

# The Travel Town **TENDER**

A Publication of the Travel Town Museum Foundation

Volume 8, Issue 1  
July 2010



## *Greetings from Travel Town!*

Take a look at the newest addition to the Travel Town's landscape - the Museum's newly restored "T-2" Semaphore Signal! This vintage trackside signal, originally from the Santa Fe Railway's mainline in New Mexico, was restored through the fantastic efforts of Boy Scout Eagle Candidate Ryan Heaney of Los Angeles. Working in tandem with the our museum volunteers and the Travel Town Museum Foundation, Ryan and his crew completely refinished the signal inside and out, poured the concrete foundation, assembled the parts and wired up the signal in working order.



This beautifully restored artifact punctuates several months of great service efforts around Travel Town, with Boy Scouts playing a significant role in several of our recent activities. Besides Ryan's signal project, the Museum has also recently benefited from two other Eagle Leadership Projects: Scout Evan Moffitt and his crew refinished the 50-foot boom on the museum's American locomotive crane, and Scout Markos Generales and his team repainted our historic Shay steam locomotive. Of course, community service runs on a two-way street; I'm also very pleased to report that the Foundation presented a very successful Railroad Merit Badge Workshop in March, through which thirty local Boy Scouts earned the "Railroad-ing Merit Badge"!

In addition to the Scout projects, restoration work is moving ahead on several of our big long-term projects as well. Our volunteers just finished up an electrical service upgrade on the 1921 Union Pacific dining car, while a multitude of other improvements were being made inside and around the Santa Fe motorcar M.177, Southern Pacific steam locomotive No. 219, and the American locomotive crane. It's hard to touch on every project here, but just thinking through them all in my mind as I am writing this leaves me sincerely amazed and excited at how many incredible things our modest little group of volunteers has accomplished in just the last few months. Wow, what a great bunch of volunteers we have working with us! On May 8th – National Train Day – we treated our hard-working volunteers to a noontime 'Taco Party' as a well-deserved show of appreciation. THANKS AGAIN TO ALL!

Saving the best news for last . . . I am very excited to report that the Travel Town Museum Foundation has been awarded a major grant from The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation to aid in replacement of the aging Travel Town Gift Shop building. The Parsons grant represents about one-third of the funds needed for a new Gift Shop and Volunteer Center building at the Museum. Our TTMF team is now working double time to raise the remaining funds needed for this long-awaited improvement project.

Please enjoy the rest of the *Tender* newsletter, which expands upon several of the topics I have mentioned above. We look forward to seeing you at the Park real soon. Have a great summer!

Greg Gneier, President  
July 2010



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## National Train Day

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On May 8, the Travel Town Museum Foundation honored our volunteers who had donated at least 10 hours during the past year with a luncheon and awards ceremony. This event was held in conjunction with the many *National Train Day* celebrations held throughout the United States.

National Train Day commemorates the joining of the Central Pacific and Union Pacific Railroads to create the First Transcontinental Railroad in 1869. The 1800-mile long transcontinental railroad was built in just six years and almost entirely by hand. Thousands of workers played a part in the construction. While we have significantly fewer people volunteering at Travel Town, we still manage to accomplish great things here by working together!

The mission of the Museum Foundation is to educate the public about railroad history as it pertains to the development of the Southwest.



*Standing in for President Obama, our Program Manager, Julie Foster presents the President's Service Award to high school student volunteer, Robert Atienza.*

We fulfill this mission by restoring, operating and interpreting the historical railroad equipment at the Travel Town Museum. All of our volunteers become a part of fulfilling this mission through educational outreach programs, restoration projects, or both! This work happens one hour at a time, one weekend at a time. Each volunteer hour contributed makes a big difference in improving the Museum and the quality of life for others.

