

The Travel Town TENDER



A Publication of the Travel Town Museum Foundation

Volume 5, Issue 3
November 2007

Greetings from Travel Town!

I find it hard to believe that I have been writing these “President’s Messages” for nearly 25 years – first in the *ASRAIL* newsletter and now in its successor, the *Travel Town Tender!* This coming December, the *American Southwestern Railway Association* marks the 25th anniversary of its incorporation as a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational corporation. Founded in the summer of 1982 (literally) by “six young guys in a garage,” the organization has gradually grown, developed and matured into today’s *Travel Town Museum Foundation*. We began our partnership with Travel Town in December 1987 and have since been working hand-in-hand with the Los Angeles Department of Recreation & Parks to make the Travel Town Museum a better place for visitors of all ages. I am so very happy with the great strides that both the organization and the Museum have made during these many wonderful years – yet when I look around Travel Town I see that we’ve really just begun to scratch the surface of the Museum’s real educational and recreational potentials.



On this wonderful occasion, I want to take the opportunity to thank each and every one of our Foundation members, our supporting patrons, fantastic staff, the Museum’s hard-working volunteers – and all their families – for doing and giving so much to make these great strides possible. I send a very special note of thanks and gratitude to that handful of folks who have been with us since the

very beginning – looking back at 1982, could you have imagined this is what we would be doing twenty-five years later?

Thanks also to all of you who came out and enjoyed our recent Depot Day festivities at Travel Town on October 14th. I extend special accolades to our wonderful event partners: Caltrans, Girl Scout Troop 7351, Operation Lifesaver, Amtrak, the Metro Expo Line, Women in Railroading, the Travel Town Staff and Volunteers, and the Hoover High School Jazz Ensemble for helping to make the day such a great success! This year’s event was a great deal of fun and we look forward to doing it again next year.

Sir Topham Hat wishes you all a very happy holiday season and *Mr. Conductor* looks forward to seeing each of you at our upcoming *Polar Express Pajama Party* on November 30th!

See you at the Park!

Greg Gneier, President
Travel Town Museum Foundation
November 2007

A color copy of the *Travel Town Tender* is available on our website at www.traveltown.org: Click the “Hours & Activities” button.

If you would like to sponsor color printing, please contact Nancy Gneier at 323-668-0104. Thanks!

On the Platform . . . ASRA Founding Members

On the Platform this winter we salute the founders of our non-profit organization, the *American Southwestern Railway Association, Inc.* ("ASRA") on the 25th Anniversary of the ASRA's incorporation. Messrs. *Wayne Coleman, Greg Gneier, John Larkin (Hecox), Michael Marquette, Don Ruhe* and *John Vertrees* formed the non-profit association in 1982 in an effort to help preserve the wonderful heritage of America's railroads. The group's early efforts were soon joined by *Brad Slosar* and *Nancy Gneier*, and together this gang of energetic souls devoted countless hours towards bringing the Association's community-service goals to fruition.

In 1987 the Association joined forces with the Los Angeles Department of Recreation & Parks to help the Department attain its Master Plan goals for the Travel Town Museum. In 2000, the ASRA adopted the *Travel Town Museum Foundation* as its d.b.a. in order to better serve the Travel Town Museum's historic preservation and education efforts.

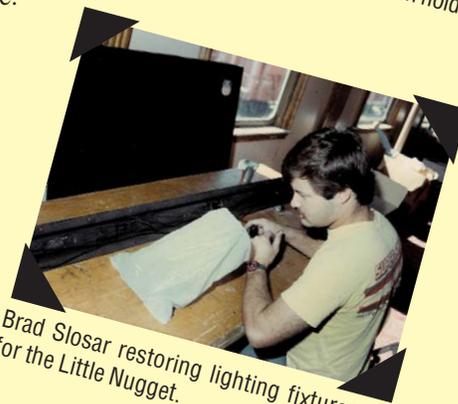
Today, many of the Association's original founders and members remain active on the ASRA's Board of Directors and in ongoing volunteer work at the Travel Town Museum! Congratulations all! Check back with us in 2032 for an update.

Then . . .

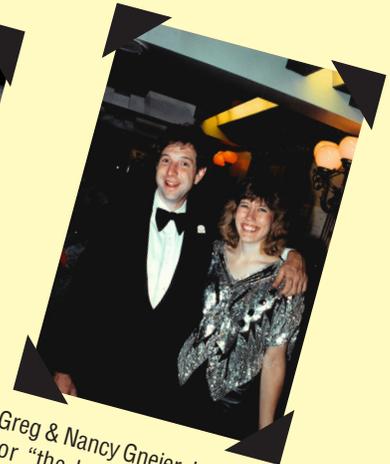


1980s guys on the move! The founding members aboard an Amtrak express to Sacramento about 1983. From left: Don Ruhe, Greg Gneier, Wayne Coleman, John Vertrees, and John Larkin (Hecox). Michael Marquette must have been holding the camera.

and . . .



Brad Slosar restoring lighting fixtures for the Little Nugget.



Greg & Nancy Gneier dressed up for "the last ride of the Little Nugget" in 1989.



Wayne Coleman and Brad Slosar

Now!



Corporation Secretary John Vertrees hosted the 25th Annual Meeting.



Michael Marquette, Greg Gneier and Brad Slosar at the 25th Annual Meeting in August 2007.



