



# Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH



## Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum

Volume 22, Number 1 — Spring 2002

### EBX Rolls On March 30

The 10th annual *Easter Bunny Express* will be coming earlier than usual this year – on Saturday, March 30. The event is always scheduled for the day before Easter, which falls early in 2002. Hours for the *Easter Bunny Express* are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

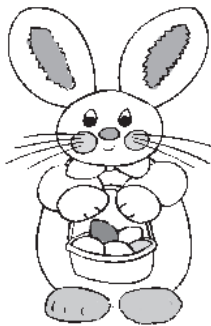
The cost is \$3 per person, adult or child, which includes the event's distinctive egg-shaped ticket.

Ticket-holders will enjoy a number of fun activities while visiting *Wabbit-Twacks Station* (to ride the decorated train); *Harvey's House* (for cookie & beverage treats); *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 souvenir).

Tickets may be purchased in advance and will also be available during the event until 3:30 p.m.

Decoration of the museum grounds has already begun for this year's event, with the dramatic appearance of the first blooms of nasturtium and California poppy. Bunnyland should be bursting with color by event time!

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 March 30 (Rain date: April 6). It's going to be another hare-raising egg-sperience for the whole family!

### "March Madness" Is Upon Us

Don't miss the chance to ride the Goleta Short Line trains as much as you like from March 1st through the 29th, as *March Madness* makes its 4th annual appearance at the railroad museum.

The train will operate on an expanded schedule throughout *March Madness*: Wed. thru Sun. from 1 until 3:45.

The event is being sponsored for the second year by **Fairview Car Wash**, which also sponsors the free handcar rides offered on the third Saturday of every month. When you visit the car wash, or call (967-6530), please be sure to thank them for all of their support!

This year's *March Madness* is a couple of days shorter than usual because of the early arrival of Easter on March 31. Train riders must meet the museum's 34-inch minimum-height requirement.

### New Program Introduces Children To Local Museums

Since December, the railroad museum has been participating in a "Passport To Santa Barbara" program along with 13 other local museums and the Community Environmental Council.

The program is centered around a booklet that has been distributed to thousands of South Coast elementary

school children. One page in the booklet is devoted to each of the participating organizations.

On completing a special activity at one of these participating sites, the child receives a stamp on the corresponding booklet page, as proof of their visit (Youngsters also receive free admission for themselves and one adult at those museums where an admission fee is usually charged.). Children who receive 10 or more booklet stamps are eligible to receive a special Passport T-shirt.

At the railroad museum, the required activity is to complete the self-guided tour, either with or without parental assistance. The result has been remarkable: The museum has set all-time records for tours for each of the three months that the program has been in operation.

The Passport program is a project of the Museum Educators' Roundtable. The railroad museum is a Roundtable member. Museum director Gary Coombs is the senior editor of "Plugged In," the Roundtable's other major project, a full-color educational page for young readers published monthly in the *Santa Barbara News-Press*.

### Cox Communications Makes "First Fridays Free"

Starting April 5, rides on the Goleta Short Line miniature train will be free on the first Friday of every month.

"First Fridays Free" is made possible by the generous support of **Cox Communications**.

## South Coast Railroad Museum Institute for American Research

### Board of Trustees

David Chapman  
Kip Kramer  
Noel Langle  
John C. Locke  
Pat Lorentzen  
Perry Lorentzen  
Bruce Morden  
Ken Pontifex  
Robert J. Tench, Ph.D.

### Officers — 2002

David Chapman, President  
Kip Kramer, Secretary & Treasurer

### Senior Staff

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

## Tuohy Foundation Awards \$5,000 Capital Grant For Building Project

The museum has received a capital-improvement grant from the **Alice Tweed Tuohy Foundation** of Santa Barbara. The \$5,000 grant will be used for the new multi-purpose building and westside pathway that the museum has been planning. The building will house the museum's Visitor Welcome Center and an expanded museum store.

To date, cash gifts and pledges have passed the \$52,000 mark. Gifts and pledges of building materials and labor add about \$21,000 more to this total.

