



Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH



Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum
Volume 24, Number 4 — Winter 2004-05



All Aboard Nov. 26!

Candy Cane Train

You can always tell it's the Candy Cane Train by those bright red and white candy stripes along the sides of all the riding cars.

Thanksgiving is almost here, which means that another sweet season of rides aboard the *Candy Cane Train* is about to begin. This year's event – the 12th annual – opens Friday, Nov. 26.

The popular year-end event will be held at the museum daily through Dec. 24, except Nov. 29-30, Dec. 6-7 and Dec. 13-14, when the museum is closed. During the week leading up to Christmas, the museum will be open two additional days – Monday & Tuesday, Dec. 20 & 21 – to allow for some extra *Candy Cane Train* runs while schools are out for the holidays.

Hours are 1 to 4 p.m. each day, but we urge you to arrive at the museum not later than 3:30, in order to enjoy all of the *Candy Cane Train* activities.

Candy Cane Train tickets are \$3 each, which includes a ride on the festively-decorated miniature train, plus an assortment of holiday treats and favors. Additional rides are 75¢ each.

Members receive their usual 25¢ off on every ticket purchased. Tickets will be sold at the museum during event hours. For the safety of our younger rid-

ers, the museum's 34-inch minimum-height requirement applies for all *Candy Cane Train* passengers.

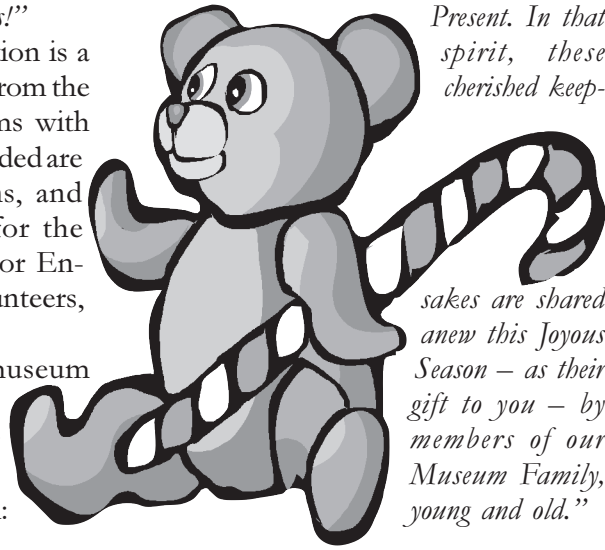
Holiday "Toy Train & Teddy Bear" Display Allows Members To Share

A constant companion of the *Candy Cane Train* is the museum's festive display, "Toy Trains and Teddy Bears!"

The annual seasonal exhibition is a chance for members and others from the museum to share personal items with our holiday-season visitors. Included are toy locomotives, antique trains, and stuffed animals – all loaned for the occasion by the museum's Junior Engineers and other members, volunteers, trustees, and staff.

When you come to the museum during the holidays, be sure to make a trip to the Waiting Room, to enjoy this year's show. The exhibition's label says it all:

"Toy Trains & Teddy Bears! What better symbols are there of the Holidays, Past and Present. In that spirit, these cherished keep-



sakes are shared anew this Joyous Season – as their gift to you – by members of our Museum Family, young and old."

South Coast Railroad Museum Institute for American Research

Board of Trustees

David Chapman
Kip Kramer
Noel Langle
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*

Don't Pass Up *Super Saturday!*

The 9th annual "*Super Saturday!*" is scheduled for 1 to 4 p.m. on Feb. 5 at the railroad museum. The event will mark the first weekend day of free miniature-train rides for the general public in 2005. Everyone in attendance will also receive one of the football-shaped tickets that have become a hallmark of the event.

Super Saturday! is always held the day before the Super Bowl football game, which falls in February in 2005.

Super Saturday! would not be possible without the generosity of a long list of local businesses, organizations and members, which gives us a chance to mention and thank again all who helped in 2004. They include **The American Pension Co;** **Cold Spring Tavern;** **Michael Gartzke, C.P.A.;** **"Dr J" Neel, Optometrist;** **Bruce & Andrea Morden Family;** **Ken Pontifex Family;** **Ramada Limited;** **Santa Barbara Hobbies;** **State Farm Insurance (Agents Ed Attlesey & Tammy Dobrotin);** **Peter Tiersma and Western Welding.** Every year, many previous sponsors return to renew their support of the event.

