

# The Travel Town



A Publication of the Travel Town Museum Foundation

Volume 6, Issue 1

March 2008

## *Greetings from Travel Town!*

Happy New Year from all of us at Travel Town!

Wow! Only a few weeks old and 2008 is already shaping up to be a wonderful tremendous year for the Museum and the Foundation! I am ecstatic to tell all of you about a number of wonderful and very significant donations that we received since our last *Tender* issue. So, in no particular order . . .

**Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Conrad** of nearby Glendale donated a historic 1945 Railway Express Agency delivery truck to the Foundation. During the first half of the 20th Century, the *Railway Express Agency* was America's principal express delivery company – precursor to today's FedEx, DHL and United Parcel Service. The Railway Express Agency, often known simply as "REA" had a government-sanctioned monopoly on the package express business and shipped literally anything and everything – from Guinea pigs to nuclear weapons. Of course, railroad cars provided the long-distance transportation, with trucks (like the one donated by the Conrads) being used to pick up and deliver items to and from the trains and the customers. The Foundation is undertaking the operational restoration of the REA Truck for use as an ambassadorial vehicle – to help promote the Museum and the TTMF's outreach efforts. Although we've just gotten started on this restoration project, we've already had two important and valuable contributions in addition to the

vehicle itself: the **Coker Tire Company** of Chattanooga, Tennessee, generously donated a new set of historically-accurate Firestone tires for the truck. Coker is a major supplier of specialty tires for historic vehicles and automobile collectors. We're also very grateful for the generous support of **Mr. Bob Bartels** and **B & B Automotive** of Canoga Park for donating and arranging the transportation of the historic vehicle to the Museum.

As rehabilitation work on the Southern Pacific steam locomotive "No. 20" moves forward, we secured a fantastic contribution from the metal-fabricating firm of **Wagner Plate Works**, headquartered in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The generous folks at Wagner Plate Works will be donating the custom-fabricated boiler shells needed for the S.P. 20's new steam boiler. This is an incredible boost for the rehabilitation project – one that we hope will pave the way for other similar contributions as the project moves forward.

Over at the Museum's other "operational restoration" project – the Santa Fe Motorcar M.177 – we're excited to receive a donation of eight 8-volt storage batteries from the **Excide Battery Corporation**. These batteries will be installed "in series" on the Motorcar to provide the 64 volts of battery power needed to 'excite' the car's main generator and electrical system. We are very grateful to Excide for its support in supplying this very necessary component for the M.177 Project development!

I also want to extend a hearty thank you to another Glendale resident, **Crista Miller**, who donated a wonderful "G-Scale" L.G.B. electric train set to the Foundation. We set it up as part of our Polar Express Pajama Party and hope to make it a permanent part of our holiday decorations in future years. Thanks, Crista!

As you read through the rest of the *Tender* and learn more about the many projects going on around the Museum, I really hope you will consider giving a little of your spare time to join our Volunteer Team. We're always looking for new people and Travel Town is brimming with things that you can help with – no matter what your skills or talents are. We have a lot of FUN too – please join us!

See you at the Museum!

Greg Gneier, President  
Travel Town Museum Foundation  
March 2008



Her "Docent Hat" firmly in place, Nancy Gneier offers a group of Boy Scouts a first-hand explanation on the workings of a steam locomotive. This March, the Foundation will be partnering with two local Scout troops to host our second TTMF Railroad Merit Badge seminar.

# On the Platform . . . Kirk and Derek Reinholtz

On the Platform this spring we present our great father-and-son volunteer team of *Kirk and Derek Reinholtz*!

