

# The Travel Town TENDER



A Publication of the Travel Town Museum Foundation

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November 2012

## *President's Message - Happy Holidays!*

Happy 60th Birthday to the Travel Town Museum! That's right, in just a few days, Travel Town will mark the Sixtieth Anniversary of its founding. Pictured here in our cover photo is a promotional photograph taken as Travel Town's very first steam locomotive, Southern Pacific 3025, was unloaded and positioned at its new home alongside the L.A. River in Griffith Park. An official Dedication Ceremony was held on Sunday, December 14, 1952 and over the next sixty years, children of all ages have been enjoying this and the other historical locomotives - 364 days a year. And the best part: admission to Travel Town is still "free" after all those years! I am so glad that YOU - as a Foundation Patron Member or Travel Town Volunteer - are part of the great family of supporters that help keep the Museum going strong.

Of course, there have been a whole lot of changes and improvements at Travel Town over those past sixty years; so let's focus on just a few of the most recent goings-on. First of all, restoration work has really been moving along "behind closed doors" inside the Santa Fe M.177 motorcar and in the famous "Little Nugget." On these big restoration projects, the taking apart usually happens pretty quickly, but the putting stuff back together really requires meticulous attention to detail - and a lot of time. I am pleased to report that the M.177, under the great leadership of museum volunteer Bryan Reese, has recently seen some beautiful work done in its passenger section - new linoleum was put down, the walls were all sanded and painted, and the seats re-installed with new upholstery. The room looks great!

Over in "The Little Nugget" car, workers just laid a new linoleum floor in the dormitory hallway and they're now in the process of installing new thresholds for the doorways. I just want to let you know that your gift shop purchases and Patron donation dollars are hard at work! Oh, and did you see the Foundation's recently-restored 1945 Railway Express Agency delivery truck in the Hollywood Christmas Parade on Thanksgiving weekend? If not, drop on by Travel Town and take a look at it in person!

On the Foundation front, our staff is working hard to update the organization's formal agreements with the Department of Recreation & Parks and to bring the new Gift Shop and Volunteer Center project to fruition. Working with generous funding from **The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation**, the **Griffith Trust**, and the **Ahmanson Foundation**, along with donations from many of our loyal members and friends, we hope to be able to move ahead with the building project in the near future. Along with a new and improved Museum Store, our plans also include re-purposing the existing Gift Shop building to become a volunteer center and re-

search library. The library area will do double duty as a training room for the Museum's docents and other volunteer team members. By the way - did you know those great volunteer docents have giving guided tours to over 96,000 Travel Town visitors over the past 16 years? Wow!

In closing, I want to thank all of you for your continued support and involvement in the Foundation and its work at the Museum. I especially want to give a shout-out to Los Angeles City Councilmember Tom LaBonge for his

longtime encouragement and support for both Travel Town and our Foundation. We are all so excited to be able to share in the promising future of the Travel Town Museum!

Please come out to the Museum over the holidays and enjoy the annual Santa Train ride and the wonderful holiday decorations they have set up for your enjoyment. Remember, as a TTMF member you get discounts at the Gift Shop - and all the proceeds from the shop help us restore trains and educate the public about railroad history. So over the Holidays, I urge you to visit Travel Town (and shop a lot at the museum store). Happy Holidays!

Greg Gneier, President  
November, 2012



# On the Platform . . . The Fantastic Travel Town Volunteers Receive THE PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD!

By Donna Choi, General Manager



On May 26, 2012 twenty-five Travel Town volunteers were awarded the President's Volunteer Service Award (PSA) for their hard work and dedication. To qualify for the award volunteers must work over 100 hours in a calendar year (50 hours for ages 14 and under). They received a lapel pin, a certificate, and a letter of commendation signed by the President of the United States of America, Barack Obama, for their service.

It was especially satisfying for us to have two 14 year olds (Will Cosso & Dante Flores) achieve bronze, two adults achieve silver (Craig Smith & Greg Ramsey), and one super teen achieve gold status (Chris Flores).

They made Los Angeles an even greater city by the work they did on many important projects around the Park. They built signals, restored trains, gave public tours through the historic train cars, maintained gardens, restored the Railroad Express Agency truck, and built track. These volunteers deserve their award and our thanks for all they do! Congratulations Travel Town Volunteers – you are the BEST!