Santa Barbara Foundation Makes Theater Improvements Possible

Thanks to a grant from the Santa Barbara Foundation, the museum will be able to upgrade the facilities of the Gandy Dancer Theater, one of the museum's earliest attractions.

The museum plans to use the \$1,900 grant to purchase a new monitor, DVD player and security camera for the theater. These additions will give museum guests an improved theater experience, while providing a safer environment for theater patrons and equipment, alike. It will be the first time that films in the museum's library can be shown in DVD form.

The theater began back in 1989, when the museum purchased a used television set and VCR and began showing rail-travel documentaries to its visitors. The following year, we bought the large-screen rear-projection monitor that is still in use in the theater today.

The museum held a naming contest in 1991 and the winning entry, "Gandy Dancer Theater," became the theater's official moniker. At the same time, the museum store became the "Trackside Shop."

Every day that the museum is open, there's always something about trains showing in the Gandy Dancer Theater. Sundays have always been special theater days, with scheduled screenings of railroad-theme feature films, and travel and historical documentaries. In 1992, the schedule was expanded to include Thursdays as well.

Over the years, there have been about 47,000 total visits to the Gandy Dancer Theater.

Welcome New Members

The **Olitsky Family** is a new Sustaining Member of the museum.

New members of the Junior Engineers Club include **Tommy Condon,** **Amalie Funk,** **Theo Funk,** **Dylan MacFarlane,** **Nicholas Miller,** **Nicholas Purcell** and **Daniel A. Schaffield.**

Greetings to all new members.

Holiday Party Is Festive Family Get-Together

If your busy holiday-season schedule has an opening on the evening of Dec. 8, we hope you, along with family members or a guest, will join us for the museum's annual holiday party. It'll be at the Goleta Library, 500 North Fairview Ave., starting at 7 p.m.

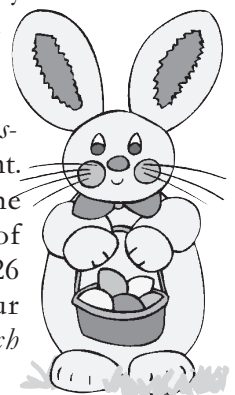
There'll be plenty of good company and delicious food on hand, especially if you are there and bring along a dessert or hors d'oeuvres to share with others. The museum will supply the beverages, cups, napkins, and plates.

Free-Ride Day Slated For March 5

An afternoon of free miniature-train rides is being planned for Saturday, March 5. The event is a project of museum intern **Samantha Escobar**, who is also co-community-service chair for the **Lambda Theta Nu** sorority at UCSB. The sorority will be co-sponsoring the event as a community awareness day, focusing on local Latino families.

Easter Bunny Express Is Just Around The Corner

Easter comes early next year, which means the same for the museum's much-anticipated 2005 *Easter Bunny Express* event. Watch for all of the egg-citing de-tails of the Saturday, March 26 celebration in your next *Depot Dispatch* newsletter issue.



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

Museum Store Is Perfect Holiday Shopping Place

Looking for the ideal gift for those rail fans and history buffs on your holiday shopping list? You can't go wrong at the museum's Trackside Shop, where the parking is free and your purchases help to benefit the museum. For the young ones on your list, we have a variety of *Polar Express* books, including the Chris Van Allsburg original, and a lot of new Thomas The Tank Engine items. The selection of videos, DVDs, CDs and T-shirts – for young and old – has never been greater. For the collector, we have some of the last authentic Goleta lemon-crate labels, available individually or in complete sets of all seven labels.

Be sure to show your membership card to receive a 10% discount on all shop purchases. We accept Mastercard, Visa, and personal checks.

Fairview Car Wash Renews "Free Wednesdays" Sponsorship

Free-ride Wednesdays will resume in January thanks to the continuing support of **Fairview Car Wash**, which has renewed its sponsorship through the first half of 2005.

Museum visitors may ride as often as they like any Wednesday afternoon between the hours of 2 and 3:45 p.m. All riders must meet the museum's 34-inch minimum-height requirement.

Wood-Claeyssens Foundation Awards Grant for Train Ride Improvements

The museum has been awarded a \$5,000 grant from the **Wood-Claeyssens Foundation**. Grant monies will be used to expand and improve the Goleta Short Line miniature-train ride. A portion of the grant will also be used to support free miniature-train rides for school and youth groups that come to the museum for a guided tour of the historical landmark.

