



# Goleta DEPOT DISPATCH

Newsletter of the South Coast Railroad Museum

Vol. 31, No. 2 — Summer 2011

## Museum Store Now Online!

It's our pleasure to announce that there is now an **online** version of the museum's Trackside Shop. It's easy to find the online store from links on the museum's homepage, or you can go directly to the store using this address: <http://goletadepot.org/catalog/>

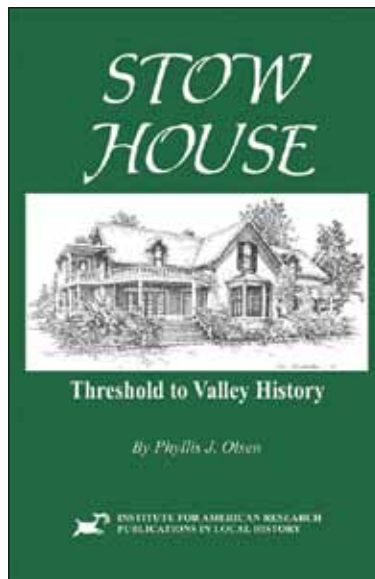
At the online store you will find a selection of store merchandise, with an emphasis on Goleta Depot gifts & souvenirs, our local history publications, and Goleta lemon labels.

Several new and returning products are also being featured at the online store. All of these can be found in articles throughout this newsletter issue.

You can also use the online store to renew your membership (Save a stamp!), or to purchase gift memberships for others. Donations can also be made through the online store, including payments for special fundraisers such as the Year-End Appeal and Spring Fundraiser, as well as general-purpose donations and gifts.

Payments at the online store can be made with major credit cards, or through a PayPal account.

The online store is SSL protected, which means that all transmissions, including any sensitive information, are encrypted for your security.



### "Stow House" Booklet Back In Print

In 1986, the museum's assistant director, **Phyllis Olsen**, wrote a history of Stow House, our neighbor to the east. It was published that year in a book entitled *Those Were The Days: Landmarks Of Old Goleta*. Phyllis' Stow House essay was so popular that it was later reprinted as a booklet. The booklet has been out of print for several years.

Now, thanks to support from the **Goleta Valley Historical Society** and the museum's **Deborah Spalding Pelissero and Godwin Joseph Pelissero Publication Fund**, the booklet is available once again. It may be purchased through the historical society or at the museum's Trackside Shop, including the online version or at the museum, where you may also buy a copy of *Those Were The Days: Landmarks Of Old Goleta* and other books and booklets from our *Publications In Local History Series*.

### Goleta Depot's Own Seeds!

There have been nasturtiums growing on the museum grounds for many years. Now, you can purchase your own authentic Goleta Depot Nasturtium Seeds in the Trackside Shop, either at the museum or online. The cost is only \$2.95 for a packet of about two dozen seeds.

Nasturtiums are a popular choice for children, new gardeners, and fun family projects because they are so easy to grow. Complete planting and care instructions can be found on the back of the seed packet.

The colorful packets (right) make these Goleta Depot Nasturtium Seeds a great little keepsake gift.



### **South Coast Railroad Museum Institute for American Research**

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### **Museum Volunteers Assist With Another “National Train Day”**

Volunteers from the museum's Trails & Rails guide program staffed a National Park Service/Anza Historic Trail table as part of Amtrak's *National Train Day* celebration. The event was held May 7 at Los Angeles Union Station. Event organizers estimated attendance at 10,000.

Those participating on behalf of the museum included **Carla Cabanatuan, Nancy Johnke, Esther Velarde, and Ed Leska.**

*National Train Day* celebrates America's love of trains. It features family-friendly activities including musical entertainment, rolling-stock tours, exhibits, VIP appearances, drawings for trips and other prizes, and souvenir giveaways.

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### **Goleta Valley Beautiful Preservation Award Received**

Goleta Valley Beautiful's annual “historic preservation” award has been given to Goleta Depot. The presentation was made during the organization's 37th annual awards ceremony on May 1. **Board President Noel Langle** accepted the award on behalf of the **Board of Trustees.**

Previously, our organization received two “Goleta Pride” awards, which were bestowed by then-named **Goleta Beautiful, the Goleta Valley Chamber of Commerce, and the Goleta Rotary clubs.** In 1997, Museum Director **Gary Coombs** received the award; three years later, the South Coast Railroad Museum, itself, received a Goleta Pride award.

