

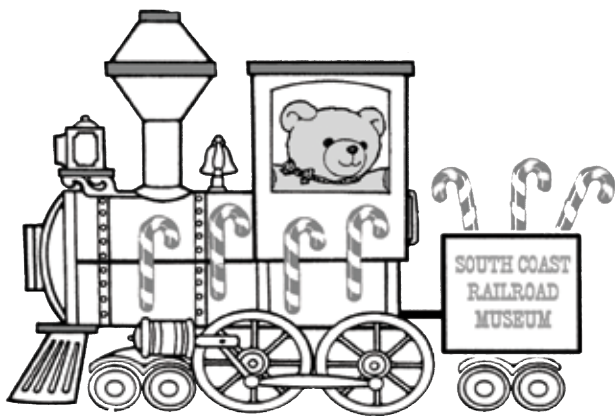


Goleta

DEPOT DISPATCH

Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum

Vol. 29, No. 4 — Winter 2009-2010



Candy Cane Train

The South Coast Railroad Museum's much-anticipated year-end event, the *Candy Cane Train*, pulls out of the station the day after Thanksgiving, Friday, Nov. 27, to begin another holiday-season run. The *Candy Cane Train* continues daily through Dec. 24 (except on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1, 7-8, 14-15, when the museum will be closed). During Christmas week, the museum will be open two extra days — Monday & Tuesday, Dec. 21-22 — so that



Eager families board the Candy Cane Train for another holiday-season run.

the *Candy Cane Train* can make a few additional runs while local schools are out for their holiday breaks. The expanded *Candy Cane Train* schedule also means that train rides are available at the museum on Thursdays.

Visitors holding the festive *Candy Cane Train* souvenir tickets will receive a ride on the decorated train, with its distinctive red-and-white candy-striped passenger cars, and an assortment of holiday treats and favors, including, of course, a candy cane.

Event hours are 1 to 4 p.m., including weekdays, but please plan to arrive not later than 3:30, in order to enjoy all of the *Candy Cane Train* activities without having to rush. You'll also want to budget time to enjoy the traditional *Toy Trains & Teddy Bears* display in the Waiting Room, which also opens Nov. 27.

Candy Cane Train tickets, at \$3.50 each, will be sold at the museum during event hours. Additional rides may be purchased for \$1.50 each. Museum members receive their usual 25¢ off on every ticket purchased.

For the safety of our guests, the usual 34-inch minimum-height requirement applies to all *Candy Cane Train* passengers.



Volunteer Carla Cabanatuan decorates Engine No. 1316 in preparation for the 2006 Candy Cane Train.

South Coast Railroad Museum Institute for American Research

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Shop Has Great Gift Ideas

The Trackside Shop offers many choices for those special gifts you've been looking for. We're featuring the only powered Thomas ride-on train, complete with music, train sounds, and working lights. It comes with an 8-foot circle of track, battery, and charger. Suitable for ages 1-1/2-3 (45 lbs. max).

Gifts for adults include shirts, games, puzzles, hats, books, and a lot more. Also check out our DVDs for children and general audiences.

Your shop purchases are a great way to support the museum, too! Hours: Wed-Sunday, 1 to 4. We accept Visa and Mastercard. Be sure to bring your valid membership card to receive your 10% discount of all merchandise.

Our Museum Helps Other Museums

Museum Director Gary Coombs has been working with other museums around the country, as a consultant through the Museum Assessment Program (MAP) of the **American Association of Museums**. In August, Dr. Coombs went to Florida to work with the **Railroad Education and Learning Center**, a new museum in the Sarasota area. In January, he will be traveling to Indiana to visit the **National New York Central Railroad Museum**.

Coombs became an MAP consultant in 2006. He conducted his first assessment in 2007, for the **John Wesley Powell River History Museum** in Utah.

Foundation Awards Grant To Museum

The museum has received a general operating support grant from the **Santa Barbara Foundation**. The \$5,000 grant will be used to help fund the museum-assistant staff position.



Holiday Party Will Be Dec 10

The annual holiday party is slated for Thurs., Dec. 10. It will be held in the Visitor Center, starting at 7 p.m. Please join us for a special evening of good company and delicious food. The party will also include a special preview of excerpts from the digital version of the new Goleta Depot book.

All members are invited to bring family, or a guest, to this free museum event. Please bring a dessert or hors d'oeuvre to share with others. Beverages, cups, napkins, and plates will be provided.

The holiday party is an informal chance for you to meet and interact with your fellow members, museum staff, and volunteers. Hope to see you and yours at this festive end-of-year gathering.

Join Us For Grounds Decorating

If you'd like to lend a hand making the grounds ready for the *Candy Cane Train* event and the holiday season, please join us for a decorating session on the morning of Wed., Nov. 25. We'll start at 9:30 a.m. and will continue until about 11.

We'll be decorating the locomotive in its *Candy Cane Train* splendor, as well as placing ornaments and other decorations in the trees, shrubs, and other spots around the grounds.

If you'd care to pitch in, we'd be pleased to have you join us!

Help us to decorate the grounds for the holiday season.

