

# The Travel Town TENDER



A Publication of the Travel Town Museum Foundation

Volume 4, Issue 4  
November 2006

## *Holiday Greetings from Travel Town!*

Happy Holidays from everyone at the Travel Town Museum! Yep, Thanksgiving is just around the corner, with the rest of the holidays snowballing right along behind. We're hoping this *Travel Town Tender* arrives in your mailbox well before the Thanksgiving Weekend. We've mailed it early – but since the Post Office took nearly three weeks to deliver the last issue, this one is hitting the mail well in advance!

I hope YOU were among the many patrons who joined us for *Depot Day* at Travel Town in October. We had a great turnout and a wonderful day at the Museum. There are so many people to thank for making Depot Day such a terrific event: the great folks at Caltrans, Operation Life-Saver and the Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority; Glendale Boy Scout Troop 139 and Girl Scout Troops 948 and 735; City Councilman Tom LaBonge and his staff; Jim Starr, the Singing Policeman; our Chef d' Hotdog Cuisine, Yvonne Ramsey; and last but certainly not least, our fantastic team of Foun-

dation employees, City Museum Staff and our hard-working Volunteers! Wow guys, you all did a tremendous job. I've received many complements from happy Travel Town visitors – and that's what's really important to us!

Coming up next, to kick off the holiday season, will be our annual *Polar Express Pajama Party* – Friday evening, December 1st. There'll be loads of funs, games and hot chocolate, so don't miss out. Send in your RSVP early, put on your pajamas, and come out for the fun! For more information, give a call to 323-668-0104.

I hope to see you at Travel Town real soon!

Greg Gneier, President  
November, 2006



# On the Platform . . . Owen Connolly

We're pleased to have another Boy Scout Eagle Leadership Project *On the Platform* in this issue of the *Tender!* Our latest Eagle Scout candidate is *Owen Connolly* of La Canada Troup 501.

Owen's Eagle Leadership Project was to assist Travel Town by constructing two prototypical vintage railroad track panels for interpretive display at the Museum. One panel is circa 1860, similar to that used at the time of construction of the First Transcontinental Railroad. The 1860-era panel was laid 55-pound rail and rough-hewn log cross-ties. The "55-pound" notation refers to how much a one-yard segment of the rail weighs. Early railroads used very light-weight rails, but as locomotives and cars got bigger and heavier, so did the size and weight of the rail.

The second panel Owen's gang built is circa 1940s, using 90-pound rail and milled cross-ties with common steel tieplates and joints. Owen's two panels were constructed alongside an existing display panel which depicts a contemporary track construction scheme using 136-pound rail, prefabricated concrete cross-ties and Pandrol rail clips – similar to what you might see on today's MetroLink tracks. Each of these different "eras" of rail construction will be shown and explained with signage at the Museum, right next to the historic Arcadia Freight Depot.

Here's a brief interview with Owen along with a few photos of him and his track gang hard at work.

*Tell us a little about yourself, age, school, future ambitions, etc.* My name is Owen James Connolly, I am 17 years of age. I attend La Cañada High School, and I wish to go to college in the future and become successful.

*When did you join the Scouts?*

When I was in fifth grade.

*What have been some of the best things you've done in Scouting and why?*

Boy Scout camp has been really great. You get to know people really well that you otherwise wouldn't ever talk to, and also you learn a lot of skills and values that you can use throughout your life.

*Why did you choose to do your project at Travel Town?*

Because it was something new and interesting, not like some boring old Eagle Project like building a bench and so on.

*What did you learn as you did your Eagle Project?*

I learned a lot about the importance of leadership and organization. To make such a project work takes a lot of behind the scenes work and preparation.

*Was your Eagle Project harder or easier than you expected, and why?*

It was harder, but not to the point where things got out of control. It just took longer to do some things than I suspected, just because I had no prior knowledge in the area, and a lot of the stuff we did was really grueling work.

*What have you learned while you have been in Scouts in general that has helped you be a better person?*

That kindness and understanding always gets you farther than cruelty and harshness.



Using hatchet and drawknife, Owen and crew prepared "rough log ties" for the 1860s-era track panel.



