



Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH



Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum

Volume 22, Number 3 — Fall 2002

20TH DEPOT DAY IS HERE!!

Depot Day, the annual fall event that commemorates the long and eventful life of Goleta Depot, will celebrate its own 20th anniversary on Sunday, Sept. 29. This year, there will be even more to celebrate following Goleta Depot's Jan. 18 addition to the National Register of Historic Places.

Depot Day is also the museum's primary annual community fundraiser. Event hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Rides, Rides, Rides!

Only on Depot Day can museum visitors ride on three different types of rail vehicles: miniature train, handcar and, as a special added attraction, Bob Mahan's inspection speeder, which formerly ran on the Ventura County Railway. All rides are \$1 each on Depot Day.

Barbecue Offers Choice of Tri-Tip or Chicken

The delicious Depot Day barbecue will include your choice of entree – chicken breast or sliced tri-tip – plus green salad, toasted french bread, and ranch beans.

Tickets are \$8 (\$5 for children under 12) on the day, but they can also be purchased in advance, which earns \$1 off the regular price. Advance tickets are available in the museum's Tracksides Shop (purchases can be made by credit card) or from museum trustees or staff.

Musical Entertainment

Back by popular demand will be the energetic youth singing group, "Showstoppers," and the Monte Vista Elementary School Choir, directed by Radu Azdril.

Silent Auction

There will be lots of great buys at the Depot Day silent auc-
(continued on page 4)



20 Years In The Making

As we begin the unveiling of the 20th annual "Depot Day" celebration, it is interesting to look back at the origins of this yearly event.

The first "Depot Day" was held Sunday, Oct. 9, 1983, to celebrate the saving of Goleta Depot and the beginning of a new chapter in the landmark's long and colorful history. The occasion marked the 10th anniversary of the closing of Goleta Depot by the Southern Pacific Railroad (in Oct. 1973) and the first anniversary of the depot's formal dedication as a Santa Barbara County Historical Landmark (Oct. 10, 1982).

Depot Day was the closing event of "Goleta Valley Days," the community event, complete with crosstown parade, that eventually developed into the modern-day Lemon Festival.

Many of the ingredients of that inaugural Depot Day will be familiar to those who have attended in recent years. There was an auction (but a live one rather than silent), musical entertainment (a railroad-tune contest, no less!), and plenty of food and refreshments. Some of the early elements that didn't survive the test of time included a rummage sale, produce market and baked-goods sale.

Despite the passage of 20 years, the theme of Depot Day has never changed. Please join with us this year as we celebrate the longevity and the continuing saga of this remarkable and beloved building.

**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
Richard B. Shelton
Robert J. Tench, Ph.D.

Officers — 2002

David Chapman, President
Robert J. Tench, Vice President
Kip Kramer, Secretary & Treasurer

Senior Staff

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

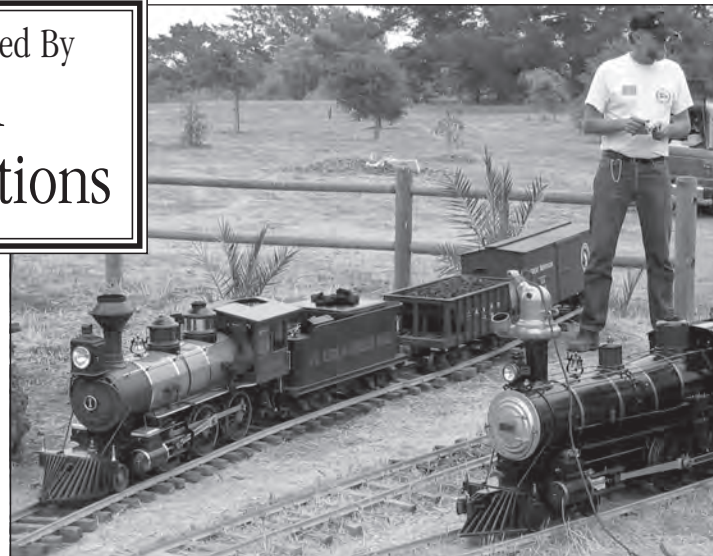
Steaming Summer 2002 Was Really Smokin'

The 1,114 train rides given over *Steaming Summer* weekend was an alltime two-day record for the museum. But this year's event was a lot more. As the accompanying photographs attest, the presence of five steam locomotives, coupled with **Ted Cheesman's** circus-train cars and everything else going on, made this one of the most exciting steam events ever held at the museum.