Derek, a sophomore at Crescenta Valley High School, came out to Travel Town last year to do school-required service hours and brought his mom and dad along for the ride. Derek's father, Kirk, a genuine "rocket scientist" at Pasadena's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), grew up visiting Travel Town and was interested to see just what was going on at the Museum. Says Kirk about that first day of volunteering,

*I was a heavy equipment mechanic in the military and I'm always looking to get Derek chances to learn new mechanical arts. One thing led to another, and next thing you know we're right in there — hip deep in grease and muck, putting thousands of pounds of mechanical guts back into this huge American railroad crane! It was a blast, and I was hooked. We've been there pretty much every weekend since.*

Like many of us, Kirk found that magic of trains when he was a boy:

*I think it started when I was very young. We dropped my aunt off at the station (Burbank, I think) for her trip back up to San Francisco. We hung around waiting for the train to arrive. I heard the distant thunder of its engine, the gate bells clanging, its horn, then the very ground shaking as it approached. That made quite an impression on me I guess!*

*As I grew older I remember a phase where the idea that you could ride those little ribbons of steel to pretty much anywhere was pretty romantic. Then later, as I studied engineering, I came to appreciate just what it took, and takes, to build and operate a railroad. Here at Travel Town, I've had many a conversation with fellow volunteer Greg Ramsey as we've worked on the rolling stock about how the men that designed and built this stuff really nailed the engineering for the most part; and that they did it all with sliderules and a few primitive machine tools, if that — no computers. It's truly amazing, and somewhat humbling.*

Kirk goes on to share why he keeps volunteering:

*I keep it up for two reasons, really. First, it's a way to contribute. I was taken to Travel Town as a small child, I brought my kids there, my grandson recently visited for the first time. It's easy to imagine one of those grandkids working on (or maybe finishing!) an artifact I'm working on today.*

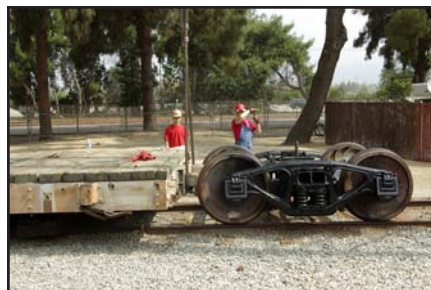


*Second, it gives me a chance to work in the world of big mechanical things, which I've always enjoyed and appreciated. Our ability as humans to design and build these machines to do our bidding is what has given us most of what we have today. It's nice to stay in touch with that.*



*And it offers me a great opportunity to pass some of that on to Derek as well. I think what's come out time and time again is how there are so few opportunities for kids to learn how to BUILD and FIX things these days. My son's high school doesn't have metal shop, doesn't have auto shop, doesn't teach welding, the list goes on and on. Sure, computers are important and there are jobs at McDonalds and Starbucks, but who's going to keep our infrastructure up? Who's going to build and maintain our mechanical stuff? It seems like most kids don't even know which way to turn a wrench. Can that be good for our nation and economy? That might seem a bit off topic, but it does come back to Travel Town. Here kids can learn to appreciate and understand and work on mechanical things, and do real physical work; all of which is, I think, part of being a well-rounded productive member of society.*

Indeed, Derek is a kid learning to appreciate and understand mechanical things. Working alongside Dad, Derek is learning to arc weld and develop a number of other general mechanical skills. Dad is particularly excited to see Derek gaining a visceral understanding of mechanical engineering and its relationship to good maintenance practices. Like any high school teenager, Derek has a lot of other things going on . . . when not at Travel Town, he plays on the J.V. Swimming and J.V. Water Polo Teams at Crescenta Valley High School and enjoys both street and mountain pedal-bikes and motorcycles! We're so delighted and fortunate to have such a great father-and-son pair on our Travel Town volunteer team!



(Left) Kirk signals Greg Ramsey in the Crane so they can install the wheels on the flatcar. Derek's just adjusting his hat! (Center) Kirk signals to the crane operator as Derek looks on. (Right) Kirk and Derek work together to push the wheels of the flatcar into place.