Preparing the site.



Laying out the ties for the 1940s track panel.



Bringing in one the "90-pound" rails. (This piece actually weighs about 450 pounds total!)



Setting one of the 1860s "55-pound" rails into place on the log ties. To the extreme right is the modern "136-pound" rail of today - look at the difference!



Owen (with shovel) and some of his Troop 501 crew after completion of the project.



## Travel Town Railroad

In cooperation with the Travel Town Museum and the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks

Presents:

## Train Ride to Santa!

Bring the children and join us at The Travel Town Museum for a magical **Train Ride to Visit Santa**. You will board the Santa Express at the Travel Town Station and arrive within minutes at Santa's North Pole Village.

There, young and old alike can visit with Santa and tell him their Christmas wishes. Santa will have a special little gift for each child. Mrs. Claus will be there to greet you and talk about life at the North Pole. Santa's Elves will happily take your picture with Santa for purchase as a keepsake of your visit. Upon Leaving Santa's Village, the Santa Express will take you through a wonderland of Holiday lights and scenery before returning to the station.

### Beginning Saturday, November 25, 2006 at 5 pm

Continues November 26, December 1, 2 & 3, December 8, 9 and 10, and December 13 through 23. Train operates from 5 pm until approximately 8 pm each day.

*On Saturdays & Sundays space may be limited - so arrive early*

### Tickets \$6 per person

**Includes one round trip - 18 months and under free  
Photos with Santa will be available for \$4.00 each**

For information and directions call 323.662.9678 or 818.881.2586  
or visit [www.traveltownrailroad.com](http://www.traveltownrailroad.com)

## All Aboard!

*A warm welcome to the newest members and renewing supporters of the Travel Town Museum Foundation.*

### YARDMASTERS

Stevan Dumas  
Mark Friedman & Lettie Ibarra  
Griffith Giacchino  
Aidan, Josephine, Adam and  
Mia Glass  
Dorothy Shepherd

### EXPRESS AGENTS

Eden Alair  
Reider & Toni Andersen  
Ben Avatefi  
Claire Baldwin  
Annie Barnes  
Gail Becker  
Jeran Berry  
Lesli, Max, & Sam Birnkrant  
Patti Burns  
Marianne Leo Burton  
Joan Cass  
Mario Castello

Mariana Clarizeo  
Emily Cooke  
Bruno Cordero  
Pete Derdak  
Kal & Lea Desjardines  
Thomas Dodge  
Mark Dodge  
Keilah Domenico  
Edwin Duarte  
Jensen Dubberstein  
Eleanor Duran  
Denise Durance  
Barbara Durnbaugh  
Kaylynn Dutcher  
Magnus Ferrell  
Martha Fleckenstein  
Luana Giffen  
Mark & Jay Gragnam  
M. Hervat  
Indigo Hood

### EXPRESS AGENTS (CONTINUED)

Rennie Hunter-Walz  
Gabriel Jaime  
Andrew Keasberry  
Samniang Khamthong  
Bethanne Kim  
Jack Kirakosian  
Rol & Aggie Madden  
Ethan Maule  
Dana & Nelson McCormick  
Virgina Megerbichian  
Carver Messick  
Jack & Jill Miller  
Norman Moline  
Yvonne Morgan-Lopez  
Stefan & Lucy Mykytyn  
Peter Nault  
Ray & Cecilia Ornelas  
Jorge A. Paniagua  
Susie Parks  
Adrian & Jo Ann Pinedo  
Oscar Ramirez  
Wes Ramsey  
Julie Reardon-Nuno  
Deborah Rebutan  
Margot Riemer  
Jonathan Rivera  
Anne Ross  
Ingrid Sacerie & Andrew Koyama  
Gabriel N. Sandoval  
Nircl Sebastianio  
Steven Selcer  
David & Kim Stafford  
Anetta Stark  
Kathy Starrenburg  
Nicole Trudeau  
Tricia Vaughan  
Jose Vergara  
Joanne Wang Murtetuz

