the sponsor's name, which are displayed on each side of the adopted piece of rolling stock. A sponsor can be an individual, couple, family, organization or business.

The **Clas Lensander Family**, including Junior Engineers **Bjorn** and **Nicholas**, have sponsored Engine No. 1316 and Cars No. 2 and No. 5 since early 1999.

For more details, on car adoption, contact Museum Director Gary Coombs – in person, by phone (805-964-3540) or via e-mail (gcoombs@goletadepot.org).

Museum Passport Program

The Museum Passport Program, which concluded in June, brought more than 440 South Coast children and their families to the railroad museum this past spring. The participants ranged from preschoolers to 8th graders (most were K-5), representing more than 40 schools from Ellwood to Montecito.

Upon completing the museum's Self-Guided Tour of Goleta Depot, participating children received a museum stamp in their personal “Museum Passport” booklet; 10 or more stamps from different museums earned the student a special T-shirt.

The highly successful program was a cooperative effort of the railroad museum and other members of the **Santa Barbara Museum Educators' Roundtable**. The Roundtable is now seeking a sponsor so that the program can be renewed in 2001.

Longer Hours Pay Early Dividend

Results have been encouraging since the museum began experimenting with expanded visitor and train-ride hours on July 1. Attendance over the July-August period was up about 20% compared with 1999, while train ridership increased more than 25% over the same two-month period.

The museum store has benefited even more from the new 11-4 schedule. Store sales for July-August are up more than 80% compared with a year ago.

South Coast Railroad Museum Institute for American Research

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Steaming Summer 2000 Video On The Internet

If you missed Steaming Summer, or if you were there and would like to watch you and your friends taking part in this year's steam weekend, you might want to take a look at the on-line video of the event at sblife.com. There's plenty of action in this two-minute production, which can be downloaded at: www.sblife.com/qtmovies.htm.

“Thomas & Magic Railroad” Showing Benefits Museum

It was a packed house at the Fiesta Five Theatre for the special July 29 screening of “*Thomas And The Magic Railroad*.”

All proceeds from the event, more than \$1,400, went to support museum programs, thanks to the generosity of **Metropolitan Theatre Corp.** and the more than 280 museum members and friends who bought tickets for the gala performance. Thanks are due also to the *Santa Barbara News-Press*, *Goleta Valley Voice*, **K-Lite Radio**, and the other local print and broadcast media that did such a wonderful job of publicizing the benefit.

Mocker Memorials Received

Gifts in memory of **Betty Mocker** have been received from Ben and Kathy Beh, Gary Coombs, Ann Makar, Kay Schmidt, Dorothy and Maria Stegon, and Hilda Volkman.

At their July 12 meeting, the museum's Board of Trustees created a special fund within the Museum Endowment, named “In Memory of Betty Mocker,” to accept these and any future donations. Mocker, a museum volunteer and member, died May 25.

Surfliner Display

The display case in the Waiting Room contains an exhibition focusing on Amtrak's new *Surfliner* train service.

The display includes photographs, promotional items, and printed materials related to the *Surfliner* equipment, schedules and services, as well as the June 1 inaugural train, on which Museum Director Gary Coombs and Assistant Director Phyllis Olsen rode.

The *Surfliner*, which replaces the *San Diegan* trains, serves Santa Barbara County with stops at Guadalupe, Surf, Goleta, Santa Barbara and Carpinteria.

Wilson Printing Renews In-Kind Donation

Wilson Printing of Goleta has donated 1,400 copies of the “coloring pages” — depictions of museum and railroad scenes printed on heavy paper — that we give away to children visiting the museum. These souvenir handouts have been a favorite with our young guests for more than a decade.

Special thanks to **Dale Wilson** for keeping the tradition alive by renewing this generous gift for another year.

Welcome New Members

New Life Members include **David C. Chapman, Thea Cremers and Peter Tiersma, Noel and Peggy Langle, and Pat and Perry Lorentzen.** Other new members are **Frances and John Gilliland, Peggy Langle, William Stewart and Kevin Walsh.**

The newest members of the Junior Engineers Club are **Sean Babcock, Isaac Daniel Calderon, Curtis Darga, Dylan Darga, Gabriel V. Elbert, Rikiho Eto, Alexander Hughes, James Riedel, Jeffrey Sloan, Jonathan Sloan, Olivia De Venne and Cole Wheeler.**

Volunteer News

We are pleased to welcome **Peggy Langle** and **William Stewart** as new volunteers-in-training. Peggy, who is County Environmental Health Director and wife of Museum Trustee Noel Langle, has been learning to be a clerk in the Trackside Shop. William is training to be a guide in the *Coast Starlight* Interpretive Program.