# Volunteer Specialists Needed!

We have a wonderful crew of volunteers at Travel Town, and some fantastic volunteer Project Managers who figure out how to get things done, get engines running, and get trains restored. Our Project Managers also know when they need professional help – or at least a volunteer with special skills or experience who knows how to do a particular job correctly, carefully and with quality. If you have any special talents or skills, we would love to have you as part of our volunteer Restoration Team. Below are a few projects that we need specialized help with right now. If you can lend a hand, or even just some advice, please contact Greg Gneier through the Foundation office at 323-668-0104 or by e-mail at [greg.vols@traveltown.org](mailto:greg.vols@traveltown.org). He's eager to hear from you!

## Are YOU an Electrician?



Our Union Pacific Dining Car restoration project is in need of an Electrician who would be willing to volunteer his or her time to run some conduit and install a new circuit breaker panel on the car. Not a difficult job – but one that can be best handled by an experienced electrician with the right tools. Please help us if you can – Travel Town needs you! Please give Greg Gneier a call or drop him an e-mail if you are interested.

## Wanted: Finish Carpenter or Cabinetmaker

Our Restoration Team is also looking for a skilled carpenter or cabinetmaker who would be able to build and install new wooden sash doors and windows in the cab of the Conrock steam locomotive. There is a bit of work involved in this, but the rewards will be a 1000% improvement in the visual appearance of this great little locomotive. We will provide detail drawings and materials as needed. This train's name isn't *Thomas*, but Travel Town's real "tank engine" will greatly benefit from YOUR help! If you have the skills and a little spare time, please give Greg Gneier a call or drop him an e-mail.



## Do you know Photoshop?



How are your skills at Adobe Photoshop? "The Little Nugget" Restoration Project needs someone well versed in Adobe Photoshop to clean up and color-correct the vintage "Compendium of Comedy" photographs that will adorn the walls of the restored car. We own the program and have an excellent iMac computer at the TTMF office that was purchased especially for this project. If you are interested in this assignment, please give Greg Gneier a call or drop him an email. This is an extremely important aspect of the "Nugget's" interior restoration and we are very eager to get the work completed and the touched-up photos reprinted and framed.



HELP WANTED! Travel Town's own "tank engine" needs a skilled carpenter or cabinet maker to build and install new wooden sash doors and windows. If you have these skills and want to help make this bit of history come alive again, give us a call!

## 2008 Zoo Magnet High School Volunteers

We're excited to welcome five new work-study student volunteers from our Griffith Park neighbor, the *Los Angeles Zoo Magnet High School*!

These gentlemen will be continuing the Southern Pacific Boxcar Project that other Zoo Magnet seniors have been working on over the past two years. This semester's goals include sealing and painting the ends of the boxcar, sealing the roof of the car, and helping the Foundation give tours to visiting school children on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Welcome, guys!



☞ Sam Rosenberg (left) and Devin Lester (right) come in on Mondays and Wednesdays.



☞ Here we have our Tuesday-Thursday crew: (left to right) Ian Guerra, Josh Calvo and Hugo Plummer.



# *We've Been Working on the Railroad*



✎ Work continued in February on the tear-down of Southern Pacific steam locomotive No. 219 (aka "SP20"). Here we see volunteer Kirk Reinholtz guiding the removal of the locomotive's driving wheel, with a little lifting help from the American Crane - completing the "dismantling" phase of the rehabilitation project.



✎ Track construction work progressed on the new "Station Leads" through the Holidays and into January. Seen here on a sunny day in late November, volunteers Mike Tedi, Derek Reinholtz, John Stumreiter and Kirk Reinholtz (in the cab) do some final grade cleanup before the next set of ties were laid on Track One.

✎ Volunteer locomotive mechanic John Stumreiter, testing headlight circuitry on the C.W.R.R. No. 56.



✎ By Valentines Day, the new Track One was all spiked down and ties were in place, ready for rails to be laid for Track Two! The three new "girder rail" tracks in this area of Travel Town will be used for maintenance work on the locomotives as well as the approach "leads" for the demonstration railroad passenger station.



✎ Who says it never rains in Southern California?



