



Goleta

DEPOT DISPATCH



Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum

Volume 24, Number 3 — Fall 2004

Depot Day Has Arrived!

Sunday, Sept. 26 will mark the 22nd annual *Depot Day*. The day-long museum event is a celebration of the long and colorful life of Goleta Depot, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the California Registry of Historical Resources and the roster of Santa Barbara County Historical Landmarks.

Depot Day is the museum's principal annual community fund-raiser. Events hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

A Donation Will Be Requested

All *Depot Day* attendees will be asked to make a \$1 per person contribution in support of the museum and the continued preservation of the historical landmark.

A Cornucopia Of Rides

Depot Day is the only opportunity during the year for visitors to enjoy rides on three different types of railcars. Inspection-car rides will be offered on **Bob Mahan's** Ventura County Railway speeder. There will also be handcar rides and rides on the "Goleta Short Line" miniature train. All rides are \$1 each on *Depot Day*.

Silent Auction

The *Depot Day* silent auction has become a favorite venue for picking up valuable goods and services at great prices, while also helping to keep the railroad museum going and growing.

This year's auction tables will be spilling over with about 200 items going up for bid, including luxury hotel stays, golfing, admission to Southern California amusement parks, tickets to regional performing arts productions, winery tours, Amtrak adventure travel, meals at fine local restaurants, and a lot more.

The auction is a very important source of financial support for the museum. Please help by visiting the tables



Inspection car rides are only offered on Depot Day.

and placing bids on some of your favorite items.

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

Special Guests

Operation Lifesaver will have a booth for *Depot Day*. Their representatives will be giving away fun souvenirs that promote safety around trains and railroads. They will also be available to distribute literature and answer questions about keeping safe near tracks, rail yards and railroad crossings.

Musical Entertainment

Returning to Depot Day again in 2004 will be the wonderful young performers of the **Monte Vista Elementary**

(continued on page 3)

South Coast Railroad Museum Institute for American Research

Board of Trustees

David Chapman
Kip Kramer
Noel Langle
John C. Locke
Bruce Morden
Ken Pontifex
Richard B. Shelton

Officers — 2004

Bruce Morden, President
Richard B. Shelton, Vice President
Noel Langle, Secretary-Treasurer

Senior Staff

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

Jr. Engineers Club Party

About 60 club members, family and friends attended the annual Junior Engineers Party, which was held Aug. 12 on the museum grounds. Everyone in attendance enjoyed the party cake, snacks, beverages and other refreshments, as well as the chance to get together and share a love of trains.

The afternoon festivities also included 116 rides on the Goleta Short Line miniature train.

Welcome New Members

Bruce Winstrom (Goleta Electric Co.) is a new Milepost 100 member. New active members include **Bill Berger, Wendy C. Hawksworth, Richard and Rita Rink, Chris and Jessica Russell** and **Walter N. Waldau**.

New Junior Engineers are **Brendan Carlyle, Luke Gargano, Jaimeson Highfill, Spenser Pierce, Justin Rasmussen, Amanda Russell, Jacob Russell, Charlie Salazar, Shawn Southard, Andrew Stone, Robert Ulmer, Breckin Uwins, Ryan Mitchell Vance** and **Josh Zaragoza**.

Welcome to all of our new members!

In Memoriam

The museum lost a dear friend when **Jack Cogan** passed away July 30. Jack and his wife, **Harriet**, were among the very first contributors to the Goleta Depot Project. Jack was also one of the museum's first volunteers on the miniature-train ride, back in the late 1980s. He also served on the museum's Board of Trustees.

A professional photographer and police officer with the City of Santa Barbara, Jack took a number of photographs at Goleta Depot in the late 1960s, which were published in the Goleta newspaper. Jack's photo of **Al Singleton**, the last Southern Pacific agent to make Goleta Depot his home, reappeared on the back cover of the paperback version of the book, *Goleta Depot: The History of a Rural Railroad Station*.

The Cogans had been living in retirement in Santa Maria for a number of years before Jack's death. He will be missed by all at the museum who knew him.



Jack Cogan

Weekend Free Train-Ride Days

If you miss *Elks Day* on Sept. 18, sponsored by **Santa Barbara Elks Lodge No. 613**, there will be another free-ride Saturday in November. The Nov. 13 free day will be sponsored by **Bermant Development Co.**, which gave us another free-ride day back on Aug. 21.

Museum visitors may ride the train as often they like over the 1:15-3:45 period during which the rides will be offered. For the safety of our visitors, all train riders must meet the 34-inch minimum-height requirement.

Wish List

Thanks to the generosity of **Shirley Baird**, the museum now has its own, brand-new barbecue for preparing foods for *Depot Day* and other museum events. In the past, the museum has always needed to rent or borrow barbecues for events. In recent years, this has become increasingly difficult.

We are still looking for someone with the time and expertise to **rebuild the Honda 5-hp engine** that was recently removed from Locomotive No. 1316. Once this engine is rebuilt, we will have a backup in case of engine trouble with either of the locomotives.

This Issue Sponsored By

Woman's Service Club of Goleta

Wordsworths Adopt "Gray Engine"

Museum members **Jon and Beth Wordsworth** of Atascadero have adopted Engine No. 2655. They had been planning to make a donation to the museum and when Jon saw the notice in the last *Depot Dispatch* he knew exactly where he wanted their gift to go. With the Wordsworths' generous contribution, all of the Goleta Short Line engines and passenger cars now have sponsors.

