



Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH



Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum

Volume 20, Number 4 — Winter 2000-2001

“Candy Cane Train” Begins 8th Holiday Run Nov. 24

The 8th annual *Candy Cane Train* will pull out of the station for the first time on Friday, Nov. 24. The popular year-end family event at the railroad museum will run daily through Dec. 24, except on Mondays and Tuesdays when the museum is closed. Event hours are 1 to 4 p.m. each day. 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 75¢ each. Members receive their usual 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.

Early Birthday Presents Mark Centennial's Approach

Goleta Depot has already begun to receive gifts honoring its 100th year in 2001. The first birthday present to arrive – a gift from longtime members **Isabel Friend Newman** and **John Friend** – was a set of new lace curtains, enough to furnish the entire second-

floor agent's apartment in the depot.

Next came a pair of \$500 gifts, one from **Santa Barbara Bank & Trust** and another from the **Goleta Noontime Rotary Club**. At Rotary's request, a portion of their donation will be used to create a new end-of-school-year free-day at the museum next June.

Watch upcoming *Depot Dispatch* issues for more news of Centennial gifts as they are received.

Board Unveils Major Project; Reports Key Early Support

The Board of Trustees has announced plans for the largest capital project in the history of the railroad museum. The project includes a new 800-square-foot multi-purpose building and a walkway across the western portion of the museum property.

Also announced was a \$25,000 grant, awarded by the **Santa Barbara Foundation** in support of the \$115,000 construction. **On Design Architects** has also donated all architectural services for the project, valued at \$8,000.

The new building will serve as an expanded museum store and will also become home of visitor orientation services at the museum. It can also be used for meetings, lectures, and other evening activities – when the rest of the museum is closed. The building will be positioned on the east side of the entry walk, directly south of the miniature-train track.

The pathway will give all museum

visitors – including those with wheelchairs, strollers, or limited mobility – safe access to the western half of the property. Despite the limited accessibility, this area is already popular with many visitors wishing to experience Goleta Depot's handsome facade, take photos, enjoy the trees and spring flowers, or wave to others aboard the train.

Readers with internet access can view a site plan and architectural drawings on the museum's web site: www.goletadepot.org.

IMLS Grant Received

The museum has been awarded a two-year, \$21,679 General Operating Support Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), a federal agency that administers programs in support of our nation's libraries and museums.

The railroad museum was one of only 11 California recipients of the prestigious grants. There were 177 grants awarded nationwide in the annual competition that is open to all museums, regardless of size or subject matter.

In her congratulatory letter to Museum Director Gary Coombs, IMLS Director Beverly Sheppard wrote:

“As in previous years, the competition was very strong. Your museum peers ranked your museum as one of the leaders in the field. I hope this award will further strengthen your efforts to be a leader in your community and in the museum field.”

South Coast Railroad Museum Institute for American Research

Board of Trustees

David Chapman
Art Flores
Kip Kramer
Noel Langle
John C. Locke
Pat Lorentzen
Perry Lorentzen
John McKee
Bruce Morden
Jim Staples
Richard D. Thom

Officers — 2000

Rich Thom, President
Noel Langle, Vice-President
Kip Kramer, Treasurer
Jim Staples, Secretary

Senior Staff

Gary B. Coombs, Ph.D., Director
Phyllis J. Olsen, Asst. Director
Thea H. Cremers, Resource
Development Coordinator

McKee Joins Museum Board

John McKee has been elected to the Board of Trustees for a two-year term. A retired physicist, McKee has been a volunteer at the museum for the past year, sharing the historical landmark and model-railroad exhibit with visitors and serving as a conductor aboard the Goleta Short Line.

Welcome New Members

Beth Wordsworth is a new Contributing Member; **Hal Lewis** and **Bruce Morden** have become Life Members.

New members of the Jr. Engineers Club include **Chase Coleman**, **Ian Douglas Fraser**, **Mason Gonzales**, **Jacob Gonzales**, **Blayke Harrison**, **Timmy Piozet**, **Vincent Raya**, **Hana Sugioka**, and **Zachary D. Wellington**.