The Travel Town Museum Foundation is proud to be a certifying organization with the *Presidential Service Award* program. This award is earned through an exceptional donation of time and work. The awardee receives a personalized certificate of achievement from the President of the United States, a congratulatory letter from the President's Council on Service and Participation, and an official President's Award pin. The individual award system is divided into three categories: children, young adults and adults. The levels of awards are divided into gold, silver and bronze. This year we had four Bronze level awards: Michael Ruble and Peter Hayward each contributed 125 hours in the last year; high school senior Robert Atienza donated 141 hours; and Gary Teti contributed 185 hours to projects at Travel Town. Seven recipients at the Silver level included: high school senior Derek Reinholtz with 186 hours; Edward Temm donated 263 hours; Kirk Reinholtz donated 288 hours; Mike Teti donated 338 hours; Brad Slosar donated 363 hours; Gregory Ramsey donated 382 hours; and Craig Smith donated 443 hours!

At the *gold* level we were happy to award two individuals who, in just their first year in volunteering with the Travel Town Museum, were able to earn the Gold Award: Kevin Herrera with 271 hours and Vanya Holt with 324 hours. Both of these young adults are in their first year of college! A third Gold Award, and the one with the most hours in the Young Adult category, was awarded to John Stumreiter for his contribution of 375 hours!

CONGRATULATIONS to all our hard working volunteers!

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## Railroading Merit Badge Workshop

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In March, the Travel Town Museum Foundation was excited to present another of its semi-annual Railroading Merit Badge Workshops for a group of local Boy Scouts. Thirty Scouts participated in the two-day seminar, where they learned about railroad history, terminology, signaling, and safety around railroad tracks. The Scouts attended presentations on both steam and Diesel locomotive technology, timetable reading, trip planning as well as Operation Lifesaver track-side safety. As a special treat, the Scouts were able to camp out at the Museum overnight and enjoyed a night train ride, courtesy of Travel Town's next-door-neighbors at the *Los Angeles Live Steamers*. The Scouts received hands-on experience at operating an old-fashion "hand car" and signaling a working locomotive! The workshop culminated with an exam to test each Scout's knowledge of the key concepts and information learned – qualifying the young man for the Railroading Merit Badge!



☞ *Our picnic grounds became "Tent Cities" for one night! True to the Scouting Outdoor code, the boys "left no trace" the next morning, leaving the grounds cleaner than when they arrived.*

☞ *Boys and leaders from Troop 139 in Glendale and Troop 161 from Temple City stand in front of The Stockton-Terminal, Travel Town's oldest steam locomotive.*





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# ALL ABOARD FOR DEPOT DAY!!

## Sponsors Needed!

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Sunday, October 17, 2010, brings **Depot Day**, Our Annual Transportation and Safety Fair to Travel Town!

Depot Day is open to the public and members will enjoy additional activities like games, prizes, a Candy Bar, fresh popcorn and members-only Thomas the Tank Engine Playday. The day will be full of surprises so bring your camera! Expect to see Sir Topham Hatt, Mr. Conductor, a "Harvey Girl" and several railroad engineers available to answer your railroad questions. This year's event will also feature the music of *The Conductors*, *Earthworm Ensemble* and *The Hollow Trees* on stage right here in the park!



our appreciation to our Patrons and Members for their generous support throughout the year.

Previous Depot Day participants include *The Conductors*, *The Hollow Trees* and *Jim Starr, the Singing Cop*, Hoover High School Jazz Band, Caltrans, Metro Lines, Amtrak, The Los Angeles Live Steamers, Pomona Garden Railway, and Women in Railroading. Operation Lifesaver will return this year to continue their mission in promoting grade-crossing safety with cartoons, and coloring books under our Pavilion.