Please join our wonderful volunteer family. Sign up for Orientation at [traveltown.org/volunteeropp](http://traveltown.org/volunteeropp).

## 2012 RECIPIENTS

### GOLD LEVEL

*AMAZING ACHIEVEMENT!*

Chris Flores

### SILVER LEVEL

Greg Ramsey

Craig Smith

### BRONZE LEVEL

*EXTRAORDINARY 14 YEAR OLDS!*

Dante Flores

Will Cosso

### BRONZE LEVEL

Michael Atienza

Robert Atienza

Luiza Baloyan

Samantha Benedicto

Thomas Cisneros

Jacqueline Esquivel

Pamela Esquivel

Lillian Farrow

Greg Gneier

Kevin Herrera

Natalie Kalbakian

Georgina Molina

Kirk Reinholtz

Michael Ruble

Itzhel Santiago

Brad Slosar

Owen Solis

Gary Teti

Mike Teti

Don Wooten



Councilman Tom LaBonge poses behind the podium with all of our recipients this year!



(Left) Volunteer John Stumreiter sits with the Cosso family waiting for lunch. Bill and Will have been fantastic Docent leaders this year, and John regularly works on our Diesel Locomotives.



(Right) Steve DeVorkin and his daughter Amy share a table with Greg and Yvonne Ramsey. These families have been volunteering at Travel Town for over 20 years!



(Left) Cindy Garcia, our Administrative Assistant, looks on as Donna Choi, our General Manager congratulates Silver Level recipient Mr. Craig Smith. Craig is a Docent and has often been seen as our own "Mr. Conductor" at Travel Town Events.



(Right) Your dedicated TTMF Staff of Donna Choi and Nancy and Greg Gneier looking patriotic as Mr. LaBonge thanks our volunteers for their service.

# Do your holiday shopping at the Travel Town Museum Foundation GIFT SHOP!

**15% OFF**  
for members  
December  
1 thru 16!



**Brio, Chuggington & Thomas wooden railway sets!**  
All these wooden sets are compatible with each other

**Mention  
this ad!**



**"Step into Reading"  
& other children's  
books!**



**Christmas ornaments!**



**Railway & regional  
historical books**

All proceeds help pay for train restoration and educational outreach programs at the Museum.  
Members receive a 10% discount on all merchandise all year long!

## What's Next for M.177?

The Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Motorcar M.177, built in 1929, combined three functions of railroading into one vehicle: motive power, passenger seating, and baggage compartment. This functional consolidation efficiently served branch lines by saving the railroads the costly operation of an entire train with locomotive and half-filled cars. The M.177 that we have at Travel Town is being restored by Mr. Bryan Reese, the Restoration Project Manager. At right please see his "progress chart" prepared this summer. You will note that the Non-Smoking Room is 100% Complete! Woohoo!

You may also note there is still plenty of other work to be done in the M.177, and Bryan is hunting around for some great support to get the exterior of the car painted - one check for \$5,000 would really make a huge difference! A donation toward this would also get you or your loved one recognized on the plaque in the Arcadia Depot, as well as making an incredible difference in the appearance of one of the historic artifacts at the Museum.



In this picture, Docent Andrea is giving tours through the car on Depot Day!

Project Area	Percent Complete	Remarks	Estimated Completion Time	Estimated Cost
<b>Mechanical (Primarily Winton Engine)</b>	95	The Winton engine is running, but not reliably. The current working theory is that the ignition is inadequate. A new electronic ignition system may be the best solution and is being researched.	30 hrs	\$500
<b>Electrical</b>	50	The Main and Exciter generators need brushes and the Exciter needs brush holders fabricated. Final wiring in the main panel should enable the car to move under its own power.	40hrs	\$750
<b>Non-Smoking Room</b>	100	Complete	N/A	N/A
<b>Smoking Room</b>	90	Prep for painting is 99% complete. Upholstery and installation of the seats and doors will complete this room.	24hrs.	\$400 paint \$500 uph.
<b>Baggage Area</b>	N/A	To be left unrestored	N/A	N/A
<b>Exterior Paint</b>	10	Entire carbody must be sanded (good Boy Scout/High School project), followed by etching primer, epoxy primer and top coat. Four colors are required; Warbonnet Yellow, Warbonnet Red, Pullman Green and Black. Reverse stencils must be cut for lettering.	160hrs sanding 80hrs painting	\$500 materials \$3500 paint

