Greetings Friends of Travel Town!

HAPPY 60TH BIRTHDAY TO TRAVEL TOWN! On December 14, 2012, we celebrated the 60th anniversary of Travel Town's founding. For over sixty years now, children from one to 100 have been delighting in the wonderful array of vintage trains and other goodies gathered in this once-desolate corner of Griffith Park. Did you visit Travel Town as a youth in the 1950s or 60s? Maybe you brought your own kids out to play on the trains in the 1980s? Or maybe you're visiting today with your grandchildren? What a wonderful commentary about one of Los Angeles' most beloved family destinations! Of course, a lot has changed around the Park over those many years - the airplanes are gone, as is the double-decker bus and the Roman chariot; but with a refined focus on railroad history, the Museum is better now than ever. How personally proud I am to have been volunteering as part of the Travel Town team myself for 25 of those 60 years. Our profound thanks to the grand visions that Charley Atkins, Bill Frederickson, and others shared back in 1952.

So here we are in 2013 - it's only April, but we already have so much to talk about this year at Travel Town! In just these first couple of months of the year, Travel Town Volunteers have logged in some 2560 work-hours in support of the Museum. Our dedicated Docents have provided guided tours to over 1,600 museum visitors and two more local Boy Scouts have completed their Eagle Leadership Projects at the Museum! On January 19th, Travel Town participated in the National Day of Service and the whole place was a-buzz with 65 volunteers, working together with TTMF Staff to make the Park a better place - for the next 60 years! Thanks to the Museum's many dedicated and hard-working volunteers, Travel Town get better every day!

What's on the horizon? Our tireless TTMF Staff is working feverishly to bring the proposed new Museum Store building and Volunteer Center project to fruition. (Who imagined getting a small modular building could be such a herculean feat?) With major funding in hand from The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation, the Ahmanson Foundation, and the Griffith Trust, we have now retained an architect to work us through the final planning and permitting process. Unfortunately, there are still some unknown costs that will be specific to Travel Town's unique situation and these can only be completely discovered through this permitting process. We are keeping our fingers crossed that the yet-to-be-revealed costs will not break the bank! Nevertheless, our chief fundraiser, Nancy, is already preparing for the 'news' with an optimistic outlook towards securing any additional funding. I want to give a very special THANK YOU to the wonderful people at the Ahmanson, Parsons, and Griffith organizations for both their generosity and their enduring patience. Many thanks also to Councilmember Tom LaBonge and his staff for their many years of support and encouragement. All in all, I am pleased to report that this project is closer to completion than its ever been before!

Great supporters of Travel Town at our 60th birthday party in front of the 3025 engine on December 12, 2012. Pictured are from left to right - Councilman Tom LaBonge, Honorary Mayor of Griffith Park, Louis Alvarado, Eagle Scout Candidate and volunteer Brandon Meyers, Department of Recreation and Parks Supervisor Joe Salacies, TTMF Executives Greg and Nancy Gneier, Volunteer Leader Greg Ramsey (kneeling), Program Manager Donna Choi, and Volunteer Leader Craig Smith, Esq.

Greg Gneier, President
April, 2013
National Day of Service at Travel Town

“This is really what America is about…” – President Barack Obama

On Saturday January 19, 2013, Travel Town participated in the National Day of Service. President Barack Obama created this volunteer event in celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King’s legacy.

Over 50 new volunteers helped beautify Travel Town under the leadership of our wonderful regular volunteers Craig Smith and Mike Ruble, Dante Flores and Andrea Lopez, Chris Flores and Bill Brewington. Thank you to the many other volunteers who helped make the day so special – Brad Slosar, Bryan Reese, Chris Geozian, Gary Teti, Greg Ramsey, Heidi Brewington, Kaelen Porter, Mike Teti, Sean Porter, Thomas Cisneros, William Brewington and Yvonne Ramsey. Everyone helped to make Los Angeles an even greater city.

A big thank you also to our generous sponsors: Pizza Hut for a FREE pizza lunch, Albertson’s for delicious fruits and veggies, and Home Depot for some of the cleaning supplies we used.

The National Day of Service volunteers got a Travel Town gift bag as a token of our appreciation. You too can volunteer with us throughout the year. To register for Orientation, visit us online at http://traveltown.org/volunteropp.shtml.

Our youngest volunteer this day was Tatum, age 2 (at left), and our oldest was Evelyn, 83 (below)! Thank you to everyone!

"Everybody can be great... because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love.”

— Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

From below left: The Sharp and Fellows engine gets a good dusting; Craig Smith’s Team spruce up the 664 engine; Donna thanks everyone while they enjoy a Pizza Hut Lunch!