The association between Goleta Depot and Goleta Valley Beautiful is a long one. Indeed, the campaign to save the landmark building began as a core Goleta Beautiful project. Back in 1981-82, when the Goleta Depot Project was in full swing, Goleta Beautiful gave regular “Depot Friend Of The Month” awards to a long list of volunteers, community organizations and businesses, and financial contributors who collectively led the way in the campaign's eventual success.

Among the first to receive the award were Depot Committee members **Raymond Baird, Phyllis Olsen, George Adams, and Gene Allen.** The names of the other Depot Friend Of The Month award recipients can be found in the archives of this *Depot Dispatch* newsletter: [http://goletadepot.org/museum\\_dispatch.php](http://goletadepot.org/museum_dispatch.php)

### **Welcome, New Members**

**Don and Kathy Chalfant** are new Associate Life members. Don and Kathy have been museum members and volunteers for a number of years, but it's heart-warming to have them renew their support at the Associate Life level. **Jim Hall and Gary and Fran Rosenberg** are new Active members. **Emmett Duncan and Evan Harwin** are new additions to the Jr. Engineers Club.

It's great to have you aboard!

### **“Rotary Day” & Father's Day Collide in 2011 To Great Effect**

The decision to hold this year's *Rotary Day* event on Father's Day turned out to be an inspiration. More free train and handcar rides, over 200 in all, were given to museum visitors than during any *Rotary Day* in recent memory.

The event is sponsored annually by the **Rotary Club Of Goleta Noontime.** Noontime Rotary members who assisted with the rides this year included **Paul Cowan, Mike Gartzke, and Walt Stephens.** *Rotary Day*, which began as a Father's Day event back in 2001, was Gartzke's creation and has been shepherded by Mike ever since.

A debt of gratitude is owed to Mike, and to his fellow Rotarians, for their creativity, volunteerism, and financial support of the museum and of this popular addition to our annual calendar of events.

### **Sellable Goods Needed For RR Days Freight & Baggage Sale**

**Ed Leska and Tony Ramirez** are collecting used goods for the *Goleta Railroad Days* “Unclaimed Freight & Baggage Sale” in September (see page 4 story).

Railroad-related items are especially desirable, including model-train supplies, toys, books, videos, and memorabilia. Also needed are household goods, tools, and general-purpose items.

If you have items to donate, please contact Ed Leska (805/964-7335 or [ehleska@amcom.net](mailto:ehleska@amcom.net)). Please do not leave items at the museum without notifying us in advance. Thank you.

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To contact us:  
Phone: 805-964-3540;  
FAX: 805-964-3549  
E-mail: [museum@goletadepot.org](mailto:museum@goletadepot.org)  
Web-site: [www.goletadepot.org](http://www.goletadepot.org)

## Museum Organizes Two-Car Vintage Rail Trip

The museum led its first **two-car** vintage rail excursion on June 4. **Bill and Debbie Hatrick's** *Overland Trail* was filled with passengers from **Santa Barbara Bank & Trust's Our Gang** travel group, with Museum Director Gary Coombs providing onboard commentary. Next door was **Rod Fishburn's** *Colonial Crafts* carrying a general-public group, including many museum members and volunteers. The one-day roundtrip followed the museum's regular Santa Barbara-to-San Luis Obispo route, although many of the *Colonial Crafts* passengers chose to board and detrain in Goleta.

A few seats are still available for our Nov. 12 trip aboard the *Overland Trail*. The cost is \$59 per person (\$55 for museum members). All other 2011 excursions are sold out. For information, or to make your reservations, call the museum, 805/964-3540.



Kathy Leska took this photo of the *Colonial Crafts* parlor.

# VOLUNTEER NEWS

Trails & Rails Guides-in-Training **Sarah Byelick**, **Nancy Revlin** and **John Wright** have completed three training trips aboard the *Coast Starlight*. All three will now begin one-on-one training, working with a single senior guide and actively participating in the program presentation.

The museum has two new **UCSB** interns, **Kelsey Ulrich** and **Gabriel**

**Osollo**. They will be joining spring-term intern **Laura Frank** who will continue with us during the summer. Another spring intern, **Annalise O'Neil**, says she hopes to return to the museum during the coming school year as a volunteer.

**Jamie Rosenberg** has completed his **GSL** conductor training and is now tackling the engineer's course.

## New Museum Schedule

Effective July 1, the museum returns to a five-day schedule. The museum will be open Wednesday through Sunday, from 1 to 4 p.m.

The Goleta Short Line miniature-train ride will operate all five days. Free rides will continue on Fridays, thanks to the continuing support of **Fairview Car Wash**.