Greetings to all of our new museum members.

It's Gifts Galore for Holidays At Museum Store

Looking for something special for those rail fans and history aficionados on your holiday shopping list? Look no further than the museum's Trackside Shop — an oasis of gifts ideas for all ages. The shop has a great selection of books, educational toys and games, train videos, T-shirts, engineer's caps, whistles and specialty items.

Every purchase that you make benefits 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.

Museum Hours Return To Former Schedule

The museum has returned to its former schedule: Wednesday through Sunday, 1 to 4 p.m.

During this past summer, we tested the benefits of a longer museum day, by opening at 11 a.m. Because this trial proved successful, it is likely that the museum will adopt an expanded daily schedule on a permanent basis sometime during 2001.

Fairview Car Wash To Sponsor "March Madness"

There'll be another full month of unlimited free rides on the Goleta Short Line for all museum visitors when *March Madness* returns for its third year in 2001.

The event is being made possible by a generous sponsorship gift from **Fairview Car Wash**.

The 2000 event, which was underwritten by **Goleta National Bank**, set an all-time record of 2,154 train rides, the most ever given at the museum in one month, and marking only the second time in museum history that a month's total has exceeded the 2,000-ride mark.

"Super Saturday V" Kicks Off Jan. 27

The 5th Annual "Super Saturday!" will be held at the museum on Jan. 27, 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 members. Sponsors for the 2000 event included **Cox Communications**; **Friedlander & Associates Insurance Services**; **Michael J. Gartzke, CPA**; **Mid-State Bank**; and **Timbers Restaurant & Catering** — many of whom will be returning as supporters in 2001. **Cold Springs Tavern** has already been enlisted as a new sponsor for *Super Saturday V*.

Each year, hundreds of free rides are given on *Super Saturday* to museum visitors. We hope there will be plenty of members and other *Depot Dispatch* readers on hand for the 2001 event, as well.

Volunteers Honored At BBQ

The museum's volunteers were treated to a free dinner and rides on the train and handcar as part of a "Volunteer Appreciation Barbecue" held Saturday, July 22, in conjunction with *Steaming Summer 2000*. It was an opportunity to recognize all of the museum's volunteers, whose hard work and dedication is crucial to the continued success of the organization.

There were 55 volunteers, trustees, staff, and family members in attendance and more than 100 rides were given.

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

Holiday Display Shares Members' Keepsakes

The label that introduces the museum's annual holiday display reads: *"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."*

The always-delightful year-end display, which opens Friday, Nov. 24, in conjunction with the 8th Annual *Candy Cane Train* event, can be viewed in Goleta Depot's Waiting Room through Jan. 7 during regular museum hours.

The exhibition features toy locomotives and trains, plus a menagerie of stuffed animals, which have been 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 holiday display, please contact the museum office immediately (964-3540), or leave a message including your name and phone number.

Depot Day Scores Again

The most successful silent auction in the 18-year history of *Depot Day* highlighted the Sept. 24 event. As always, this year's fall classic was made possible by the help and support of hundreds of people and organizations who donated equipment, supplies, auction items, and their valuable time.

Brightening the day with their energy and their delightful renditions of railroad songs and other musical favorites were **Showstoppers** and the **Monte Vista Elementary School chorus**, both directed by **Radu Azdril**. It was the fourth consecutive *Depot Day* appearance for both youth groups.

Trustees **David Chapman** and **John Locke** each played key roles in planning for this year's *Depot Day* barbecue. Food preparers and servers included

Todd Littlewait, Judy and Hannah Savage, Arlene Radasky, and Dondra Lankin.

Staffing the silent auction were **Kari Adams, Connie Allen, Judy Blue, Peggy Langle, Margaret Pryde**, and our two auction mainstays, **Diana Mina** and **John Starr**. The success of this year's auction was due in no small part to the generous donations of auction items from more than 150 businesses, members, and other museum friends.

