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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!

In Memoriam

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

Greg Greier, President
September, 2006

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 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.
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.”

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 tarragon
- 1 teaspoon chipped sour pickle

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

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 add paprika on top. Pour little lemon juice on top. Add 2 tablespoons of butter to frying pan, when it turns brown remove it from fire and pour it over fillets.

Baked Oysters, Rector

Since we do not have oyster in our local waters we use the nearest fish resembling it, which is chicoree. Chicoree fillets may be purchased year around. Season chicoree 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.

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.

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.

Roomette Passengers
Timatha Workman
“Little Nugget” Club
Timmie Berry
Owen Wyle
Streamliner
Linda Vertrees
Yardmasters
Mark Friedman & Lettie Smits

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

Photos here show several of our core volunteers – Craig Smith, John Stumreiter, Greg Ramsey, Roger Ringle and Brad Slocar - 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
Julie Adams
Ricardina Astoquilla
San Barrett
Susan Beach
Carole Bergin
Molly Berkowitz
Alexander G Black
Steven Blye
Damon Booth
Jason Burnham
Marianne Lee Burton
Bruno Cordero
Adam Dishell
Lonne Elbaz
Bryan Emerson
Diego Espana
Annabella Fanelli

Express Agents
Jeff Field
Jaremiyah Garcia
Sheila Geiger
Annie and Tom Giedraitis
John Goodwin
Gilbert Gadino
Cynthia Harvey
Adrian Herrera
Sandeek Jenkins
Mollie and Paul Keith
Bethanne Kim
Sianna Lyons & Federico Gonzalez
Samuel Maghlayan
June Manatt
Elen Martine
Alyssa Mead
Betsy Newman

Nicholas Pelayo
Lisa Pimentel
Melo Porter
Janet & Makia Richman
Kassandra Ronk
James & Kayley Sanden
Connor Shane
Jonas Shiadovsky
Brian Stoltz
Cristina Swane
Tracy Taylor
Connor Teves-McDowell
Scott Tomlinson
Richard Vance
J.C. Wendel
Janis Wong-Lo
Mike Wood

We're Busy 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 Slocar - all working to restore various components of these two vintage track-switching devices.
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!
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 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!
On the Platform: Crista Mills

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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).

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### 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 each. Add 2 tablespoons of butter to frying pan, when it turns brown remove it from fire and pour it over fillets.

### Cocktail Sauce for Shellfish

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### 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.

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