Volunteers Appreciated

On Oct. 11, the **Board of Trustees** hosted a volunteer-appreciation party and barbecue at the beautiful home of Trustee **Roger Wells** and his wife, **Edie Wells**. Trustees **Joan Hanna**, **John Hutchinson**, and **Bruce Morden** also provided food for the event.

Museum Moves To New Schedule

The museum will have a new schedule of operating days and hours starting Jan. 4. Wednesdays and Thursdays will be dropped, leaving a three-day, Friday-thru-Sunday, schedule. Hours on Fridays and Saturdays will be increased, with the museum opening at 11 and closing at 4 on those two days. Sunday hours will remain 1 to 4. Train rides will begin about 15 minutes after the museum opens each day.

Fridays will become the new weekly free-ride day, thanks to renewed support from **Fairview Car Wash**.

18TH ANNUAL

Easter Bunny Express

**Coming Saturday,
April 4, 2010**

Put It On Your Calendar Today!

Goleta Depot Dispatch: Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum.

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David Sanchez, Vincent Vanhecke Join Museum Board

David Sanchez and **Vincent Vanhecke** have joined the museum's Board of Trustees, each for two-year terms.

Born in Belgium, Vincent Vanhecke has also lived in Singapore, England, and France. He and **Lorraine**, his wife of 20 years, have two children, **Nicholas** and **Louisa**. Vincent first became involved with the museum because of Nicholas' keen interest in trains and his volunteer activities at the museum. Vincent played an important role in Nicholas' recently-completed Eagle Scout project, a viewing enclosure for visitors to the museum's model-railroad exhibit room. The Vanhecke family move to Santa Barbara in 1993.



Vincent is one of the Santa Barbara South Coast's premier chefs. He was Executive Chef at **El Encanto Hotel** from 1993 until 1999, when he became Executive Chef at the **Valley Club of Montecito**, a position that he holds today. He is also an adjunct-faculty member at the **SBCC School of Culinary Arts** and is an active member with both the **Club Manager Association of America** and the **American Culinary Federation**.

David Sanchez was born in San Diego. He moved here in 1970 to teach in the **Santa Barbara Elementary School District**. Two years later, he moved to the the secondary school district,

first as a reading teacher at **Dos Pueblos High School**, then to the continuation school program, and finally to **Santa Barbara High School**, where he taught until his retirement in 2001. His wife, **Yolanda Lopez**, is a retired elementary school teacher with 34 years of experience, all in Goleta. They have four children, two girls and twin boys, and four grandchildren.

David has a bachelor's degree in Physics, a master's in Education, and a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology. He has been active with a number of local organizations and groups, including the **Children's Creative Project**, **Old Spanish Days** (Spirit of Fiesta Committee), **Santa Barbara Bilingual Advisory Committee**, and **AYSO** girls soccer.

His interest in trains and railroads goes all the way back to childhood, when the family home was within 100 feet of the tracks. Current projects include a train-themed tree fort for his grandchildren, and his own G-scale railroad.



Super Saturday Will Scrimmage Here Jan. 31

The museum will celebrate its first free-ride weekend day of 2010 on Feb. 6, when the 14th annual "*Super Saturday!*" will be held. Hours for the event, which is always the day before the Super Bowl football game, will be 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Those attending will be treated to unlimited free rides (The museum's 34-inch minimum-height safety requirement will be in effect) and will each receive one of the unique football-shaped *Super Saturday!* tickets as a memento of the event.

Super Saturday! would not be possible

without the generosity of a long list of sponsoring businesses, organizations and members. The 2009 sponsors, many of whom will be helping again in 2010, included: **Bartlett Tree Experts**; **Circle of Friends Children's Center**; **Dal Pozzo Tire Corp.**, Goleta; **Grace Baptist Church**; **Michael J. Gartzke, CPA**; **Joan Hanna**; **Claudia Worthen**; **Noel and Peggy Langle**; **Bruce and Andrea Morden**; **Dick and Wendy Shelton**; **Lori Grimaud Roper**; **Peter Tiersma**; **Roger Wells**; **Ralph and Vicki Kornahrens**; and **Carol Higgins & John Hutchinson**.

Depot Day Report

Thanks are owed to the many volunteers and other supporters who helped in many ways to make the 27th annual *Depot Day* a success. The admissions table was handled by **Ed Leska**, **Bruce Morden**, and Goleta City Council members **Margaret Connell** and **Ed Easton**.

Food servers included **Brady Ackerman**, **Judy Connors**, **Thea Creemers**, **Susan Strobel** and **Lani Bucifal**, **Esther Velarde**, **Edie Wells**, and **Claudia Worthen**.

The silent auction tables were staffed by **Kari Adams**, **Ben Adams**, **Robert Adams**, **Diana Mina**, and **Ayse Taimuty**, while **John Starr**, assisted by ticket-agents **Neil Baker** and **Doug Winter**, handled the auction sales and receipts in Goleta Depot's Freight Office.

Volunteer engineers and conductors who kept two Goleta Short Line trains running included **Matt Dunford**, **Jean-Guy Dube**, **Tony Ramirez**, **Wes Taimuty**, **Nicholas Vanhecke**, **Roger Wells**, **Paul Williams**, and **Ann Winter**.

