



Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH



Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum

Volume 23, Number 1 — Spring 2003

“Hare-Raising” *Easter Bunny Express* Arrives April 19

The much anticipated *Easter Bunny Express* will be pulling into Goleta Depot on Saturday, April 19. You and your family and friends can hop aboard the museum’s most popular springtime event, which celebrates its 11th anniversary this year, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The cost is \$3 per person, adult or child. Those holding the event’s trademark egg-shaped ticket will be able to take part in a number of fun activities, including visits to *Wabbit-Twacks Station* (to ride the decorated train); *Harvey’s House* (for a cookie & lemonade donated by **Country Catering Co.**); *Easter-Bunnyville* (to meet the **Easter Bunny** and receive an egg surprise); *Jack-Rabbit Junction* (to enter a drawing for some terrific prizes); and *What’s Up Dock* (to collect another souvenir).

Tickets will be sold in advance at the museum. They will also be available during the event until 3:30 p.m.

The decoration of the grounds is already in full swing, with the arrival of the first California poppy blooms. The colorful combination of fanciful signs (“Support Rabbit Transit” and “Wabbit Twacks Crossing,” for example) and spring flowers and blooming trees and shrubs is one of the most endearing aspects of the annual event.

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**.

Don’t be left at the station! The 2003 *Easter Bunny Express* is sure to be another “hare-raising eggs-perience” for the whole family (rain date: April 26).

The museum will be closed on Easter Sunday, April 20.

Visiting the Easter Bunny is always one of the event’s most popular activities.

Wood-Claeyssens Foundation Awards \$5,000 Capital Grant

A \$5,000 grant has been received from the **Wood-Claeyssens Foundation**, to be used toward the museum’s building project.

This is the third grant made by the Wood-Claeyssens Foundation to the capital campaign, raising its total commitment to the project to \$9,000.

There are now 17 names that have earned a place on the commemorative plaque that will acknowledge gifts to the capital project of \$1,000 or more. These include: INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES – **RoseAnn Hill; Josiah F. Jenkins; Ellen G. Keeter; Perry and Pat Lorentzen; Isabel Friend Newman; Ken Pontifex; Louise Prottengeier; and Dr. and Mrs. William Radasky;**

BUSINESSES – Fairview Car Wash; Paradise Machining Corp.; and ZBE, Inc.; FOUNDATIONS – Alice Tweed Tuohy Foundation; La Vista Foundation for the Blind & Physically Handicapped; Mid-State Bank Foundation; Santa Barbara Foundation; Schulte Family Foundation; and Wood-Claeyssens Foundation.

It’s not too late to add your name or your company’s name to the list!

Made possible by capital-project funds, Victorian benches at new boarding station (right) and along new viewing path add an attractive new dimension to the museum grounds.



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 — 2003

David Chapman, President
Ken Pontifex, Vice President

Senior Staff

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

“Passports” Encourage Children To Visit & Explore Local Museums

The railroad museum is again partnering with 16 other local museums and the Community Environmental Council in the “Passport To Santa Barbara” program.

The program is built around a “passport” booklet that is available free to all South Coast school children in grades K-8. Pages in the booklet are devoted to each of the participating organizations.

Upon completion of a special activity at one of the participating sites, the passport bearer receives a rubber-stamp impressions in their booklet, as proof of their visit. Children who obtain at least six stamps win a special program T-shirt. The program also includes free admission for the child and one adult at those museums where an admission fee is usually charged.

Passport booklets can be obtained at the railroad museum through April 15, which is also the last day for completing passport activities at all of the

participating sites.

The Passport program is a project of the Santa Barbara Museum Educators’ Roundtable. 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*.

Elks Sponsor February Free Day

Santa Barbara Elks Lodge No. 613 took a turn at sponsoring a week-end afternoon of free miniature-train rides at the railroad museum. “Elks Day” was held on Sunday, February 23, much to the pleasure of scores of museum visitors, who enjoyed more than 140 free rides compliments of the Elks. Everyone who rode also received a ticket that acknowledged the Elks contribution and the role they played in making the free day possible.

