



Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH



Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum

Volume 21, Number 1 — Spring 2001

Goleta Depot Turns 100 This Year!

On Jan. 8, museum officials kicked off the celebration of Goleta Depot's 100th birthday with the unveiling of a



Centennial logo and a Centennial calendar of events for 2001.

The logo bears Stu Fredericks' pen-and-ink sketch of Goleta Depot and the theme, "100 Years Of Service." The theme wording was chosen to emphasize that Goleta Depot's entire life has been one of service, first as a busy center of transportation and communications, then as the heart and soul of a museum and popular local attraction.

You can download the complete Centennial calendar, which includes a full-color version of the logo, at the museum web site (www.goletadepot.org) — then select "Centennial Calendar". The calendar can be printed on a single

sheet of 8-1/2 by 11-inch paper.

The Centennial logo is also featured on a button (including a pinless version for children) now available for \$1.50 plus tax in the museum store.

Centennial Year Will Be Busy

On top of the museum's regular schedule of events and activities will be a number of additions, most tied to the Centennial celebration

Lecture Series Programs Will Reflect Centennial Themes

All of the 2001 programs in the museum's Continuing Lecture Series will relate to the Centennial Celebration. The first two installments are scheduled for Wed., Feb. 21 and Tues., April 3.

The February offering, by visiting railroad historian Anthony Thompson, is entitled "100 Years Along Southern Pacific's Coast Line, 1901-2001." Goleta Depot was built in 1901 as part of the Coast Line construction. The program is cosponsored by the **Goleta Valley Historical Society**, as part of its Goleta Community Heritage Project.

In April, Neal Graffy will present "Naples: A Tale of Two Cities." Santa Barbara's most prolific historical lecturer, Graffy will tell the story of the ghost subdivision of Naples, which was planned west of Goleta near Dos Pueblos Canyon in the 1880s by entrepreneur John Williams in anticipation of the

long-delayed opening of the Coast Line.

All Lecture Series programs are held at Goleta Library, 500 N. Fairview Ave., and begin at 7 p.m.

New Events Fill Out Calendar

Several new events can also be found on the 2001 calendar.

For the Centennial, the high point will be the "Depot Night" gala — an evening of celebration, recognition, and retrospection — on Friday, Nov. 9.

On Sat., Feb. 24, Museum Director **Gary Coombs** will lead a bus tour of local sites relating to the history of transportation in Goleta. His "Trains, Planes & Automobiles" tour is also part of the Goleta Community Heritage Project.

"Rotary Day" — sponsored by the Goleta Noontime Rotary Club — will be a free train & handcar ride day on Sunday, June 17, to honor Father's Day and celebrate the end of the school year.

A special "Centennial Postmark" event is also being planned for Wed., May 30, in collaboration with the **U.S. Postal Service**.

Check future *Dispatch* issues for further details on upcoming events.

Presents Keep Rolling In

Birthday gifts for Goleta Depot continue to arrive. Trustees **Perry and Pat Lorentzen** donated both a new computer hard drive and printer — top items on the museum "Wish List" mentioned (continued on page 4, "Birthday Presents")

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Welcome New Members

We are pleased to recognize and welcome the following new members. Our two new Milepost 100 members are **Ellen G. Keeter** and **John Price**. The **Goleta Noontime Rotary Club** is a new Life member.

The latest Jr. Engineers Club additions are **Chase Dietz**, **Carlos William Fairbanks**, **Jonathan Hartley**, **Marshall Payatt** and **Eita Takano**.

Other new members are **Norman Burr**, **Ted Drozanski**, **Eric Heinsohn**, **Nancy Johnke**, **Charlie McNally**, **Mary Medbery** and **Ruth O'Donnell**.

“March Madness” Means Free Train Rides

Don't forget the 3rd Annual *March Madness*, sponsored by **Fairview Car Wash**. All museum visitors during the month will be treated to unlimited free rides on the Goleta Short Line miniature train (34-inch minimum height). The train will run Wed. thru Sun., 1-3:45.

Local Foundations Award \$5,000 In Capital Grants

La Vista Foundation for the Blind and Physically Handicapped and the Wood-Claeyssens Foundation have awarded the museum capital-improvement grants of \$3,000 and \$2,000, respectively.

The funds will be used for the new building and westside walkway announced in the last *Depot Dispatch* issue.

Birthday Rolls

The railroad museum has become a popular place for families to hold their birthday parties. Those celebrating recent birthdays at the museum include: **Antonio Aquirre**, **Jack Burleigh**, **Isaac Daniel Calderon**, **Elijah Castillo**, **Christian Castro**, **Nicolae Christoffersen**, **Dylan Darga**, **Andrew Fay**, **Ian Fraser**, **Jacob Gonzales**, **Mark Gross**, and **Harrison Hall**.

