

The Travel Town



A Publication of the Travel Town Museum Foundation

Volume 4, Issue 3
September 2006

Greetings from Travel Town!

Another summer has passed. The kids are back in school, and that means it's time for Depot Day!

Mark your calendars, it's coming up quick: Sunday, October 15th. Come on out to the museum and enjoy tours through the passenger cars, educational displays, and live musical entertainment! Foundation members can enjoy a private Thomas the Tank Engine Playday, and the kids will get fun toys at the popular Game Train, a pint-size choo-choo full of fun! There will be door prizes for members, too, including gift certificates for the Museum Shop.

Come early and meet Sir Topham Hatt, as well as Travel Town's own Conductor, and a Harvey Girl. Have a hot dog and some popcorn on me. That's Sunday, October 15th — see ya there!

Greg Gneier, President
September, 2006



Travel Town's annual Depot Day promises carloads of fun for little and big passengers alike!

In Memoriam



Many volunteers work to make Travel Town a great Los Angeles destination - whether it's an educational school field trip, a special birthday party or just a fun family day in the sun. Some of our volunteers restore the historic rail cars, others provide tours or work on special events; but we are also honored to have the support of quality community leaders, giving of their time in roles as advisors and supporters on the Museum Foundation's *Board of Trustees*. This board has leaders from the legal profession, business, science and the arts, all helping to provide advice and encouragement regarding the Foundation's community work. Sadly, one of these long-time members passed away this summer.

Irvin Charles Taplin supported our community efforts for over twenty-four years; his early encouragement was very instrumental in the organization's formation and growth. Mr. Taplin and his wife, Barbara, were among our earliest supporters, going all the way back to 1981 when their contributions were used to acquire supplies and

prepare documents to form the legal charity. For the past ten years "Irv" served as a TTMF Board of Trustees member, acting as a sounding board and providing advice on direction for our charitable efforts.

Mr. Taplin was born on May 4, 1929, in Los Angeles and passed away on July 13, 2006. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Barbara Taplin. He was a graduate of Los Angeles High School and the USC School of Public Administration. While attending USC Law School, he served as a Deputy Sheriff and Court Bailiff. Following graduation, he began a career as a Deputy County Counsel in Los Angeles and later served as Lobbyist for Los Angeles County as well as the Private Utilities of California.

Mr. Taplin has been an excellent example of the kind of high quality advisors we need at Travel Town, fostering our efforts to bring Southern California railroad history to the community. Without his crucial early support, our efforts would be greatly diminished and the work done over the last quarter century would surely be far less. His dignity and commitment to improving the quality of life in Los Angeles will be missed.

We've Been Working on the Railroad

With the kids out of school and many folks taking family vacations, summertime brings a little more relaxing period to our volunteer activities at Travel Town. Nevertheless, our Travel Town volunteers continued to forge ahead on several projects, blissfully brushing off the oppressive afternoon heat as just another minor irritation. With plenty of ice water at hand, work over the last few months has focused on rehabilitating two track switching mechanisms for a complicated section of tracks being installed along the southern edge of the Museum.



Photos here show several of our core volunteers - Craig Smith, John Stumreiter, Greg Ramsey, Roger Ringle and Brad Slosar - all working to restore various components of these two vintage track-switching devices.



All Aboard!

