



# Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH



## Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum

Volume 22, Number 2 — Summer 2002

### Goleta Depot Receives National Recognition

Goleta Depot has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The action was taken on Jan. 18 by the U.S. Dept. of Interior, upon the recommendation of the Calif. Historical Resources Commission, which was forwarded to Washington, D.C. late last year by Dr. Knox Mellon, the State Historic Preservation Officer. At the same time, Goleta Depot was also added to the Calif. Registry of Historical Resources.

The decision by the state commission was based on both Goleta Depot's distinctive architecture and the important role the depot played in the history and development of its community

The National Register of Historic

Places is our Nation's official list of buildings, sites and other properties that have been declared worthy of preservation. Goleta Depot joins about 75,000 other properties listed on the National Register: Among the Register's more distinguished members: the Lincoln Memorial, "Old Ironsides" (the 18th century frigate, *USS Constitution*), the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, and the Empire State Building.

### Celebration Ceremony Held

Members of the museum family and friends solemnized the National Register honor during a June 8 ceremony. Among the 68 persons in attendance were Goleta mayor **Margaret Connell**, city council members **Cynthia Brock**

(continued on page 4)

### "Steaming Summer" Set For July 27-28 Weekend

#### New Allen Engine Will Debut

Get ready for the 2002 edition of *Steaming Summer*, the South Coast Railroad Museum's only two-day event, which will celebrate its 16th anniversary over the weekend of July 27-28. *Steaming Summer* gets its name from the miniature steam locomotives that visit the museum once a year to pull the Goleta Short Line trains and their passengers.

This year's event promises to be an extra special one, as the museum hosts the largest locomotive ever to run on the museum tracks: A brand-new 2-8-0 Consolidation built by **Eugene Allen**, owner of Allen Models, Inc (see photo on page 4). Joining in engine service over the busy weekend will be two other Allen Models locomotives, a 2-6-0 mogul, owned by **Bill Hoey**, and Gene Allen's own 4-4-0 American.

For the fifth year, a circus theme will highlight *Steaming Summer*. One of the trains will be a circus train, including several unique circus cars from the collection of **Ted Cheesman**. Ted's squirting-elephant car and the calliope car with the bubble-blowing bear were big favorites last year! Those in attendance will be able to ride the circus train, or any of the other trains operating during the event.

The circus motif will carry over into the model-railroad exhibit, where **Ken**

(continued on page 4)



*"We in Goleta can be very proud of having this piece of history in our midst."*

Mayor Margaret Connell

## **South Coast Railroad Museum Institute for American Research**

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## **Youth Groups Tour Museum**

School and youth groups making recent visits to the museum include **Montecito Union School**, the **Santa Barbara YMCA** and **Christ Lutheran Church**.

## **SB Passport Program Encouraged Museum Visits**

From Dec. 6 through April 15, the railroad museum has been working with 13 other local museums and the Community Environmental Council in the "Passport To Santa Barbara" program. The program uses incentives to encourage young people to visit these local institutions. Among the rewards: a T-Shirt for those who visit 10 or more of the participating sites.

The program gave a real boost to attendance at the railroad museum. During the program period, our museum hosted 352 children who were Passport participants. These youngsters were accompanied by 321 parents and other adults, along with 98 non-participating brothers and sisters and other children,

for a grand total of 771. All of these museum guests took the self-guided tour of Goleta Depot.

## **PARC Foundation Awards Capital Grant**

The museum has received a grant from the **PARC Foundation**, which supports a variety of educational and recreational programs in local parks. The \$400 grant will be used to build a new passenger boarding station about midway along the Goleta Short Line right-of-way. The new facility will double as a viewing bench for studying and enjoying Goleta Depot's architecture.

Construction of the sidewalk leading to the new station is expected to begin by the end of August.

## **Spring Fundraiser Passes \$12,000**

The museum's 20th annual spring fundraiser has garnered \$12,279 in donations and pledges, surpassing the 2001 total, but falling short of the \$16,000 goal set by the board of trustees. Fourteen trustees, volunteers and staff members participated in the fundraising effort, which included more than 160 contributions, mostly from museum members.

## **Great Race Results: Train Wins!!!**

Despite a handicap of more than 37 rider-miles, the Goleta Short Line miniature-train was declared the winner of the 2002 *Great Goleta Rail Race*. The event, held Saturday, May 18, pitted the train against the museum handcar.

In victory, the train logged a total of 54.7 rider-miles, compared with 13.7 rider-miles for the handcar. The train also won the competition in 2001. The handcar prevailed in 1998-2000.

Overall, 325 free rides were given to museum visitors during the event, which was made possible by the 168 individuals, families, businesses and organizations that contributed to the organization's spring fundraiser.

## **"March Madness" Made Another Hectic Museum Month**

Free rides given during the 4th annual *March Madness* reached 2,090 — passing the 2,000 mark for the third consecutive year.

The event was shortened by a couple of days this year, because Easter Sunday (which is always preceded by the museum's *Easter Bunny Express* event) fell on March 31. The combination of *March Madness* and the *Easter Bunny Express* in a single month proved to be a formidable one: The Goleta Short Line carried more passengers in March 2002 than in any other single month in the museum's history.

