



Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH



Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum

Volume 25, Number 4 — Winter 2005-06

Candy Cane Train

With Thanksgiving just around the corner, another holiday season is upon us, including the railroad museum's own contribution to the year-end merry-making — the always-anticipated *Candy Cane Train*, which opens on Friday, Nov. 25.

Celebrating its 13th anniversary this year, the ever-popular event will be held at the museum daily through Dec. 24, except Nov. 28-29, Dec. 5-6 and Dec. 12-13, when the museum is closed.

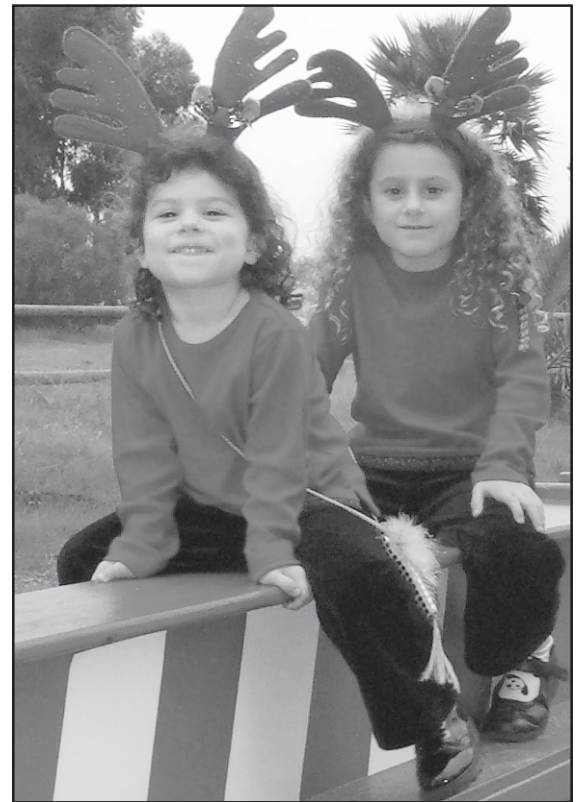
During the week before Christmas, the museum will be open on two additional days — Monday & Tuesday, Dec. 19 & 20 — to allow for some extra *Candy Cane Train* runs while schools are

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 at a relaxed pace.

Candy Cane Train tickets are \$3 each, which includes a ride on the 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 riders, the museum's 34-inch minimum-height requirement applies to all *Candy Cane Train* passengers.



"Train-dears" Emma and Rachel Tracy, aboard the Candy Cane Train — one of our favorite holiday-season images, taken in 2001.

From 2004: Joseph Valencia applies white striping to transform the Goleta Short Line into the Candy Cane Train.



IMLS Grant Will Help Improve Museum's Volunteer Program

The South Coast Railroad Museum has received a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), a federal agency serving the nation's museums and libraries. The \$23,900 matching grant will be used to conduct a comprehensive review, reformulation and revitalization of the museum's volunteer program.

IMLS's Museums For America grants are designed to help museums sustain the world's cultural heritage, support lifelong learning, and serve as centers of community engagement. The grants are awarded annually on the basis of a nationwide competition open to museums of all sizes and types, from art museums to zoos. This year, only 169 grants were (continued on page 3)

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Foundation Grants Will Allow Miniature-Railroad Repairs & Improvements To Move Forward

The museum has received a \$5,000 grant from the **Santa Barbara Foundation**. This award, together with grants previously received from the Alice Tweed Tuohy Foundation and the Wood-Claeyssens Foundation, now form a \$14,000 fund, which will be used for much-needed repairs to the Goleta Short Line miniature railroad.

This money will make it possible for the museum to initiate the long-awaited conversion to plastic railroad ties. Many public and private miniature railroads across the country have been changing over to ties made of plastic lumber, mostly due to its greater durability.

A portion of the fund will also be used to lay additional track, allowing for a longer ride experience. More about this aspect of the project will be reported in a future *Depot Dispatch* issue.