Volunteering on the Goleta Short Line were **Joel Bingham, Bob Burtness, Joe Gartman, and Sy Lankin. Bill Parker** and **Noel Langle** kept the handcar ride running smoothly. The handcar shared the mainline track with **Bob Mahan** and his Ventura County Railway inspection speeder, who treated ticketholders to a not-to-be-forgotten trip into yesteryear.

Susan Cavalli, Trustee **Kip Kramer**, and **Stella Kramer** helped to staff the admissions table, greeting the day's guests, distributing flyers, and collecting donations.

Adam and Vicki Martinez participated on behalf of **Operation Life-saver**, distributing literature and souvenirs designed to encourage safety around trains and railroad tracks.

Another trustee, **Bruce Morden** spent the day as depot agent, selling ride tickets through the Freight Office ticket window, demonstrating equipment and answering questions, while clerks **Edee Brown** and **Susan Cavalli** helped out in a Trackside Shop that was busy throughout the day. The model railroad exhibit was shared by **Stan Benda** and **Bob Miesbauer**.

RoseAnn Hill and **Hilda Volkman** opened Goleta Depot's second floor, giving visitors a rare look at the agent's former living quarters.

Gene Allen, assisted by Hal Lewis, kept the steam-engine display in operation, to the delight of hundreds of *Depot Day* attendees.

Junior ROTC representatives from **Dos Pueblos High School**, under the leadership of **Capt. Dan Freitas**, handled event parking and also helped with the early morning setup. Pastor

Paul Hoefler at **Christ Lutheran Church** approved our use of the church field for overflow parking. Another good neighbor, the **Goleta Valley Historical Society**, loaned the museum tables and chairs for the event.

Other helpers for event setup and cleanup included **Kari Adams; Robert Adams; Ben Adams; Connie Allen; Gene Allen; Judy Blue; David Chapman; Noel and Peggy Langle; Todd Littlewait; Carol, Scott, Chris and Samantha Matthew; Diana and Mike Mina, Judy and Hanna Savage, and Peter Tiersma.**



Museum's Christmas Tree Is Part Of A Long Tradition

Holiday-season travelers along North Los Carneros Road will be treated to the lovely Victorian scene created by the Goleta Depot tree. The effect is especially dramatic at night, when the tree lights project like a beacon in the darkness.

For almost two decades now — ever since the depot was moved to its new home at Lake Los Carneros County Park — the decorated tree has been placed in the landmark buildings' second-floor window bay. This has special significance for the Yuletide season, preserving a still older custom, practiced over the years by countless railroad-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 passengers and crews aboard passing trains.

For the third year, white paper "Remembrance Stars" will be placed on the depot tree, in memory of those special friends who are no longer with us.

Channel Communications Renews Support for Monthly Handcar Rides

There'll be free monthly rides on the museum handcar again next year, thanks to **Channel Communications**. The local cellular telephone service has agreed to sponsor the popular free activity for a second year.

The rides are available to museum visitors on the third Saturday of the month, from 1 to 4 p.m. All riders must be at least 48 inches tall.

Second Story Gets New Bright Yellow Cover

Painters will soon be putting the final touches on a complete repainting of Goleta Depot's second-floor exterior. The paint color matches the original "Colonial Yellow" used by the Southern Pacific Railroad. The project is being funded, in part, by a \$2,000 grant from the **Wood-Claeyssens Foundation**.

The contractor is **Pacific Painting Co.**

Holiday Party Is Dec. 12

Leave an opening on your holiday calendar for the evening of Tuesday, Dec. 12, when the museum will hold its annual year-end party. The holiday event will be at Goleta Library, 500 N. Fairview Ave, beginning at 7 p.m.

All members — with their families or guests — are cordially invited to attend and partake of the holiday festivities. Please bring a dessert or hors d'oeuvres to share with your fellows. The museum will provide the beverages, cups, napkins, and plates.

The holiday party is a great opportunity to meet and enjoy others in 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.

Readers Reap Rail Rewards

Depot Day marked the conclusion of another successful year of South Coast Railroad Museum participation in the Summer Reading Program of the Santa Barbara Public Libraries.

