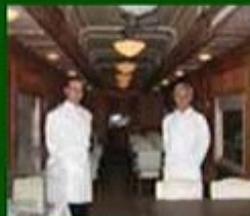


Travel Town Museum Foundation



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Playday Schedules

Playdays in the Fall

Member Playday - Sat Sept 19

Depot Day Playday - Sunday

October 25th

Hours: 10:30 to 1:30

Stay Connected



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August 2015

Dear Friend of Travel Town,

Happy Summertime! The Days are long, the park is open, and we hope you come out to our Member Playdays or other weekends to enjoy beautiful Griffith Park! Are you looking for a great place to have a birthday party for that Little Engineer in your life? TRACK GANG MEMBERS, who purchase an hour playday get an additional half hour FREE! Membership upgrades are available easily at the Gift Shop, and all your membership donations are tax-deductible. Stay cool Travel Town Supporters!

We've been Workin on the Railroad

M.177 Winton Engine Restoration Powers Ahead!!

by Bryan Reese, Project Manager

Project M.177 has made considerable headway since our last report. Nearly the entire focus has been on completing painting, and as of this writing, the rear end and left side of the car are complete thanks in no small part to donations from The Thomas P. Daily Foundation and Mr. Thomas Hoback of The Indiana Railroad. Tom has since retired, and he was back to visit Travel Town with his family on August 2nd, and seemed pleased with the progress. We'll probably be seeing more of Tom in the coming days, as his daughter and son-in-law have relocated to Southern California.

A HUGE thanks is owed to museum volunteer Geoffrey Bark for spending many, many hours sanding the sides of the M.177 in preparation for the paint. As they say, "it's all in the prep." Geoffrey continues to work on the right side of the car, while I begin the layout and application of the unique red and yellow "gull wing" scheme on the front of the car. This pattern was peculiar to Santa Fe Motorcars, and is one of several tried by the railroad to increase the visibility of the approaching railcars.



Also checked off the "to-do" list were the remaining issues with the Winton engine. The application of professionally-made head gaskets seems to have cured the water leak issue, and the ignition system has had the last of the bugs worked out. The key to the ignition issue was to abandon trying to make the original system of a single pair of points operate all four spark coils and going to a more modern (comparatively) system of an independent set of points for each coil.

Thanks are also due to Will Cosso for assisting in the engine repairs and Bill Cosso for help with the car lettering.



New Gift Shop Building Update!

As of August 18th, the bottom of our hole has been excavated. We are on track to have the building moved in in the beginning of September.

Please help support this project by visiting our website and contributing. [Click here to visit our website](#)

Come out and see the new paint job at our upcoming Depot Day on October 25th!!

New Gift Shop Building Update

Here comes the Dirt!



As of the writing of this newsletter, Travel Town Museum Foundation staff is waiting for phone calls from our grading contractor, Brothers Concrete and Grading, to let us know they are bringing in loads of dirt to help with the compaction process of the new building site area.

After the grading and compaction of the area, which is next to the restrooms between Zoo Drive and the tracks next to the party cars, the 24 by 60 modular building will be brought in and positioned. We will also have to pour a concrete slab for the handicapped ramp, install a porch and the handicapped ramp, and build two Low Impact Development (water erosion prevention) planters behind the building. We will need to buy/build new display furnishings for the new gift shop, which will be about twice the size of our current gift shop. Look for new Thomas Products, more Brio, and a better selection of books, DVDs and t-shirts.

Thank you all, loyal Travel Town customers and supporters, for your continued patronage during the construction and renovation. Please continue to enjoy the Museum, and your faithful renewing of your memberships really helps our educational outreach programs and restoration efforts. When you get that renewal notice, send it in! Maybe you have grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins or neighborhood kids who would like to become Junior engineers with your family too! Signing up is easy at our website, and you can always call our friendly staff at the Gift Shop. Members will continue to receive 10% off every purchase of merchandise in the Gift Shop.

National Train Day Celebrated at the Museum



By: Donna Choi

To celebrate National Train Day on May 9, 2015, the Travel Town Museum Foundation hosted a fun day out at the Museum that was free to the public. Activities included: tours through the historic train cars, a treasure hunt for the newly unveiled Metrolink sponsored informational signs, a fundraising bake sale, a members-only PlayDay, and a concert by the local high school Hoover Jazz Band.

Los Angeles City Councilmember Tom LaBonge, State Assembly member Mike Gatto's Field Representative Justin Hager, Congressman Adam Schiff's District Representative Pamela Marcello and Superintendent of the Los Angeles Department

of Recreation and Parks Joe Salices as well as over fifty Foundation volunteers were all in attendance to commemorate this special day.

