



# Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH



## Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum

Volume 21, Number 2 — Summer 2001

### Museum To Host Postal Event Honoring Veterans, New Stamps

As part of the Goleta Depot Centennial, the museum will be hosting a special event on Wed., May 30 to cel-



Full-color Snoopy and veterans cacheted envelopes (shown 39% of full-size) will be available at the May 30 event, or by mail order.



celebrate the release of two new first-class stamps by the U.S. Postal Service. Admission to the event is free. The Santa Barbara Post Office is co-sponsor.

Both new stamps are being released in late May. One is dedicated to "Honoring Veterans," while the second also follows a veterans theme, but in a more lighthearted fashion. It depicts Charles Schultz's Peanuts character, Snoopy, in his role as "The World War I Flying

Ace." May 30 was chosen to hold the event because it is the traditional date for Memorial Day.

The event will begin with a brief ceremony at 1 p.m., and will continue until 4 p.m., so that children attending school that day will be able to take part. The Goleta Short Line miniature-train (continued on page 3, "Stamp Event")

### Spring Fundraiser Is May 19; Your Support Is Needed

If you haven't already made a pledge for the 19th annual Spring Fundraiser, there's still time. Please complete and return the enclosed pledge card, which may be accompanied by your tax-deductible check or credit-card information.

This year's goal is \$15,000, which is about \$2,000 more than has been raised in any previous year. The event is the museum's most important annual source of support for general operations, including payroll, insurance, utilities, supplies, repairs, and similar expenses.

Please support the Spring Fundraiser.

### An Afternoon Of Free Rides, Too

The Spring Fundraiser is also *The Great Goleta Rail Race*, a friendly competition, on May 19, between the museum's people-powered handcar and machine-driven miniature train, to determine which can complete the most passenger-miles over a three-hour span.

From 1 until 4 p.m., both handcar and train will operate continuously, giv-

ing free rides to all museum visitors. Race officials will record 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 past years' results.



Members, as well as the general public, are invited to attend and take part as riders of handcar, train, or both.

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

### June 17 Is "Rotary Day"

A new community event comes to the museum on Father's Day – Sunday, June 17 – when the **Rotary Club of Goleta Noontime** sponsors an afternoon of free miniature-train and handcar rides. The event honors fathers and celebrates the successful close of another school year.

Rotary Club members will be on hand to assist with the event. It will also be a good time to purchase tickets for the 4th of July Goleta fireworks show which Rotary organizes each year. Proceeds from the fireworks ticket sales benefit local nonprofit organizations, including the railroad museum!

All *Rotary Day* riders must meet the museum's minimum height requirements (34" for the train; 48" for the handcar).

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## Welcome New Members

We are pleased to extend a warm greeting to all new members. **Bob and Mary Tench** are new Life Members. Other new members include **Vincent Cordrey** and **Ken Pontifex** (Contributing); **Fritzie Bell** (Sustaining); and **Austin Beede, Jude A. Blau, David Bothman, Jean-Guy Dubé, Ann Staten, Anthony W. Thompson, and William A. Wood.**

New Junior Engineers Club members are **Chase Bowker, Jordan Brown, Peter Christiansen, Will Christiansen, Ryan Chung, Cameron Crabtree, Ian Jimenez, Melissa Piotto, Roberto Piotto, Nicholas Vanhecke, Sophia Winnikoff, and Koby Wood.**

## E-Mail List Needs Your Name

If you haven't been receiving e-mail notices from the museum, you must not be on our exclusive e-mail list. If you'd like to receive reminders of coming events and activities at the museum, as

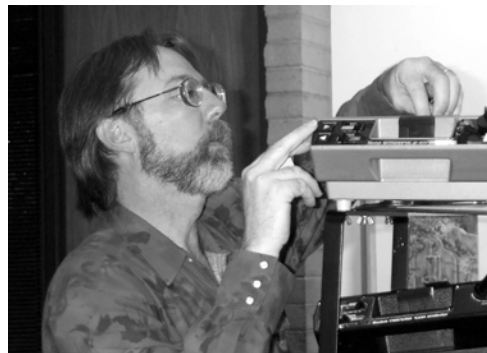
well as breaking news about local and regional railroad activities, send an e-mail to [news@goletadepot.org](mailto:news@goletadepot.org), with the words "ADD ME" at the beginning of your message. You'll be added to the list.

## Lecture Series Kicks Off Centennial In Style

The first two 2001 installments of the museum's Continuing Lecture Series drew capacity crowds. In fact, these were the two largest audiences since the lecture series began back in 1992.