*For membership information,  
call 323-668-0104*



# We've Been Working on the Railroad . . .

## High School Service Learning Volunteers

Fall is here and that means school is back in session. That may be sad news for some students, but we try to ease their pain by inviting them to spend a few hours volunteering at Travel Town. Each year, Travel Town benefits tremendously from the wonderful student volunteers we get from several area high schools. These great kids come to us via the schools' *Service Learning Program* - a system that helps high school students earn "community service" hours needed to fulfill their graduation requirements. It's a wonderful way for the students to gain experience in a myriad of fields, and it offers Travel Town a fantastic source of volunteer support. If you have a high school or college student at home, or would like to volunteer yourself, please drop us an email at [volunteer.tender@traveltown.org](mailto:volunteer.tender@traveltown.org) or visit our website at [www.traveltown.org](http://www.traveltown.org).

☞ Alex Ueno and Max Mares painting up some rail "skates."

☞ Here's Max and his brother, Josh Mares, helping get the M.177 ready for a new fuel tank.



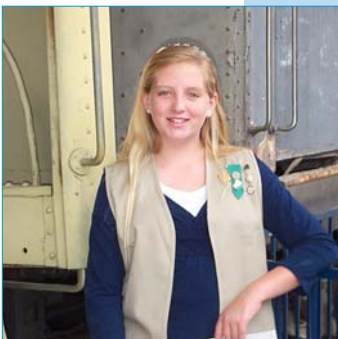
☞ Richie Dulce proved to be a great hand at the pressure washer.

☞ Richie was a great asset at Depot Day as well; helping man the Volunteer both as well as being part of the set-up and tear down operations!



## Volunteer Docents

One of the most important volunteer functions at Travel Town is our Docent Program. Volunteer Docents provide guided tours through several of the historic passenger cars and locomotives at the Museum. Here are a few fine examples from the recent *Depot Day* event.



☞ Girl Scout Sara Hill welcomes visitors to the Pullman sleeping car *Hunters Point*.



☞ Andrew Lepore welcomes visitors aboard the Pullman car *Rose Bowl*.



☞ Second generation TT volunteer, Bob Anderson, shows off the interior of the Pullman car *Rose Bowl*. Bob's father, the late Wayne Arbuckle, was one of our initial group of volunteer when we started the Docent Program in the 1990s.



☞ Chuck Kappmeyer explains the restoration work in the famous "Little Nugget" club car.

## TTMF Welcomes Paulette Westphal



The Travel Town Foundation is delighted to welcome Paulette Westphal on board as Administrative and Program Manager. A Virginia native, Paulette has been a junior high school teacher, corporate trainer, and most recently a web designer. She is also a musician in the Los Angeles Police Band and serves as music director for a church in Burbank. Paulette and her family are "all nuts over trains, specifically Lionel O-Gauge sets for the big folks and, of course, 'Thomas' for the little ones."

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Paulette!

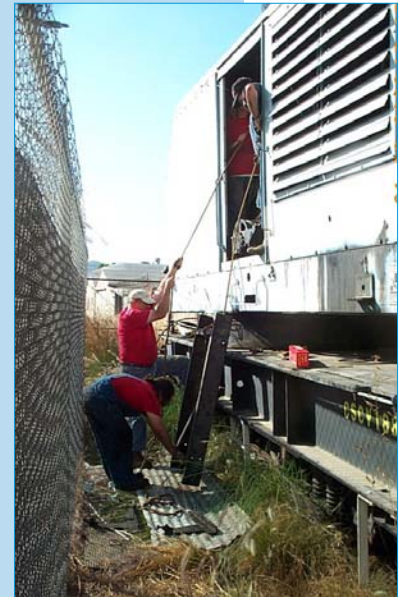


☞ Long-time Travel Town Docent Todd Brown explains Union Pacific Dining Car 369 and the finer points of eating about the *Los Angeles Limited*.