Every child who completed the program by reading 15 or more books received a certificate that could be used for two free rides on the Goleta Short Line — one for themselves plus another for a friend or family member.

This year, 2,482 youngsters in the juvenile readers category earned the free-ride certificates. Over 5,000 boys and girls signed up for this year's reading program according to **Library Director Carol L. Keator**.

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

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

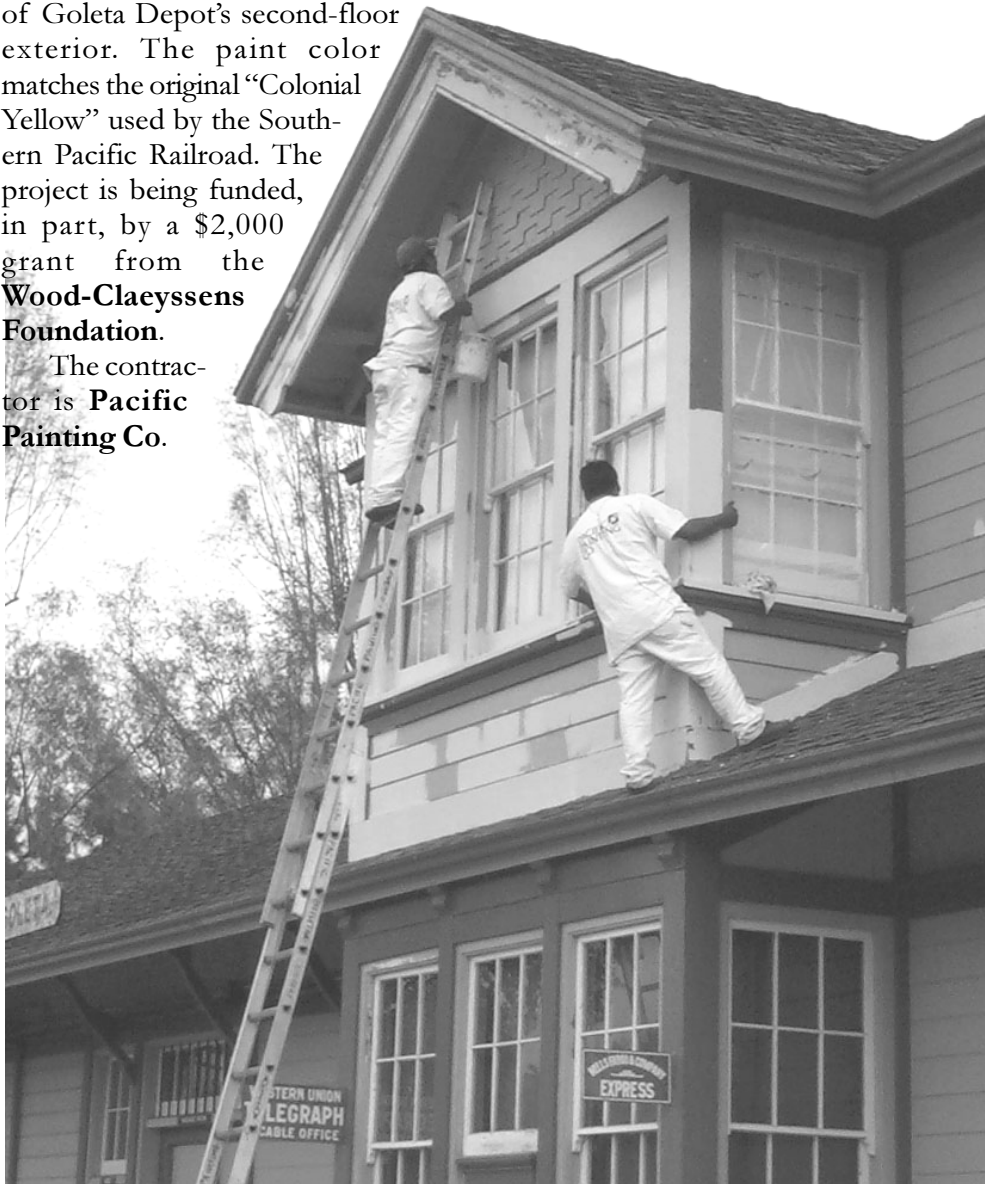
Volunteer News

Had and Ellie Reeves and Allie and Jerry Pressman have completed all of their training, graduating to become *Coast Starlight* guides.

