



Goleta

DEPOT DISPATCH



Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum

Vol. 27, No. 3 — Fall 2007

Depot Day – Just ‘round The Bend

Sunday, Sept. 30 will mark the 25th time that the South Coast Railroad Museum has held its fall community festival known as “*Depot Day*” (For a retrospective on the very first Depot Day, see the page 4 article, “*Depot Day Then: Looking Back A Quarter Century*”).

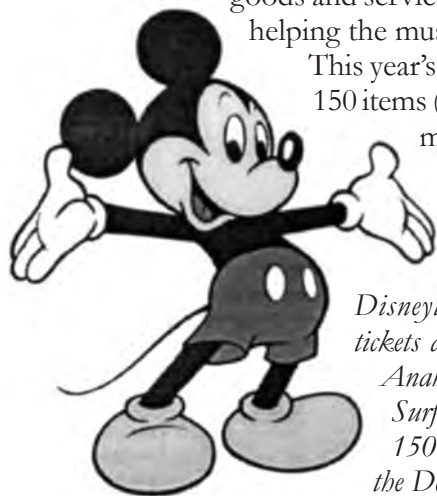
Depot Day is the only day each year when rides are offered on *three* different types of rail vehicles, including the miniature train and handcar, plus **Bob Mahan’s** inspection “*speeder*,” which once ran on the tracks of the Ventura County Railway. The museum’s miniature-train ride will also take on a special character on *Depot Day* as we operate TWO trains at the same time over the Goleta Short Line’s new half-mile-long right-of-way.

Depot Day is the railroad museum’s most important annual fund-raiser. Hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Silent Auction Has Super Bargains For You & Big Benefits For The Museum.

The silent auction has been one of the main attractions of *Depot Day* for over two decades. Longtime *Depot Day* supporters know that the auction is a great place to pick up valuable goods and services at bargain prices, while helping the museum at the same time.

This year’s auction offers more than 150 items (a list is now posted on the museum web site, nwm.goletadepot.org), including ho-



Disneyland/California Adventure tickets and roundtrip family travel to Anaheim aboard Amtrak’s Pacific Surfliner will be among more than 150 items going up for bids during the Depot Day Silent Action.

Handcar ride is a popular Depot Day attraction.



tel stays, golfing, performing-arts tickets, winery tours, Amtrak travel, meals at fine restaurants, and a lot more.

The auction is a primary source of financial sup-

port for the museum. Please help by visiting the tables and placing bids on your favorite items.

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

Tri-Tip Barbecue Meal

The always-popular *Depot Day* barbecue includes sliced tri-tip, green salad, toasted french bread, and ranch beans.

BBQ tickets are \$8 (\$5 for children under 12), but may be purchased in advance in the museum’s Trackside Shop, or from museum trustees, staff and many volunteers, saving \$1 per ticket. Members are encouraged to buy their tickets in advance.

“*Depot Dogs*” and beverages will also be available for purchase on *Depot Day*.

Depot Open House

Depot Day affords guests a rare chance to see the agent’s apartment, a historic second-floor area of the depot building

(cont’d on page 4, see “Depot Day”)

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Leska Is New Goleta Short Line Maintenance Chief

Ed Leska, who has been **Gene Allen's** right-hand man throughout the project to expand the Goleta Short Line, has taken on the responsibility of supervising the ongoing maintenance of the miniature railroad. Leska replaces Allen, who has served as the Goleta Short Line's general factotum since he designed and headed up the construction of the original train ride back in the late 1980s.

Leska joined the museum in 1992 and became a volunteer the next year. He has served as a museum agent, a *Coast Starlight* guide, and a conductor on the Goleta Short Line.

Allen has been looking for a replacement. Now, he says, he will be able to devote more time to other pursuits, among them applying his considerable modeling skills to the Goleta portion of the museum's model-railroad exhibit. Gene has already begun assembling historical photographs and conducting research. As one of his first projects,

Ed Leska

New Train-Ride Experience Is Big Hit

Museum visitors can't say enough good things about the new, longer Goleta Short Line train ride. Thanks to some creative engineering, which includes four strategically-positioned crossover tracks, the ride is now about 1/2-mile long and about nine minutes in duration. That's roughly 50% more ride than before.

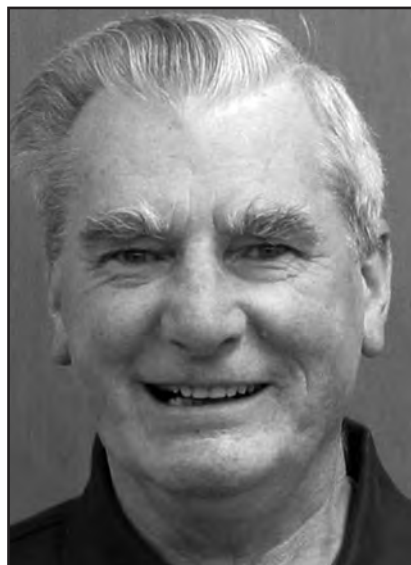
Officially opened during *Rotary Day* on June 16, the new route has been in continuous service since mid-July.

Ticket prices are now \$1.50 for a single ride and \$2.50 for a two-ride ticket. The museum still offers unlimited free rides on Wednesdays, made possible by **Fairview Car Wash** and **Bermant Development Co.**, as well as on first Fridays, which are sponsored by the **Oltitzky Family**.