Both Anthony Thompson's Feb. 21 talk, *100 Years Along Southern Pacific's Coast Line, 1901-2001*, and Neal Graffy's program, *Naples: A Tale of Two Cities*, on April 3, had at least 80 in attendance. All were treated to entertaining and informative programs that provided unique insights and perspectives into the times when Goleta Depot was born.

*Lecturer Neal Graffy readies his video equipment for the night's program.*



## Jr. Engineers Club Party Will Be July 26

The 10th annual Junior Engineers Club Party will be held Thursday, July 26, from 2 until 3:30 pm. There will be lots of free train rides on the Goleta Short Line, special showings of Thomas The Tank Engine videos, prizes and surprises, and delicious refreshments, including a Jr. 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.

## 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 once again to the generous sponsorship support of **Mid-State Bank.**

Each year, thousands of area youngsters receive certificates for 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.

We are proud that the South Coast Railroad Museum has actively supported the summer reading program, which fosters reading excellence among local children, since 1987.

## "March Madness" Was Wild

Another ride record was set during *March Madness*, which marked its third anniversary this year. Total ridership hit 2,269, beating last year's record pace by about 5%. In fact, March 2001 now ranks behind only one month, July 2000, in terms of most train passengers carried, since the miniature railroad was added to the grounds in the late 1980s.

The museum owes very special thanks to its good friends at **Fairview Car Wash**, who made this year's *March Madness* possible through their generous sponsorship support.

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## Depot Expert Henry Bender Will Speak July 30

Henry Bender, a leading authority on the railroad depots of California, will present a July 30 program, *Goleta's Depots and the Evolution of Southern Pacific's Standard-Design Depots*. The lecture and slide presentation will chart the development of the railroad depot, its architecture and functions, and show how Goleta Depot, an example of Southern Pacific's widespread standard two-story combination depot No. 22 design, fits into this broader historical context.

Henry Bender's writing has appeared in *SP Trainline* and other rail publications. He is nearing the completion of his much-anticipated book on California railroad depots. A technical writer, Bender lives with his wife, Barbara, in San Jose.

The program is sponsored by the railroad museum, as part of its Continuing Lecture Series and the Goleta Depot Centennial celebration.

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

## Easter Bunny Express Attracts Another Large, Happy Crowd

The 9th annual *Easter Bunny Express* turned out to be a perfect way to kick off a new spring season at the museum. The weather was near-perfect and, with so many things to do, everyone attending seemed to have a great time.

Winners in the Jack Rabbit Junction drawing included **Alfred Aquirre, Samantha Bailey, Kevin Burton, Jeff Colin, Kyle Dannenfelzer, Rachel Fan, Morgan Fletcher, Kenneth Janes, Krista Kleinpeter, Hee Yun Kwon, Agustin Martinez, Kendra McGary, Christian Mosbrucker, Randy Myers** and **Jordan Stanfield**.

The event would not have been possible without the help and support of a long list of volunteers and friends.

**Kari Adams** and **Bev Gruen** took turns in the roles of Bunny and Bunny

Helper. **Judy Blue** also served for a time as Bunny Helper. Volunteers on the train and handcar rides included **Ken Becker, Bob Burtness, Noel Langle** and **Bruce Morden**.

Ticket sales and other agent duties were handled for a second year by **Pat Lorentzen** and **Margaret Pryde**.

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

Food booth cooks and servers included **David Chapman, Jim Felland, Kip Kramer, Ed Leska, Kathy Leska, Jo McNally** and **Ken Pontifex**. Additional help with the food preparation was provided by **John Locke**.

Volunteers at the "What's Up Dock," Jack-Rabbit Junction" and "Harvey's House" ticket stops included **Connie Allen, Margie Helgeson, Peggy Langle, Arlene Radasky,** and **Judy Savage, Hannah Savage** and **Leah Savage**. **Ben Adams, Robert Adams** and **Nathan Reed** helped with the drawing.

Food booth supplies were donated by the **Goleta Lions Club**. **Von's** contributed many of the holiday cookies that were given out on the day.

Assistance on event setup and cleanup was given by volunteers **Kari Adams, David Chapman, Bev Gruen, Kip Kramer, Noel Langle, Peggy Langle, Ed Leska, Kathy Leska, Bruce Morden, Michael Morden, Arlene Radasky, Judy Savage, Hannah Savage, Leah Savage, Carol Welsh** and **Gary Welsh**.

("Stamp Event," continued from page 1) will also operate during the event.