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

Roomette Passengers

Timathea Workman

"Little Nugget" Club

Timmy Berry

Owen Wyle

Streamliner

Linda Vertrees

Yardmasters

Mark Friedman & Lettie Ibarra

Express Agents

Julie Adams

Ricardina Astoquillca

Sam Barrett

Susan Beach

Carole Bergin

Molly Berkowitz

Alexander G. Black

Steven Blye

Damon Booth

Jason Burnham

Marianne Leo Burton

Bruno Cordero

Adam Dishell

Lonnie Elbaz

Bryan Emerson

Diego Espana

Annabella Fanelli

Jeff Field

Jareemiah Garcia

Sheila Geiger

Annie and Tom Giedraitis

John Goodwin

Gilbert Gudino

Cynthia Harvey

Adrian Herrera

Sandee Jenkins

Mollie and Paul Keith

Bethanne Kim

Sianna Lyons & Federico Gonzalez

Samuel Magluyan

June Manatt

Elenn Martinez

Alyssa Mead

Betsy Newman

Nicholas Pelayo

Lisa Pimentel

Melo Porter

Janet & Makaio Richman

Kasandra Ronk

James & Kayley Sanden

Connor Shane

Jonas Shladovsky

Brian Stoltz

Cristina Swane

Tracy Taylor

Connor Teves-McDowell

Scott Tomlinson

Richard Vance

J.C. Wendel

Janis Wong-Lo

Mike Wood

*Want to become a member?
Contact the
Travel Town
Museum Foundation
at
323-668-0104*

Travel Town Museum Foundation members are cordially invited to

Depot Day

at the Travel Town Museum

An exclusive "Open House"

Special tours through
Passenger Cars, the
M-177 and other Engines

Member's Hospitality area
with complimentary
refreshments and playday!
Special "game train" for
the kids!

Sunday, October 15, 11am to 3pm
Tracks 5 and 6 under the Locomotive Pavilion

Learn about our
volunteer program!
See the restoration
work-in-progress!

**Please RSVP if you will
attend to
323-668-0104,
or on-line at
Traveltown.org**

Visit by Sir
Topham Hatt!
Bring your
camera!

On the Platform: Crista Mills

This issue's "On the Platform" features an interview with another wonderful volunteer who has contributed to making Travel Town a prettier place! Ms. Crista Mills is a Girl Scout who earned her "Gold Award" (equivalent to a Boy Scout "Eagle" Project) by completing a beautiful "China Garden" at Travel Town.

Crista approached the Foundation with a proposal early this spring, and we asked her to do a little extra research and make the flowers in her garden all relate to the flowers pictured on railroad china that was used throughout the country in the first half of the 1900s. As you can see by the example pictures on this page, the china is quite beautiful, and the flowers Crista had to choose from were varied and colorful. She planned the garden with Travel Town's climate in mind, and we have the lovely area designed by her for all of our visitors to enjoy. This shows how just one young individual can really make a difference in today's world.

Following is a brief interview with Crista about her experiences in Girl Scouting and her work on her project. Thanks Crista!

When did you start Girl Scouts?

I started Girl Scouting in first grade when I was six years old.

Is anyone else in your family in Scouting or other public service groups?

My dad is an Eagle Scout. My two brothers are currently Boy Scouts and my mom always supports volunteer efforts and scouting.

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

I chose to do my project at Travel Town because I had heard that they were open to helping Scouts finish their Eagle and Gold Awards. Also, I used to visit Travel Town often when I was younger. Travel Town had some areas that needed some sprucing up, so I thought

I could make a real difference there. I knew my project would be appreciated by the staff and all the families that visit.

What did you learn as you did your Gold Project?

My Gold Award Project taught me that I can be an organized, assertive person. I was able to walk into businesses and handle myself with confidence when asking for donations. On the project day I was able to supervise, work, and lead my troop in an effective way to complete the project.

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

My Gold Project was a lot easier than I thought because once I got started everything fell into place. Being organized and knowing what I wanted helped the project move along a lot easier.

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

The friends that I have had the longest have all been people that I have met in scouting. Because of this, Girl Scouts has taught me the value of friendship. Also, scouting has given me opportunities to lead people, be assertive, and show myself that I will be heard if I have confidence.



Friendship and teamwork were the perfect recipe to help one Girl Scout earn her Gold Award while providing a beautiful and meaningful garden for Travel Town!

Nothing Could Be Finer . . . Than Flowers on the China!

The Union Pacific Railroad featured floral motifs on several of its many dining car china patterns - in fact, they named entire trains after flowers! Two fine examples include the *Mdm. Caroline Testout* rose, featured in the dining cars of the U.P.'s Portland Rose trains (at right), and the colorful *Colorado Columbine* (below), namesake of U.P. trains to and from Denver, CO.



