

The Travel Town **TENDER**



A publication of the Travel Town Museum Foundation

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Super HO Scale Sale this Weekend at the Gift Shop!!

As noted in the article on the next pages – we will have tables full of HO Engines, Freight Cars, Passenger Cars, Buildings and Track on sale at the Gift Shop this Weekend! Super selection, great prices. All sales will help with our restoration efforts and our educational outreach programs. Tell your friends, families and other collectors to come see us! Buy a whole set for Dad for Father's Day!



We've been working on the Railroad - Docent and outreach program reaches new heights!



Due to the fantastic leadership of our Program Manager Steve Garbade, there is a wonderful cadre of volunteers who have been recruited and are leading our educational outreach tours. Steve has been very pro-active and responsive this year, scheduling over 35 school tours this semester! School groups have been Kinder through High School, and over 1300 Students have received tours and train rides!!! Giving these tours wouldn't be possible without the dedicated volunteer Docents who make this possible – Linda Barth, Greg Dehm, Will Cosso, and David

Wolfson have helped educate these kiddos and enjoy their visit to the Museum.

In addition to our weekday tours, our weekend Docent program is really blossoming, as well! While we are committed to giving tours through our passenger cars one Saturday every month, our newer volunteer crew has expanded our tours to some Sundays as well! New docents Sofia Merkulova, Evie Eddy, Anna Francesca D'Amo James Villa Esperanza, Sasha Patton and Alexander Yeh as well as our tried and true docents like



Gabriel Corona, David Wolfson, Beth Stengel, Christopher and Bob Arbuckle, Elena Galiana,

Alice and Sydney Lord, and Sofia Coniglio tell the story of railroad travel through our cars and locomotives. We have given over 1000 tours to individuals on just Saturdays and Sundays in the first 4 months of 2025! Thank you to everyone who helps fulfill our mission of educating the public about railroad history!!!



On the Platform – Frank Bailey

Frank Bailey Returns to Travel Town through his Collection
By Greg Dehm

As one of our docents was about to start a recent tour of our museum on rails for a group of thirty 1st and 2nd graders, he was approached by a visitor who had a rather unique question: “Does Travel Town accept donations of model trains?” The docent promptly affirmed that it most certainly does, but since his tour was about to start, he invited her to tag along to give her a brief glimpse of the Park through the inquisitive eyes of the children. Her eyes got a bit of a sparkle too, and the tour was on its way with an “All Aboard!”

After the tour ended, the museum visitor introduced herself, Stephanie Fazio. Her father had recently passed away after having been a train buff and model trains collector for most of his life. She said that the tour had been a blessing, as her father had taken her to Travel Town when she was quite young. It was as though she was taking the tour with dad, hand-in-hand. Stephanie was moved by the interest of the children as evidenced by their questions and the attentive listening. By the end of the tour, she knew Travel Town was the perfect benefactor for her dad’s model train collection, and Stephanie met with Travel Town Volunteer Manager Steve Garbade and Executive Director Nancy Gneier for their acceptance of the so generous donation.

But there wasn’t just the anticipated one, maybe two, boxes. There were boxes and more boxes — box upon box of model railroading containing hand-picked objects that spanned all things railroad in HO scale. Steam and diesel locomotives, passenger and freight cars of all types and lines, yard buildings and scenery, track signals – even track itself. And that is how we posthumously met and have since come to know a dear man and friend to Travel Town, Frank Bailey, IIIrd.

Frank had lived in California all his life and had worked for Toys-R-Us at its Monrovia, CA store for over thirty years. As a young boy, his older brother, Bill, had introduced him to what would become a life-long passion for Frank – collecting model railroad trains. Frank’s mother, Helen, gave him model railroad cars at Christmas when Frank was in elementary school. When he got one, he seldom took it out of its box. Frank didn’t want to run the trains; he enjoyed showcasing them to inspire others. Hence, many of the locomotives and rolling stock were still in their original boxes from when they were new.



Stephanie never knew Frank to have set up a train layout. She does, however, have a distinct recollection of seeing his boxed collection literally fill up the garage at her dad's home . . . so much so, that several additional boxes had been stored in Frank's office in house itself. Such was Frank's RR passion.

Frank was a very special person. He loved the holidays when he would dress up as an elf and go by the elfin name of "Knarf" (Frank spelled backwards) to distribute dozens of seasonal stockings filled with essentials such as shampoo, soap and shaving cream to needy strangers that he would pass on the street.



His collection encompassed models of some the oldest trains like the John Bull and Tom Thumb but also four Union Pacific Big Boy steam locomotives. Doodlebugs, crane cars, work cabooses – every box revealing pieces of his treasured collection.

