Greetings from Travel Town!

Greetings Friends!

And a very happy 2006 from everyone at Travel Town! Can you believe it’s spring already? We wrapped up 2005 with a lot of fun and excitement around the Museum — including the official Grand Opening of Travel Town’s new barbeque picnic area and a great Polar Express Holiday Party for our Foundation Patrons! On November 10th, Travel Town welcomed City Councilman Tom LaBonge, along with several busloads of local school children, to help “cut the ribbon” on the beautifully landscaped picnic grounds. This wonderful area south of the Locomotive Pavilion is now hosting scores of birthday parties, family reunions and other outdoor soirees each month! There are three reserveable group areas as well as two unreserved sites and lots of lush green grass for the kids to run and play on. If you’re interested in learning more about these new facilities, please give a call to the Travel Town Operations Office at 323-662-5874.

Over 100 of our Foundation Patrons and their families braved a rainy December evening to celebrate the holidays at our first annual Polar Express Pajama Party. It was great to see so many of Travel Town’s closest friends, including Mr. and Mrs. Kris Kringle — although I must admit it was a bit of a challenge for our volunteers to serve that many cups of hot chocolate all at once. I’d like to thank everybody who joined in — members and volunteers alike. It was a wonderful evening of fun and trains!

December was anything but a “holiday” for Travel Town’s hard-working volunteers — they’ve been going like gang-busters all throughout winter months; highlights of their recent accomplishments are featured in the “We’ve Been Working on the Railroad” section on the next pages. And there’s a whole lot more for months ahead, as the rainy winter weather warms up into the spring and summer. We’re always looking for new volunteers, and the variety of opportunities are nearly endless. I hope you will consider coming out and seeing what it’s like. Please give us a call at 323-668-0104 if you’re interested — and we’ll tell you more about it!

The next big event on the Travel Town horizon is National Youth Service Day on April 22, when we’ll be joining with groups and institutions all across America in a day of encouraging young people to take an active role in improving their communities. And speaking of youth in the community… I want to offer special congratulations to a very energetic Eagle Scout candidate from Burbank B.S.A. Troup 210 – Scott Hanson! In December, Scott met the Travel Town challenge head-on, leading a Herculean effort to completely restore a historic Railway Express Company “Platform Tender.” In January, Scott accepted his Eagle Scout award at our February Board meeting and the Tender was accepted to the permanent collection of the Travel Town Museum. This fine example will light the way for other Scouts and their future projects at Travel Town. Three cheers for Scott Hanson!

There’s lots of new stuff to see at Travel Town this summer — come on out and visit us soon!

Nancy Gneier, President
April 2006
Join the Fun!

Register to volunteer on-line at www.traveltown.org, or call our office at 323-668-0104, extension 13. Now accepting volunteers for the Brakeman training program! (You must be registered to get this training.)
Here it is, Christmas in March! This past December we had a great time watching The Polar Express with all of our members who could make it out for the rainy night activity. Usually Santa waits in his village that is set up at Travel Town during the holidays, but because of the rain, Santa actually stopped in the Butler Building before the movie started! We hope you and your family can join us next year for the screening of the best Christmas and train movie ever made, The Polar Express!

Polar Express Party in Holden’s Corner a Fun Success!

Santa visits with some of Travel Town’s littlest members.

Mrs. Claus also helped oversee some fun arts and crafts before the movie.

Here is a shot over Ginger Potter’s shoulder as she read E.T. to young members before the movie began.

Barbara Nguyen and Raquel Preciado (at left) help clean up the Thomas table as their instructor Floriselda Perez looks on.

The Polar Express is available at the Travel Town Museum Gift Shop!
**Someone’s In The Kitchen...**

**ST. LAWRENCE DRESSING**

New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad

New Haven’s standard recipe number 14-Q.

- To 2 Cups Olive Oil, add:
  - Juice of 2 Lemons
  - Juice of 2 Oranges
- 2 Teaspoons Grated Onion
- 4 Teaspoons Chopped Parsley
- 16 Olives, thinly sliced
- 4 Teaspoons Chopped Parsley
- 2 Teaspoons Grated Onion
- Juice of 2 Oranges

The strained juice of two Lemons
1-1/2 cupful of Mazola Oil and
1-1/2 cupfuls of California or Old Monk Olive Oil

A favorite of Southern Pacific by William A.

**PARISIENNE DRESSING**

Northern Pacific Railway

Served on the famous North Coast Limited, usually over tomatoes.

1/2 cup finely diced celery
1 tablespoon minced onions
1 anchovy, minced
a little minced garlic
salt & pepper chopped parsley
2 tablespoons vinegar

This and many other fine Northern Pacific recipes may be found in the book *Dining Car Line to the Pacific* by William A. McKenize. Published by the Minnesota Historical Society Press and available in our Travel Town Gift Shop!