Welcome New Members

The museum's newest members, all joining the Junior Engineers Club, are **Decker Brandts, Tyler Brewer, Jack Harwood, Liam Hess, Allister Linden, Devon McDonald, and Ryan Anthony Miller**. Welcome, one and all!

he plans to build a reproduction of the old walnut house, which stood for many years on a railroad spur just south of Goleta Depot.



All Aboard for a Fashion Show Luncheon Benefit, Nov. 10

The **Woman's Service Club of Goleta** is hosting a fashion show luncheon to benefit the railroad museum on Saturday, Nov. 10 at the Goleta Community Center, 5679 Hollister Ave. Hospitality will begin at 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch at 12 noon and fashion show at 1 p.m. Featured will be fashions by **Coldwater Creek**, music by **Al Reese**, and food by **Country Catering Co.** and **Starbuck's, Fairview Center**.

Corporate sponsors to date include **Investec Real Estate Companies; Kruger Bensen Ziemer Architects, Inc., AIA; L-3 Communications; Santa Barbara Airbus; Santa Barbara Business College; and Wachovia**. A long list of additional contributors of goods and services will be acknowledged at the event and in the next *Depot Dispatch* newsletter issue.

Tickets are \$35. Please make reservations now by contacting event organizer and museum board president **Joan Hanna** at joan.hanna1@cox.net or 967-7284.

Coldwater Creek

Candy Cane Train Opens Nov. 23. Sweet!

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Visitor Center Will Have Operating Model Train

While the new Visitor Center and expanded store are widely praised by our guests, one of the features of the old store that many visitors miss is the little LGB train that ran around the walls of the room. We are pleased to report that the Visitor Center will soon have a working train of its own, thanks in large part to **William Simpson** and the **Woman's Service Club of Goleta**.



The Woman's Service Club made a contribution some time ago to help cover the costs of relocating the train to the new building and last year Simpson donated, in addition to a cash gift of his own, a large quantity of G-gauge track and a 1/29th-scale freight train, fea-

William Simpson



Freight train donated by William Simpson waits patiently below the ceiling in the Visitor Center.

turing an impressive Aristocraft 4-6-2 Pacific locomotive and several cars.

In July, the Simpson train was placed on static display in the Visitor Center, beneath one of the roof trusses, so that everyone could see how the operating train will eventually look.

When you visit the museum on *Depot Day*, be sure to check out the ceiling in the Visitor Center. You can see the installation in progress and there's a chance you just might be looking at the train in actual operation!

Steaming Summer Reflections



Kendal Cheesman inspects the circus train cars.

*July
28-29,
2007*



Ed Winnewisser prepares for another run while three steamers wait in reserve.

Pontifex Joins Museum Board

Ken Pontifex has been elected to the museum's Board of Trustees for a two-year term. Mr. Pontifex is a partner with the Santa Barbara law firm of **Price, Postel & Parma LLP**, where he practices business, real estate and insurance law. He returns after a two-year absence, having served on the board for four years starting in 2001.

Ken says that he enjoys supporting the museum's combination of railroads, local history, and family activities.

Ken Pontifex



This Issue Sponsored By

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“Depot Day” (continued from page 1)

that is usually closed to visitors. This was where the station agent and family lived, and the space has been refurbished to re-create that atmosphere.

Musical Entertainment

Depot Day entertainment will include popular renditions of many of your favorite railroad tunes and train songs.

It’s About Saving Lives!

Representatives from **California Operation Lifesaver** will be back for Depot Day this year. Be sure to drop by the Operation Lifesaver booth for some fun souvenirs



that promote safety around railroad areas. It’s also a great opportunity to get answers to your questions about how to keep loved ones safe near trains, tracks, and rail yards & crossings.

Stop in for safety info & souvenirs.

Building Is Valued Landmark

Depot Day is our yearly celebration of the saving and revitalization of Goleta Depot, an important landmark and community symbol. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register of Historical Resources.

Valuable items and eager bidders will jam the auction tables.



Depot Day is the only museum event during the year when you can ride Bob Mahan’s inspection car.



Donations At The Door

All Depot Day visitors will be asked to make a \$1 contribution in support of the museum and the continued preservation of the historical landmark. Event rides are \$1.50 each during the event.

Visit The “Information Station”

Depot Day guests will be able to explore the vast resources of the museum’s electronic “Information Station” in the Visitor Center. Please drop in and sign the guest book!

Thank You

Depot Day has benefitted from the promotional support of **Radio AM1290, Santa Barbara News-Press, Goleta Valley Voice, and Venoco.**

Depot Day Then: Looking Back A Quarter Century

The first Depot Day was held on Sunday, Oct. 9, 1983. While today’s Depot Day shares much in common with that inaugural event, there are some notable differences. The 1983 prototype featured a “lost-and-found (rummage) sale,” musical entertainment in the form of a railroad-tune contest, a baked-goods sale featuring cookies and brownies prepared by members of the “Depot Friends,” food and drink sold in the Depot Day “dining and club cars,” and an “unclaimed freight and baggage auction.” There was also a “Salute To Steam,” organized by **Gene Allen**, which proved so popular that it grew into the museum’s enduring *Steaming Summer* event just a few years later, inspiring the creation of the Goleta Short Line miniature-train ride, as well.

The earliest Depot Days were held on the closing Sunday of *Goleta Valley Days*, a precursor to the *Goleta Lemon Festival*.