Sincere thanks are expressed to our friends at **Fairview Car Wash**, which sponsored *March Madness* for a second year.

## **2nd Annual "Rotary Day"**

There were free train and handcar rides for everyone at the museum on Father's Day, Sunday, June 16. The free day was made possible by the **Rotary Club of Goleta Noontime**, which first sponsored "Rotary Day" in 2001. About 140 total rides were given during the afternoon.

Rotarians **Richard Abbott**, **Ed Graper**, **Susan Plumer** also were on hand to assist with the handcar ride and to promote the Rotary's 4th of July fireworks show. Proceeds from the fireworks event have benefitted the South Coast Railroad Museum and other local nonprofit organizations for a number of years.

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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)



## Summer Means Longer Hours

The museum will operate on an expanded schedule throughout the months of July, August and September. The museum will be open Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. during this period. The train ride will operate all five days from 11 a.m. until 3:45 p.m.

## Volunteers Make Easter Bunny Express Happen

Special thanks are due to all of the volunteers who helped to make the *Easter Bunny Express* on March 30 such a successful event.

Ticket sales were handled with aplomb by **Margaret Pryde** and **John Starr**. John traveled all the way from Ridgecrest for the occasion.

Ride volunteers included **Bob Burtness** and **Jason Poole**, on the EBX train, and **Noel Langle** and **Bruce Morden**, on the handcar. **Perry Lorentzen** kept the trains running smoothly in the model-railroad exhibit room.

**Arlene Radasky** and **Judy Blue** staffed the "What's Up Dock" station, handing out cute bunny stickers and pencils to our event guests. Ticketholders received a drawing chance for some adorable stuffed bunnies at "Jack-Rabbit Junction" where **Peggy Langle** held sway throughout the day. **Judy Connors**, **Pat Lorentzen**, **Lora Prater** and **Dick Shelton** took turns distributing the cookies and punch at "Harvey's House."

**John Locke** and **David Chapman** shared the day's cooking responsibilities, while **Judy Blue**, **Lupe Garcia**, **Olivia Leonard**, **Jo Little**, and **Diana Mina** sold and served the hot sandwiches and ice cold beverages.

Volunteers who helped with setup and cleanup included **Judy Blue**, **Bob Burtness**, **David Chapman**, **Noel Langle**, **Peggy Langle**, **John Locke**, **Diana Mina**, **Bruce Morden** and **John Starr**.

## Jr. Engineers Club Party

The annual Junior Engineers Club Party will be held Thursday, July 11 from 2 to 4 p.m. There will be delicious refreshments and free miniature-train rides for all in attendance. To make your reservations, please call the museum office (964-3540).

## Welcome New Members

**Zac P. Bogart** is a new Milepost 100 member. New active members include **Sabri Balcin**, **Martin Birnbach**, **Chris DeAmicis** and **Michael Melvin-Pagaling**.

The museum has 32 new additions to the Junior Engineers Club! They are **Logan Patrick Avery**, **Travis Ray Brashears**, **Marie Brashears**, **Matthew Burns**, **Kevin Burton**, **Travis Burton**, **Fergus Caldow**, **Tristan Caldow**, **Charlie Carter**, **Joey Carter**, **Benjamin Choi**, **Joyce Choi**, **Alijah Grant**, **William Hahn**, **Christopher Hartman**, **Leslie Hartman**, **Wade Labrie**, **Briana Montero**, **Eric Montero**, **Joshua Montero**, **Cameron Nichoson**, **Tyler Nichoson**, **Spencer Piligian**, **Alex Poirier**, **Nicolas Poirier**, **Danny Reder**, **Ian Saunders**, **Kyle Saunders**, **Pierce Simmons**, **Sarah Taylor**, **Spencer Taylor** and **Zachary D. Wellington**.

Greetings to all of our new museum members.

## Volunteer News

Congratulations to Coast Starlight Guides **Doug Barteld** and **Sally Cappon**. They have completed all of their guide training.

### \* Join \* Help \* Serve \*

More volunteers are needed in all visitor-service areas at the museum, including engineers, conductors and crew to operate the miniature-train and handcar rides, clerks for the museum store, and "station agents," who share the historical landmark and model rail-

road 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.

## "Depot Day" Is Coming

Sunday, Sept. 29 will mark the 20th annual *Depot Day*, the South Coast Railroad Museum's big fall celebration. Mark the date on your calendar and check the next *Depot Dispatch* newsletter issue for all of the details on this year's event.

## Museum Hosts B'Day Parties

The museum's popularity as a site for birthday parties continues to grow. Those celebrating recent birthdays at the museum include **Logan Avery**, **Leshon Bell**, **Travis Brashears**, **Connor Brindly**, **Charlie and Joey Carter**, **Joyce and Benjamin Choi**, **Chase Dietz**, **Madison Dochterman**, **Scott Feldman**, **Alex Forcillo**, **William Hahn**, **Hunter Heilman**, **John Hollifield**, **Spencer Piligian**, **Joseph Rainbolt**, **Pierce Simmons** and **Sarah Taylor**.

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.