The **Santa Barbara Foundation**, **Wood-Claeyssens Foundation**, and **La Vista Foundation for the Blind and Physically Handicapped** are also major foundation supporters.

All members of the museum's board of trustees (listed at left) have made pledges or donations to the project. Other donors include **Reid and Robin Cederlof**, **Larry Crandell**, **Thea Cremers**, **The De Venne Family**, **Fairview Car Wash**, **Ron and Derry Godar**, **Joseph Handlon**, **Josiah F. Jenkins**, **Ellen Keeter**, **Harold Lewis**, **David and Susan Nivin**, **Paradise Machining Co.**, **William and Arlene Radasky**, **Mary Sonne**, **Steve and Thelma Sullivan**, and **Hilda Volkman**. Donors of \$1,000 or more will be acknowledged on a permanent plaque displayed in the new Welcome Center.

Estimated project costs are \$135,000. Construction is expected to begin by mid-year.

## Members Share Keepsakes In Annual Holiday Display

The 2001 holiday display, "*Toy Trains and Teddy Bears?*" in Goleta Depot's Waiting Room was enjoyed by hundreds of year-end visitors to the museum.

The annual exhibit included antique and toy trains and railroad models donated by Board President **Noel Langle**; Volunteers **Eugene Allen**, **Ron Bruns**, **Robert Burtness**, **Jean-Guy Dubé**,

and **Ed Leska**; and Junior Engineers **Shawn Babcock**, **Cody Stocker** and **Eita Takano**.

Stuffed animals and other keepsakes were contributed to the exhibit by Asst. Director **Phyllis Olsen**; Volunteers **Edee Brown**, **Ron Bruns**, and **Bob Burtness**; Members **David and Susan Nivin**; and Junior Engineers **Alexander DeVenne** and **Olivia DeVenne**.

## "Candy Cane Train" Was Another Good One

With a big closing weekend, including 210 riders on Sunday, Dec. 23, the 2001 *Candy Cane Train* overtook and passed the 2000 event in terms of attendance totals. Hindered by a number of rainouts and rain-shortened days, the 9th annual event had to come from far behind to reach the final tally of 1,580 riders, just 37 more than last year.

Despite the rough weather, it was a wonderful holiday season, which seemed to be thoroughly enjoyed by our visitors. For many of our holiday guests, that pleasure is continuing into the new year, as they use the coupons good for free rides in January or February that were given out to all *Candy Cane Train* ticket-holders.

The event's success was due in no small part to the great support from the *Santa Barbara News-Press*, which donated an eye-catching *Candy Cane Train* display ad that appeared more than a dozen times in the newspaper.

The *Candy Cane Train* has earned its reputation as one of the area's favorite family entertainments for the holiday season.

## "Super Saturday VI" Report

The 6th annual *Super Saturday* free-ride day, held on Feb. 2, had a record 16 sponsors, more than twice as many as in any previous year!

Corporate, business and professional sponsors included **American Pension Co.**; **Stephen A. Bailey, DDS**; **Bank of America**; **Camino Real Café**; **Channel Communications**; **Cold Spring Tavern**; **Michael J. Gartzke CPA**; **Gold's Gym**; **Murphy Electric**; **Ramada Limited**; **RP Printing**; **Santa Barbara Hobbies**; **Craig Schmidt Printing**; and **State Farm Insurance**; **Ed Attlesey & Tammy Dobrotin, Agents**. Also sponsoring the event were the families of museum trustees **Ken Pontifex** and **Robert Tench**.

An appreciative throng of museum visitors enjoyed 309 free rides during the busy afternoon. **Noel Langle** and **Dick Shelton** staffed a museum table and distributed many of the special football-shaped *Super Saturday* tickets at the Goleta Cityhood Birthday Celebration held the same day at Girsh Park.

**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](mailto:museum@goletadepot.org)

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





Museum Director Gary Coombs (right, 4th from left) and Assistant Director Phyllis Olsen (above, right) receive flags from Native Daughters President Dolores Hartnett (above, left) and other members of the presentation team.



Thelma Tate and Dolores' husband, Al Hartnett.