Also, **Chad Halleck**, **Rory Halsey**, **Gabriel Hill**, **Madeleine Kriz**, **Nate Owens**, **Sarah Rasmussen**, **Vincent Raya**, **Reagan Roberts**, **Jeffrey Sloan**, **Jonathan Sloan**, **Robert Stone**, and **Max Waitley**.

A brochure describing how to plan your party and reserve one of our party areas is available at the museum. Or, call Assistant Director Phyllis Olsen (805-964-3540) for more information.

E-Mail List Being Assembled

We're putting together an e-mail list that will be used to send out news and information of interest to museum members. If you have e-mail and would like to be added to the list, please send a note to news@goletadepot.org, with the words “ADD ME” at the beginning of your message.

“Super Saturday V” Report

Ridership for the fifth annual *Super Saturday* reached 229 passengers. Special thanks are due to our sponsors, who made this year's January free-ride day possible. They are **Cold Springs Tavern**; **Cox Communications**; **Michael J. Gartzke, CPA**; and **Mid-State Bank**.

Board Elects Officers and New Trustees; Noel Langle Is Centennial President

Noel Langle has been elected President for 2001 by the Board of Trustees. Langle is Zoning Administrator for the County of Santa Barbara. A



NOEL LANGLE

longtime museum member, he has served on the board since 1997.

Other officers elected are **David Chapman**, Vice President/President-elect; and **Kip Kramer**, Secretary and Treasurer. Officers serve one-year terms.

The Board also elected **Robert Tench** and **Ken Pontifex** to two-year terms as new trustees. Bob Tench is a physicist at Digital Instruments in Goleta; Ken Pontifex is a partner with the law firm of Price, Postel & Parma.

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Holiday Display Shares Members' Keepsakes

Special thanks are expressed to all of the members and friends who parted with their treasured stuffed animals and toy train items for a few weeks for the year-end display. The 2000 edition of "Toy Trains and Teddy Bears?" in Goleta Depot's Waiting Room was a favorite with our holiday-season visitors.

Museum docent **Edee Brown** shared her Millennium bears, "Mildred" and "Millie." Another longtime volunteer, **Eugene Allen**, contributed two antique toy operating live-steam locomotives to the display, his "Birmingham Dribbler" and an O-gauge LMS 265, both manufactured in England ca. 1925.

Returning by popular demand to the 2000 exhibit was "Merry-Lee," a huge stuffed bear shared by **Scotty Becker**, son of Goleta Short Line engineer/conductor **Ken Becker**. Museum agent **Ed Leska** gave us a Shell Oil Co. train, a gift from his daughter, **Susan**.

As always, a number of our Junior Engineer Club members, and their families, also took part in the holiday showcase. **Eva and Max Wiedmann** loaned a variety of items, including "Edward," a toy locomotive that Max received at age 4, and three stuffed bruins: "Balerina Bear," "Thomas," "Christmas Bear" and "Water Bear."

Two other bears, "Alexander" and "Olivia," were named after the **Devenne** children, both Junior Engineers, according to their mother, **Kim**. Junior Engineer **Rikiho Eto** brought us toy models of two Japanese high-speed trains, "Rapiit" and "Shinkansen Komachi."

Jr. Engineer **Joey Ochoa** displayed his homemade "Thomas The Tank Engine" Halloween costume that he wore trick-or-treating this past October.

For several years, members of the **David and Susan Nivin Family** have participated in the holiday display. This year's contribution included two stuffed bears handmade by Susan, "Fogbank," which belongs to David, and "Thunder," a gift to their son, **James**.

Every year, all museum members are

invited to take part in the upcoming *Toy Trains & Teddy Bears* display. You can add your name to the list of 2001 participants now by contacting the museum office (964-3540).

"Candy Cane Train" Was Sweet Event

The 2000 *Candy Cane Train* was a huge success, easily eclipsing the results of the preceding year. Total event tickets sold reached 1,543. The near-record numbers may be attributed, in part, to the cooperative weather (only one day was rained out) and another year of great support from the *Santa Barbara News-Press*, which came in the form of free advertising through the repeated publication of a *Candy Cane Train* display ad.

Over its eight years, the *Candy Cane Train* has grown to become one of the area's favorite family entertainments for the holiday season. Along the way, the event has single-handedly transformed one of the museum's slowest times of year into one of its busiest.

Candy Cane Train drawing winner Marcus Priest poses with his son, Simon, and the festive bear family they won.



Youth Groups Tour Depot and Museum

Free guided tours of Goleta Depot were enjoyed during 2000 by a number of school and youth groups from

throughout Santa Barbara County.