From left: Mike Marquette, Brad Slosar, Nancy Gneier, John Vertrees.



Don't miss the
Polar Express
Pajama Party on
November 30!

On Sale at the Gift Shop now!
The Movie, the Music, the Books
The ultimate in magical trains and
Christmas stories: *The Polar Express!*
Sweatshirts, Brio toys, books,
and other memorabilia available.

Depot Day



Big THANKS to our event partners!

Amtrak • Caltrans • Girl Scout Troop 7351
Hoover High School Jazz Ensemble
Metro Expo Line • Operation Lifesaver
Travel Town Staff and Volunteers
Women in Railroading

October 14, 2007



We've Been Working on the Railroad



🕒 Before and after pictures of the rods for SP20. While at Travel Town, the rods were painted so they “looked pretty” and since the Locomotive wasn’t moving, the painted versions were fine, and probably actually protected the equipment rather well.



🕒 Volunteers Nathan Lum and Chris Herrera carefully remove paint and dirt from the rods and attaching pieces.



🕒 Steve Devorkin does final cleanup on the rods for Steam Engine SP20. We hope Steve gets well soon since he is recovering from eye surgery (not caused by volunteering!).

Volunteers in Action

September was “Cub Scout Express” month, and Travel Town was visited by many different Cub Scout Troops from Southern California. The Foundation offered reserved tours to more than seven different Packs this past month: Boys and their families learned how a steam engine works, how switches work, and how to safely climb on and off those steam locomotives!

If you have a group who would like a reserved tour, please call the Foundation and leave a message at extension 13. We also welcome volunteers to give these tours to school groups!



🕒 Boys from Pack 97 out of Santa Monica get experience throwing a switch.



🕒 Cub Scouts from pack 466 in Chatsworth pose with Nancy Gneier, who gave them a tour and explained how steam engines work.



All Aboard!

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

EXPRESS AGENT

Cheri Love

ADULT ENGINEER

Todd C. Brown
Stevan Dumas
Kirk Felmer
John Goodwin
Rennie Hunter-Walz
Kendrick & Roselee Knox
Oscar Ramirez
Margot Riemer

JUNIOR ENGINEER

Allison Acoba
Joshua Barneck
Alexander G. Black
America Branch
Joshua Collives
Lucy Colwell
Tim Fallrath
Tristan Fritz
Gloria Funches

Mark, Melanie & Jay Gragnani

Marty Kloner
Lauren Kwong
John Miller
Jack & Jill Miller
Kenneth E. Nouak
Tiffany Petroe
Victor Ralys
Johanna Robin
Katie Rountree
Benjamin Sanderson
Gabriel N. Sandoval

Jenny Scanlin
Nailla N. Soriano
Jude Stacey
Anetta Stark

TRACK GANG

Maxx Almaraz
Patrick Bateman
Steven Blye
Susan Cho

Emese Dobrouics

Gregg Heschong
Marcie Hurrell
Michael Johnson
Theresa & Craig King
Linkchorst Family

Sharon Lord
Sianna Lyons & Federico Gonzalez

Peter Nault
Brian Pichette
Willeen Platt
Margot Riemer
James & Kayley Sanden
Elizabeth M. Smith

Jean Sosa
Brian Stoltz
Maria Tanquary
Kristine Torrey
Tricia Vaughan
Theatrice Westbrook
Mike Wood

NEWSTREAMLINER

Alexander Albrecht
Hayden Cass
Lockmann Family
Michelle and George Robinson
Joshua & Matthew Weiss

NEW LITTLE NUGGET CLUB

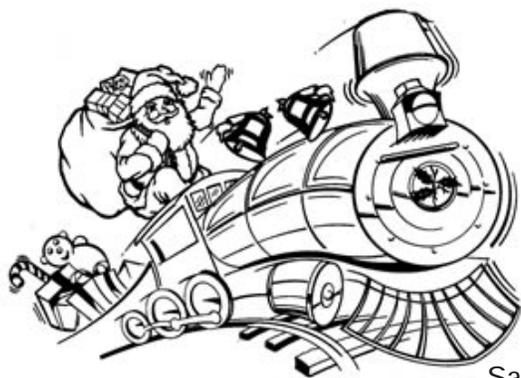
Vince & Kristy Carnegie
Andrew & Heather Horn

RESTORATION PARTNER

Don & Peggy Gustavson

Come join the fun!

*To join or for further
membership information,
call 323-668-0104*



Travel Town Railroad

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

Presents:

Train Ride to Santa!

Board the Santa Express at the Travel Town Station for an exciting trip to 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 24, 2007 at 5 pm

Continues November 25 & 30, December 1, 2, 7, 8 & 9 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 \$7 per person

Includes one round trip - 18 months and under free
Photos with Santa will be available for \$5.00 each

Spaces are limited, so buy your tickets early! Tickets can be purchased
at the Travel Town ticket booth November 1.

For information and directions call 323.662.9678 or 818.881.2586, or visit

www.traveltownrailroad.com

Polar Express Pajama Party!

for our Travel Town Museum Foundation Members

FRIDAY • NOVEMBER 30th • 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. 24th

on-line at www.traveltown.org

or by telephone at 323-668-0104, ext. 12

The Santa Train Ride will also be running!

Tickets for the Santa Train are \$7 each.



AMERICAN SOUTHWESTERN RAILWAY ASSOCIATION
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LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90039
323-668-0104 • www.traveltown.org

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