Volunteers gave educational and informative tours to over five hundred members of the public. Tours included three Union Pacific train cars: the 1937 Union Pacific Rose Bowl sleeping car, the 1937 Little Nugget lounge car, and the 1921 Dining Car #3669. Other tours included the 1904 Southern Pacific #3025 and the 1941 ElectroMotive Charley Atkins locomotive, named for the founder of the museum. Mr. Atkins was a Recreation and Parks employee who saw the potential to educate and entertain the children of Los Angeles with old transportation equipment. So, starting in 1952 he got donations of all kinds of transportation vehicles from the railroads, airlines, police and fire departments, to create this beloved gem of Los Angeles, the Travel Town Museum. Today this free museum continues to captivate the imagination of children, adults, and travelers.

The National Train Day celebration culminated with a concert of train themed songs by the supremely talented Hoover High School Jazz Band. This successful event raised much needed funds with the bake sale and tour donations, fulfilled the Foundation's mission to "educate the public about railroad history," and gave a great day out to Los Angelenos.

Presidential Service Awards in 2015

Record breaking number of President's Volunteer Service Awards given this year! 34 Recipients!

The Travel Town Museum Foundation hosted the President's Volunteer Service Award and taco luncheon in honor of our City of Los Angeles Recreation & Parks volunteers on May 23, 2015. Awardees received a pin, a certificate and a letter signed by the President of the United States Barack Obama! Congratulations to the hard working volunteers for a great year's work --

2015 Recipients:

Extraordinary Teens 11-15! BRONZE Level

Jacqueline Melgar

Phoebe Zeroni

Extraordinary Teens 11-15! SILVER Level

Daniel Petrosian

Extraordinary Teens 11-15! GOLD Level

Manushak Agarazyan

Michelle Bibee

Nathan Guo

Julie Kadzhabashian

Kevin Wang



Fantastic Young Adults 16-25!

BRONZE Level

Robert Atienza

Todd de la Torre Ugarte

Margaret Gelly

Bryan Herrera

Sidney Jarillo

Armine Kalbakian

Greece Pena

Joowon Yi

Fantastic Young Adults 16-25!

SILVER Level

Geoffrey Bark

Will Cosso

Fantastic Young Adults 16-25!

GOLD Level

Raphael Movsesian

Robert Ramos

Brandon Shields



Amazing Adults 26+! BRONZE Level

Shaun Allen

Helen de La Paz Dion

Nancy Gneier

Yvonne Ramsey

Bryan Reese

Brad Slosar

Gary Teti

Michael Teti

Amazing Adults 26+! SILVER Level

Bill Cosso

Ken Hansen

Craig Smith

Lifetime Achievement Award 4,000 + Hours!

Greg Gneier 4,048:45 Hours since 2002!

Greg Ramsey 4,050 Hours since 2002!

The following volunteers qualified for a membership with the Travel Town Museum Foundation by volunteering over 50 hours in the year:

William Brewington

Christopher (Chris) Geozian

Jarrold Lord

John Stumreiter

Matias Tanaka

Ryan Wang

Weidong Wang

These volunteers keep Travel Town Museum right "on Track!" Join our team by registering for Orientation at <http://traveltown.org/volunteeropp.shtml>

SAVE THE DATE!! OCTOBER 25, 2015 10am to 3pm

Depot Day featuring "Celebrating the Santa Fe Railway and the Fred Harvey Company"

This year, our annual open house event known as Depot Day will be on Sunday, October 25th from 10am to 3pm and promises to be a fun celebration of Railroad history, Past, Present and Future! Our Foundation will have special exhibits highlighting the The Fred Harvey Company, (including the Harvey Girls and the Harvey Houses), and the newly repainted Santa Fe M.177 Motorcar. We will also have visits from The Conductors and other local high school bands. A special

Members-Only playday area will be set up, there will be a hobo and Harvey Girl costume contest, and we expect special visits from many interesting exhibitors like "Sew Cranky" and "Adam's Forge" (interested parties contact Donna Choi at donna.dd@traveltown.org).

All aboard for fun times at Depot Day 2015!

Depot Day 2014 Big Success!!!



Depot Day 2014

"Celebrating the 1930's and the Pullman Company"

By: Donna Choi

Depot Day is the Travel Town Museum's annual open house event hosted by the museum's Foundation. This transportation safety fair is a celebration of all things train with many exhibitors, tours, musical performances, and railroad equipment demonstrations.

The Pullman Company was the theme of 2014's event which led to many participants bringing their own memorabilia to share with the public.

There were exhibitors from the Art Deco Society of Los Angeles and its offshoot group Vintage Picnic. These characters dressed the event and brought it to life with their costumes and props. They set up 1930's era picnic tables complete with vintage place settings, era appropriate food, and gorgeous old cars.