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**Steaming Summer** (cont'd from p. 1)

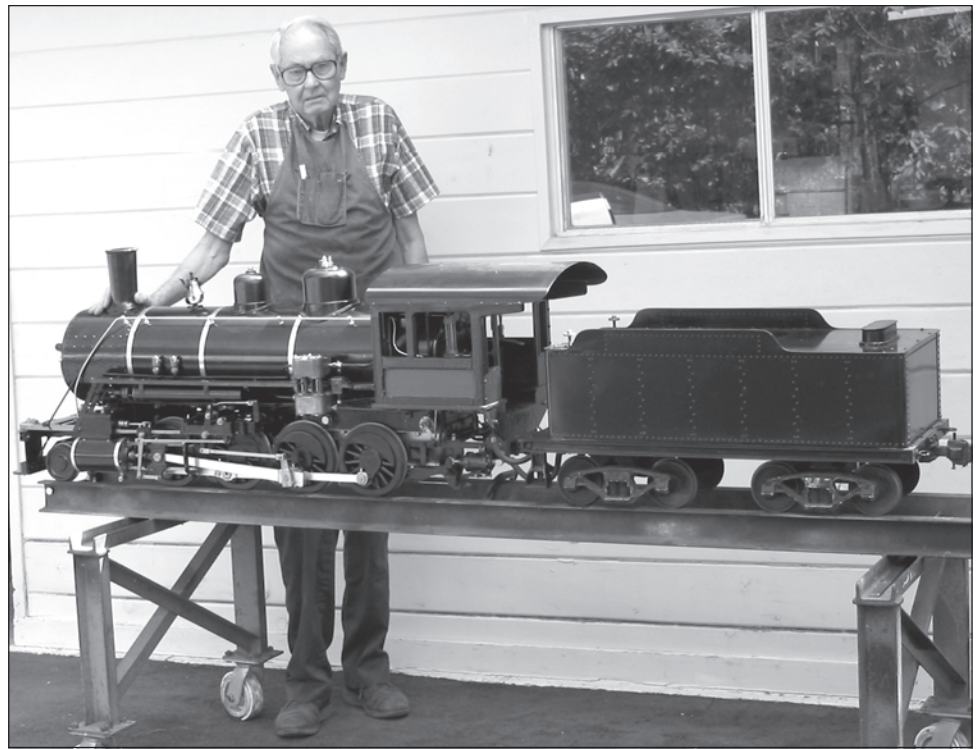
and Carolyn Weber's "K&C Famous Family Circus" will occupy a parcel of vacant land near the Santa Barbara roundhouse. The HO-scale three-ring circus has been entertaining Steaming Summer crowds since 1999. It features a big top and an operating 20-car circus train.

Daily admission to *Steaming Summer* is only \$3, which includes unlimited rides on the Goleta Short Line trains and the museum handcar (Riders must meet minimum-height requirements: 34" for train; 48" for handcar.).

Hours both Saturday and Sunday will be 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Museum members are invited to come early (10-11 a.m.) to watch the locomotives being steamed-up in preparation for the day's activities (Early-bird attendance is limited to members and their accompanying guests only, please.).

*Steaming Summer* is made possible by the generous sponsorship of **Toyota of Santa Barbara**, with additional support from the **Goleta Lions Club**.

The \$3 admission charge (\$2.75 for members) applies to everyone, including those who elect not to ride, while infants and any others who are unable to ride the train will be admitted with-



*Gene Allen's new 2-8-0 Consolidation engine, No. 613, will debut during Steaming Summer.*

out charge. For late arrivals, the admission price drops to \$2 after 3 p.m. Advance tickets, at 50¢ off (75¢ off with membership card) are now available in the museum's Trackside Shop.

The program will also include continuous free showings of railroad films, with an emphasis on steam locomotion, including tutorials on how to operate

and maintain a steam engine — all shown in the museum's Gandy Dancer Theater.

Tri-tip sandwiches, "Depot Dogs," beverages, and other lunch and snack items will be available during the event.

Don't miss this once-a-year chance to see and ride on a steam-powered Goleta Short Line train!

**National Register** (cont'd from p. 1)

and Jonny Wallis, and representatives from the offices of **State Senator Jack O'Connell** and **Assemblywoman Hannah Beth Jackson**.

At the podium, Mayor Connell said, "I remember when the depot was sit-

ting boarded up beside the train tracks ... looking as though its last days were near." And, speaking about the Goleta Depot Committee and depot volunteers over the years, she remarked, "We as a community owe them an enormous debt of gratitude, not only for saving this historic building but for the wonderful museum and the educational and fun programs they've built around it."

Museum director **Gary Coombs** described how the depot had earned a place on the National Register, explaining that Goleta Depot "had a profound effect on the people of its community. It was used by just about everyone. It touched the everyday lives

of so many people."

The program finale was the unveiling of the National Register plaque by **Phyllis Olsen** and **Eugene Allen** who, along with Coombs, were original members of the Goleta Depot Committee of five.



*Museum board president David Chapman opened the program.*





# Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH

Volume 22, Number 2 (Page 5 "Extra")

## **CENTENNIAL SPECIAL**

*Ninth 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!!!**