Goleta Depot will be an official U.S. postal station for the day. The new stamps will be available for purchase and postal-service representatives will be on hand to accept and postmark any mail presented by those in attendance.

Especially for the occasion, the postal service will be using a unique, one-day-only "Goleta Depot Centennial Station" postmark, or cancellation, that is based on the Centennial logo developed by the museum to honor Goleta Depot's

100th birthday.

In addition to the stamps, themselves, event attendees will be able to purchase special "cached" envelopes with stamp and postmark affixed. These cached envelopes are prized by stamp collectors and are popular with a much wider audience as handsome and colorful commemorative keepsakes.

Three different full-color cachet designs will be available during the event, each related to one of the new stamps or to the Centennial station postmark, itself. Envelopes bearing the Snoopy stamp will have a depiction of the Red Baron, perpetual nemesis of the Flying Ace, and the words, "In Hot Pursuit!" The cachet on envelopes with the veteran's stamp will feature a large American flag similar to the one on the stamp, itself, with the wording, "A Salute To Our Veterans."

The third cached envelope will have a full-detail version of the Centennial logo, on which the special postmark is based. Attendees may choose which stamp to have affixed to these envelopes. In addition to the two new stamps, five historic train stamps, from the "All Aboard" series introduced by the postal service in 1999, will also be available.

The envelopes are \$3 each, which includes the stamp of the buyer's choice and the Goleta Depot Centennial Station postmark. The envelopes may also be ordered in advance (see accompanying order form).

Full-color renditions of the new stamps, along with the Goleta Depot Station postmark and the cached envelopes may be previewed on the museum web site ([www.goletadepot.org](http://www.goletadepot.org)).

For more information, contact the museum by phone (805-964-3540) or by e-mail ([info@goletadepot.org](mailto:info@goletadepot.org)).

## Birthdays, Brthdays

Celebrating March and April birthdays at the museum with group-area parties on the grounds were **Chase Bowker, Corinna Casey, Chase Dietz, Peter Christiansen, Owen Hansen, Jonathan Heartley, Nicholas Venhecke** and **Annie Warren**.

## Volunteer News

New volunteers at the museum include **Jean-Guy Dubé** and **Mary Hopson**. Jean-Guy is training on the Goleta Short Line, while Mary is learning to become a weekday agent. Mary has joined the museum's volunteer corps as a result of her friendship with the late **Betty Mocker**, a former member, shop clerk, and agent. **Jim Felland** is another agent-in-training, but he is no newcomer to the corps of volunteers: He is a senior guide in the Coast Starlight Interpretive Program.

**Jude Blau** and **Fritzie Bell** joined the Coast Starlight program in February and took their first training trips the following month. The newest guide-in-training is **Ann Staten**, who joined the program in March.

Guide training for **Nancy Johnke**, **Sy Lankin**, **Mary Medbery** and **Ruth O'Donnell** is nearing an end. They completed live-audience tryout trips on March 13 and April 5, auditioning before Museum Director **Gary Coombs**, Assistant Director **Phyllis Olsen** and the program's lead volunteers, **Pat Lorentzen** and **Perry Lorentzen**.

### 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.

## 15th "Steaming Summer" Set For Aug. 11-12

Mark the weekend of Aug. 11-12 on your calendar so you'll be sure not to miss the 15th annual *Another Steaming Summer*, the event that brings visiting live-steam locomotives to the museum grounds, both for viewing and for hauling the Goleta Short Line trains and their passengers.

You and your family and friends can be among those passengers for the low admission price, which also includes unlimited day-long rides.

The next issue of the *Depot Dispatch*, scheduled for a July publication date, will have all of the details.

*The K&C Famous Family Circus, complete with three-ring big top and action-packed circus train, will be ready to delight visitors to the model-railroad exhibit during Steaming Summer 2001.*



## Expanded Summer Hours

Museum hours will increase to 11-4 beginning Saturday, June 30. Days of operation will remain Wednesday through Sunday, with the museum closed Mondays and Tuesdays.

The miniature-train ride also will operate additional hours under the expanded schedule. Train operations will begin at 11 a.m., with the last train departing the station at 3:45 p.m. Rides will be available every day the museum is open, including Thursdays, another change from the current schedule.

The handcar ride will continue to operate on a monthly schedule. The rides are available and offered free on the third Saturday of every month, with sponsorship support from **Channel Communications**.

## Rail Museum Awarded "MAP" Grant

The museum has received a Museum Assessment Program grant from the Institute of Museum and Library services. The purpose of the \$1,775 "MAP" grant is to allow the participating institution to obtain the services of a consultant who can help the museum identify ways of improving its programs and manner of operation.