**S.P. DRESSING**

A favorite of Southern Pacific passengers on the Coast Daylight and Sunset Limited - served over “Hearts of Lettuce.”

Dissolve one teaspoonful of salt and two teaspoonfuls of English mustard in one-fourth cup vinegar. Add one-half cup of currant jelly and work until smooth. Mix with one cup of mayonnaise and a cup of catsup. Garnish with finely cut chives or onion top.

The photo on this 1935 postcard, publicizing “Low-cost dining car meals” on Union Pacific’s Challenger, was quite likely taken inside U.P. Diner 3669 - now on display at Travel Town! (no. 117)

**UNION PACIFIC SALAD DRESSING**

Served for many years with the Union Pacific’s famous “Salad Bowl.”

Rub the inside of a mixing bowl with a clove of garlic, then add:

- 2 level tablespoonfuls of Sage Sugar
- 1-1/2 level teaspoonfuls of Salt
- 1 level teaspoonful of Paprika
- 1/2 level teaspoonful of Dry Mustard

Mix the dry ingredients thoroughly in the bowl to absorb the garlic flavor, then add:

- The strained juice of two Lemons
- 1-1/2 cupful of Vinegar
- 1 raw Egg Yolk
- and beat all together vigorously with an egg beater. When well beaten, stir in gradually:

- 1-1/2 cupfuls of Mazola Oil and
- 1-1/2 cupful of California or Old Monk Olive Oil

Again beat the mixture thoroughly and whip in a half bottle of Chili Sauce and a level tablespoonful of coarse chopped and washed parsley. The recipe here makes about 3 pints.

A word of warning about “raw eggs” - in recent years, many food safety and health organizations advise against eating raw eggs, due to the possible presence of a nasty strain of Salmonella bacteria - which, oddly enough, was not a problem 50-100 years ago when these recipes were written. Today’s cook may wish to “pasteurize” raw eggs first or use an egg substitute when preparing salad dressings.

This quarter’s On The Platform subject is Mr. Scott Hanson, a senior at John Burroughs High School in Burbank, who has helped out Travel Town immensely by doing his Boy Scout Eagle project here at the Museum.

For people not familiar with the Boy Scouts of America Program, the Eagle rank is the highest achievement one can obtain in scouting, and it must be done before the young man turns 18. Boys should do projects that demonstrate leadership qualities; and they must plan, organize and direct a project of significant value to the community. Scott chose to refurbish a Railway Express baggage cart that had been donated to the Museum by Bryan Reese. This project was no small feat, as it involved getting donated oak and hardware, coordinating the measuring, cutting and re-building the cart, as well as getting everything primed and painted and put back together! As you can see in the before and after pictures, Scott did a great job. Following is our interview with Scott:

**On the Platform: Eagle Scout Scott Hanson**

Scott, when did you start in scouting?

I joined Boy Scouts in 1999 but had been in Cub Scouts since 95-96.

What have you learned as a Boy Scout?

Scouting has taught me many things about camping and survival and safety but most importantly it has taught me how to lead and how to follow.

Why did you decide to do your Eagle Project at Travel Town?

I chose Travel Town because when I was young I spent countless afternoons playing in those trains and I know that there is always being work done there, the baggage cart was perfect for my time frame and my budget and it was something that guests would be able to see.

What did you learn about railroad history doing this project?

I did not know that the Railway Express Company even existed before I started this project! During my research I learned a lot about the history of that once mighty company.

What else did you learn in doing this project?

I learned restoration work is a lot harder than it looks. I took a whole range of life experience from this project, from learning how to get expensive supplies donated, how to run a small scale construction site, to learning just how fair artifacts from our past are and how easily they will disappear into nothingness without our help.

**Before... This is the start of this project. Notice that one wheel didn’t even attach, most of the wood is significantly deteriorated, and the paint is so faded that an accurate sample couldn’t be taken for matching. Scott did research to find what colors were appropriate.**

**This photo really shows how Eagle Projects get done – Scott rallied adults and other scouts from his troop to do the work at TT, note the large sandwich to the left of the picture, the best way to keep your volunteers happy is to feed them! Under the tarp there were several work areas established, to learning just how fair artifacts from our past are and how easily they will disappear into nothingness without our help.**

**And After! The finished project, before it was rolled over to its new display area in the Butler Building.**

**Chicago, Burlington & Quincy R.R. handed out these souvenir postcards in its dining cars, touting the “finest Thousand Island Dressing in the world.” (no. 65)***