Frank's favorite car, Stephanie recalled him saying, was "the one behind the engine." How truly serendipitous as this has come together, in that we now honor Frank in our newsletter that bears the name of his favorite car: the Tender.

The Frank Bailey Collection has found its best home in Travel Town. His collection is inspiring curious minds, young and old, to venture into model railroading, learn train history and the explore the legends and lore of the rails that have spanned our country.

Indeed, Frank Bailey has returned to Travel Town.



Pictured at right, the delivery of over 36 boxes! Thank you so much to the Frank Bailey Family!

New and Renewing Members

Don't forget your donations to us are tax deductible – so if you need that extra write-off, remember the Travel Town Museum Foundation at the end of the year! Give through paypal (you can use a credit card if you don't have a paypal account!!!) by clicking here: [CLICK HERE FOR PAYPAL PAGE](#)

Restoration Partners:

Little Nugget Club:

Mike Evans
Makoto Ueno
Matt Wakefield

Streamliners

Barry Beebe
Garrett Paine

Engineers:

Amy Adolph
Jon Axell
Greg Dehm
Patricia Flores
Charles Freericks
Yui Lau
Ann Newton
Jennifer Segal
Michael Tirella
Tara Webb

Track Gang members:

Charlie Ambler
Susan Amerikaner
Shannon Bicknell
Max Baumgarten
Isabel Canosa
Anna Davis
Bill Doran
Alison Fox
Lauren Hanson
Nancy Himmel
Alex Henderson
Maria Hernandez
Erin Hopkins
Josh Keesan
Ryan Lo
Shelly Lucky

More Track Gang members:

Christine Mathieson
Maggie Mazur
Sharett McDonald
Matthew Nelson
Michelle Oliver
Esmeralda Reyes
Teresa Ruegg
Katrina Ruzics-Ingram
Lee Shipman
Britani Spencer
Jonathan Watts



New Travel town-specific Pins available in the gift shop!

Pins of the Mariposa, Charley Atkins and the drumhead of "The Little Ranger" (aka M.177) are now available at the Travel Town Gift Shop!! At only \$7.00 a pin these are a wonderful gift for Dad for Fathers Day!

Collect them all!



Which way to the Train ride?



Over Mother's day weekend our Foundation and the Museum were the recipient of new directional signs! Eagle Scout Candidate Nicholas Kyles and his Troop installed new signs in the shape of Semaphores at 4 of the posts at the Museum. Nicholas coordinated the reprinting of the signs, making them slightly larger than what was there before, and upgraded the materials to be reflective and last a little longer in the sun! Scouts and parents carefully installed the signs right before our volunteer awards luncheon on May 10th, National Train day. Thank you Nicholas, for "showing us the way"!

If you know a scout who is looking for a leadership project, we have many engines that need new running boards or coupler beams, and we have lots of track that needs maintenance as well. Contact the Foundation office for opportunities.



We've been workin' on the Railroad - Dining Car Update

Any of you who have been members for a while have probably watched the progress in the diner – the dedicated team of Mike Teti, Gary Teti and new volunteer Andrew Goldman have been making incredible progress under the leadership of Brad Slosar, one of our Board Members. The photo below is a very meaningful one to me, personally, because it signifies a completion of part of the car that I have been aching to see finished for years if not decades. Below, I would like to draw your attention to the molding on the right side of the picture. That molding and the panels around it were damaged back in the 1960s when the car was outside in the rain. The Mexican mahogany veneer



was damaged and curled, the molding was warped and split, and was removed when our Foundation took over working in the car in the 1990s. It was one of those eyesores that I saw every time I walked in the car. It very clearly stated “I’m still not fixed”. And now it is. Sometimes restoration is a matter of fundraising – we needed to raise the money to pay the professional painters who did the pinstriping on the ceiling, for instance. But there is another layer to this – you can’t just hire any old carpenter from Home Depot to do this detail woodworking and finishing. Brad and his team have self-taught a lot of the techniques used in this car. (I cannot tell you how many times I

have seen Brad emerge, a dusty shade of light brown at the end of the day, because he had to sand off an entire wall he had just stained the week before. He didn’t like the way it stained and had to “undo” the work until he got it “just right”.) The careful love and dedication these guys have truly show in the beauty of the interior.

NOW – on to the Exterior! The outside windows are being fitted, and plans are being made to have the roof painted next. Stay tuned!!!!



No more Ties or Gift cards!



**Have your Dad become a member of the Travel Town
Museum Foundation!**

Visit the website at Traveltown.org and click on the **Green JOIN button** on the right!!

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