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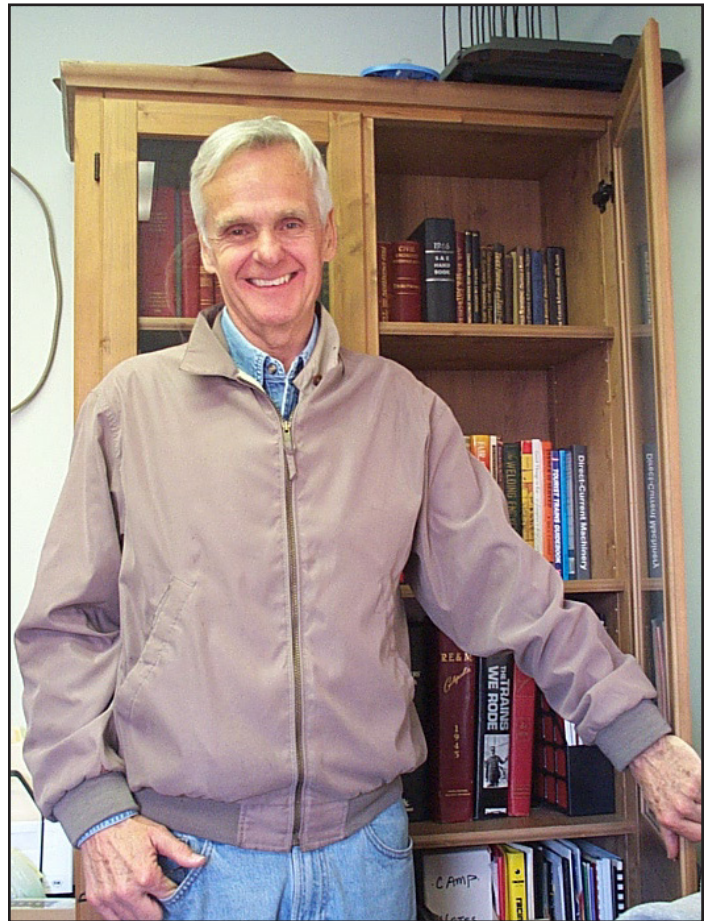
## ***Volunteer Research Library Gets New Books - and a Librarian!***

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The Foundation's *Volunteer Research Library* got a big boost last year, thanks to a generous donation of books in honor of the late John Francis Boyles. We extend great appreciation to Mrs. Jacqueline Barrascout and other members of Mr. Boyles' family for their thoughtful gift of over eighty railroad-related books to our library collection. This significant contribution was just the catalyst we needed to get our long-planned volunteer library project moving forward.

Seasoned Travel Town volunteer Chuck Kappmeyer (at right) has offered to take on the task of being our first official "Librarian." In the coming weeks, Chuck will be working to get the library collection inventoried, organized and made accessible to the other volunteers. The growing collection includes a wide selection books on both railroad history and related technologies — providing great sources of information for both our education-minded docents as well as our grease-loving restoration and mechanical workers (all of whom will be required to wash their hands before touching anything in the library!). Included in the collection are books on track engineering, passenger train travel, locomotive maintenance, Los Angeles heritage and over 70 steam-era correspondence school manuals covering a myriad of railroad-related topics!

To keep our library growing, we will welcome your contributions as well — monetary or books! If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to our Volunteer Library, please give the Foundation a call or contact us by e-mail at: [whistle.books@traveltown.org](mailto:whistle.books@traveltown.org).



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## ***1945 Railway Express Agency Truck Donation***

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The Foundation is excited to announce the donation of a historic Railway Express Agency delivery truck, a gift of Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Conrad of Glendale.

The historic "war production" truck was built in 1945 by International Harvester and was once an integral part of the nationwide R.E.A. package express operation, a vital part of America's railroad and economic infrastructure during the first half of the 20th Century — similar to today's FedEx or United Parcel Service. Trucks like this one were used to pick up shipments from various customers and transfer the goods to express cars on passenger trains for the long distance movement. Two of Travel Town's railroad cars, the Southern Pacific narrow gage R.P.O. and the Santa Fe M.177 Motorcar, were part of the "rail" portion of the R.E.A. operation.

