

# Tri-Valley Herald

## Museum turns into a train-lovers delight

Exhibit in Pleasanton has model choo-choos, railroading artifacts

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**Monday, July 12, 2004** - PLEASANTON -- The Transcontinental Railroad has chugged its way into Pleasanton's Museum on Main Street.

The exhibit, which runs through Sept. 12, features four rooms of railroad artifacts and model-train replicas that showcase the Valley's connection to railroad history.

"The entire building is now trains," said museum Director Heather Haugen Rizzoli.

The "Signals to Switches" show also features rotating exhibits, including one from the Bay Area LEGO Train Club that wrapped up Sunday. The 15-by-15-foot display highlighted LEGO replicas of actual places, such as the Pleasanton Main Street arch and Mission San Jose, combined with sets of train tracks with LEGO trains gliding along them.

Most of the LEGO trains were built by club members, one piece at a time, without instructions.

"It looks really realistic," said 10-year-old Jared Shohfi, a Pleasanton resident. "It looks just amazing -- the detail and everything."

Shohfi and other children -- and adults -- marveled at the elaborate set and the rest of the train memorabilia throughout the museum.

Other items on display include a piece of old railroad track compared to a piece of new track, a 30-minute movie on the Valley's train history, samples of china dishes used in dining cars and all sorts of train miniatures.

Coming up next in the exhibit is the Golden Gate Lionel Railroad Club's Lionel-brand trains.

That part of the show will only be at the museum for a short time, from July 24 through Aug. 1.

Although kids get a kick out of the trains, adults seem to enjoy the exhibit in their own ways.

"It's just neat to kind of go back in time and see all that," said Livermore resident Debra Olson. "I love it."

The Museum on Main Street is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday. The museum is at 603 Main St., Pleasanton. For more information, dial (925) 462-2766.

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