**We need \$15,540 for Depot Day!!!**

**Please help us continue this great tradition.**

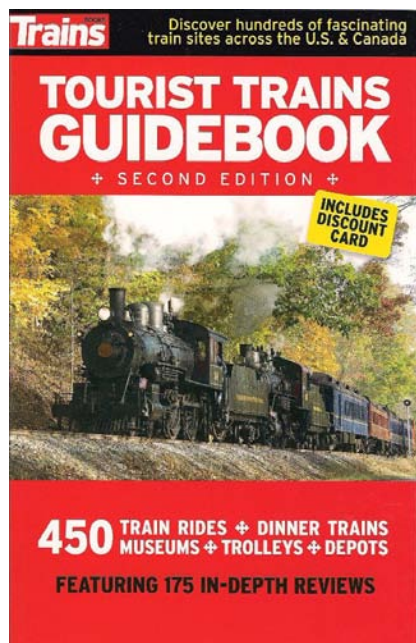
Depot Day is an opportunity to get up close and even inside several historic railroad cars and engines that have been under restoration over the last year. For example, "Hunter's Point," our 1941 Pullman sleeping car that has not been open for tours since 2008, will be open for Depot Day. Other educational attractions include railroad china and silver ware displays in our 1921 dining car and a chance to explore an operational locomotive. We hope that this day of fun will show

**We need sponsors to help cover rental, entertainment and catering costs associated with this event. Send a check of any amount to the Travel Town Museum Foundation, and put "Depot Day Sponsor" on the memo line. Thanks for helping!** Businesses can advertise with us for a donation of over \$1000. Please contact Nancy at 323-668-0104 or [nancy.fundraising@traveltown.org](mailto:nancy.fundraising@traveltown.org) and we will work something out. See everyone in October!

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## Gift Shop Promotion GOING ON NOW!

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### Tourist Trains Guidebook on Sale 20% OFF!

This one-of-a-kind guidebook is for anyone looking for a unique travel experience as well as diehard train fans. The book takes you to more than 450 fascinating train rides, museums, trolleys, depots, and dinner trains across the United States and Canada. As an added benefit, the book includes a discount card offering savings at more than 40 of the featured train sites!



## *We've Been Working . . .*



☞ This past winter was a busy time at Travel Town, with TWO scout Eagle Projects going on simultaneously! Eagle Scout candidate, Evan Moffitt (top), and some of his crew of family and friends took a moment to pose alongside the freshly painted “boom” of American Locomotive Crane 1887. Evan’s excellent refinishing of the boom created the momentum needed to put several other aspects of the crane’s renovation into high gear - other Museum volunteers have since rewired the crane’s lighting system and are now performing a complete overhaul and refinishing of the hook and block assemblies! We want to extend very special thanks to Frazee Paints for generously donating the primers and paints for Evan’s project!



☞ Here’s Eagle candidate, Ryan Heaney, looking over the installation of electrical conduits in the 100-foot-long trench dug by his team the day before. The conduit will contain power and control wiring for the restored T-2 semaphore signal soon to be installed nearby! Just up the track from Ryan’s left shoulder, other volunteers can be seen working on the American Locomotive Crane boom as part of Evan Moffitt’s Eagle Leadership Project.



☞ Following up on Ryan’s signal project in the spring, our museum volunteers continued the “conduit trenching” further east to the historic Wig-Wag signal, which is now able to operate on permanent electrical power! In the coming months, the conduit will be extended further east along the track to the future display location of two Southern Pacific “Style B” semaphore signals, which are currently undergoing restoration in our work yard.





## On the Railroad!



☞ It seems there is nothing quite as exciting as watching concrete dry... or at least watching it get ready to dry! As part of the T-2 semaphore project, we prepared and poured separate concrete foundations for three trackside signals being restored for display at Travel Town. Here we see a cadre of Travel Town's hardcore volunteers, absolutely fascinated by the concrete pumping process at one of the foundations sites. Volunteer Kirk Reinholtz is handling the hose as the pump operator watches over his shoulder. Contractor "Nate" (front right) is handling a "vibrator" which was used to settle the wet cement and remove any air bubbles.



☞ Nothing goes to waste! Here we see the Brothers Teti, Gary and Mike, using up some of the surplus concrete from the signal foundation pour to fill gaps in the central crossing sidewalk.



☞ Scout Ryan Heaney and his good friend, Jack Talbot, finished off the concrete pad for the signal control cabinet while the pumping team worked on pouring the next foundation.



☞ Some weeks later, the refinished mast of the T-2 signal was assembled on the Navy flatcar and then lifted into place on the base cabinet. Note the freshly painted silver cabinet mounted on the concrete foundation in the foreground. The foundation extends several feet below the ground.