Presented in combination with the M.177 and a recently-restored R.E.A. baggage wagon, the 1945 truck completes the interpretive

story, offering visitors the opportunity to see all three steps in the door-to-door service offered by the Railway Express Agency. The Foundation's goal is to restore the historic truck to its vintage

appearance for both display and use as an ambassadorial vehicle in our educational outreach and promotional activities. Initial inspections reveal that the truck is in excellent overall condition, but only time will tell us if it is a feasible candidate for operational restoration. We're keeping our fingers crossed!

In addition to Chuck and Carol Conrad, we also want to give very special thanks to Bob Bartels and B & B Automotive for generously providing flatbed transportation of the vehicle and to the Coker Tire Company of Chattanooga, Tennessee, for their fantastic contribution of a new set of historically-accurate Firestone tires!

If you would like to help us make this restoration project a reality, please don't hesitate to make a donation - we need your help too!





# Someone's in the Kitchen with . . . Postcards from the Edge!

By Nancy Gneier

Two recurring articles we have in our *Tender* are "Someone's in the Kitchen" that usually includes dining car recipes, and "Postcards from the Edge" that features postcards the railroads put out as advertisements (and writing supplies) for their passengers. This time we are combining the articles by featuring postcards with railroad recipes!

Below is a recipe from the Union Pacific for "Orange Bread." I myself love to bake cookies and breads for Christmas, and one day when the old mixer was out Greg handed me this postcard from 1939. (Yes, oddly we do sometimes just have this stuff lying around our house, mostly waiting to be filed.) One of my favorite things in reading and making these old recipes is the terminology; in this recipe they refer to the risen bread (bread that has gone through the rising process) as "light."

Also, the Union Pacific apparently sponsored a radio show called — get this — "Surprise Your Husband" which featured .... recipes! As you can see below, they advertised the radio show on their postcards as well as a trip to the Grand Canyon.

## No. 75 Orange Bread (Nancy's 2008 hints in italics)

Dissolve 1 cake compressed yeast in 1/4-cup lukewarm water. (I used 1 packet of Fleischmann's rapid rise yeast, worked great!)

Add: 1/2-Teaspoon Salt  
1 Cup Orange Juice

1/4-Cup Sugar  
2 Tablespoons Melted butter

If desired, sugar may be omitted and 1 cup of candied orange peel cut in small pieces may be added. (I added some freshly grated orange zest, less than 1/2 tsp, to the sugar recipe since we have oranges growing in our back yard.)

Mix thoroughly and add about 3 cups white bread flour (carefully that as little flour may be used as necessary to make mixture which may be handled, too much flour makes a heavy loaf). Knead the dough until smooth and elastic - set in warm place. (I use my oven set to warm, then turn it off - over 200 degrees will kill the bacteria, but if it isn't over 80 the bread will take forever to rise.)

When light shape into a loaf and when light again bake 1 hour in an oven 375 degrees. (I baked this in a loaf pan, and the darn thing rose right over the top of the pan!! The second time I made it I shaped the loaf as they suggested - it came out well).



The individual railroads were very proud of their dining car service and most were eager to give out their recipes to inquiring passengers. Some lines, like the *Burlington Route*, even promoted their dining cars by featuring selected recipes on picture postcards - this one dates from the 1920s.

## GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK



● AWE-INSPIRING . . . THAT'S THE WORD FOR THIS MAMMOTH MILE-DEEP CHASM, WITH ITS SHIFTING, BRILLIANT COLORS. YOU CAN SEE ZION-BRYCE-GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARKS IN SPECIAL ECONOMY TOURS VIA UNION PACIFIC TRAINS.

THE PROGRESSIVE  
**UNION PACIFIC**

No. 18

## FRENCH BEEF HASH (An Excellent Recipe for Leftovers)

2 cups cold cooked beef  
2 tablespoonfuls grated onion  
1/2 cup grated cheese

6 potatoes (cold boiled)  
1 1/2 cups thin white sauce  
Salt and pepper

Slice the potatoes and arrange in a buttered baking dish. Season and cover with a thin white sauce. Grind cold cooked beef, mix with grated onion, and place on top of potatoes. Sprinkle with grated cheese. Cover and bake in a slow oven (300 degrees) for 45 minutes. Dot with parsley and serve.

