



Goleta

DEPOT DISPATCH



Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum

Vol. 28, No. 3 — Fall 2008

Depot Day Celebrates Landmark's Life, Significance

The 26th annual "Depot Day" will be held on Sunday, Sept. 28, at the railroad museum. The museum's oldest community event, Depot Day celebrates the saving of the landmark building, its colorful history, and its significance as a community treasure. Goleta Depot is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register of Historical Resources. Event hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Depot Day is the only day each year when rides are offered on *three* different types of rail vehicles, with **Bob Mahan's** inspection "speeder," formerly of the Ventura County Railway, joining our handcar and Goleta Short Line miniature trains on the museum's tracks. We will again be operating two trains at the same time on the half-mile-long miniature-railroad route, which always adds to the fun and excitement for passengers and spectators alike. All three rides are depicted in the photos on this page.

Silent Auction Gets Better & Better

Depot Day is also a very important fundraiser for the museum, and the silent auction is the key to the event's success in that regard. The auction is also a opportunity for Depot



Day attendees to pick up some valuable goods and services at terrific 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, www.goletadepot.org), including hotel stays, golfing, performing-arts tickets, winery tours, Amtrak travel, meals at fine restaurants, and a lot more.

Please help the museum on Depot Day by visiting the tables and placing bids on the items of your choice. You won't be disappointed.

If you or your business have new items, collectibles or valuable services that you would like to donate to the auction, please call Asst. Director Phyllis Olsen at the museum (805/964-3540).

Tri-Tip BBQ Meal

The museum's Board of Trustees will be manning the Club Car this year, preparing and serving the ever-popular Depot Day barbecue. The meal includes sliced tri-tip, (cont'd page 4, see "Depot Day")



South Coast Railroad Museum Institute for American Research

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Museum Hosts Special Visitors

About 50 representatives from the 2008 **National Model Railroad Assn.** (NMRA) convention in Anaheim visited our museum on Thurs., July 17.

On Sat., Aug. 23, the Daylight Division of the Pacific Coast Region of the **NMRA** met at the museum. There were 39 members in attendance.

Thanks to **Bruce Morden** for helping to arrange these special visits.

This Issue Sponsored By

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Welcome New Members

Ralph and Vicki Kornahrens, Richard Rink, and Roger Wells are all new Life Members. Other new museum members include Jamie Foster (Sustaining), Kyle Gary (Active), Rob Himoto (Sustaining), Kevin O'Roark (Active), and Joseph Walsh (Sustaining).

Welcome, one and all!

Langles Sponsor Handcar Ride

Thanks to the generosity of **Noel and Peggy Langle**, visitors to the museum will continue to enjoy free handcar rides on the third Saturday of every month. The Langles are sponsoring the free-ride program for a full year.

Noel, who is president of the museum's board of trustees, has a special fondness for the handcar ride. He is the volunteer that you are most likely to see giving handcar rides, whether it's a free day or a special event, like *Depot Day* (that's Noel in the Page 1 handcar photo.)

Noel has been a member since 1993, joining the board in 1997, the same year that he started as a handcar volunteer. When the handcar needed a better home, Noel built a new handcar shed, paying for all of the materials, himself. Noel also helped build the boarding station that our handcar passengers use today. Peggy Langle is executive director of the **Santa Barbara Humane Society**.

In the interest of passenger safety, all handcar riders must be at least 48 inches tall. Besides free days, the handcar is also available on other days for a small fee.



Noel and Peggy Langle

Steaming Summer Photos

More than 160 photographs were taken during *Steaming Summer* on July 19-20 by photographers **Lori Roper** and **Marc Bradley**, and by members of the museum staff. All of these full-color images can now be viewed from the comfort of your home computer. Go to rrmuseum.smugmug.com, then click on "Museum Events," then on "Steaming Summer." Once there, you will also find about 120 additional *Steaming Summer* images



Double-header pulls into the station after another successful *Steaming Summer* run.

going back nearly a decade, all neatly organized by year in their own separate photo galleries. You can also view all of these images during your next museum visit on the Information Station in the Visitor Center. Ask the Trackside Shop clerk if you need assistance.

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Museum Receives IMLS Grant

The museum has been awarded a “Museums For America” grant from the **Institute of Museum and Library Services**. The \$24,700 award will be used by the museum to update, expand, and reissue the book, *Goleta Depot: The History Of A Rural Railroad Station* by Gary Coombs. First published in 1982 by Goleta Beautiful and the Institute for American Research, the “Depot Book,” as it is commonly called, has been out of print for more than 20 years.

The IMLS grant will make it possible to publish both traditional and digital versions of the book. It will also be available in Spanish as well as English.

The original book was an important fundraiser for the depot project, coming in 1982, during the height of the effort to revitalize and reopen the landmark building.

Watch for the next *Depot Dispatch* issue, which will contain instructions on how you can reserve copies of the new Depot Book.



Full-color cover of original book featured a reproduction of a watercolor of Goleta Depot by artist Lynn Sexton, a descendant of Goleta pioneers, Joseph and Lucy Foster Sexton.

“Name The Museum Store” Contest

After considering about two dozen proposed new names for the museum store, the Board of Trustees decided to stick with the original moniker, “Trackside Shop,” which was also chosen via another contest back in 1990-91.

Runnerup in the 2008 competition is **Junior Engineer Christopher Kayda**, who suggested “Railroad Crossing Shop,” which placed second in the voting. Christopher will receive his choice of a \$30 shopping spree in the Trackside Shop or 20 train-ride tickets.