Museum's Holiday Party Is Annual Informal Affair

Your holiday-season schedule is probably always crammed with activities and obligations, but we sincerely hope that you will be able to find room on the evening of Wednesday, Dec. 7 to join us at the museum's annual holiday party. It will be held at the Goleta Library, 500 North Fairview Ave., starting at 7 p.m. You are welcome to bring along family members or a guest.

There'll be lots of good company and yummy foods on hand. Please bring a dessert or hors d'oeuvres to share with others. The museum will supply the beverages, cups, napkins, and plates.

Welcome New Members

The latest additions to the museum family are three new Junior Engineers Club members. They are **Quinn Fergusson, Spencer F. Greenwald and Isabella C. Pinter**.

Welcome Quinn, Spencer and Isabella!

Fairview Car Wash Renews "Free Wednesdays" Sponsorship

Through the generosity of **Fairview Car Wash**, the popular Free-Ride Wednesdays will return to the museum in January. Museum visitors of all ages will be able to ride the Goleta Short Line miniature train as often as they like any Wednesday between the hours of 2 and 3:45 p.m. In the interest of safety, all train riders must meet the museum's 34-inch minimum-height requirement.

Catch "Festival Of Toy Trains"

If you'd like to see a wonderful operating exhibit of Lionel trains, don't miss the 15th annual "Festival Of Toy Trains" in Goleta.

The display, which is the creation of collector and model railroader **Dave Halbeisen**, offers a nostalgic look at how toy trains and the holiday season have gone together — whether in department-store windows or around the Christmas tree.

The Festival features rare and antique locomotives, cars and accessories, as well as the latest Lionel trains, sporting digital controls and sounds.

The Festival takes place at Goleta Library, 500 North Fairview Ave. on Friday, Dec. 9 thru Sunday the 11th. Hours are 10-5:30 Friday & Saturday, 1-5 on Sunday. There is no admission charge.

Backing up the operating exhibition will be a static display of toy trains and equipment, which will be available for viewing in the library lobby throughout the month of December.

For more information, call Goleta Library at 805-964-7878.

No Fumbling On *Super Saturday!*

The 10th annual "*Super Saturday!*" is scheduled for 1 to 4 p.m. on Feb. 4 at the railroad museum. The event, which is always held the day before the Super Bowl football game, will also mark the first 2006 weekend day of free miniature-train rides for the visiting public. Everyone who takes part will also receive one of the oversized, football-shaped souvenir tickets that have become a *Super Saturday!* trademark.

Super Saturday! would not be possible without the generosity of a long list of sponsoring businesses, organizations and members — many of whom help year after year. The 2005 sponsors included **Mark Carr, D.D.S.**; **Circle of Friends Children's Center**; **Michael J. Gartzke, CPA**; **Grace Baptist Church**; **Bartlett Tree Experts**; **Bob Locke**; **Montessori Center School**; **D & B Communications**; **Ramada Limited**; **Mike and Gail Pearl, Pitts & Bachmann Realtors**; **Penfield & Smith**; **Dick and Wendy Shelton**; **RP Printing**; **Gold's Gym**; **Peter Tiersma**; **Dal Pozzo Tire Corp.**, **Goleta**; **Kids' Club**; **State Farm Insurance - Ed Attlesey & Tammy Dobrotin, Agents**; and the **Goleta Valley Voice**.

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Candy-Cane Ornaments & New DVDs Highlight Museum Store's Holiday-Gift Answers

Are you searching for that perfect gift for the rail fan or history buff on your holiday shopping list? Look no further than the railroad museum's Trackside Shop, where there's always plenty of free parking and every purchase benefits the museum and its programs. Where else can you receive a 10% discount just for being a museum member?*

We have candy-cane tree ornaments bearing the museum's name, gift baskets, lots of new train-theme DVDs, including *The Polar Express* and Thomas The Tank Engine titles, and some great new Thomas puzzles. For the collector, we have some of the last-remaining authentic Goleta lemon-crate labels, available individually or in complete sets of all seven labels.

We accept Mastercard, Visa, and personal checks.

* Valid membership card required for discount.