The participating schools and organizations, some of which took several tours, included **El Rancho School, Fundamental Baptist of Santa Maria School, Girls Inc., Hollister School, Home Schoolers of Lompoc, Kellogg School, Kid's Club and La Patera School.**

Also, **Monte Vista School, Montecito Union School, Mountain View School, Peabody School, Rainbow School, Roosevelt School, San Marcos Parent/Child Workshop, Santa Barbara Dayschool, and Summerland School.**

Tours may be arranged by contacting Assistant Director Phyllis Olsen (805-964-3540) any weekday afternoon. There is no charge to local youth organizations for the guided tours.

19th Spring Fundraiser Coming May 19

This year's "Great Goleta Rail Race" will be held Sat., May 19. For the fifth year, the event will feature unlimited train and handcar rides for all visitors.

The 2001 *Great Race* is the museum's 19th annual spring fundraiser. It is one of the organization's most important annual income sources, generating more than 10% of the funds needed for operations. Funds are raised by the event participants, including members of the Board of Trustees, volunteers, and other members, who obtain financial pledges from sponsors, including area businesses, organizations, fellow members, and others in our community, and even farther afield.

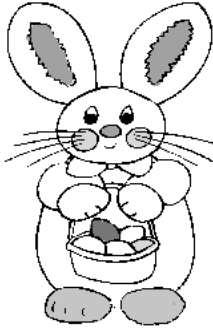
This year's goal is \$15,000, about \$2,000 more than has ever been raised in the past. To achieve this goal – which is critical to keep the museum running smoothly – it will take more participants collecting pledges.

We urge all members and others to consider taking a more active role in this year's spring fundraiser. Please contact the museum office and ask for a pledge sheet and instructions. With your help, the 2001 *Great Race* can be truly great!

Bunny Day Is April 21

It won't be long before the *Easter Bunny Express* arrives at the museum for another busy day of fun and fancy. This year's, 9th annual event will be Sat., April 21, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The museum grounds promise to be aglow in yellow and orange from thousands of springtime blooms of Calif. poppy and nasturtium. For a preview, take a look at page 3 ("Must-See Attractions" section) of the current (Oct. 2000) Santa Barbara telephone book. This striking photo was taken during the 2000 *Easter Bunny Express* by Trustee **David Chapman**.



It wouldn't be the *Easter Bunny Express* without those adorable egg-shaped tickets, which open the doors to an array of festive diversions, including visits to *Wabbit-Twacks Station* (to ride the decorated miniature train); *Harvey's House* (for a cookie and beverage); *Easter-Bunnyville* (to meet the **Easter Bunny** and receive an egg surprise); *Jack-Rabbit Junction* (to enter a drawing for some great gifts); and *What's Up Dock* (to collect another event souvenir).

The ticket price is \$3 for both children and adults. Tickets will be available during the event until 3:30 p.m. Or, they may be purchased in advance during regular museum hours.

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 21 (Rain date: 4/28). It promises to be another hare-raising eggs-perience for the whole family!

Birthday Presents (cont'd. from page 1) in a year-end letter to members. The **Woman's Service Club of Goleta** donated funds for another "Wish List"

item – a folding utility table. Member **Ted Drozanski** – an avid model railroader – donated more than a dozen pieces of rolling stock for the model-railroad exhibit, including four new locomotives.

Donations of goods and services have been received from **Goleta Electric Co.** (electrical repairs), **Goleta Valley Paint** (paint supplies) and **Silicon Beach Communications** (internet access and web-site hosting).

Most givers have expressed their recognition in the form of cash gifts. Year-end gifts were unusually high, with contributions during the fourth quarter of 2000 reaching \$4,000. Contributors include **Christine Allen, Constance Allen, Margaret E. (Betty) Bazzi, Terry and Patty Bliss, Ron Bruns, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Caccese, Nellie Casselman, Reed and Robin Cederlof, William Crow, DeVenne Family, Chuck and Nike Dreier, John Friend, Robert Halverson, Rose Ann Hill, Bill and Sheila Holzer, Josiah F. Jenkins, Ruth Johnson, Kip and Stella Kramer, Noel and Peggy Langle, H.W. (Hal) Lewis, Helen and John McKee, Bob and Helen McPherrin, Isabel Friend Newman, Paradise Machining Corp. (Warren Johnson), Bill and Arlene Radasky, Nancy and Walter Ried, Tom and Beulah Strout, Steve Sullivan, Rich and Linda Thom, George Thorpe, Hilda B. Volkman, Kay Woolsey, and Ron and Donna Zehrung.**

Donations were received in memory of **George Adams, Raymond Baird, Ruth Hammond, Bill McNally, Sr. and Ernest Thomsen.**

News of more Centennial gifts will be reported in future *Dispatch* issues.