Please Help Us Complete The Visitor Center Train

Work on the Daylight portion of the Visitor Center Train is still progressing and we hope to have it operating for *Depot Day*. To accomplish this goal, along with all of the hard work of our volunteers, your help is also crucial.

Another \$800 is needed to complete the project. If you care to make a contribution to the effort, please use the donor card that is included with most mailings of this newsletter. Thank you!

Kornahrens and Wells Join Museum Board

Ralph Kornahrens and Roger Wells have been elected to the Board of Trustees. Each will serve two-year terms.

Ralph Kornahrens was born in Kentfield, Calif. and grew up in the Bay Area. He attended the College of San Mateo, where he received a degree in Electronics Technology. For about a decade, starting in 1975, Ralph was active with the U.S. Cycling Federation – as a race official, a bicycle mechanic, and district representative for Northern California and Northern Nevada.

In 1983, Ralph married Vicki Thor. Four years later, he began work as production manager for Pacific Scientific Instruments in Silver Spring, Maryland.

The Kornahrens moved to Goleta in 1993 when Ralph became special projects manager for Particle Sizing Systems, now part of Agilent Technologies, a position he still holds. Both of their grown children, Bonnie and Scott, were raised here, attending local schools and graduating from Dos Pueblos High School. As a teenager, Scott was active as a volunteer at the railroad museum, serving as conductor and,

eventually, engineer on the Goleta Short Line. Vicki Kornahrens is a 3rd/4th grade teacher at Brandon Elementary School.

Roger Wells was born and raised in Huntington Park, Calif. He attended CalPoly San Luis Obispo and U.C.S.B., graduating with a degree in Business Economics. He met his future wife, Edie, at U.C.S.B. and they were married in 1959. Following graduation and after a brief tour as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army, the Wells relocated to Northern California, where Roger was employed with Sylvania as an industrial engineer. He was later transferred to Santa Cruz, Calif.

During this time, the Wells raised three sons and Roger earned an MBA degree from San Jose State. In 1970, the family returned to the Santa Barbara area where Roger took a job with Burroughs in Goleta. For 22 years, Roger Wells worked for Raytheon as a materials manager, until his retirement in late 2007. Current activities include spending time with his five grandchildren, travel, landscaping, taking gardening classes, and participating in a variety of physical-exercise activities. Edie Wells was a special-education instructional aide for the Goleta School District for nearly three decades, from 1976 until her retirement in 2004.



Roger Wells



Ralph Kornahrens

Nov. Program Will Explore China's Unique Qinghai-Tibet Railway

Join international railway traveler **Rich Thom** on Monday, Nov. 10 for an armchair journey aboard the trains of China's Qinghai-Tibet Railway. The free program, sponsored by the South Coast Railroad Museum, will be held at Goleta Public Library starting at 7 p.m.

For decades, rail travelers looking for the thrill of riding a train over the world's highest tracks would head for Peru, where the Central Railway climbs up the western slope of the Andes, reaching a summit of 15,688 feet. Or, they would hop aboard a branch-line train in neighboring Bolivia to attain an even higher elevation, 15,705 feet. Both of these South American lines were true mountain railways; back when Thom rode them, their passenger comforts ranged from tolerable to terrible.

But, there is a new "high" now — The Qinghai-Tibet Railway — opened to traffic barely two years ago. This spectacular, 710-mile line, between the cities of Golmud

and Lhasa, reaches a summit of 16,640 feet. A full 595 miles of the route are above 13,125 feet. Unlike its counterparts in Bolivia and Peru, the Qinghai-Tibet line boasts sleek modern passenger trains, with sleeping and dining cars, running at speeds of up to 74 mph. Direct trains to Lhasa run from all of China's major cities. In this talk, we'll ride the train and discuss some of the technical difficulties of the line's construction, environmental concerns, maintaining passenger comfort, and what Chinese engineers have done to address these issues. The impact the new railroad is having on Lhasa and Tibet in general will be discussed, particularly relevant today because of the growing unrest in Tibet.



Rich Thom has ridden and photographed the railways of 37 countries during 49 international trips made over the past four decades. He has chronicled his journeys in a number of railway publications, including *Trains* magazine and regular contributions to the *International Railway Traveler* magazine. Before turning to digital still and video photography in the late 1990s, Thom had amassed an estimated 29,300 slides and negatives from his worldwide railway travels.

A former trustee and president of the South Coast Railroad Museum, Rich Thom and his wife, Linda, now reside in the state of Washington. He retired from Goleta's Raytheon Vision Systems in 1999. The Thoms make frequent trips to Santa Barbara, where Rich can often be found once again volunteering his time at the museum.

At Lhasa station, three trainsets of the Qinghai-Tibet Railway await departure. The center train is T166, bound for Shanghai, 2,718 miles away.



"Depot Day" (continued from page 1)

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 Visitor Center, or from museum trustees, staff and many volunteers, saving \$1 per ticket. Members are encouraged to buy their tickets in advance.

A vegetarian plate, "Depot Dogs," beverages, and snacks will also be available for purchase on *Depot Day*.

Depot Open House

Depot Day affords visitors a rare opportunity to see the agent's apartment, a historic second-floor area of the de-

pot building that is generally closed to the public. It was here that the station agent and family lived, and the space has been refurbished to re-create that home 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 returning to *Depot Day* this year. Be sure to drop by the Operation Lifesaver booth for some fun souvenirs that remind all of us how important it is to be safe around

trains and railroad areas. It's also a great opportunity to get answers to your questions about how to protect ourselves and loved ones from the dangers around tracks, rail yards & crossings.

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.

Thank You

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