## Best Wishes, Raph!

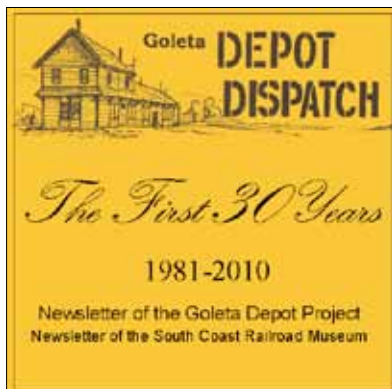
We must now bid a fond farewell to **Raphaella Banholzer-Donati**, the museum's faithful administrative assistant. Raph has been with the museum for two years, serving also as shop clerk and Goleta Short Line train-ride engineer-conductor.

Along the way, Raphaella had her name lengthened — owing to her marriage to Francesco Donati — and her mane shortened. Severly! Many of us practically held our breaths waiting for her hair to recover its length.

You may still see Raph at the museum, at least during July, as she has expressed an interest in coming back for a time as a volunteer.

We will miss her youthful energy and her wonderful smile.

*Raph with shorter hair, Spring 2011*



## Newsletter Archive Ready On CD

The first 30 years of the *Depot Dispatch* newsletter, from 1981 through 2010, are now available on CD through the Trackside Shop, both online and at the museum. All 136 issues, spanning 474 pages, are contained in a single digital file, which may be viewed using Adobe's free Acrobat Reader or an equivalent program. Included on the

CD are all of the photographs and other illustrations contained in the original printed newsletter. Many images are in full color. The first 21 issues feature the original goldenrod color of those early printed copies. That color was chosen to try and replicate the depot's "Colonial Yellow" exterior. The paper changed to white when photo use became more common.

The CD contains two versions of the newsletter file. A smaller version is for ease of use; the larger file provides enhanced readability and image quality. Both files are fully searchable, which makes them perfect for finding names or recovering bits of information.

The CD will be of special interest to anyone who is saving the printed newsletters, who has been a museum member for a number of years, or who have an interest in local-railroad history or Goleta history. The cost is only \$9.95 plus tax.

# Depot Day & RR Days Join Forces In 2011

This year, we've decided to try something different. Instead of separate *Goleta Railroad Days* and *Depot Day* events, the two will be combined into a single weekend, Sept. 17-18.

The goal is to try and bring together all of the different attractions from the two events: the silent auction and speeder-car rides, for example, from *Depot Day* — joining the steam-train rides, model-train displays, and steam-engine exhibition, along with other unique activities from *Railroad Days*. There will also be some all-new attractions, including the unveiling and use of a locomotive bell from the museum's collections, which is now undergoing restoration.

The next *Depot Dispatch* issue, which is scheduled for early September distribution, will have all of the details.

If you just can't wait, please visit the *Goleta Railroad Days* website — <http://goletarailroaddays.org> — which has information and lots photos from previous events. Be sure to visit the "GRRDZ" website regularly, especially after about Aug. 1. There will be different activities and attractions taking place on different days and at different times over the event weekend. Keeping up with the schedule, as it develops, is your key to ensuring that you won't miss your personal event favorites.



## Auction Items & Services Needed

If you or your business have new items, collectibles or valuable services that you would like to donate to the *Depot Day* Silent Auction, please contact Asst. Director Phyllis Olsen at the museum (805/964-3540 or [polson@goletadepot.org](mailto:polson@goletadepot.org)). Thank you.

*Depot Day Silent Auction*

*Speeder Rides*

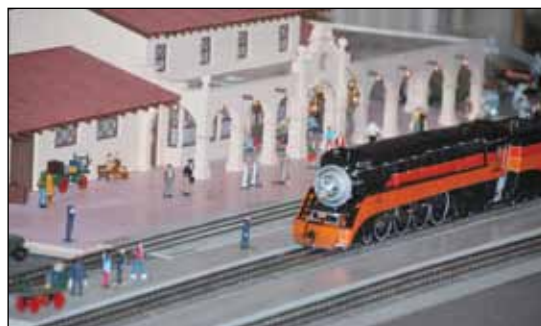


*Handcar Rides*



Photo credits & information: *Depot Day Silent Auction* (Museum staff photo, Depot Day 2001); *Speeder Rides* (Museum staff photo, Depot Day 2002); *Handcar* (Jamie Foster, GRRDZ 2010); *Model Trains Everywhere* (Jamie Foster, GRRDZ 2009); *Steam-Train Rides* (Jamie Foster, GRRDZ 2010); *Operating Live-Steam Exhibition* (Jamie Foster, GRRDZ 2009).

*Operating Live-Steam Exhibition*



*Model Trains Everywhere!*

*Steam-Train Rides*