Thanks are owed to all who helped to make the event possible, especially to **Gene Allen**, who organized the motive power, arranging for **William Brunner**, **Bill Hoey** and **Michael Zuker** to share their locomotives this year.



This Issue Sponsored By
**Channel
Communications**



Goleta Depot Dispatch: Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum.

Published quarterly by the Institute for American Research, 300 North Los Cameros 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

Volunteer News

Congratulations to **James Ryan** for completing all of his *Coast Starlight* guide training.

And, welcome to **Rick Cremeen**. Rick is a new volunteer learning to operate the miniature train.

Arthur Lloyd Will Headline “Depot Night” on Nov. 9

Arthur L. Lloyd, winner of Amtrak’s coveted “Champion Of The Rails” award for 2002, will be the featured speaker at Depot Night on Sat., Nov. 9. Santa Barbara’s own **Larry Crandell** will serve as Master of Ceremonies. The event will also feature a retrospective on the history of Goleta Depot, from its earliest days to its rebirth as home of the South Coast Railroad Museum, and a salute to museum volunteers, past and present.

Arthur Lloyd will speak on the future of passenger railroading in America. There are few who are more familiar with that topic than the long

time director of Amtrak public affairs, sales and government affairs for the western U.S. Now retired, Mr. Lloyd remains active with numerous with national, state and Bay Area regional organizations involved with passenger rail and railroad history. Today, he remains one of the most familiar personalities among U.S. rail fans and transportation advocates, alike.

Tickets for the event at the Timbers Restaurant are \$30 (\$25 for members), which includes a buffet-style dinner. A no-host social hour will start at 6 p.m. Reservations are a must: Call the museum at 805-964-3540 to hold your seats.



Construction Progress

As this issue of the *Depot Dispatch* goes to the printer on Sept. 13, considerable headway has been made on the two new additions to the grounds that comprise our capital project.

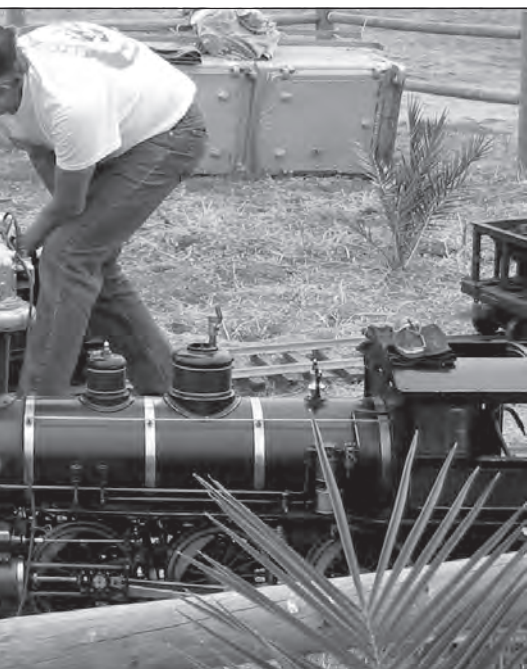
The new sidewalk should be ready for limited use by Depot Day. When completed, the walkway will feature a second miniature-train boarding station, a permanent boarding spot for the handcar ride, and a bench for viewing Goleta Depot or ride activity. The sidewalk will give visitors a beautiful and safe way to

explore the grounds.

Excavation for the footings and foundation of the new build-

ing are complete and the work schedule calls for the forms and rebar to be installed on Sept. 14, with concrete poured soon thereafter.

This project is being made possible by a growing list of foundations, businesses, organizations, families and individuals. A complete list will be published in the next *Depot Dispatch*. If you have been thinking about lending your own support, now is the time to act!



Handcar Has A New Home

The museum handcar has carried more than 14,000 passengers since volunteers completed its construction in 1988.