Greetings fellow travelers, my name is Andrea Lopez. I am 15 years old, and I am one of many wonderful docents at Travel Town. I started volunteering at Travel Town last summer and since then I have had the pleasure of giving many tours. What I love the most about docenting is watching the reaction of people when I get to share fun facts like the strange pull out toilet inside the Hunter’s Point, or when people learn a train is 92 years old, or even when I get to show a room specifically remodeled for a big Hollywood director and his movie. My fellow docents and I also have a passion for sharing history, train history that is, and we have several tours in which we can do so. There is the Hunter’s Point (which is my favorite), Dinning Car 3669, The Rose Bowl, and our newest attraction, the Platform tour.

The Platform tour is our longest and most interesting tour. What makes this tour so special is that you get to walk on the platform as if you were a traveler, while learning cool facts about the service these trains did for Greater Los Angeles.

As a docent, I look forward spending time every Saturday at Travel Town, sharing the knowledge I have acquired from my Travel Town family, with all the wonderful visitors. I hope to see you on the Railway!
SPRING SALE!

BRING THIS AD FOR
20% OFF ONE IN-STORE ITEM
(Don’t forget your 10% membership discount for any other items!)
OFFER VALID THROUGH JUNE 21, 2013

Steam on in to the Travel town Gift Shop! In addition to our special Spring Sale, on National Train Day (May 11th) we will have special discounts on all wooden railway items - Brio, Chuggington, Maple Landmark and Thomas & Friends! 15% off for Members and 10% for for non-members! Discounts limited to merchandise on-hand. Come over and see the new products in all of these lines!

SEE YOU THERE!
Central Crossing Improvement

We’ve been working on the Central Crossing! With a goal of greatly improving this heavy area of visitor traffic, Phase 1 of the project was completed by Eagle Scout Alec LeDoux (featured in our last Tender).

Phase 2, recently completed by Museum volunteers with TTMF funding, included the installation of a concrete framework for the center of the tracks and concrete pads on the outsides of the rail, all needed to make the central crossing smoother and safer for our Museum visitors.

Volunteers built a steel frame that would hold the concrete in the center of the rail, which had to be specially made to fit the "track switch" that is so close to this crossing. In Photo 1 at right, you see volunteers Kirk Reinholz and Roy Rosales welding the frame that will hold the concrete. Roy and Brad move the completed frame to a different platform in Photo 2, where Volunteer Chris Geozian helped prep and paint the frame (Photo 3). Concrete was poured on January 26th (Photo 4) and in Photo 5, the finished crossing looks great!

Both this project and Tim Gneier's Eagle Project at the Wig-Wag Crossing (see page 5), were specifically done to improve ADA access at Travel Town, as well as to improve the Museum's overall appearance. Look for more improvements in the picnic areas soon!

Who’s Been Working on the Railroad?

The following list is of our fantastic volunteers who have worked for us in the past four months. Without the dedication and time that these volunteers give, NONE of our work would get done. These folks are our lifeblood and deserve to be recognized! Thank you all!

Robert Atienza  
Bill Brewington  
Heidi Brewington  
William Brewington  
Amanda Brooks  
Thomas Brooks  
Thomas Cisneros  
Bill Cosso  
Will Cosso  
Alyssa Kaori Yoshida  
Da Silva  
Todd de la Torre Ugarte  
Jacqueline Esquivel  
Pamela Esquivel  
John Evans  
Christopher Flores  
Dante Flores  
Christopher Geozian  
Greg Gneier  
Nancy J. Gneier  
Tim Gneier  
Andrew Harkness  
Matthew Harkness  
Diana Hernandez  
Kennan Herrera  
Kevin Herrera  
Julia Kennedy  
Andrea Lopez-Rocha  
Bryce Martinez  
Brandon Meyers  
Georgina Molina  
Kaelen Porter  
Sean Porter  
Greg Ramsey  

Lcpl. Gregory II Ramsey  
Yvonne Ramsey  
Bryan Reese  
Kirk Reinholz  
Roy Rosales  
Michael Ruble  
Itzel Santiago  
Javier Santiago  
Brad H. Slosar  
Michael Slosar  
Craig Smith  
Owen Solis  
John F. Stumreiter  
Gary Teti  
Michael Teti  
Makoto Ueno
Eagles on the Move!

Road Crossing Rebuild
We have had more great work done at Travel Town by the Boy Scouts of America! Tim Gnieir of Troop 210 Burbank replaced ties and rebuilt the road crossing into the picnic areas.

The crossing before the project: no defined concrete boundaries and disintegrating wooden ties were difficult for wheelchairs and strollers to cross.

Tim (in hard hat) and fellow Scouts Zack Perea and Adam Levesseur remove debris from the work area.

Tim installs Omni pads while Scout Michael Sosa looks on.

Diesel Axel & Traction Motor Restoration
Brandon Meyers from Troop 54 in the Los Angeles Council helped restore and display a diesel axel and traction motor.

Brandon poses with the re-painted and assembled Traction Motor and Axel in the workyard.

Brandon with his finished project next to the Arcadia Depot.

The motor in its “Before” stage; a volunteer prepares to wire brush the dirt and rust while the motor is in the service yard.