## *Another Depot Day Success!*

Depot Day 2012 was once again a big success! Our annual transportation safety fair and open house was held on October 21st and all members were invited to see our restoration work in progress and enjoy food, music and a reserved area at our Museum in beautiful Griffith Park. In the member area, a super playday was overseen by our great staff, and there was Pizza Hut Pizza provided for all our guests. This year was made special by a visit from Tom LaBonge, and performances by "The Conductors," the Crescenta Valley High School Jazz Band and the Burbank High School Jazz Band and Combo.

Mr. Conductor punched tickets, and all of our volunteers and staff got into the 1950's theme that made the day extra fun. Not only did we give tours, but volunteers also gave special demonstrations on Gandydancing (track building), riding in on the Museum's Kalamazoo Handcar.

Special thanks to Donna Choi for putting together this great day. Hope to see you next year!



*October 21, 2012*



# *We've Been Working on the Railroad!*

## *Tie Replacement Completed by Boy Scout Troop 210*



Alec LeDoux led Boy Scouts from Troop 210 and supervisors from Travel Town to replace railroad ties on the display railroad track. They removed ties and the north switch point and stock rail from turnout 65 which is part of the central crossing, and then cleaned dirt from the ballast. New ties were then installed under the rail. The rock ballast was replaced around the railroad ties and was tamped to secure and support the track structure.



(Left) Scoutmaster Bill O'Leary loosens bolts while members from Troop 210's Hoxsie Family look on. (Center) Eagle Candidate Alec LeDoux (at left) leads his volunteer crew as they move a piece of rail using rail-tongs and good old-fashioned muscles! (Right) The finished project with new ties and rail back in place.

## *Little Nugget Linoleum Restoration Work*



It's challenging to take pictures of a floor and have them make sense! What you see here are before and after photos, taken from different angles and over a span of about 23 years!

The "before" pictures at left were taken around the summer of 1989 when the ASRA first started to evaluate the Little Nugget for restoration work. The far left picture is taken from the main hallway at the outer door in the bar's pantry area. You can see the destroyed linoleum and rotted sub-floor caused by years of water damage. Next to it is more damage of the entrance to the bar pantry and the main hallway.

The photo below left is of the subfloor ready for the new linoleum! (The slice of rail was being used to weigh down some paper, around the corner.)

In the "after" pictures, taken in October of 2012, you see the same areas and how beautiful the floor looks now.



# Buy Groceries and Restore Trains ... at the Same Time!

With these challenging economic times, we are all looking for ways to save money, make money or use our money more wisely. If you shop at either Vons, Pavilions, or Ralphs in the local Los Angeles Area, we are hoping that you will take two minutes to really make a difference for the trains at Travel Town. If you shop at the above-mentioned stores, you probably use their "Club cards" in order to take advantage of their savings. Good for you! They already have all your information on file, so don't feel squeamish about registering your card again, only link your usage with our foundation! This really helps our foundation when everyone does it!

## Ralphs

1. Go to [www.ralphs.com](http://www.ralphs.com)
2. Sign in if you have a log in account
3. Click on Community Contributions
4. Our organization number is 81111 or you can search Travel Town. Then click on our button, and be sure to save your changes!!



Be sure to click on the little radio button when the Foundation comes up at the bottom, then be sure to "SAVE." When you make your purchases your receipt will say "Thank you for supporting the Travel Town Museum."

## Vons/Pavilions

1. Go to [www.escip.com](http://www.escip.com). If you are new to escip, go to the "welcome" button.
2. Follow the simple directions there - the Travel Town Museum Foundation's Group Number is 1094834.

We earned over \$250 in donations last year from our Travel Town friends' support. Please register, and THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



## All Aboard!

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! In addition, each issue of the *Travel Town Tender* lists new and returning Foundation members. If you're interested in membership, please call us at 323-668-0104 or visit the Gift Shop for more information. A warm welcome to our new and renewing supporters of the Travel Town Museum Foundation!