April Is Channel Communications

Darren Wilson at **Channel Communications** has kindly offered to sponsor two free ride days this year. The first will be held on Sunday, April 27. Don’t miss all the fun from 1 ‘til 3:45 p.m. Ride as much as you like!

Channel Communications’ second free day will be held in July. The date will be reported in the next *Depot Dispatch* issue.

Welcome New Members

The latest additions to the museum’s membership are **Elizabeth Gregory**, the **Matthew Family (Carol, Scott, Chris and Samantha)**, **Charmee Padilla**, **Hubert Stamps** and **Mike Toppin**.

New Junior Engineers Club members include **Evan John Akiskalian**, **Eri Delmarsh**, **Ila Delmarsh**, **Benjamin Harger**, **Evan Magee**, **Hollie Magee**, **Chase Nelson**, **Jackson Knox-Reid** and **Will Yamasaki**.

Greetings to all new members!

“Candy Cane Train” Was A Holiday Crowd Pleaser

Attendance for the 2002 edition of the popular year-end *Candy Cane Train* event proved to be lighter than it has been for several years, with ticket sales just passing the 1,000 mark. Much of the decline can be attributed to the fact that the period between Thanksgiving and Christmas was a week shorter in 2002 than it had been since back in 1996.

Despite the smaller overall turnout, the **Candy Cane Train** once again delivered a unique and memorable holiday experience for its many delighted participants.

Retired teacher Ethel King was the lucky winner of the Candy Cane Train’s Teddy Bear drawing.



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

Web-site: www.goletadepot.org

UCSB Interns Help Organize Museum's Collections

The railroad museum has been benefitting greatly from the assistance of UCSB students serving as museum interns. Through this program, students receive course credit while they work at the museum, learning about museum activities and practices.



Alexis Hickman

During the Winter 2002-03 Quarter, now ending, the museum enjoyed the help of two interns, **Alexis Hickman** and **Thaswan ("Bee") Tangsurat**. Bee and Alexis have been helping organize the museum library, using the cataloging system developed by the Library of Congress.

The museum's internship program was created by Thea Cremers, the museum's resource development coordinator, who is also the instructor of record for the intern course at UCSB. Thea has already signed up two new interns for spring quarter, which begins in early April.



Bee Tangsurat

"Super Saturday VII" Sponsors Earn High Praise

The 7th annual *Super Saturday*, which served up more than 170 free miniature train rides to museum visitors on Jan. 25, had 17 sponsors, one more than the record number for 2002.

There were 10 sponsors returning from last year: **American Pension Co.**; **Stephen A. Bailey, D.D.S.**; **Camino Real Café**; **Cold Spring Tavern**; **Michael J. Gartzke CPA**; **Gold's Gym**; **Ramada Limited**; **RP Printing**; **Santa Barbara Hobbies**; **State Farm Insurance (Ed Attlesey & Tammy Dobrotin, Agents)**.

New sponsors for 2003 included **MFC&V Insurance Services**; **Mid-State Bank & Trust**; **"Dr. J" Neel, Optometrist**; **Mike & Gail Pearl, Realtors**; **Peter Tiersma**; **Western Welding**; and **ZBE Incorporated**.

Special thanks to all of this year's sponsors for making the 2003 *Super Saturday* another highly successful event.

Annual Holiday Display Benefits From Member Sharing

Kyle Lawson, a member of the museum's Junior Engineer's Club, was proud to share a Lionel train as his contribution to the 2002 holiday display, "*Toy Trains and Teddy Bears!*" Manufactured in the 1950s, the train had once

belonged to Kyle's father.

Hundreds of museum visitors enjoyed the Waiting Room exhibition, which ran from Thanksgiving through New Year's.

Volunteers and other members who made the display possible with loans of stuffed animals, antique and toy trains, or railroad keepsakes included **Judy Blue**, **Edee Brown**, **Ron Bruns**, **Lynn Burtness**, and **Bob Burtness**. Other Junior Engineer contributors included **Ian Jimenez**, **Emily Mosbrucker**, **Ian Saunders**, **Kyle Saunders**, and **Kenzie Togami**.

"First Fridays Free" Finishes First Full Year

"First Fridays Free," the free monthly train-ride program sponsored by **Cox Communications**, completed its first year of operation on March 7.