The next time you visit the museum,

be sure to take a moment to notice how proudly the Native Daughters' flags fly over the grounds.

## Native Daughters' Flags Are Flying Over Goleta Depot

The Native Daughters of the Golden West, Reina Del Mar Parlor, have donated a pair of American and California flags to the museum. The gift was made during an impressive Nov. 16 presentation ceremony presided over by parlor president **Dolores Hartnett**.

Other members of the presentation team were Native Daughters **Betty Dominguez**, **Alice TarBush** and

please let them know about it. For more information, or to schedule a museum visit, please contact Assistant Director Phyllis Olsen (805-964-3540).

Assistant Director Phyllis Olsen (805-964-3540) for more information.

## Hutton Foundation Sponsors New School & Youth Program

Children who visit the railroad museum and tour the historical landmark with their school or youth organization will now be able to receive a free miniature train ride as part of their museum experience. Teachers and youth-group leaders are also included in the giveaway.

The program, which is designed to encourage local-history education, is made possible by a grant from the **Hutton Foundation**. As for the landmark tours, themselves, they are always free to schools and youth groups.

If you know of a class or group that could benefit from this new program,

## Museum Hosts B'Day Parties

Those celebrating December, January and February birthdays at the museum include **Max Bidler**, **Henry Farrell**, **Christopher Gaffney**, **Edvard Indrebo**, **John and Anne Kehl**, **Kyle Lawson**, **Timmy Piozet**, **Ricky Rademacher**, **David Shove** and **Soren Wilde**.

A brochure describing how to plan your party and reserve one of our party areas is available at the museum. Or, call

## In Memoriam

The museum has lost two longtime friends and supporters, **Florence McNally** and **Robert Prottengeier**. Bob Prottengeier and his wife, Louise, were among the original "Friends of Goleta Depot." He died Sept. 18.

Flo McNally, who passed away in December, was the owner of Kimberly Press, which printed a number of our local-history publications, including *Goleta Depot: The History Of A Rural Railroad Station*. Her son, Bill McNally, is a former museum trustee and president.

## 20th Spring Fundraiser Will Be May 18

This year's "Great Goleta Rail Race" will be held Sat., May 18. For the sixth year, the event will feature unlimited train and handcar rides for all visitors.

The *Great Race* is the museum's spring fundraiser, the organization's oldest annual event. It is celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2002.

The *Great Race* 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, both in our community and beyond.

This year's goal is \$16,000, about \$3,000 more than has been raised in the past. To achieve this goal – which is critical to keep the museum running smoothly – it will take more pledges and, in turn, more people collecting pledges.

Please consider taking a more active role in this year's spring fundraiser, by contacting the museum office for a pledge sheet and instructions.

If you can't collect pledges, please make a pledge of your own – by completing and returning the enclosed *Great Race* donation card with your pledge or payment.

## Welcome New Members

Larry Crandell is a new Milepost 100 member. Other new members include Glenn Anderson, Eric Dietrich, Lloyd van Horsen, Tim Kehl, Jason Poole, Paul Raimer, Frank and Sonja Renda, and Julienne Hackley Unger.

New Junior Engineers are Carl Simpson-Heil, Steven Henderson, George Hutchinson, Nikola Klier, Pavel Klier, Ricky Rademacher, Joseph Rainbolt, Tristan J. Rice-Reiland, and Kelly C. Reynolds.

Warm greetings to all new members!

## Great Race & International Museum Day Collide

May 18 is *Great Race* day at our museum. Coincidentally, it is also *International Museum Day* around the world.

At the railroad museum, we plan to bring the two events together in a special way. Watch for the April 28 issue of the *Santa Barbara News-Press* to find out what all of the area museums are doing on International Museum Day.

## Volunteer News

Glenn Anderson and Jason Poole have recently joined the corps of museum volunteers. Both young men are training as crew members on the Goleta Short Line. Glenn and Jason are also learning to share the model railroad exhibit with our visitors.

### Coast Starlight Guide Training

Congratulations to Jan Bisol, Lora Prater, Cecelia Puppo and Bob Seward. They have all completed their training and are now *Coast Starlight* guides.