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

Depot Day (cont'd from page 1)

School Choir and SHOWSTOPPERS, under the direction of Radu Azdril.

Depot Open House

Depot Day offers a rare opportunity to see the second-floor agent's apartment, usually closed to visitors.

Barbecue Offers Choice Of Tri-Tip or Chicken

At the Depot Day barbecue you will have your choice of chicken breast or sliced tri-tip, along with green salad,

toasted french bread, and ranch beans.

BBQ tickets are \$8 (\$5 for children under 12) on the day, but they may also be purchased in advance for \$1 less per ticket. Advance tickets are available in the museum's Tracksides Shop, (ticket purchases can be made by credit card), or from museum trustees and staff.

All members are encouraged to purchase their tickets in advance.

Other Refreshments

There will also be hot dogs, snacks, beverages and other refreshments available for purchase during Depot Day.

Train-Hugger Films

Throughout Depot Day, the museum's Gandy Dancer Theater will be featuring films on a wide range of rail topics of interest to all age levels.

Circus Is Leaving Town

Depot Day will also be your last chance to enjoy Ken and Carolyn Weber's HO-scale "K&C Famous Family Circus," complete with operating circus train, on display in the museum's model railroad exhibit room.

Visitor Center Project Advances

Important progress on the Visitor Center construction has been made over the past two months. Most of the changes are a result of donations of materials and professional labor.

The roof is now complete – due in large part to a donation from Steve Silva and his company, Native Roofing.

The building has its own electricity now, too, thanks to Bruce Winstrom of Goleta Electric Co., together with a lot of preparatory work by David Chapman and his fellow volunteers.

Some of the exterior paint has also been applied, in advance of the roofing and rain-gutter installation. Goleta Valley Paint (Steve and Colleen Ozab) is donating all of the paint for the project.

When the doors arrive, the windows, doors and exterior siding can all be added. Delivery of the doors is expected mid-September.



Scenes Of Summer (Steaming)



Volunteer News

Program Expands To Bay Area

The museum completed two successful test trips to Oakland on Aug. 10-11 and Aug. 23-24, the latest steps in the planned expansion of the museum's Coast Starlight Interpretive Program to the Bay Area.

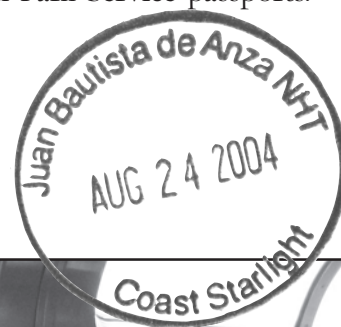
Participants in the August trips included volunteer guides **Carla Cabanatuan, Jim Felland, Ed Leska, Pat Lorentzen, Perry Lorentzen, Nancy Johnke,** and Museum Director **Gary Coombs.** Their program, which reached an audience of about 1,200 *Coast Starlight* passengers, was made possible by a grant from the **National Park Service** and the **Anza National Historic Trail.**

The presentation, made over the train's public-address system, included information and anecdotes about local and regional history, points-of-interest, natural history and things-to-do along the *Coast Starlight* route. This included such diverse topics as the Castroville Artichoke Festival; Channel Islands National Park; the Elkhorn Slough wildlife preserve; Moffett Field, once home to the world's largest dir-

gible; and the community of Alviso, historic gateway to the city of San Jose.

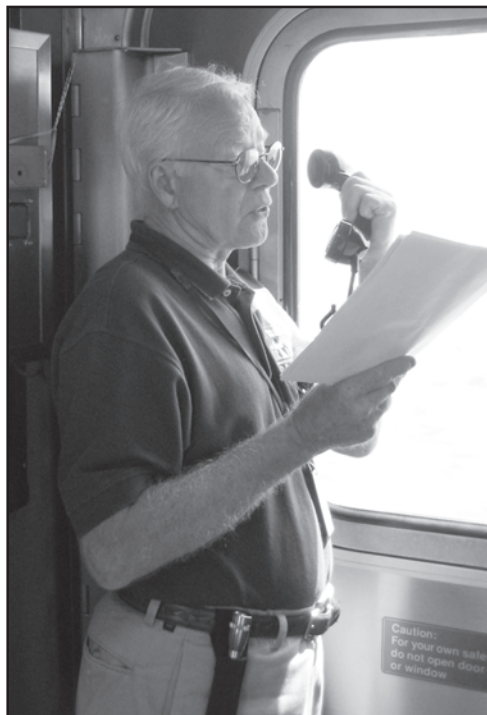
During the presentations, the museum team also gave out complimentary impressions of the unique *Coast Starlight*/Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail stamp (pictured at right) to children aboard the train, as

well as any passengers carrying their National Park Service passports.



A young passenger receives an imprint from Guide Nancy Johnke, while Carla Cabanatuan (left) watches.

Guide Jim Felland describes local sites to passengers via the train's public address system.



Volunteers Train To Be Engineers

Three museum volunteers are at different stages in the process of becoming Goleta Short Line engineers. **Samantha Matthew** (left) has completed her training, **Wally Waldau** (center) has only one training session to go, while **Rich Thom** (right) began his instruction on Sept. 4.



More Volunteers Urgently Needed On Train Ride

There is a serious shortage of volunteers on the miniature train ride. Both weekday and weekend afternoon

shifts are available. Please contact Thea Cremers in the museum office (964-3540) for more information.