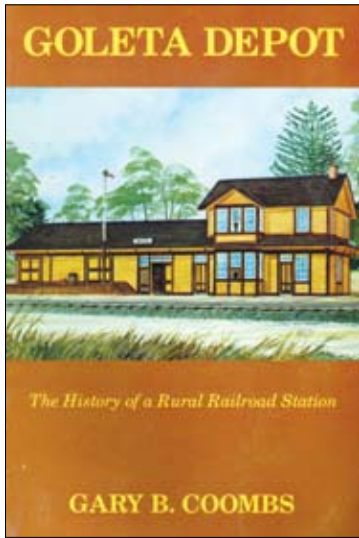


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A COOPERATIVE PROJECT OF THE SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS AND THE EDUCATORS' ROUNDTABLE, PUBLISHED MONTHLY TO PROMOTE LEARNING AMONG YOUNG READERS IN NATURAL SCIENCE, HISTORY, TECHNOLOGY, AND ART

This Month's Theme: History — Doing It, Being It, Making It

A lot of people think of history as “old stuff” – things that happened in the far distant past. But, history also has a lot to do with the present, and even with the future! If you don't believe it, just wait a few days and look what's happened – “today” and even “tomorrow” have both become “yesterdays.” Each is now firmly a part of history. In other words, history is never very far away; it's always right behind us!



Another popular notion about history is that it is only about “big” events – elec-

tions, wars, revolutions – and the important people – the presidents, generals and monarchs – at the center of those big events. But, there are also histories that focus on everyday topics – on cities, towns, neighborhoods, and families like yours. In all of these different types of histories, everyone, all of us, play a role in the story that unfolds. We all “make history” – even if our own personal contribution to history may not always be easy to see.

A third widely-held idea is that history is only done by professional historians. The rest of us must content ourselves with studying the histories that others have compiled. But, you can be a historian, too. You can DO history – by writing a history of your own family or community, or by helping with some other history project.

A History Project For You

Here's a local history project that illustrates all three of these history facts. First, in this project you can see how history is always changing – constantly drawing the present and the

future into its fold. Second, it's an example of community history – where the stories are made by people just like you. In fact, you can personally be a part of this particular history. Third, it's a history project in which you can make a contribution as a historian, yourself – by helping to discover, assemble, and share the story with others.

The project involves a new book about Goleta Depot, the old country railroad station building that is now home to the South Coast Railroad Museum. It's going to be an unusual book, because it will be available in a free full-color digital version as well as in the more traditional printed form.

This won't be the first book on the history of Goleta Depot. Another book was written and published back in 1982. Why do a new one? Because a lot of things have happened at Goleta Depot since the first book was published. A lot of things that still hadn't happened in 1982 have now become part of its history!

Before the new book can be completed, however, it needs an assist from you! Read on to find out what you can do to help.

Doing History

There are several ways in which you can participate as a depot book project historian.

1. You can help to select some of the photographs that will be included in the book. First, go to the SmugMug web address: www.rrmuseum.smugmug.com. On the left side of the page, you will see a copy of the original Goleta Depot book's cover (shown above). Click on the book-cover image. This will take you to another page, where you will see the picture of the miniature-train shown here, along with the title, “Pick Your Favorites.” Click on the train-ride image and you will be shown a number of photographs that are being considered for inclusion in the new book. A few of the possible choices are shown here. On the website, you will be able to pick which photos you think would do the best job of helping to tell Goleta Depot's story. The photos that receive the most votes will be added to the book!



2. You can also help to identify the people and activities that appear in some mystery photos from the Goleta Depot archives. At the same SmugMug web address listed above, you will find another set of photographs grouped in a



Gallery. Visit this gallery and see if you know any of the people in the photos; or if you can help figure out what they are doing. For each mystery photo, you'll have a chance to supply any missing information that you have.

Here are two more images from the “Pick Your Favorites” Gallery: handcar riders (below) and (at left) Vieja Valley Elementary School students take a museum-led train excursion to Glendale in 1989.



3. A third way that you can be a project historian is to enlist the help of others – your family and friends. Ask them to visit the “Pick Your Favorites” and “Who Are These People? What Are They Doing?” galleries. Encourage them to help with the book project, too. (Get them a copy of this page at www.sbert.org/plugged_in.php)



Who are these men? What are they doing? We don't know but here are two hints: The photo was taken in about 1970. It may have something to do with “Mission Federal Savings & Loan.”

The Hutchinson Family had their photo taken beneath one of the distinctive “Goleta” station signboards. This is one of the most popular camera spots at the railroad museum.



The photograph above is one of the earliest images showing Goleta Depot. It was taken in 1903. In the stroller is Frances Brown, the infant daughter of Harry Brown, one of Goleta Depot's first station agents, and Harry's wife, Ida Mae Moody Brown. More than 100 years later, Frances Brown's grandson, Marc Rodrigue and his wife, Natalie, thought it would be special to recreate the 1903 photo, by having their daughter, Emily, posed in the same spot as her great-grandmother. They took their digital photo (see above, right) on March 1, 2008. Now that's making history!



Goleta Mayor Margaret Connell was captured here photographing her grandson, Saul, while he was riding a train during the museum's 2003 “Steaming Summer” event.

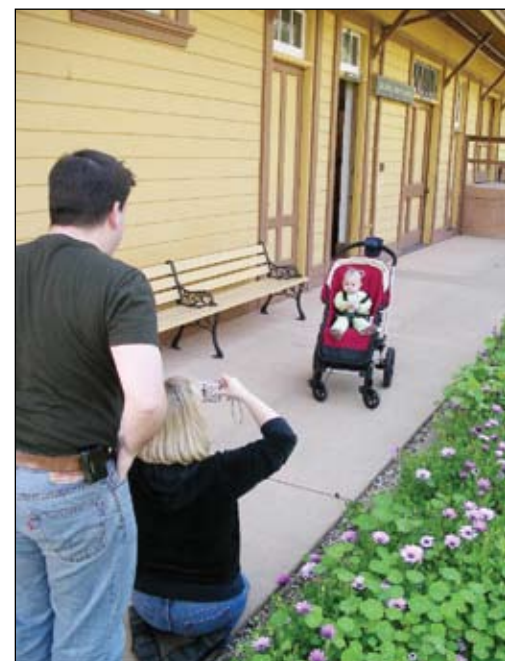


Charles Lange and his family used this snapshot, taken in the late 1970s, as their personal Christmas card.

The Goleta Depot Book Project is made possible by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Making History

You say you don't have any Goleta Depot snapshots in your scrapbook? No exciting stories to share? It's not too late. You can still make history! Go and explore Goleta Depot and the railroad museum. Take some pictures while you're there. There are plenty of great visit opportunities coming up in the next few months – including “Goleta Railroad Days,” a new action-packed museum event on Aug. 1-2, or “Depot Day,” on Sept. 27, or one of the museum's many free-ride days (Aug. 8, or Sept. 12, for example), or just about anytime that the museum grounds are open! When you're ready, write to book@goletadepot.org and tell us about your visit and any photos that you took.



You can reserve your own free personalized full-color copy of the digital Goleta Depot history by visiting the South Coast Railroad Museum website (www.goletadepot.org) and clicking on the red-and-white “ORDER DEPOT BOOK” button.

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