Volunteer News

The Coast Starlight Interpretive Program has four new guide-applicants. They are **Norman Burr, Nancy Johnke, Sy Lankin, Mary R. Medbery and Ruth O'Donnell.** Norman, Nancy, Mary, Ruth and Sy will learn to

become *Coast Starlight* guides using the new "*Guide Training Workbook.*" All training takes place aboard Amtrak's *Coast Starlight* train.

Charlie McNally and Austin Beede are training to become crew members on the Goleta Short Line miniature train. Both young men attend Dos Pueblos High School (Austin graduates this year) and are also sons of former museum trustees and board presidents: Charlie's father is **Bill McNally**, who published *Goleta Depot: The History of a Rural Railroad Station* and was on the board way back in the 1980s; Austin's dad is **Ben Beede**, who also served as a museum docent for a number of years.

It's great having members of the Beede and McNally families volunteering at the museum again!

* Join * Help * Serve *

There is 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 agents," who share the historical landmark and model railroad exhibit with our guests.

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

More *Coast Starlight* guides are also needed. Upon completion of training, guides are expected to complete an average of two train trips per month.

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

A Night To Remember

Please write "Depot Night" on your calendar for Friday, Nov. 9 and set the time aside for a special evening honoring Goleta Depot and its "100 years of Service."

You won't want to miss this crowning event of the Centennial celebration! Watch upcoming issues of the *Depot Dispatch* for program details and how to make your reservations.



Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH

Volume 21, Number 1 (Page 5 "Extra")

CENTENNIAL SPECIAL

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

A LOOK BACK: 100 YEARS AGO

The famous Gap was closed on Dec. 31, 1900. Yet, while an unbroken ribbon of track now existed from San Francisco to Los Angeles, much work still needed to be done before the Coast Line could handle regular rail traffic.

Railroad historian David Myrick describes the construction on the Coast Line during the early months of 1901 in his "Santa Barbara County Railroads," published in *Noticias*, the quarterly bulletin of the Santa Barbara Historical Society (Vol. XXXIII, Summer/Fall 1987).

"...the main work was ballasting and surfacing the track. Five trains were dumping ballast along the line at the rate of a half-mile per day. Between Goleta and Ellwood, 200 men were in the gang, surfacing the track and, depending on the weather, were making good progress.

Myrick notes that the station buildings at Goleta and Conception were built during these first months of 1901.

The Coast Line was opened for service on March 31. The announcement caused a stampede for tickets on the first trains, which were quickly sold out.

The first scheduled train into Santa Barbara was No. 1, the *Coast Line Limited*, out of Los Angeles. Later that day, the sister train, southbound No. 2, arrived. Both were met by large welcoming crowds and much local fanfare.

You can learn more about the opening of the Coast Line at railroad historian Anthony Thompson's Feb. 21 program, "100 Years Along Southern Pacific's Coast Line, 1901-2001," 7 p.m. at Goleta Library.

A LOOK BACK: 20 YEARS AGO

At its Jan. 22, 1981 meeting, the County Parks Commission approved the plan to relocate the depot to Lake Los Carneros County Park. The Commission also agreed to set aside \$10,000 of oil-settlement money for the depot project.

These promised funds – the brainchild of Commissioner Karen Swenson – proved a tremendous shot in the arm. To

date, contributions to the Depot Fund had been a mere \$35, which made the prospect of raising the estimated \$190,000 in project costs (including about \$27,000 for moving the building to its new home) all the more daunting.

Pitching the project to the Parks Commissioners were Gary Coombs, Raymond Baird, and Phyllis Olsen. Recently added to the Depot Steering Committee, Olsen had already contributed long hours and much energy to the project over a span of several months.

Four days after the Parks Commission meeting, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved in concept the depot project plan. That plan was based on the principal of "adaptive reuse" – that all historic structures cannot continue to serve their original function – that many must be adapted to other, current needs if they are to survive. The depot plan called for the building exterior, Waiting Room and Freight Office to be restored to historic condition, while other parts of the building would be leased to local nonprofit organizations to provide funds needed for maintenance and other ongoing expenses. The Goleta Valley Chamber of Commerce and Institute for American Research were among the first groups to express an interest in leasing depot space. The plan also included the prospect of guided tours of the historical landmark for the public, but there was no mention of a museum or exhibits.

George Adams agreed to chair the project's fundraising committee and on Sunday, March 22 an "All-Aboard Party" was held to kick-off the fundraising campaign. The Santa Barbara Elks Lodge donated their facility for the event.

By the end of March, the Depot Fund balance had reached only \$368, but it had finally begun to rise after more than a year unchanged. And, with County funds on the way, a growing list of enthusiastic volunteers at the ready, and a receptive public that had long waited for something to happen, Goleta Depot's prospects looked bright.

But, a crippling disappointment was waiting in the wings...