Happy Holidays from everyone at the Travel Town Museum! Yep, Thanksgiving is just around the corner, with the rest of the holidays snowballing right along behind. We’re hoping this Travel Town Tender arrives in your mailbox well before the Thanksgiving Weekend. We’ve mailed it early – but since the Post Office took nearly three weeks to deliver the last issue, this one is hitting the mail well in advance!

I hope YOU were among the many patrons who joined us for Depot Day at Travel Town in October. We had a great turnout and a wonderful day at the Museum. There are so many people to thank for making Depot Day such a terrific event: the great folks at Caltrans, Operation Life-Saver and the Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority; Glendale Boy Scout Troop 139 and Girl Scout Troops 948 and 735; City Councilman Tom LaBonge and his staff; Jim Starr, the Singing Policeman; our Chef d’Hotdog Cuisine, Yvonne Ramsey; and last but certainly not least, our fantastic team of Foundation employees, City Museum Staff and our hard-working Volunteers! Wow guys, you all did a tremendous job. I’ve received many complements from happy Travel Town visitors – and that’s what’s really important to us!

Coming up next, to kick off the holiday season, will be our annual Polar Express Pajama Party – Friday evening, December 1st. There’ll be loads of funs, games and hot chocolate, so don’t miss out. Send in your RSVP early, put on your pajamas, and come on out for the fun! For more information, give a call to 323-668-0104.

I hope to see you at Travel Town real soon!

Greg Gneier, President
November, 2006
On the Platform . . . Owen Connolly

We’re pleased to have another Boy Scout Eagle Leadership Project On the Platform in this issue of the Tender! Our latest Eagle Scout candidate is Owen Connolly of La Canada Troup 501.

Owen’s Eagle Leadership Project was to assist Travel Town by constructing two prototypical vintage railroad track panels for interpretive display at the Museum. One panel is circa 1860, similar to that used at the time of construction of the First Transcontinental Railroad. The 1860-era panel was laid 55-pound rail and rough-hewn log crossties. The “55-pound” notation refers to how much a one-yard segment of the rail weighs. Early railroads used very light-weight rails, but as locomotives and cars got bigger and heavier, so did the size and weight of the rail.

The second panel Owen’s gang built is circa 1940s, using 90-pound rail and milled crossties with common steel tieplates and joints. Owen’s two panels were constructed alongside an existing display panel which depicts a contemporary track construction scheme using 136-pound rail, prefabricated concrete crossties and Pandrol rail clips – similar to what you might see on today’s MetroLink tracks. Each of these different “eras” of rail construction will be shown and explained with signage at the Museum, right next to the historic Arcadia Freight Depot.

Here’s a brief interview with Owen along with a few photos of him and his track gang hard at work.

Tell us a little about yourself, age, school, future ambitions, etc.
My name is Owen James Connolly, I am 17 years of age. I attend La Cañada High School, and I wish to go to college in the future and become successful.

When did you join the Scouts?
When I was in fifth grade.

What have been some of the best things you’ve done in Scouting and why?
Boy Scout camp has been really great. You get to know people really well that you otherwise wouldn’t ever talk to, and also you learn a lot of skills and values that you can use throughout your life.

Why did you choose to do your project at Travel Town?
Because it was something new and interesting, not like some boring old Eagle Project like building a bench and so on.

What did you learn as you did your Eagle Project?
I learned a lot about the importance of leadership and organization. To make such a project work takes a lot of behind the scenes work and preparation.

Was your Eagle Project harder or easier than you expected, and why?
It was harder, but not to the point where things got out of control. It just took longer to do some things than I suspected, just because I had no prior knowledge in the area, and a lot of the stuff we did was really grueling work.

What have you learned while you have been in Scouts in general that has helped you be a better person?
That kindness and understanding always gets you farther than cruelty and harshness.
Travel Town Railroad
In cooperation with the Travel Town Museum and the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks

Presents:

Train Ride to Santa!

Bring the children and join us at The Travel Town Museum for a magical Train Ride to Visit Santa. You will board the Santa Express at the Travel Town Station and arrive within minutes at Santa’s North Pole Village. There, young and old alike can visit with Santa and tell him their Christmas wishes. Santa will have a special little gift for each child. Mrs. Claus will be there to greet you and talk about life at the North Pole. Santa’s Elves will happily take your picture with Santa for purchase as a keepsake of your visit. Upon Leaving Santa’s Village, the Santa Express will take you through a wonderland of Holiday lights and scenery before returning to the station.