There will be an orientation meeting for prospective *Coast Starlight* guides on the evening of Thurs., Nov. 30. If you would like to apply for admission to the program, or would simply like more information, you are urged to attend this informal meeting. Please call the museum (964-3540) for the meeting location, time, and other details.

There is also a need for more volunteers in all visitor-service areas at the museum, including volunteers to operate the miniature-train and handcar rides, clerks for the museum store, and "station agent," who share the historical landmark and model railroad exhibit.

The basic volunteer commitment is one afternoon (three hours) each month. Both weekend and weekday openings are available.





Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH

Volume 20, Number 4 (Page 5 "Extra")

CENTENNIAL SPECIAL

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

A LOOK BACK: 100 YEARS AGO

The long-awaited completion of Southern Pacific's Coast Line was drawing to a close in the final weeks of 1900.

While most public attention was focused on the laying of new track west of Goleta, the railroad was also devoting much time and effort to improving and straightening the original 1887 line from the south. The final few miles of the old line, between Santa Barbara and the Goleta Valley, was especially in need of attention. Built to branch-line standards for slow speeds, there were 28 curves as the track snaked along most of the existing land contours. On Oct. 24, 1900, crews finished the realignment work on the long segment from Hope Ranch west to the end-of-track.

By November, "The Gap" had been reduced to a scant few miles, including the principal remaining impediments, two canyons. When the Arroyo Hondo, west of Refugio, was spanned in late November, all that remained was Cementerio, about four miles further west, near Gaviota.

As the weeks passed, crews found themselves drawn into an undeclared race to complete the final link, the viaduct at Cementerio, before year's end. They eventually won, but by only a few hours: when the locomotive of the construction train at last was able to cross the completed bridge it was 7 p.m. on New Year's Eve. The Gap had been closed!

The museum's web site has the entire chronology. The page address is: www.goletadepot.org/Timeline0.htm

A LOOK BACK: 20 YEARS AGO

In August 1980, Goleta Beautiful's board of directors received a letter that would have enormous implications for the future of Goleta Depot. The letter – from the attorney for the Kellogg family, which had been battling with the S.P. over rights to the depot land – held the information that Goleta Beautiful had been waiting for. The directors were notified that the parties in the property dispute expected the suit to end soon, which would at last make

the depot, itself, available "to an organization which would preserve it as a building of historical interest."

A burst of activity ensued. Since it had been made clear that the abandoned building would have to be moved, the Depot Committee considered possible new homes for the landmark structure. At its Dec. 12 meeting, the Goleta Beautiful board approved in concept the committee's recommendation of a site at Lake Los Carneros County Park, west of Stow House.

A delegation organized by the Depot Committee visited the depot in December, symbolically cutting a chain that had barred entry since the building was closed back in 1973, and inspected the building inside and out. Among those in attendance were architect Raymond Baird, a Depot Committee member, and local building contractor J.W. Bailey. The construction professionals determined that the building was structurally sound and could still be saved.

The dream of saving Goleta Depot was another step closer to becoming a reality.

A LOOK AHEAD: 2001 - THE CENTENNIAL YEAR

The celebration of Goleta Depot's 100th anniversary will be evident in everything in the museum does in 2001.

For example, all of the *Continuing Lecture Series* installments during the year will be based on Centennial themes. Three evening programs have already been slated. On Feb. 21, Southern Pacific authority Anthony Thompson will present a program on S.P.'s Coast Line.

Next, on April 3, Santa Barbara's most prolific local-history lecturer, Neal Graffy, will offer a new program on Naples, the Goleta-area community that was planned in anticipation of the Coast Line's completion.

And, on July 30, Henry Bender, the leading expert on railroad stations in California, will talk about the Southern Pacific depots in our state.

All programs will be held at Goleta Library.