Union Pacific thanks you for your inquiry. Tune in "Surprise Your Husband" regularly—obtain a complete set of these unusual recipes.



# ***Polar Express Pajama Party a Success!***

Our Polar Express Pajama Party this past Christmas was a big hit despite the evening's inclement weather! The photo at right shows some of our young members making Reindeer Ornaments to decorate their trees at home. Also featured at the party was an LGB train set donated by the **Crista Miller** family, and of course, our Thomas the Tank Engine Playday. Hot chocolate and cookies were enjoyed by everyone and the evening culminated with a showing of the movie *The Polar Express* starring Tom Hanks.

We hope to see you at our Pajama Party next year!



☞ Special thanks to **BEST BUY** in Los Feliz for donating the big screen television sets so we could watch the movie!



## ***All Aboard!***

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

### **ADULT ENGINEER**

Reider & Toni Andersen  
Marilyn Anderson  
Harry & Evelyn Asato  
Naomi Despres  
Jeff Field  
Elliot Hutkin  
Mollie & Paul Keith  
Rol & Aggie Madden  
Carolyn Okuno  
Luis Sanchez  
Barbara Schlosser

### **JUNIORENGINEER**

Chris Backus & Mira Sorvino  
Elisa Bakhshi  
Liam Blinov  
Guadalupe Calkins  
Joshua Chin  
Emily Cooke  
Barbara Durnbaugh  
Jeffries Family  
Victoria Fierro  
Gloria Funches  
Monica Grover  
Hayden Harrison  
Kenneth & Daniel Kip

Elena Martinez  
Karon, Aaron & Micah McCan  
Jennifer Mislant  
Jorge Paniagua  
Dean & Jennifer Pappas  
Michael Pick  
Max Reynolds  
Johanna Robin  
Boris Rodriguez  
Benjamin Sanderson  
Oliver Schneider  
William Schwartzman  
Jacob Sultan  
Scott Tomlinson  
Zane Villamarin  
Leslie Wargin  
Evan Wiltz

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Lelalois & Adrien Beard  
Anne & Michael Beckner  
Lien Bigelow  
Michael & Susan Callahan  
Cindy Lou & A.J. Dimit  
Kim Fedrick  
Frames Family

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Luana Giffen  
Wendee Headley  
Laura Horn  
Milo Hudak  
Xavier & Nancy Inguanzo  
Nicole Jacobson  
Rece Kolasinski  
Eric Liljestrand  
Don & Rosanne Longtain  
Andy & Lisa Milne  
Trevor Orne  
Jamieson & Bethany Price  
David Russell  
Don Terbusch  
Tricia Vaughan  
Martha Ventura  
J.C. Wendel

### **STREAMLINERS**

Alexander Albrecht  
Robert Arbuckle  
Peter & Jaime Gertmenian  
Lani Marquette  
Jonathan Norman  
Diane & Timothy Price  
Elizabeth Schaack  
Pam Shamshiki & Hall  
Robert Sherick  
Linda Vertrees

### **LITTLENUGGET CLUB**

Aidan, Josephine, Adam & Mia Glass  
Elvia Mauger  
Parker Schlick

### **RESTORATION PARTNER**

Marianne Leo Burton

### **VOLUNTEERS**

Peter Darus  
Craig Smith

***Come join the fun!***  
***To join or for further***  
***membership information,***  
***call 323-668-0104***





# Travel Town Gift Shop Inside the Museum 10:30 to 4:30 weekdays 10:30 to 5:30 weekends 323-668-0104 extension 11

The Thomas Wooden Railway brings to life a magical world full of endearing and enduring characters that your child will love and learn from. Stop by soon to find out how Thomas & Friends can help your child grow while also having fun!



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