Sharr Bryan-Herman and **Sandy Livelsberger** have each completed their training to become full-fledged *Coast Starlight* guides. Guides-In-Training **Had and Ellie Reeves** and **Allie and Jerry Pressman** will make their first program presentations before a live *Coast Starlight* audience in October.

Attention Scolari's Shoppers!

If you do your grocery shopping at **Scolari's**, you can help the museum by re-applying for your Scolari's card and entering the number “5227” in the “Friendship Fund” space. This is the Friendship Code number for the South Coast Railroad Museum. The museum will receive a donation from Scolari's, based on your total purchases, once the Friendship Code has been added to your card.

Special thanks to **Jim Felland** for alerting us of this opportunity! Jim, who works at Scolari's, is a guide in the museum's *Coast Starlight* Interpretive Program.

Jr. Engineers Party

Dozens of Jr. Engineers Club members, plus friends and family, took part in the 9th annual Junior Engineers Party on July 13. Lots of train rides, special showings of Thomas The Tank Engine videos, and scrumptious refreshments were all part of the event.

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Steaming Summer 2000: A Weekend To Remember

The 2000 edition of *Another Steaming Summer*, held July 22-23, will be remembered as one of the most colorful in the 14-year history of the event.



Msrs. Allen, Hoey & Winnewisser confer.

The circus theme added much to the weekend once again. Making this possible were **Ken and Carolyn Weber**, who set up their “K & C Famous Family Circus” (see photo on page 4) in the model-railroad exhibit, and to **Ted Cheesman**, who loaned cars from his circus train for use on the Goleta Short Line.

The steam locomotives that hauled those Goleta Short Line trains included **Gene Allen’s** coal-burning 4-4-0 American, **Ed Win-**



Peggy and Noel Langle demonstrate a lost art.



Circus cars were everywhere!

wisser’s 0-6-0 switch-engine, and **Bill Hoey’s** 2-6-0 mogul. Volunteers who helped with the train-ride included **Joel Bingham, Ted Cheesman, Joe Gartman, Steve Kramer** and **Sy Lankin.**

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

For the fifth straight year, the miniature train and handcar carried more than 1,000 total



Joe Gartman lends a skilled hand.

passengers over the two days.

Jim Higman and **Jim Marchiando** spent the weekend demonstrating how steam energy can power pumps, whistles and tools to hundreds of spell-bound *Steaming Summer* attendees.



Steve Kramer whistles at the crossing.

The cooking and food-booth operations were handled by **David Chapman, Roy Dugger, Mike Mina, Ann Munns, Arlene Radasky,** and **Rich Thom.** Supplies for the booth were donated



Men Hard At Play.

again this year by the **Goleta Lions.**

Greeting arrivals at the admissions table were **Noel and Peggy Langle, Pat Lorentzen, Bruce Morden,** and **Dick and Wendy Shelton,** while **Kip Kramer** and **Perry Lorentzen** kept the model-railroad exhibit open and running smoothly. The Freight Office was staffed by veteran agents **Ed Leska** and **Margaret Pryde.**

Bruce Morden and son, **Michael Morden,** camped out Friday and Saturday nights on the museum grounds, guarding the event’s equipment and materials.

Event sponsor **Toyota of Santa Barbara** and owner **Denny Franks** earn another huge thank you for their generous sponsorship support again this year.



Jim Marchiando shows how it's done.

DEPOT DAY Special Report

The 18th Annual Depot Day will be held Sunday, Sept. 24. 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.

Donations Please

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¢ each 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 more than 200 items going up for bid, including luxury hotel stays, golf, admission to Southern California amusement parks, tickets to regional performing arts productions, winery tours, and horseback riding at the Circle Bar B Ranch.

Always represented in the auction are fine restaurants such as the five-star Citronelle, Four Seasons Biltmore, and Fess Parker's Doubletree Resort.

The auction also includes two Amtrak rail getaways, a roundtrip for four to Anaheim/Disneyland and a roundtrip for two to San Diego featuring Amtrak's "Pacific Class" service, which includes complimentary food and beverage service at your seat, and many other amenities.