New Screen In Museum Theater

The Gandy Dancer Theater now has a handsome new monitor thanks to a 2004 grant from the **Santa Barbara Foundation**. The 36-inch Sony model replaces the 15-year-old rear-projection monitor, whose picture quality had deteriorated substantially in recent years.

The Santa Barbara Foundation grant also was used to purchase four network security cameras for use around the museum and grounds.

Visitor Center Nears Completion

The Visitor Center is tantalizingly close to completion. Painting, rain gutters, communications wiring, and a small concrete pad at the rear door are about all that are needed to complete the project.

There is still time for you to make a final contribution to the Building Fund, whether you are making your first contribution or adding to previous gifts that you have made.

Indeed, this is an especially important time for the project to receive a boost of additional funding, since the Building Fund has dwindled to under \$1,000, with about \$10,000 needed for completion.

To make your tax-deductible gift, please use the year-end contribution form that accompanied this newsletter mailing.

SWAP worker applies caulking to prepare the building front for primer and paint.

"IMLS Grant" (cont'd. from page 1)

awarded nationwide. The railroad museum was the only recipient in the Tri-Counties.

The railroad museum has more than 50 regular volunteers, who perform a wide range of guest services, including sharing the museum's model-railroad exhibit, operating the museum store and Gandy Dancer Theater, and giving about 15,000 miniature-train and handcar rides annually. In addition to serving visitors on site, the museum's volunteers also make presentations to passengers aboard Amtrak's Coast Starlight trains, in conjunction with the National Park Service's Trails & Rails program (see story on page 4, "*Volunteers Sought*").

IMLS is also using the railroad museum's application as one of 21 sample proposals for use by future Museums For America grant applicants.



Depot Day 2005 Report

The 23rd annual Depot Day, held Sept. 25, proved to be the most successful fall fundraiser in the history of the museum. Much of the credit for that success must go to the long list of volunteers who helped — in so many different ways — to ensure that *Depot Day* ran as smoothly as possible.

Depot Day audiences were entertained by the lively musical performances of the **Monte Vista Elementary School** chorus, ably directed by **Radu Azdril**.

Another youth group that helped enormously on *Depot Day* was the **Santa Barbara High School Jr. ROTC**, under **Master Sergeant Steven D. Potts**. The ROTC cadets took charge of the event's parking services, and also helped with event setup, track switching for the handcar and speeder, and other key event activities.

Another partnering organization, **California Operation Lifesaver**, had an information booth at *Depot Day*. Operation Lifesaver instructor **John Staugard**, who is also a *Coast Starlight* guide at our museum, was responsible for assembling and manning the booth through the day.

Barbecue cooks, servers and sales staff included **Liz Anderson, Kathy Chalfant, Carol Huston, Todd Littlehale, Ken Pontifex, Elaine Rymills, Lorraine Saunders** and **Esther Velarde**.

The silent auction tables were handled with great skill by **Kari Adams, Charlene Doty, Scott Matthew, and Diana Mina**. Auction sales and receipts were the domain of **John Starr** and **Joan Hanna**.

The Goleta Short Line trains were operated and successfully kept in running order by **Gene Allen, Ron Bruns, Jean-Guy Dube, Kent Johnson, Ken Roberts, Walter Waldau** and **Paul Williams**. Inspection-car rides on his Ventura County Railway "speeder" were given by **Bob Mahan**. Handcar rides were handled skillfully by **Noel Langle** and **Bruce Morden**.

Admissions-table staffing was the

(cont'd. on pg. 4, "*Depot Day*")

“Depot Day” (cont’d. from page 3)

responsibility of **Jude Blau, Mary Hopson, Dick Shelton and Esther Velarde.**

Arlene Radasky and Rose Ann Hill were on duty on Goleta Depot’s second floor, where they shared the former station agent’s living quarters with our *Depot Day* visitors.

Downstairs, station-agent responsibilities, including ride-ticket sales, were handled by **Ed Leska and Bruce Morden.** The model railroad exhibit

Silent auction bidders found treasures galore at the tables this year.