### NEW VOLUNTEERS

Michael Atienza  
Robert Atienza  
Luiza Baloyan  
Samantha Benedicto  
Kate Charette  
Thomas Cisneros  
Will & Bill & Letty Cosso  
Jacqueline & Pamela  
Esquivel  
Lillian Farrow  
Chris Flores  
Dante Flores  
Natalie Kalbakian  
Georgina Molina  
Lauren Padilla  
Sean & Kaelen Porter  
Itzhel Santiago  
Owen Solis  
Brenda Tello

### LITTLE NUGGET CLUB

Mark Kaplan  
Rhea Lamia  
John and Darlene Ruh

### STREAMLINERS

Daniel Cole  
Michael Novean

### TRACK GANG

Anriyet Abelyan  
Christine Albert  
Merritt Almanzan-Fox  
Heather Anthony  
Collen Austin  
April Bellotti  
Ian Campbell  
Stewart Chalmers  
Amy Chiang  
Meliana Chow  
Horacio Colmenares  
Holly Exler  
Samantha Garelick  
China Gerstner  
Cindy Gracia  
Sellas Habtesllassie  
Heidi Halsey  
Tara Hayes  
Pete Hayward  
Gisele Hoffer  
Eileen Ilic  
Michael & Renee  
Johnson  
Julie Keehner  
Cherie Ko  
Monica Kubina

May Liu  
Kristen Lonner  
Luis Lopez  
Cheryl Lorenzo  
David Mandel  
Nash Marquez  
Gracia Martinez  
Beth Moore  
Susan Morris  
Suzanne Nakama  
Meredith Nishida  
Maria Ooh-Hwang  
Brenda Perez  
Luke Powers  
Alice Reeb  
America Saisho  
Christine Sarkissian  
Dr. & Mrs. Sell  
Vicki Slotnick  
Karla Sustaita  
Rebecca Teichman  
Amanda Tracey  
Benjamin VanWyck  
Benjamin Vega  
Mariana Vega  
Nichola Walker  
Maria Zarian

### ADULT ENGINEERS

Matthew Brown  
Elliot Hutkin  
Shannon Pero  
Margaret Platis  
Jude Stacey

### JUNIOR ENGINEERS

Don Beck  
Rio Cros  
Arturo Cuadrado-Guerra  
Wyatt Cymbala  
James Enney  
Marcie Hurrell  
Andrew S. Warner

**Want to become  
a member?**

**Call us at  
323-668-0104**

**or visit the Gift Shop  
for more information!**



AMERICAN SOUTHWESTERN RAILWAY ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 39846 - GRIFFITH STATION

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90039

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## Train Ride to Santa!

Join us at The Travel Town Museum for a magical Holiday Train Ride and Visit with Santa. Santa will be on hand so young and old alike can tell him their Christmas wishes. Each child will receive a candy cane and a special little gift. Mrs. Claus will also greet you and talk about life at the North Pole. If you wish, Santa's helpers will happily take your picture with Santa for purchase as a keepsake of your visit. After visiting Santa you can board the Santa Express at Travel Town Station for a trip through a wonderland of holiday lights and scenery. If you prefer, you can get into the Holiday spirit by riding the Santa Express before you visit Santa.

**Opening night is Saturday November 24 from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.\***

November 24, 25 • December 1, 2 • December 7, 8, 9 • December 12 through 23

Train operates from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. each evening (or until tickets run out). Train cannot operate in the rain.

*\*Tickets are limited each evening. Ride closes once tickets sell out, so pick your date and buy tickets early.*

**Tickets \$7 per person** - Includes one round trip (18 months and under free)

**Photos with Santa \$5.00 each** (each family may take a limit of 2 of their own photographs)

To buy tickets, visit the ticket booth at Travel Town Railroad or you may purchase tickets online at [www.GriffithParkTrainRides.com](http://www.GriffithParkTrainRides.com) (additional 50¢/ticket convenience fee)

For information and directions please visit the Griffith Park Train Rides website or call 818-881-2586.