Noel Langle and **Bruce Morden** shared the museum handcar, while **Bob Mahan** gave rides on his Fairmont speeder to the delight of hundreds of *Depot Day* guests.

Arlene Radasky and **RoseAnn Hill** shared the 2nd-floor agent's living quarters with event attendees, while **Ralph Kornahrens** kept the locomotive simulator operating and available to the day's visitors. **Ricky Williams** and **Claudia Worthen** assisted as event floaters. **Judy Blue** helped behind the counter in the Trackage Shop.

Many of these same volunteers also joined with the museum staff in running errands, as well as setup and cleanup activities, which spanned several days. Also assisting in these support activities were **Joan Hanna** and **Ken Pontifex**.

A long list of other friends, businesses, and organizations generously donated or loaned equipment, supplies, and some terrific auction items to the 2009 *Depot Day* event.

In Memoriam: Nancy P. Ried

The museum lost one of its dearest friends and faithful champions with the passing of **Nancy Ried** on Oct. 9. Nancy was especially active during the Goleta Depot Project, the campaign to save the landmark building. She and her husband, **Walt**, were among the first, back in 1981, to become “Friends Of Goleta Depot,” forerunner of today’s railroad museum membership.



Nancy was one of only a handful of project faithful who walked the entire route during the wee hours of Nov. 19, 1981, when Goleta Depot was moved in two pieces from the tracks along Kellogg Ave. to its new home at Lake Los Carneros Park. Just a few hours later, that same morning, Nancy was back at the trackside site, alongside **Gene Allen** and **Mary Lou Williamson**, salvag-

ing, with shovel and trowel, foundation bricks that would be used in another depot project fundraiser.

Nancy and Mary Lou, and their **N&M Catering** partnership, made a long list of contributions to the depot project effort, including an unforgettable “Depot Surprise Trip” fundraising event in November 1982.

In 1984, Nancy and eight others received the “Golden Deed Award,” then Goleta’s highest community-service honor, for their many contributions to the Goleta Depot Project. She had been one of the most active members of the depot project’s Fundraising Committee. She was added to the Goleta Depot Committee in 1983.

Nancy participated in the Spring Fundraiser for many years, going back to its earliest days as the “Asphalt Regatta.” She still ranks as one of that event’s most successful volunteer pledge-getters.

Nancy gave tours of Goleta Depot as one of the museum’s first docent volunteers. She also helped organize and staff many events during the 1980s, including the 1982 landmark dedication ceremony, a Depot Friends dinner in 1984, and the “Last Spike Ceremony” in October 1985, to name just a few.

Eventually, ill health forced Nancy to limit her active participation in museum events and affairs, but she and Walt continued faithfully as members and energetic supporters.

Whenever she was involved, Nancy brought with her a vitality, a comraderie, a sense of humor, and an unpredictable inventiveness that was her’s alone.

There won’t be another like Nancy Ried. She will be missed so much.



Excavating depot bricks, Nov. 19, 1981.

Depot Tree Shares A Railroad Tradition

The Goleta Depot tree will be lighted every night in December, for the enjoyment of travelers along Los Carneros Road as they pass the museum grounds during the holiday season.

The decorated tree, which can also be seen during daylight hours, occupies the historical landmark’s second-floor window bay. It holds special Yuletide significance in preserving the custom, practiced over the years by countless rail-station agent families across America, of placing their Christmas tree so that its meaning could be shared with those on passing trains. The museum’s tree is also decorated with small white “Remembrance Stars,” each a memorial to a museum friend who has passed away.

New Overland Trail Trip Set For Jan. 23

If you missed the museum’s Nov. 7 adventure aboard the vintage rail car, *Overland Trail*, here’s a second chance: The November trip was so popular that we’ve chartered this special car for another round-trip to San Luis Obispo on Saturday, Jan. 23.

Details are the same as for the first trip: Passengers will be able to board in either Santa Barbara or Goleta. The train is scheduled to depart Santa Barbara at 10:15 (10:27 for Goleta), arriving in San Luis Obispo at 12:45. We’ll begin our return at 2 p.m., arriving in Goleta at 4:16, Santa Barbara at 4:31.

The *Overland Trail* is a 39-seat club lounge, built by the Pullman company for the Southern Pacific Railroad and delivered in 1949. Besides the chance to ride a special rail car, the trip is a perfect opportunity to enjoy the spectacular views and sites along this beautiful coastal portion of Amtrak’s Pacific Coast route.

The cost is \$69 for museum members; \$75 for the general public. All proceeds benefit the museum.

Trip seating is limited. In fact, as this issue goes to press, over half of the Jan. 23rd seats have already been reserved. For information, or to make your reservations, call the museum today, 805/964-3540.

Holiday Display Has Personal Keepsakes

When you visit the museum during the holiday season, be sure to visit the Waiting Room to view the annual “*Toy Trains and Teddy Bears!*” display. It features keepsake stuffed animals, and toy and model trains, drawn from the collections of the museum, its members, volunteers, and staff. The holiday exhibition opens Nov. 27, continuing through New Year’s Eve.