The silent auction is a very important revenue source for the museum. Please help the organization and yourself by stopping by the tables and placing bids on some of these fabulous items.

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

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.



Barbecue Features Choice Of Tri-Tip Beef or Chicken

A delicious barbecue meal will be served. Attendees will have their choice of entree — 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 Trackside Shop, (purchases of three or more tickets can be made by credit card), or from museum trustees and staff.

If possible, please 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.

Steam Display

A steam display will feature a tabletop array of operating steam-driven machines, shared by Eugene Allen.

Special Guests

Southern California representatives of Operation Lifesaver, Adam and Vikki Martinez, will be at Depot Day to hand out fun souvenirs and talk to visitors about pedestrian and vehicle safety around trains and railroads.

Train Films

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



Circus Display

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.



Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH

Volume 20, Number 3 (Page 5 "Extra")

CENTENNIAL SPECIAL

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

A LOOK BACK: 100 YEARS AGO

The long-anticipated completion of Southern Pacific's Coast Route was only a few months away in Sept. 1900. Work trains from the north and south – carrying crews, supplies, and heavy equipment to the opposing ends-of-track – were now less than 20 miles apart.

In the spotlight were the broad canyons west of Goleta and the railroad's dogged efforts to span them. By September's end, mastery of Alegria Canyon, four miles west of Gaviota, had been achieved.

Setbacks were many. October: While being moved from Refugio Canyon to Corral Canyon, a Thompson Bridge Co. derrick toppled and could no longer be used. A replacement was recruited from the Los Angeles Breakwater project.

In late November, crews completed construction of the 541-foot-long bridge across Arroyo Hondo, four miles west of Refugio (There is a scaled reproduction of this magnificent bridge in the model-railroad exhibit at the South Coast Railroad Museum.*).

The stage was set at last for closing "The Gap."

On the museum's web site, you can find this entire chronology, which is divided into four sections:

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.

The address is : www.goletadepot.org/Timeline0.htm

A LOOK BACK: 20 YEARS AGO

In the fall of 1980, the future looked bleak for the historical landmark that was beginning its 80th year of existence.

The railroad had closed its Goleta station and boarded up the building in 1973, launching a legal battle between Southern Pacific and the original owners, the Kellogg family, over rights to the depot land. The Goleta Valley Historical Society flirted with the notion of relocating and preserving Goleta Depot, but dropped the idea in 1977.

Fortunately, others in the community didn't give up. In 1979, another local nonprofit, Goleta Beautiful, picked up the banner.

Those involved in these early efforts by Goleta Beautiful included George Adams, Jay Beckerman, Charla Dufour, Donna Simons, and Jay Torrey. Simons, in particular, urged the group to press forward. At its November 1979 meeting, Goleta Beautiful established a committee to study the possibility of saving the landmark building, with Simons and Torrey as its first members. By a narrow 4-3 vote, a reluctant board also established a bank account to accept donations in support of the cause, but agreed not to launch a fundraising campaign at that time.

The first half of 1980 proved a difficult time to generate much enthusiasm for a depot preservation project. The building's condition – described as "rapidly deteriorating" in a Dec. 1, 1979 article in the *Santa Barbara News-Press* – caused many to hesitate. And, the court fight between Southern Pacific and the Kellogg heirs, which confounded the issue of who actually owned Goleta Depot, seemed like it might never end. Six months after the Goleta Depot Fund had been established, the balance stood at less than \$36. It was a frustrating period, during which a number of people left Goleta Beautiful or curtailed their active participation.

At the July 25, 1980 meeting, several new members were added to the Goleta Beautiful board. Among these were Raymond Baird*, a local architect, and Gary Coombs, executive director of the nonprofit Institute for American Research. Neither man knew much about the stalled efforts to save the beloved landmark, but that would quickly change. In August, Coombs was placed on the Goleta Depot Committee, which then consisted of members George Adams and Jay Torrey. Baird became a committee member soon thereafter.

Adams, Baird and Coombs would form the nucleus of a revitalized Goleta Depot Committee, with Adams in charge of early fundraising, Baird as project architect and general contractor, and Coombs as chairman. There were long months of hard work ahead, but this time an entire community would rally to the call. The dream of saving Goleta Depot had found new life.

* The late Raymond Baird's contributions to the Goleta Depot Project and the South Coast Railroad Museum are many and varied. Among these is his carefully hand-built model of the Arroyo Hondo Bridge described here.