The South Coast Railroad Museum is one of the first museum's in the country to receive a second MAP grant. Prior to this year, museums were not eligible to receive MAP funding more than once. Our museum received a MAP grant in 1986.

The railroad museum's first MAP assessor was Alan Griesemer, the director of the San Bernardino County Museum. The recommendations contained in his MAP report proved to be of enormous value to the museum in a wide range of important areas, including collections care and management, long-term planning, and clarifying the museum's mission and goals.

## Don't Miss Depot Night!

Make your reservations now for "Depot Night," the crowning event of the Goleta Depot Centennial. The dinner gala will be held Friday, Nov. 9 at the Holiday Inn.

We've set aside this special evening to pay tribute to the historical landmark for its 100 years of service to community and railroading, and also to recognize and honor the "depot people," past and present, who have helped to make Goleta Depot the venerable institution that it has become.

Tickets are \$28 per person, which includes a delicious buffet dinner that includes beef, chicken and vegetarian entrees.

To make your reservations, please call the museum office any afternoon at 805-964-3540. Seating is limited so call right away.



# Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH

Volume 21, Number 2 (Page 5 "Extra")

## ***CENTENNIAL SPECIAL***

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

### **A LOOK BACK: 20 YEARS AGO**

Fundraising for the Goleta Depot Project got under way with an "All-Aboard Party" on Sunday, March 22, 1981. By the end of April, early funding efforts had lifted the balance in the Depot Fund, held in an account at Mid-State Bank, to nearly \$4,800.

But supporters learned at an April 28 project meeting that the campaign had also suffered a serious setback, when fundraising chair George Adams reported that the Santa Barbara Foundation had decided not to approve a grant in support of the Save-The-Depot drive. Gary Coombs, overall project chairman recalls the disappointment and sombre mood that fell over the gathering. "For a few minutes there, I thought the depot project had come to an end," he remembers. And, in fact, several people who had helped with the early fundraising quit the project shortly thereafter, some, undoubtedly, in frustration over this expensive rebuke. Fortunately, there was a diehard core of supporters who stayed and the project limped forward.

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The time has come to celebrate another milestone in the history of Goleta Depot, the project to save it, and the museum that honors it. June 5 will mark the 20th anniversary of the publication of the inaugural issue of the *Goleta Depot Dispatch*, which quickly became the official voice-in-print of the depot project.

The inaugural *Dispatch* issue announced the formation of the "Friends Of Goleta Depot," which was created by the Depot Steering Committee "as a way of organizing and channeling community support for the Depot project." Anyone could join the Friends for a contribution of \$10 or more (\$5 for students; \$25 for businesses). Friends received, among other privileges, the Depot Dispatch, sent via U.S. mail. The newsletter also reported that membership in the friends "was conferred retroactively" on everyone who had

already made a direct contribution to the project.

It was announced that the names of all Friends would be listed as part of a permanent public display at the museum. That "Friends Plaque" was finalized in 1982 and can still be viewed in the waiting room at Goleta Depot.

The first two *Dispatch* issues listed the names of the earliest Friends, about 130 in all. Among those listed who have remained members these 20 years (they're museum members today) are Gene Allen, Betty Bazzi, Lucille Beckman, Mrs. Cedric (Elsie) Boeseke, Family of L.M. Cavaletto, Jack and Harriet Cogan, Mrs. Elmer (Betty) Coombs, Gary Coombs, Barbara Cornish, Anna Dato, Mrs. Neil (Evelyn) Fetter, Michael Lambole, Phyllis Olsen, Robert Sanger, John Marshall Starr and Dana Trout.

Much of the first newsletter was devoted to describing the plan that had been formulated to save and revitalize the historical landmark. That plan was based on the principal of "adaptive reuse," which argued that some historic structures cannot continue to serve their original functions, but rather must be adapted to fill current needs if they are to survive. The plan called for the restoration of the depot exterior and the interiors of the freight office and waiting room, following standards set forth by the Santa Barbara County Historical Landmarks Committee. The freight room and upstairs apartment would be leased to local nonprofit organizations, according to the plan, with the rent monies used to pay for utilities and maintenance. Restrooms would be constructed inside the baggage room.

Project costs were estimated at \$190,000 including about \$89,000 for "Phase I" work, which would cover building relocation and stabilization, protection from the elements and vandalism, and restoration of the exterior.

The second issue of the *Depot Dispatch* reported that "Phyllis J. Olsen is responsible for circulation, coordination, layout, and proofreading [sic]."