Beginning Saturday, November 25, 2006 at 5 pm
Continues November 26, December 1, 2 & 3, December 8, 9 and 10, and December 13 through 23. Train operates from 5 pm until approximately 8 pm each day.
On Saturdays & Sundays space may be limited - so arrive early

Tickets $6 per person
Includes one round trip – 18 months and under free
Photos with Santa will be available for $4.00 each

For information and directions call 323.662.9678 or 818.881.2586 or visit www.traveltownrailroad.com

All Aboard!

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

Yardmasters
Stevan Dumas
Mark Friedman & Lettie Ibarra
Griffith Giacchino
Aidan, Josephine, Adam and Mia Glass
Dorothy Shepherd

Express Agents (continued)
Mariana Clarizeo
Emily Cooke
Bruno Cordero
Pete Derrak
Kal & Lea Desjardines
Thomas Dodge
Mark Dodge
Keilah Domenico
Edwin Duarte
Jensen Dubberstein
Eleanor Duran
Denise Durance
Barbara Durnbaugh
Kaylynn Dutcher
Magnus Ferrell
Martha Fleckenstein
Luana Giffen
Mark & Jay Gragnam
M. Hervat
Indigo Hood
Rennie Hunter-Walz
Gabriel Jaime
Andrew Keasberry
Samniang Khamthong
Bethanne Kim
Jack Kirakosian
Rol & Aggie Madden
Ethan Maule
Dana & Nelson McCormick
Virginia Megerbichian
Carver Messick
Jack & Jill Miller
Norman Moline
Yvonne Morgan-Lopez
Stefan & Lucy Mykytyn
Peter Nault
Ray & Cecilia Ornelas
Jorge A. Paniagua
Susie Parks
Adrian & Jo Ann Pinedo
Oscar Ramirez
Wes Ramsey
Julie Reardon-Nuno
Deborah Rebultan
Margot Riemer
Jonathan Rivera
Anne Ross
Ingrid Sacerie & Andrew Koyama
Gabriel N. Sandoval
Nirce Sebastiano
Steven Selcer
David & Kim Stafford
Anetta Stark
Kathy Starrenburg
Nicole Trudeau
Tricia Vaughan
Jose Vergara
Joanne Wang Murtetus

For membership information, call 323-668-0104
The Travel Town Museum Foundation would like to thank all of our sponsors for this year’s Depot Day. These organizations donated their products, services, and/or money to help make the event such a bug success!

Boy Scout Troop 139  Caltrans  Costco Los Feliz Store  Exposition Light Rail Authority  Girl Scout Troops 735 & 948  Councilman Tom LaBonge & Staff  Los Angeles County Metro  Operation Lifesaver  STARRGEM, The Singing Cop

See You Again Next Year!
We’ve Been Working on the Railroad . . .

High School Service Learning Volunteers

Fall is here and that means school is back in session. That may be sad news for some students, but we try to ease their pain by inviting them to spend a few hours volunteering at Travel Town. Each year, Travel Town benefits tremendously from the wonderful student volunteers we get from several area high schools. These great kids come to us via the schools’ Service Learning Program - a system that helps high school students earn “community service” hours needed to fulfill their graduation requirements. It’s a wonderful way for the students to gain experience in a myriad of fields, and it offers Travel Town a fantastic source of volunteer support. If you have a high school or college student at home, or would like to volunteer yourself, please drop us an email at volunteer.tender@traveltown.org or visit our website at www.traveltown.org.

* Alex Ueno and Max Mares painting up some rail “skates.”
* Here’s Max and his brother, Josh Mares, helping get the M.177 ready for a new fuel tank.

Volunteer Docents

One of the most important volunteer functions at Travel Town is our Docent Program. Volunteer Docents provide guided tours through several of the historic passenger cars and locomotives at the Museum. Here are a few fine examples from the recent Depot Day event.