# ... and Working!

## American Locomotive Crane 1887

Efforts needed to ready *American Locomotive Crane No. 1887* for its BIG MOVE to Travel Town are now on the volunteers' front burner. The World War II vintage railroad crane was donated by the Boeing Company of Long Beach for display and use at Travel Town. Since the Museum has no "rail connection" to the outside world, the historic crane must be moved to the Griffith Park by highway truck. (*Did you know that all of the big trains at Travel Town came to the Park by truck?*) Travel Town volunteers are now doing the disassembly work necessary to separate the crane into two pieces for easier transportation. In these three shots, volunteers are removing a piece of the boom support framework from inside the crane's machinery house. Watch for *Crane No. 1887* to arrive on Track 8 at the Museum soon!



## The Oregon Detachment

So you don't live in southern California, but you still want to volunteer at Travel Town - no problem, we'll put you to work! Here are two fine examples from our "Oregon Detachment."

Travel Town is fortunate to enlisted the services of a new volunteer - "Wes" - who has been working on some of our recent track projects; he is already picking up a long "To-Do" list from project leaders Greg Gneier and Greg Ramsey. But don't expect to Wes around Travel Town very often. Our new volunteer is Greg Ramsey's uncle, Wes Ramsey, and he lives in Oregon City near Portland. Wes is an accomplished machinist, among his many other talents, and has been custom-making joint bars for Travel Town's new girder rail turnout. Wes is now starting work on some new bolt-on wheel stops for the Museum.



Wes grew up in Bakersfield where his father George was an engineer on the Sante Fe. George Ramsey dissuaded both his sons away from careers with the railroad; Wes, after a stint in the U. S. Navy, became a school teacher. Though now retired, Wes still teaches a few classes, usually in small engine repair, at his local community college. Wes is also volunteer with the SP 4449 crew, working on the "Daylight" at the roundhouse in Portland.



Another **Oregonian** on the Travel Town roster is our long-time computer and internet specialist, Michael Marquette. Mike is a Charter Member of our parent *American Southwestern Railway Association* and serves on its Board of Directors. Working from his home in beautiful Salem, Oregon, Michael finds time (between cups of Oregon coffee) to host the TTMF website and to shepherd our intricate email system. Before moving to Oregon, Mike was a regular worker at Travel Town, in the early days of "The Little Nugget" Restoration Project.



**Interested in Volunteering?**  
Visit [www.traveltown.org](http://www.traveltown.org) and click on  
"Volunteer at Travel Town" to learn more!

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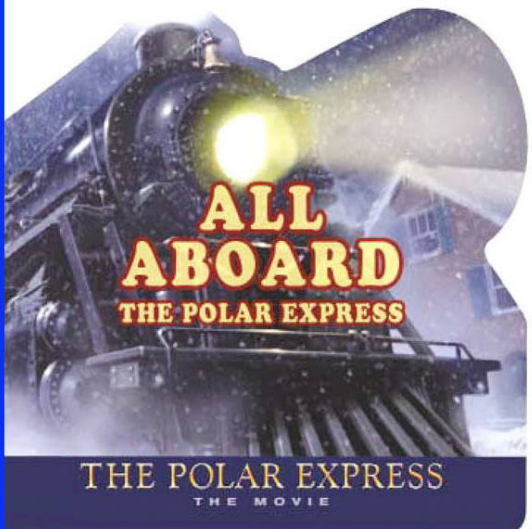


# Polar Express Pajama Party!

for our Travel Town Museum Foundation Members

**FRIDAY • DECEMBER 1st • at Travel Town**

**Come in your pajamas and join us for a cup of cocoa and a special screening of *The Polar Express* movie! There'll be games and fun activities for the kids. plus the Museum Gift Shop will be open late with a special selection of Polar Express books, music, t-shirts and toys.**



**SCHEDULE FOR THE EVENING**  
5:30 - Exhibit Hall open for arts & crafts, Thomas & Friends playtime.  
6:00 - Reading of *The Polar Express*.  
6:15 - Hot Chocolate and cookies.  
6:30 - The Movie begins!

**Space is Limited - Reservations are Required**  
Please R.S.V.P. before Nov. 27th  
323-668-0104, ext. 13

or by email at [giftshop.pe@traveltown.org](mailto:giftshop.pe@traveltown.org)

**The Santa Train Ride will also be running!**  
Tickets for the Santa Train are \$6 each.