Adult volunteers begin to apply the finish paint to the wheelset. Brandon used good old-fashioned aluminum foil as a masking tool because it could be molded into the teeth on the axel!

Once an Eagle, always an Eagle.
Donations Help Travel Town Preservation Efforts

The American Southwestern Railway Association wants to thank the Tom E. Dailey Foundation for a grant for $4000 to help with the restoration of the Little Nugget! Specifically, their donation will go towards the replication of the Light Fixtures in the car.

The single most challenging (and costly) aspect of the interior restoration is replacement of the several missing and/or damaged light sconces that once decorated the lounge (see picture at right). These intricate fixtures were specifically designed for this car and their replacement has been particularly frustrating. After many years of searching, we finally found someone able to re-create these fixtures right here in our “own backyard” of Los Angeles: Rinaudo’s Reproductions, Inc. Mr. Rinaudo has extensive experience in the repair and re-creation of period lighting equipment. In fact, he has been the exclusive producer of vintage-style fixtures for the Disneyland Resorts for many years. The quote we have received from Rinaudo’s is just under $12,000, so we still need some donations to help off-set the cost of the replication.

If you would like to help with this project, please feel free to call the office with your Credit card information and ask to speak with Nancy, or send a check to the Post Office Box with “Little Nugget Restoration” noted on the memo line.

We have been renting a storage unit from Mobile Mini for a number of years now, and thanks to a $1000 donation from them, we have bought the storage unit at a reduced rate!

This means less money going out every month, and more that can be spent here at Travel Town on Educational Outreach projects. Thank you Mobile Mini!

We would also like to acknowledge the Falk Family for the donation of a lovely magazine cabinet and accompanying railroad books from the estate of Mr. Ira Falk. The books will be added to our library (hopefully to be housed in the volunteer center once the new gift shop is installed). Several of these books are duplicates to our library, but are out of print.

Mr. Kurt Roberts also graciously provided transportation services from Phoenix to Las Vegas to Travel Town to deliver this collection. Thanks, Kurt!

Many thanks to Albertsons, Pizza Hut and The Home Depot for food and materials donated to the National Day of Service event on January 19. Pizza Hut provided a delicious lunch accompanied by fruits and vegetables from Albertsons. The Home Depot donated cleaning supplies to help keep our park in tip-top shape!

Thanks go to the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority for the donation of Trackside Signal 1252, which served for many years on the Pasadena Line of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway.

We also received a vintage crossing arm signal that we hope to use near the train crossing in our service yard. Sounds like two more great Eagle Projects in the making!
**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!

**RESTORATION PARTNER**
David Russell

**LITTLE NUGGET CLUB**
Don & Peggy Gustavson
Russell Kuruma
Rhea Lamia

**STREAMLINERS**
Robert Anderson Arbuckle
Cameron Cook
Fred Gienna
Stephen & IHope Heaney
Jared & Heather Karpel
Lani Marquette
William Meurer
Larry Thomas

**TRACK GANG**
Eileen Barish
Jacqueline Browning
Campbell Campbell
Kelly Cauvillo
Stevan Dumas
William Estrada
Adam Feit
Heather Gawron
Zully Gonzalez
Heimark Family
Jeff & Deirdre Hollis
Bryna Hornstein
Alessandra Howard
Jack & Sherrie Jessup
Theresa & Craig King
Selina Reyes
Rocio Romero
Marissa Roseillier
Walton Salazar
Brandi Shaver
Cindi & Carson Smith
Martha Tolliver
Maria Vargaz
Elisabeth & Tim Ward

**ADULT ENGINEERS**
Harry & Evelyn Asato
Susan Marion
Norman Moline
Dorothy Shepherd
Helen Young

**JUNIOR ENGINEERS**
Charles Huart
Jill Levin
Amy Mirich
Lucas Ritenhouse
Luca Rufatt
Mary Sushinski

**JOIN THE FUN!**
Want to become a member? Call us at 323-668-0104 or visit the Gift Shop for more information!

---

**Postcards from the Edge . . . of the Tracks**

How many of you are old enough to remember the Travel Town of 60 years ago? Here's a collection of vintage post cards that depict Travel Town in its earliest days. Of course, the pièce de résistance for any visit to Travel Town in those days was a short ride on the Oahu steam train. The narrow gage steam-powered train ran back and forth along what is now Zoo Drive, a little east of Travel Town's present location. The Oahu 85 has since made its way back to its original home in Hawaii, but with your continued support of the Museum, we look forward to the day when another of Travel Town's vintage engines will chug around the Park under its own steam!
This year’s theme of National Train Day:

“Trains Matter!”

On Saturday, May 11, 2013, Amtrak will join communities across America to celebrate the importance of trains at the sixth annual National Train Day.

Details on National Train Day events can be found online at NationalTrainDay.com. In addition, rail passengers and enthusiasts are invited to share why trains matter to them via Facebook or @natltrainday.