☞ Here's the fully-assembled T-2 Semaphore Signal on display at Travel Town! The signal was manufactured by the *Union Switch & Signal Company* for the Santa Fe Railway and stood for over 70 years next to the railway's mainline near Wagon Mound, New Mexico - where it governed the passing of such famous trains as the *Grand Canyon Limited*, *El Capitan*, and the legendary *Super Chief*.

We want to thank *Pennsylvania Builders Supply*, *National Sandblasting Co.* and the *Cabinet Shop* of Inglewood for their generous support of Ryan's signal restoration project!





# Disney Give-A-Day Get-A-Day Volunteer Program a Great Benefit to Travel Town!

This year, *The Walt Disney Company* offered one million themepark passes to Americans and Canadians who got that volunteer spirit and “gave a day” to volunteer in their community! As a partner organization in this wonderful effort, Travel Town hosted a number of individuals and families for a day (or more) of volunteering at the Museum.

We’re pleased to share these photos of several families taking advantage of our METs Program – “METs” stands for *Museum Enhancement Team*. Each of these families came out early in the morning to brush off, wipe down, sweep up, and generally add some sparkle to the historic trains and the grounds at Travel Town. Because of our close proximity to the freeway and horse trails, the exhibits constantly have a fine layer of dust that makes our trains look tired and sad. These families took our cobweb dusters and extension brooms (donated by our local Home Depot) and spruced the trains right up!

Volunteer leaders Craig Smith, Nancy Gneier and Julie Foster led these volunteers and provided some educational information as the cleaning was going on. “This has been a great way to give back to our community – I’m looking forward to coming back and helping out” said John Kim, a volunteer on February 20.

Hopefully, the Foundation has recruited a few more docents and people interested in restoration work as well as families who like to give back to Travel Town. “We’re really getting some great volunteers through this, people who want to stick around for more than just one day!” says Julie Foster, our Program Manager. The participants earned a day at *Disneyland*, the Foundation got its educational mission fulfilled, and the Museum got some nice clean exhibits – definitely a Win-Win-Win!



*Sandra Rivas (in cab) and Cecelia and Anthony Santivanez.*



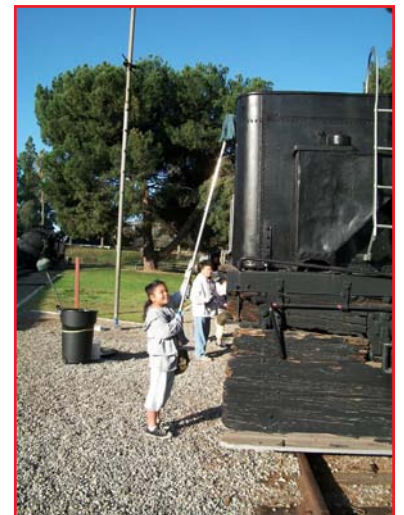
*At left, the Dance Family – Leonard, Rachel, Sarah and Tonya – ready to work! Above, hard at it!*



*Greg and Elaine Wong clean the PE passenger car with their children Ethan, Emily and Sarah.*



*The DeMouras (Sean, Ivan, Ian and Angela) clean our Western Pacific and Conrock.*



*Jocelyn Nguyen with our long handled brush and her brother Bryan in the background!*

# Griffith Park in Bloom



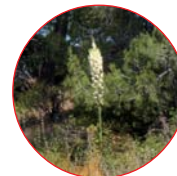
For a few weeks each spring, the hills throughout Griffith Park explode with a wide array of colorful wild flowers. Cooler days coupled with a later sunset make this an ideal time of year to take a nice hike through the wilderness areas of the Park's rugged interior.



Among the flowers that may be seen throughout the Park is the *California Poppy*, the "state flower" of California. The golden-colored poppy was a popular design motif used by several western railroads throughout the 20th century. A few depictions of the poppy displayed here include the decorative dining car china of the *Santa Fe Railway's* "California Poppy" pattern (sauce boat and sherbet dish) as well as the *Southern Pacific Line's* "Prairie Mountain Wildflowers" pattern (dinner plate). The poppy also figured prominently on the cover of an early promotional booklet about the Pacific Limited (circa 1920) and on the dining car menus of the *Union Pacific Railroad's Los Angeles Limited*.