In July, SWAP workers built a new shed for the handcar at the north end of the mainline track. This location will make it easier to ready the car for rides.

Noel Langle and Jason Poole introduce the handcar to its new digs, July 27, 2002.



DEPOT DAY (continued from page 1)

tion. This year, the tables will be jammed with more than 200 items going up for bid, including luxury hotel stays, meals at fine restaurants, golf, admission to Southern California amusement parks, tickets to regional performing arts productions, fine wines and winery tours, Amtrak adventure travel, and a lot more.

The silent auction is a very important source of revenue for the museum. Please help the museum and yourself by stopping by the tables and placing bids on some of these fabulous items.

If you would like to receive a list of auction items, please send us your e-mail address (auction@goletadepot.org) or visit the museum web site (www.goletadepot.org) and select "Depot Day" on the home page.

If you have new items, collectibles, or valuable services to donate to the auction, please call Assistant Director Phyllis Olsen in the museum office (964-3540).

Special Guests

Southern California representatives of Operation Lifesaver will be at Depot Day to hand out fun souvenirs and talk to young and old about pedestrian and vehicle safety around trains and railroads.

Train Films

Films on a variety of railroad topics will be shown throughout the day in the museum's Gandy Dancer Theater.

Donations At The Door

Everyone will be asked to make a \$1 donation to support the museum.

Other Food & Refreshments

Our volunteers will also be selling hot dogs, soft drinks, and other refreshments during the day.

Circus Is Leaving Town

Depot Day will also be your last chance to see Ken and Carolyn Weber's HO-scale "K&C Famous Family Circus" in the model railroad exhibit room.



Members Respond To Special Appeal

Donations totaling more than \$2,000 have been received by the museum since the Spring Fundraiser. These member contributions are in response to the appeal letter that accompanied the last newsletter.

Much gratitude is owed to all those who answered this special call for support. They include **Christine Allen, Betty Bazzi, Ronald E. Bruns, Mr. and Mrs. Reid Cederlof, David C. Chapman, Bill Crow, Clay Dickens, Ronald Dietz, Patricia Edgerton, James and Susan Felland, and Morse and Opal Jeffers.**

Also, **Thomas and Kathleen McDermott, Joan McDonough, Bob and Helen McPherrin, Mary Medbery, Jo Millett, Mr and Mrs John Murchison, Steve and Colleen Ozab, Marshall Payatt, Mr. and Mrs. Godwin J. Pelissero, Sally Pierce, Had and Ellie Reeves, Sonja and F.J. Renda, Robert Sanger, Robert Stone, Eita Takano, Rich and Linda Thom, George Thorpe, Hilda Volkman, Ron and Donna Zehrung and Susan, James and Morgan Petrovich.**

Foundations Award Grants

The museum has received a \$5,000 grant from the **Mid-State Bank Foundation** and a \$1,000 grant from the **Schulte Family Foundation**. Both awards are for the museum's capital project.

Jr. Engineers Gather

About 68 members, family and friends attended the Junior Engineers Club's annual party on July 11. The partygoers enjoyed the Jr. Engineers cake and other treats and refreshments and a total of 126 free rides on the Goleta Short Line train.

Welcome, New Members

New Milepost 100 member include **Grafskoy Hindeloopen Ltd., LLC; Vadim M. Hsu, A.I.A.; L & P Consultants; Mrs. Elizabeth R. Labrash; Land Use Planners & Consultants; Joel Maloney; Charles and Elise Meyer; MFC&V Insurance Services; Dylan Minor; Santa Barbara Capital; Taft Electric Co.; Richard and Pat Tench; The Tile Collection; URS Corporation; Brian White; and Todd Williams.**

Stanley C. Sofas is a new Sustain-

ing member. New Active members are **Peter Bennett and Julie Bubul, Rick Cremeen, Dennis and Beth Morales, and the vanZeyl Family.** New Junior Engineers Club members are **Ryan Eastwood, David Figueroa, Cooper Jasiorkowski, Madeleine Lazarovits, Frances and Miles Kretschmer, Stephen Nagatoshi, Ryan Ostendorf, Kenzie Togami and Austin Venezia.**

Greetings to all new members.