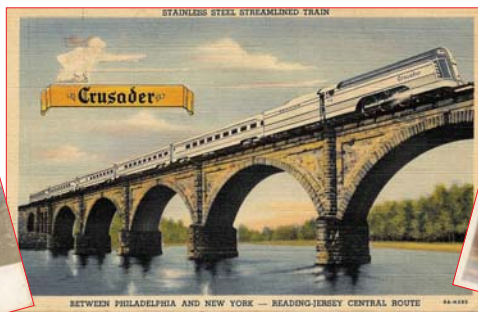
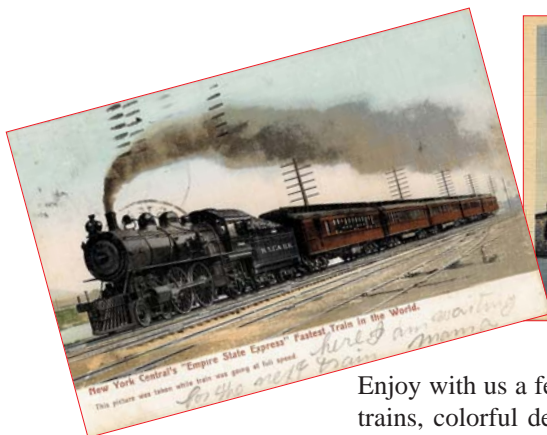
California Poppies were the flower of choice on the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway dining car china (below) for nearly 100 years! Poppies graced the china of Southern Pacific's dining cars as well, teamed up with azaleas, ruby lilies, and baby blue eyes to create a pattern known as "Prairie-Mountain Wildflowers" (right).



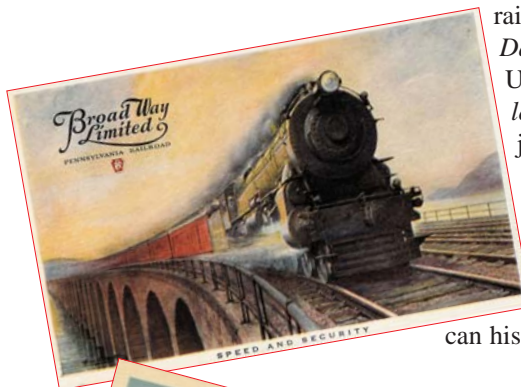
Poinsettia, bougainvillea and hibiscus abound on Atlantic Coast Line's "Flora of the South" china (right). Tiny orange blossoms decorate the rims on two Southern Pacific dining car patterns; "Imperial" - named for California's citrus-rich Imperial Valley - as well as the "Sunset" pattern shown below.



Postcards from the Edge... of the Tracks

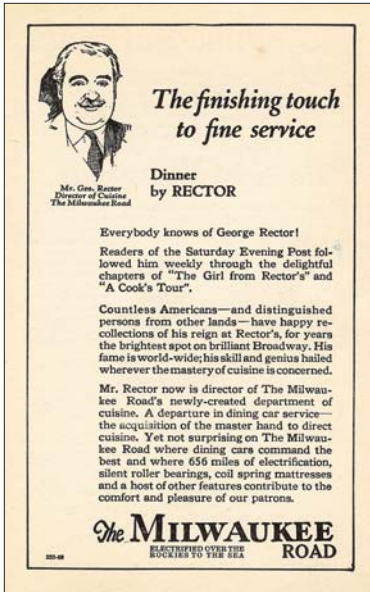


Enjoy with us a few vintage postcard views of America's classic passenger trains, colorful depictions of the bygone era of railroad travel. New York Central's famous *Empire State Express* was touted as the "Fastest Train in the World," rivaled by the sleek *Crusader* and the Pennsylvania Railroad's *Liberty* and *Broad Way Limiteds*. Out in the west, rails were polished by Southern Pacific's colorful *Daylight*, Great Northern's *Empire Builder* and Union Pacific's *Streamliner City of Los Angeles*. While in the heartlands, passengers enjoyed the Frisco Lines through the scenic Ozarks, Louisville & Nashville's *Hummingbird* and the posh *Panama Limited* on the Illinois Central's "Main Line of Mid-America". Come out to Travel Town and take a first-hand look at the vestiges of the wonderful era of American history!