Guides-in-training Doug Barteld,

Sally Cappon, and James Ryan successfully completed their audition trips on Feb. 15. During the trip, the trio performed guide services aboard the *Coast Starlight* while being evaluated by Museum Director Gary Coombs and Assistant Director Phyllis Olsen.

Welcome to Paul Raimer, the interpretive program's newest recruit.

## \* 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) a 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.

*Goleta Depot has long been a popular subject for artists and photographers. Here, students in a Nov. 2, 2001 art class fashion their renderings of the landmark.*







Goleta

# DEPOT DISPATCH

Volume 22, Number 1 (Page 5 "Extra")

## ***CENTENNIAL SPECIAL***

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

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

"The Goleta Depot sailed smoothly, like a ship through the night." That's how **Steve Sullivan**, veteran reporter and Goleta bureau chief with the *Santa Barbara News-Press* described the move of the landmark building from its trackside birthplace to the new home waiting at Lake Los Carneros County Park.

The historic event began at precisely 1:28 p.m. on Wed, Nov. 18, 1981, when two trucks of the AA Jet Moving Co. of Norwalk, Calif. began to roll slowly south along Kellogg Ave. Their precious cargo had been cut in two by chainsaw-wielding workmen earlier that week.

The convoy traveled only about two blocks before the drivers pulled off the street onto an adjoining field. This would be the staging area for the greater drama that lay ahead. A delay was needed, until the traffic was lighter, during the wee hours of the following morning.

A good-sized crowd was on hand to witness the start of this march into history — well-wishers and spectators, the movers, of course, members of Goleta Beautiful's Depot Committee, and many others. The media were there and, overhead, utility workers were busy adjusting wires so that the curious parade could pass. When the afternoon's action subsided, the throng trickled away.

The depot's journey resumed at about midnight. The truck with the heaviest load, carrying the building's massive two-story section, took the lead, a position it would hold from start to finish. From Kellogg Ave., the convoy turned west onto Hollister Ave, traveling several blocks on the wrong side of the street to avoid a succession of lights and signs suspended over the lanes on the north side of the boulevard.

It all made quite a procession. For safety, the sides of the two depot pieces were strung with colorful running lights, which made them look like a pair of huge Christmas trees. And the depot was not alone. Many people, espe-

cially those who were particularly close to the project, would keep it — and one another — company throughout the nighttime trek. In the lead were **Nancy Ried** and **Mary Lou Williamson**, who ceremoniously followed, on foot, the road centerlines all of the way to the new site. Also on hand throughout the vigil were Depot Committee members **Phyllis Olsen**, **Raymond Baird** and **Gary Coombs**, and Gary's daughters, **Stephanie**, age 11, and **Heather**, 10. Park Commissioner **Karen Swenson**, who had been instrumental in gaining County approvals and some much-needed funding in the Park Dept. budget, also was there.

Committeeman **George Adams** and Goleta Chamber of Commerce Exec. Director **Anna Dato** followed much of the action by car, with George playing a cassette tape of train sounds for the benefit of anyone within earshot. Roving about were **Paul Heuston** and UCSB professor **Michael Glassow**, who took some wonderful photographs and slides of the move that South Coast Railroad Museum visitors marvel at to this day.

From Hollister Ave., the route turned north, crossing Highway 101 via the Fairview Ave. overpass. The trucks, and their massive loads, made the climb and descent without incident. Next was a left turn onto Calle Real, where a bundle of high voltage wires a mile ahead at La Patera Lane caused a temporary halt to the progress. With Edison workers raising the wires as much as possible, the two-story section squeaked by underneath, the wires scraping along a wooden skid-plate that the movers had attached to the depot roof.

Having successfully navigated the narrow stretch of Calle Real west of La Patera Lane, the trucks turned north onto Los Carneros Road for the final stretch run. Both pieces of the depot were off the street and onto the park site at 3:03 a.m. Five minutes later, both engines had been cut and all lights extinguished.

The lead in the next issue of the *Depot Dispatch* aptly summed up the feeling of accomplishment: **WE DID IT!!!**