Venoco and News-Press Give Advertising Support

Special thanks are extended to **Venoco, Inc.** and the **Santa Barbara News-Press** for their help in promoting recent museum events. Grants from both organizations made it possible to run display ads in the local print media to get the word out about *Depot Day*, the *Candy Cane Train* and the "*Polar Express*" benefit.

"Polar Express" Benefit Draws Big, Enthusiastic Crowd

About 300 members and museum supporters were on hand for the special benefit screening of *The Polar Express*, starring Tom Hanks, on Saturday, Nov. 13. The Paseo Nuevo Cinema in Santa Barbara was the venue for the morning showing.

Metropolitan Theatres generously donated the private screening, so that all ticket-sales proceeds go to the railroad museum. Metropolitan Theatres president **David Corwin**, as well as *Polar Express* producer/director **Robert Zemeckis**, were instrumental in making this special museum event possible. It was wonderful to see so many member families and other museum patrons in attendance.

Museum Tree Follows A Long American Railroad Tradition

If you are traveling along Los Carneros Road during the holidays, be sure to watch for the Christmas tree in Goleta Depot's upstairs window bay.

The brightly decorated tree continues a long tradition, practiced all across America by station-agent families down through the years, of placing their Christmas tree in a prominent spot, where its special symbolism could be shared with passengers and crews on passing trains.

The museum's tree is also decorated with small white "Remembrance Stars," each in memory of a museum friend who has passed away.

Depot Day 2004 Report

The museum is indebted to all of the people who helped to make the 22nd annual *Depot Day* on Sept. 26 a rousing success.

Depot Day audiences appreciated the musical entertainment provided by the **Monte Vista Elementary School** chorus and, making its first museum appearance, the chorus from **La Cumbre Jr. High School Performing Arts Dept.** Both singing groups are directed by **Radu Azdril**.

Another youth organization that helped on *Depot Day* was the **Santa Barbara High School Jr. ROTC**, under **Master Sergeant Steven D. Potts**. The cadets handled the day's parking services, and also provided indispensable help with event setup, track switching for the handcar and speeder, and other activities.

The museum partnered with Goleta Library to bring another new attraction to *Depot Day* this year. Organized by Goleta Children's Librarian **Judy Savage**, with assistance on the day from **Leah Savage**, "Library Junction" featured a make-your-own-caboose activity and a handout list of train-theme public-library titles for young readers.

Barbecue cooks, servers and sales staff included **John Hutchinson, Todd Littlehale, Samantha Matthew, Lorraine Saunders, Dondra Larkin, Lupe Garcia, Celina Garcia, Judy Blue, Shana Aires and Trevor Pontifex**.

The silent auction tables were the domain of a skilled crew of volunteers that included **Kari Adams, Charlene Doty, Carol Matthew, Scott Matthew, and Diana Mina**. Auction sales and receipts were handled by **John Starr**, with a special assist from **Joan Hanna**.

The Goleta Short Line trains were
(cont'd. on pg. 4, "Depot Day")

This Issue Sponsored By

**Wilson
Printing**

“Depot Day” (cont’d. from page 3)

operated by **Gene Allen, Bob Burness** and **Jean-Guy Dube**. Inspection-car rides on his Ventura County Railway “speeder” were given by **Bob Mahan**; handcar rides were hosted by **Noel Langle**.

The HO-scale railroad switching “puzzle” returned to *Depot Day* for a second year to the delight of our visitors. **Jim Felland, Michael Morden** and **John Ryan** kept it running smoothly throughout the day.

Admissions-table staffing was handled by **Joan Rakowski, Bob Miesbauer, Dick Shelton** and **Jude Blau**.

Edee Brown and **Rose Ann Hill** were charged with sharing the former station agent’s living quarters – on the depot’s second floor – with *Depot Day* attendees.

Agent responsibilities, including ride-ticket sales, were handled by **Rich Thom** and **Ken Pontifex**. The model railroad exhibit was operated by **Richie Garcia** and **Robbie Wright**.

Many of the aforementioned volunteers also teamed with museum staff members in setup and cleanup activities, which spanned several days.

Thanks are due also to **Pastor Paul Hoefler** at **Christ Lutheran Church** who approved museum use of their field for overflow parking.

A long list of other friends, businesses and organizations donated or loaned equipment, supplies and auction items for *Depot Day*.



The children’s area, organized by Judy Savage, was a big hit on Depot Day.



George Hutchinson was so proud of the caboose that he made!



The singers from La Cumbre Junior High School made their first museum appearance on Depot Day.

The paparazzi couldn’t get enough of the Monte Vista Elementary School chorus.