Museum Tree Renews A Long American Railroading Tradition

If you find yourself driving along Los Carneros Road during the holidays, be sure to look for the Christmas tree in Goleta Depot’s upstairs window bay.

The brightly decorated tree shines like a beacon in the night, renewing 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.

was operated by **Don Chalfant and Trevor Pontifex.**

Many of these same volunteers also teamed up with museum staff members in running errands, as well as setup and cleanup activities, which spanned many days. Also assisting were **Kip Kramer and Peter Tiersma.**

Special thanks are due also to **Pastor Paul Hoefler and Christ Lutheran Church** for granting the museum permission to use the church field for overflow parking.

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

Venoco, News-Press and Valley Voice Give Advertising Support

The museum wishes to publicly thank **Venoco, Inc., the Santa Barbara News-Press** and the **Goleta Valley Voice** for their help in promoting the 2005 Depot Day celebration.

Each of these organizations donated either free advertising space or a cash gift to help ensure that more local families learned about this year’s event.

The museum also partnered with **SBParent.com** for mutual promotion of events and programs.

Coast Starlight Rail Program Looking For New Volunteers

Volunteers are now being recruited for the museum’s interpretive program aboard Amtrak’s *Coast Starlight* trains.

The program is now on winter hiatus as we prepare for another busy year of day trips to San Luis Obispo and overnights to Oakland. Over the past 12 months, the museum’s volunteers made 147 presentations aboard *Coast Starlight* trains, reaching an audience of about 28,000 rail passengers.

Persons interested in taking part in the program during 2006 should plan to attend a required day-long orientation and training session on Saturday, Jan. 28. This training is only offered once a year. After one additional evening class, guide-recruits will begin on-the-job training aboard the *Coast Starlight*, working with senior guides and members of the museum staff.

Perry Lorentzen, a seven-year program veteran describes a unique volunteer experience: “Every trip is an adventure ... There are some marvelous people riding the rails.” Rich Guske, who just joined the program this year, explains, simply, “It’s a blast!”

For more information, please contact the museum office (805-964-3540 or info@goletadepot.org).

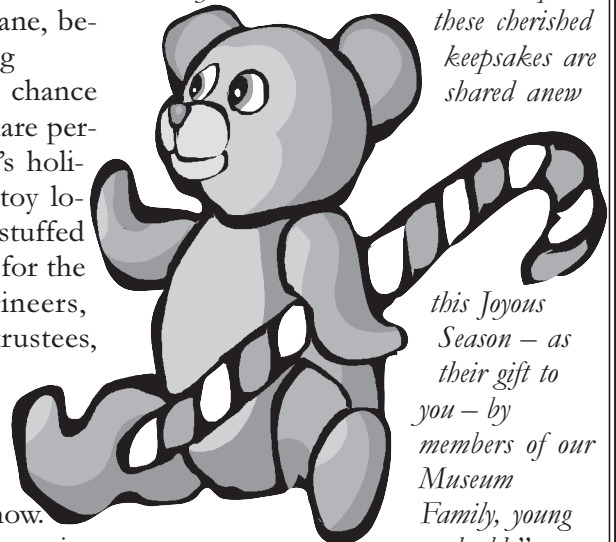
Annual Display Shares Precious Personal Keepsakes

Another year-end tradition at the railroad museum is the annual holiday display, “*Toy Trains and Teddy Bears!*,” which, like the Candy Cane Cane, begins the day after Thanksgiving

This yearly exhibition is a chance for members and friends to share personal items with the museum’s holiday-season visitors, including toy locomotives, antique trains, and stuffed animals – all loaned especially for the occasion by our Junior Engineers, other members, volunteers, trustees, and staff.

When you visit the museum during the holidays, be sure to make a trip to the Waiting Room, to enjoy the show. The exhibition’s label couldn’t say it

any better: “*Toy Trains & Teddy Bears! What better symbols are there of the Holidays, Past and Present. In that spirit, these cherished keepsakes are shared anew*”



this Joyous Season – as their gift to you – by members of our Museum Family, young and old.”