Summer Schedule Ends Sept. 29

The museum will return to its regular operating hours in October. The museum will be open Wed. thru Sunday 1 to 4 p.m., with train rides offered 2-3:40 on Wednesdays and Fridays and 1:15-3:45 on weekends.



Goleta

DEPOT DISPATCH

Volume 22, Number 3 (Page 5 "Extra")

CENTENNIAL SPECIAL

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



A LOOK BACK: 20 YEARS AGO

Project fundraising activity, long at a frenetic pace, seemed only to intensify in the months following Goleta Depot's Nov. 1981 move to Lake Los Carneros County Park. Depot fundraisers seldom missed a chance to make money for the campaign. Here's just a sampling of what was done.

The bricks were salvaged from the old depot foundation immediately after the move and 200 of these were given numbered brass plaques and sold for \$5 apiece, an effort spearheaded by Nancy Ried and Gene Allen. Meanwhile, Phyllis Olsen, later to become the project's fundraising chair, was busy rounding up sponsors for all of the depot's windows and doors – at \$40 and \$150 each, respectively.

The 17th annual Goleta Valley Night, sponsored by the Goleta Lions and Santa Barbara News-Press, was held Feb. 27. The theme was "Goleta Depot – An Excursion Into The Past" and the \$1,500 in proceeds went to the depot project.

WWII veterans from the 244th Marine Dive Bomber Squadron held their 40-year reunion here in February. The unit, which had been shipped out for duty in the Pacific in early 1943 by way of Goleta Depot, raised \$235 for the project by selling chances on a 10-lb Hershey bar!

The Cattlemen's Restaurant and Saloon held a St. Patrick's Day bash, with the \$2 cover charge going to the depot.

On April 24, the Institute for American Research hosted a "walk-a-thon" type fundraiser called the "Asphalt Regatta." The event, which earned about \$1,500 for the project, would grow to become the South Coast Railroad Museum's spring fundraiser, which celebrated its 21st anniversary in 2002.

Project souvenirs, including a "Have You Hugged Your Depot Today" T-shirt designed by teenager Stephanie Coombs, a "Goleta Depot" patch, and prints of artworks depicting the historical landmark, were sold at a makeshift "Depot Store" inside Mike's Industrial Supplies at 5968 Hollister Ave. The Goleta Valley Historical Society shared proceeds from its summer barbecue, held June 5, with the depot campaign.

These and many other fundraisers (including "Adopt-A Depot" cans for accepting donations of spare change placed on store counters around town) energized the community, bringing many into the depot fold, but most of the big money for the project came from lone contributors. Shortly after the move, Carl and Verna Smith donated \$2,000 to the project, one of the largest contributions received up to that time. A \$5,000 from the Santa Barbara Foundation soon followed. Wells Fargo Bank used Goleta Valley Night in February as the stage for presenting a \$3,000 check for the depot's rebirth. In June, a \$2,000 gift from Raytheon was reported in the Depot Dispatch.

Work on the building restoration and rehabilitation progressed more slowly after the move, partly because of bad weather, and also because funds were limited, so that the construction often had to wait for the fundraising successes.

Restoration of the depot's windows and doors began in the early months of 1982. Volunteers included Michael Glassow and Bob Hiestand (working on the windows) and Gene Allen, Ralph Moore and Ernie Thomsen (doors).

Because of the shortage of funds, much of the early carpentry was donated, most coming from the apprentice carpenters of Local 1062. Their first major task was structural repairs to the depot underside. This paved the way for AA Jet House Movers to return to Goleta on March 1-2 to position the building onto the recently completed foundation. The backfilling was donated by South Coast Contractors, which had earlier helped with site grading and other ground preparations.

The project also turned to unskilled labor for help. Saturday mornings were set aside for the general public to come out and lend a hand. Among those who gave of their time were Goleta Valley Jr. High School students, who had been offered extra credit by their instructors.

Project architect Ray Baird volunteered countless hours over this period, supervising the rebuilding effort in the absence of a paid general contractor. And Gary Coombs, overall project chairman, worked to keep everything on track.