* Girl Scout Sara Hill welcomes visitors to the Pullman sleeping car Hunters Point.
* Second generation TT volunteer, Bob Anderson, shows off the interior of the Pullman car Rose Bowl. Bob’s father, the late Wayne Arbuckle, was one of our initial group of volunteer when we started the Docent Program in the 1990s.
* Andrew Lepore welcomes visitors aboard the Pullman car Rose Bowl.
* Long-time Travel Town Docent Todd Brown explains Union Pacific Dining Car 369 and the finer points of eating about the Los Angeles Limited.
* Richie Dulce proved to be a great hand at the pressure washer.
* Richie was a great asset at Depot Day as well; helping man the Volunteer both as well as being part of the set-up and tear down operations!

TTMF Welcomes Paulette Westphal

The Travel Town Foundation is delighted to welcome Paulette Westphal on board as Administrative and Program Manager. A Virginia native, Paulette has been a junior high school teacher, corporate trainer, and most recently a web designer. She is also a musician in the Los Angeles Police Band and serves as music director for a church in Burbank. Paulette and her family are “all nuts over trains, specifically Lionel O-Gauge sets for the big folks and, of course, ‘Thomas’ for the little ones.”

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Paulette!
American Locomotive Crane 1887

Efforts needed to ready American Locomotive Crane No. 1887 for its BIG MOVE to Travel Town are now on the volunteers’ front burner. The World War II vintage railroad crane was donated by the Boeing Company of Long Beach for display and use at Travel Town. Since the Museum has no “rail connection” to the outside world, the historic crane must be moved to the Griffith Park by highway truck. (Did you know that all of the big trains at Travel Town came to the Park by truck?) Travel Town volunteers are now doing the disassembly work necessary to separate the crane into two pieces for easier transportation. In these three shots, volunteers are removing a piece of the boom support framework from inside the crane’s machinery house. Watch for Crane No. 1887 to arrive on Track 8 at the Museum soon!

The Oregon Detachment

So you don’t live in southern California, but you still want to volunteer at Travel Town – no problem, we’ll put you to work! Here are two fine examples from our “Oregon Detachment.”

Travel Town is fortunate to enlisted the services of a new volunteer - “Wes” - who has been working on some of our recent track projects; he is already picking up a long “To-Do” list from project leaders Greg Gneier and Greg Ramsey. But don’t expect to Wes around Travel Town very often. Our new volunteer is Greg Ramsey’s uncle, Wes Ramsey, and he lives in Oregon City near Portland. Wes is an accomplished machinist, among his many other talents, and has been custom-making joint bars for Travel Town’s new girder rail turnout. Wes is now starting work on some new bolt-on wheel stops for the Museum.

Wes grew up in Bakersfield where his father George was an engineer on the Sante Fe. George Ramsey dissuaded both his sons away from careers with the railroad; Wes, after a stint in the U. S. Navy, became a school teacher. Though now retired, Wes still teaches a few classes, usually in small engine repair, at his local community college. Wes is also volunteer with the SP 4449 crew, working on the “Daylight” at the roundhouse in Portland.

Another Oregonian on the Travel Town roster is our long-time computer and internet specialist, Michael Marquette. Mike is a Charter Member of our parent American Southwestern Railway Association and serves on its Board of Directors. Working from his home in beautiful Salem, Oregon, Michael finds time (between cups of Oregon coffee) to host the TTMF website and to shepherd our intricate email system. Before moving to Oregon, Mike was a regular worker at Travel Town, in the early days of “The Little Nugget” Restoration Project.

Interested in Volunteering?

Visit www.traveltown.org and click on “Volunteer at Travel Town” to learn more!
Polar Express Pajama Party!

for our Travel Town Museum Foundation Members

FRIDAY • DECEMBER 1st • at Travel Town

Come in your pajamas and join us for a cup of cocoa and a special screening of The Polar Express movie! There'll be games and fun activities for the kids. Plus the Museum Gift Shop will be open late with a special selection of Polar Express books, music, t-shirts and toys.

SCHEDULE FOR THE EVENING

5:30 - Exhibit Hall open for arts & crafts, Thomas & Friends playtime.
6:00 - Reading of The Polar Express.
6:15 - Hot chocolate and cookies.
6:30 - The Movie begins!

Space is Limited - Reservations are Required
Please R.S.V.P. before Nov. 27th
323-668-0104, ext. 13
or by email at giftshop.pe@traveltown.org

The Santa Train Ride will also be running!
Tickets for the Santa Train are $6 each.