Artifacts on this page
courtesy of
G. Gneier Collection

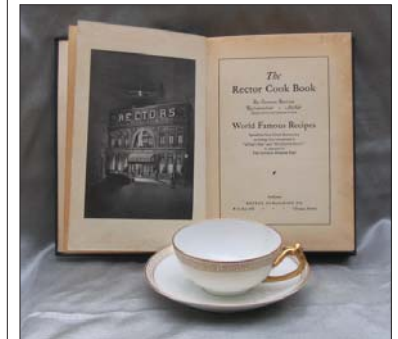
Someone's in the Kitchen



Today we're spending a few moments "in the kitchen" with **Mr. George Rector**, famous New York City restaurateur, author for the *Saturday Evening Post* and Director of Cuisine for the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad – better known as "The Milwaukee Road." At the turn of the 20th century, Rector's restaurant on New York City's Times Square was the epitome of epicurean delight. Legendary railroad magnate, James "Diamond Jim" Brady was a regular customer at Rector's, usually accompanied by his equally legendary companion, stage actress Lillian Russell.

In the late 1920s, George Rector was appointed Director of Cuisine for The Milwaukee Road. During that period, the railroad had a wonderful custom of serving Afternoon Tea to the passengers in the lounge cars of its famous *Olympian* trains, running between Chicago and Seattle. History has it that each afternoon one lucky lady traveler was selected to serve as hostess to "pour the tea"... the reward for her services was a beautiful "Olympian" teacup and saucer set (made by Limoges of France) and a hardbound copy of *The Rector Cookbook* – "complements of The Milwaukee Road."

Here are a few "fish and shellfish" entries from Mr. Rector's collection of "World Famous Recipes."



On the flyleaf of this copy of *The Rector Cookbook* is the following inscription:
October 22 – 1929
En route to Spokane with Jessie and Phil.
Poured Tea – so received this book.

Cocktail Sauce for Shellfish

¾ cup tomato catsup	2 tablespoons strained lemon juice
¼ cup grated horseradish	1 tablespoon Worcestershire Sauce
10 drops Tabasco sauce	¼ teaspoon salt

Mix ingredients together and serve in small cocktail glasses.

Baked Oysters, Rector

One dozen medium sized oysters opened on the half shell. Season with paprika and sprinkle a pinch of grated horseradish over each. To ½ cup fresh bread crumbs add 2 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese and 2 tablespoons grated Swiss cheese. Mix thoroughly and cover each oyster with prepared crumbs. Dot with butter and bake in a moderate oven until nicely browned. Garnish with sprigs of parsley and quartered lemon.

Fillet of Sole, Sauté Meunière

Since we do not have sole in our local waters we use the nearest fish resembling it, which is flounder. Flounder fillets may be purchased year around. Season fillets with salt and pepper and dip lightly in flour. Fry in clarified butter until golden brown. Remove to hot platter and squeeze a little lemon juice over them. Add 2 tablespoons of butter to frying pan, when it turns brown remove it from fire and pour it over fillets.



Sauce Tartare

½ cup mayonnaise	½ teaspoon finely chopped chives
½ teaspoon finely chopped parsley	½ teaspoon finely chopped shallots
½ teaspoon finely chopped chervil	½ teaspoon finely chopped capers
½ teaspoon finely chopped tarragon	1 teaspoon chopped sour pickle

Mix finely chopped ingredients into mayonnaise. Set in a cool place until needed.

Please RSVP if you will attend to 323-668-0104, or on-line at traveltown.org

- Refreshments for Members!
 - Members-Only Thomas Playday!
 - Tours through railroad cars!
 - Visit by Sir Topham Hat!
 - Games for the kids!
 - See restoration work!
 - Learn about having a birthday party at Travel Town!
 - Learn about the Travel Town volunteer program!
 - Learn about having a birthday party at Travel Town!
- The Museum Foundation would like to thank you, our members, for your support and patronage over the past year. Please come to our celebration of Depot Day and see the work we have done to make Travel Town a better museum for Los Angeles!

Sunday, October 15th 11am to 3pm

Depot Day at the Travel Town Museum

Travel Town Museum Foundation members are cordially invited to



AMERICAN SOUTHWESTERN RAILWAY ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 39846 - GRIFFITH STATION

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90039

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