From top left: *Santa Fe's* "California Poppy" pattern on a sherbet dish and sauce boat; dinner plate with *Southern Pacific's* "Prairie Mountain Wildflowers" pattern; *Pacific Limited* promotional book.



## All Aboard!

### RESTORATION PARTNER

Sierra Joy Burton

### "LITTLE NUGGET" CLUB

Elizabeth Pedroza

### STREAMLINERS

Brad, Frank & Gabriel  
Bessey-Sanchez  
Brian Higgins  
Stephen & Hope Heaney  
Patrick and Andrea Hynes  
Todd Nelson

### TRACK GANG

Monica Acosta  
Irma Armendariz  
Beverly Blake  
Brando Bowse  
Kate Brady  
Joseph Calloway  
Denise Carver  
Rochelle Cohen  
Praveena DeSilva  
Kim Duran  
Jacob Federgreen  
Adrienne Flores  
Amber & Brett Franklin  
Sylvia Galloway  
Jericca Gutierrez Heimark  
Letty Hernandez

### TRACK GANG (CONT.)

Stephanie Ito  
Jennifer Jahanbigloo  
Spencer Krull  
Jill Levin  
Tamra Loeb  
Sergio Chaves & Nancy Medina  
Desiree Orozco-Puente  
Devon Palermo  
Jeanette Park  
Sherie Paulson  
Elizabeth Payne Finn  
& Kendall Rucker  
Gary Rudolph  
Jennifer Sato  
Isabel Shpelfogel  
Brian Stoltz  
Selma Top  
Albert & Gloria Vargas Family  
Wendy Vargas Guzman  
Lisa Walco  
Vance Walker  
Gary Whitmore  
Jim Williamson

### ENGINEERS

#### Adult Engineers

Jack Miller

#### Junior Engineers

Ledger Aiello-Perrell  
Tyler Anderson  
Steve Belfer  
Rosalba Calvo  
Fiona Cameron  
Matthew Danjoy  
Mikey, Denver, Dillon  
& Debra Gainey  
Connor Griffin  
Cole Johnson  
David Kent  
Cynthia Maree

### ENGINEERS (CONT.)

Nollan Obena  
Joey Orsi  
Oliver Alves & Michelle Oseary  
Duncan Pomerantz  
Jaymes Randall  
Julie and Aidan Reading  
Enzo Roberto  
Ariane Shapero  
Luke Spain  
Pryor Taylor  
Carol Towne  
Jack Tyler  
Andrew S. Warner  
Jackson Williams  
Chance Ysaïs

*Travel Town Museum Foundation memberships are available in a range of levels, all of which include special benefits, including gift shop discounts and invitations to members-only events!*

*Call 323-668-0104 or visit the Gift Shop for more information!*





The Travel Town Museum Foundation extends a big THANK YOU to the following donors. Corporate gifts like these make many of our restoration, park improvement and outreach projects possible. Many thanks to all our donors for helping make Travel Town such a beautiful, educational and ever-evolving place.

***Ralph M. Parsons Foundation*** for a grant of \$50,000 for new gift shop (Matchers needed!)

**IN-KIND DONATIONS:**

***Operation Lifesaver*** for presentations over the past few months and at our Merit Badge Workshop

***Los Angeles Live Steamers*** for the gift of rides to our Boy Scouts for our Merit Badge Workshop

***Home Depot*** for gift cards used to purchase supplies for our Museum Enhancement Team Program.

***Disney*** for having the "Give a day, Get a day" program!

***Pennsylvania Builders Supply, National Sandblasting Company,*** and the ***Cabinet Shop of Inglewood*** for their generous support of Ryan Heaney's Signal/Eagle Scout Project.

***Frazee Paints*** for generously providing the primers and paints for Evan Moffitt's Crane Boom/Eagle Scout Project.

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

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P.O. Box 39846 - GRIFFITH STATION  
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