Over the initial 12 months, a total of 1,207 free rides were given – a fraction over 100 rides each day. Cox Communications has generously agreed to sponsor the event for a second year.

This Issue Sponsored By

**Mid-State
Bank & Trust**

Goleta National Bank Is Sponsoring GSL Rail Car

Another of the Goleta Short Line passenger cars has been adopted. Car No. 4 now sports two brass-finish plaques that announce, "Sponsored By **Goleta National Bank**."

The museum is also looking for sponsors for Engine No. 2655 ("Gray Engine") and for Car Nos. 3, 8 and 9. If you are interested in becoming a car or engine sponsor, please contact Museum Director Gary Coombs (964-3540; gcoombs@goletadepot.org). The cost is \$150 for the engine and \$100 each for the cars, for a one-year period.

Tuohy Foundation Grant Received

The museum has been awarded a \$1,600 grant from the **Alice Tweed Tuohy Foundation**. The grant funds will be used to purchase software and equipment to computerize the museum's store operations.

The **Goleta Valley Chamber of Commerce** has also contributed to the project by donating one of their used computers to the museum. Trustee **Noel Langle** has donated a hard drive to help upgrade the computer to the required specifications.

22nd Spring Fundraiser Will Be May 17

This year's "Great Goleta Rail Race" will be held Sat., May 17. For the public, the *Great Race* is a day of free miniature-train and handcar rides, but it is also the museum's spring fundraiser and the organization's oldest annual event. Known for many years as the "Asphalt Regatta," the event was first held in 1982.

The *Great Race* is one of the museum's most important annual income sources, generating nearly 15% of the funds needed annually for operations. Funds are raised by the event participants, including members of the Board of Trustees, volunteers, staff, and others, 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, more than has been raised in previous years and an amount critical to the museum's continued well-being.

Members and other readers are urged to participate more actively in this year's event, either by contacting the museum office for a pledge sheet and instructions or by making a pledge of your own — by completing and returning the enclosed *Great Race* donation card with your pledge or payment.

Trees Fall In Wind & Storms

Two trees were lost in February and March during periods of severe weather. A eucalyptus tree fell, barely missing nearby storage sheds and striking and collapsing a lumber crib.



Volunteer News

Elizabeth Gregory, Charmee Padilla, and Hubert Stamps, along with museum staffer **Thea Cremers**, have recently signed up to train to become Coast Starlight guides.

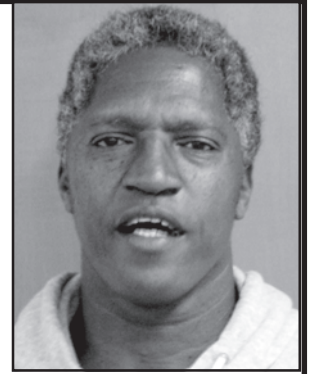
Mike Toppin is learning to operate the Goleta Short Line miniature train and **Carol, Scott, and Samantha Matthew** are new clerks in the Trackside Shop.

There is still 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 the model railroad exhibit with our guests.

The basic volunteer commitment is one afternoon (three hours) a month. More *Coast Starlight* guides are also needed. Upon completion of training,



Mike Toppin



Hubert Stamps

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.

Far more seriously, the tallest tree on the property, a 100-foot Monterey pine, toppled during the high night winds of Feb. 19. This great tree, which had marked the end of the miniature-train's return loop, had been keeling over inch by inch for more than a de-



Then, a team of museum volunteers, including **Jason Poole, Sean VanderJagt, Gene Allen, Ted Cheesman, Ed Leska** and **Bruce Morden**, came to the rescue. Thanks to their skill, dedication and more than 40 hours of hard work (including well past sunset on Friday, Feb. 21), only a single day of train operations was lost.

Photo far left: Sean VanderJagt; Center: Jason Poole poses at temporary end-of-track; Photo below (Ed Leska (on left), Sean VanderJagt (right), Bruce Morden (in rear).

cade. The County Parks Dept. advised the museum years ago that nothing could be done to prevent the tree from eventually falling.

In falling, the tree destroyed a section of track, bending the rails and splintering ties. County Parks responded quickly, sending a crew to remove the section of trunk that was blocking the railroad right-of-way.