Many other exhibitors included the LAPD with a vehicle where one could sit inside and blast the horn, the LAFD with a ladder truck on which one could climb, Sew Cranky with their hand cranked sewing machines, the Griffith Park Rangers with their animal furs (no animals were harmed in the taking of these skins!), Operation Lifesaver with their railroad safety presentations, authors signing their books Union Pacific: Tracks to the Future and Harlow in Hollywood, a railroad art show, face painting for the kids, model railroad displays, a woodcarver, a blacksmith, and more. There was truly something for everyone.

Of course, the highlight of any day at Travel Town is going inside the vintage train cars! There were tours through three Union Pacific train cars plus tours through the 1929 M.177 Motorcar which is currently undergoing complete restoration, and the 1941 Hunter's Point sleeping car featured in the Clint Eastwood/Leonardo DiCaprio movie J. Edgar.

Guests enjoyed musical performances by local band The Conductors and three local high school jazz bands. Members were treated to a free lunch with volunteer baked goods and a PlayDay for the kids.



It was a beautiful day in the park. Visitors were entertained and educated. Funds were raised for train restoration. And people came together for a true community event.

Sponsors and Supporters

The Los Angeles Breakfast Club of Los Angeles graciously awarded us a grant that will go toward the refurbishment of the Volunteer Center handicapped-accessible ramp. There are still funds needed for this project! Feel free to donate via paypal or with a credit card at our website homepage link!!! Some of the folks in our "Restoration Partners" below joined forces to have their names listed on the plaque inside of the Arcadia Depot. Great idea! Perhaps your extended family would like to remember a loved one with gift in their name.

The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation has granted us a follow-up grant to help with the furnishings inside the new Gift Shop! Thank you so much for this support! We will be applying for these funds once the new building is in place and the occupancy permit has been approved!

We also want to thank long time supporter John Ruh, Grandson of "The Little Nugget" Bartender Johnny Ruh, who regularly sends us support checks to keep "The Little Nugget" project moving along.

Our Executive Director Nancy is always willing to write a grant proposal to your company or business for a matching grant... so if you have supported our Foundation this year (and you have if you are getting this newsletter!) please contact her and she will reach out to your business or employer for a matching gift.

New and Renewing Members --- THANK YOU ALL!!!

RESTORATION PARTNERS

Eric Andersen
Jay Fahlen
Teddy and Evangelos Kapur
Dean & Donna LoNigro, Jason Sieroty, &
Corinne Poppen Group

"LITTLE NUGGET" CLUB

Jamie McCallister

TRACK GANG MEMBERS

Brienne Arroyo
John Brendel
Jacqueline Browning
Liz Burner
Jason Cai
Kristen Cannizzo
Megan Chavez
Carter Covington
Natalia Driguenitch

STREAMLINERS

Hanna Benfield
Jennifer Fay
Pete Hayward
Brian Ikei
Michael Novean
Denise Nunez
Charlie Randolph
Augustine Wasef

ADULT ENGINEERS

Renetta Corral
Amy McKay
Allen Pomianek
Gail Silverton
Eric Smith
Claudine Thomas

JUNIOR ENGINEERS

Permanently Perfect Makeup
Ryeland Allison
Dashiell Brownlee
Kelly Caudillo
Dorian Charnis
Hilda Chavez
Evan Chesney
Ari Cooperman
Jayden Dankyi
Kieran DeSalvo
James Enney
Amber Fair
David Freedman
Sandra Fuentes
Sonia Gutierrez
Samson Herman
Veronica Hertel
Amy Hutwagner
Chinh Huynh
Lindsay Isom
Chris Jeppson
Ruben Juarez
Quinn Lamarque
Hunter Ling
Wendy Meyer
Tritia Murata
Michael NG
Escher Olson
Revin Reynolds
Elizabeth Saucedo
Matthew Sternhill
Karen Triest
Angela Vawter
Andrew S. Warner
Lamar Williams
Dalton Wong-Chasnov

Elle Edelmann

Cassandra Evans
Peiyu Foley
Christina Gaspar
Carol Gibson
Charlene Grassfield
Kimesha Guidry
Aaron Horn
Ethan Huntington
Lauren Ihrig
Valentina Ikan
Jamie LaManna
Lucy Lee
Michelle Lees
Paris Levy
Japheth Lessin
Jeffrey Lipsky
Joshua Lopez
Leon Lopez
Jennifer Lin
Martin Lopez
Michelle Maroney
Garret Mathany
Sandra Montalvo
Terry & Chris Nelson
Tiffany Nguyen
Johanna Orellana
Carmen Orquiz
Michelle Pervaiz
Sally Rogers
Jaime Ruiz
William Schlaerth
Nicholas Sequeira
Maria Storm
Mitsuhiro Sunohara
Maila Torres
Stephany Tosi
Jen Tracy
Nate Vormehr
Cameron Wayman
Lani Woltmann
Cristina Younger

[Membership Page](#)

Hope to see you on Depot Day!

Nancy Gneier, Executive Director
Travel Town Museum Foundation



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