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Ralph M. Parsons Foundation for a grant of $50,000 for new gift shop (Matchers needed!)

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Los Angeles Live Steamers for the gift of rides to our Boy Scouts for our Merit Badge Workshop
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Take a look at the newest addition to the Travel Town’s landscape - the Museum’s newly restored “T-2” Semaphore Signal! This vintage trackside signal, originally from the Santa Fe Railway’s mainline in New Mexico, was restored through the fantastic efforts of Boy Scout Eagle Candidate Ryan Heaney of Los Angeles. Working in tandem with the our museum volunteers and the Travel Town Museum Foundation, Ryan and his crew completely refinished the signal inside and out, poured the concrete foundation, assembled the parts and wired up the signal in working order. This beautifully restored artifact punctuates several months of great service efforts around Travel Town, with Boy Scouts playing a significant role in several of our recent activities. Besides Ryan’s signal project, the Museum has also recently benefited from two other Eagle Leadership Projects: Scout Evan Moffitt and his crew refinished the 50-foot boom on the museum’s American locomotive crane, and Scout Markos Generales and his team repainted our historic Shay steam locomotive. Of course, community service runs on a two-way street; I’m also very pleased to report that the Foundation presented a very successful Railroad Merit Badge Workshop in March, through which thirty local Boy Scouts earned the “Railroading Merit Badge”!

In addition to the Scout projects, restoration work is moving ahead on several of our big long-term projects as well. Our volunteers just finished up an electrical service upgrade on the 1921 Union Pacific dining car, while a multitude of other improvements were being made inside and around the Santa Fe motorcar M.177, Southern Pacific steam locomotive No. 219, and the American locomotive crane. It’s hard to touch on every project here, but just thinking through them all in my mind as I am writing this leaves me sincerely amazed and excited at how many incredible things our modest little group of volunteers has accomplished in just the last few months. Wow, what a great bunch of volunteers we have working with us! On May 8th – National Train Day – we treated our hard-working volunteers to a noontime ‘Taco Party’ as a well-deserved show of appreciation. THANKS AGAIN TO ALL!

Saving the best news for last . . . I am very excited to report that the Travel Town Museum Foundation has been awarded a major grant from The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation to aid in replacement of the aging Travel Town Gift Shop building. The Parsons grant represents about one-third of the funds needed for a new Gift Shop and Volunteer Center building at the Museum. Our TTMF team is now working double time to raise the remaining funds needed for this long-awaited improvement project.

Please enjoy the rest of the Tender newsletter, which expands upon several of the topics I have mentioned above. We look forward to seeing you at the Park real soon. Have a great summer!
On May 8, the Travel Town Museum Foundation honored our volunteers who had donated at least 10 hours during the past year with a luncheon and awards ceremony. This event was held in conjunction with the many National Train Day celebrations held throughout the United States.

National Train Day commemorates the joining of the Central Pacific and Union Pacific Railroads to create the First Transcontinental Railroad in 1869. The 1800-mile long transcontinental railroad was built in just six years and almost entirely by hand. Thousands of workers played a part in the construction. While we have significantly fewer people volunteering at Travel Town, we still manage to accomplish great things here by working together!

The mission of the Foundation is to educate the public about railroad history as it pertains to the development of the Southwest.

We fulfill this mission by restoring, operating and interpreting the historical railroad equipment at the Travel Town Museum. All of our volunteers become a part of fulfilling this mission through educational outreach programs, restoration projects, or both! This work happens one hour at a time, one weekend at a time. Each volunteer hour contributed makes a big difference in improving the Museum and the quality of life for others.

The Travel Town Museum Foundation is proud to be a certifying organization with the Presidential Service Award program. This award is earned through an exceptional donation of time and work. The awardee receives a personalized certificate of achievement from the President of the United States, a congratulatory letter from the President’s Council on Service and Participation, and an official President’s Award pin. The individual award system is divided into three categories: children, young adults and adults. The levels of awards are divided into gold, silver and bronze.

At the gold level we were happy to award two individuals who, in just their first year in volunteering with the Travel Town Museum, were able to earn the Gold Award: Kevin Herrera with 271 hours and Vanya Holt with 324 hours. Both of these young adults are in their first year in volunteering with the Travel Town Museum. They were awarded to John Stumreiter for his contribution of 375 hours!

Our congratulations to all our hard working volunteers!

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For a few weeks each spring, the hills throughout Griffith Park explode with a wide array of colorful wild flowers. Cooler days coupled with a later sunset make this an ideal time of year to take a nice hike through the wilderness areas of the Park’s rugged interior.

Among the flowers that may be seen throughout the Park is the California Poppy, the “state flower” of California. The golden-colored poppy was a popular design motif used by several western railroads throughout the 20th century. A few depictions of the poppy displayed here include the decorative dining car china of the Santa Fe Railway’s “California Poppy” pattern (sauce boat and sherbet dish) as well as the Southern Pacific Line’s “Prairie Mountain Wildflowers” pattern (dinner plate). The poppy also figured prominently on the cover of an early promotional booklet about the Pacific Limited (circa 1920) and on the dining car menus of the Union Pacific Railroad’s Los Angeles Limited.

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We’re pleased to share these photos of several families taking advantage of our METs Program – “METs” stands for Museum Enhancement Team. Each of these families came out early in the morning to brush off, wipe down, sweep up, and generally add some sparkle to the historic trains and the grounds at Travel Town. Because of our close proximity to the freeway and horse trails, the exhibits constantly have a fine layer of dust that makes our trains look tired and sad. These families took our cobweb dusters and extension brooms (donated by our local Home Depot) and spruced the trains right up!

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Greg and Elaine Wong clean the PE passenger car with their children Ethan, Emily and Sarah.
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Jocelyn Nguyen with our long handled brush and her brother Bryan in the background!

At left, the Dance Family – Leonard, Rachel, Sarah and Tonya – ready to work! Above, hard at it!

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Sponsors Needed!

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Here’s Eagle candidate, Ryan Heaney, looking over the installation of electrical conduits in the 100-foot-long trench dug by his team the day before. The conduit will contain power and control wiring for the restored T-2 semaphore signal soon to be installed nearby! Just up the track from Ryan’s left shoulder, other volunteers can be seen working on the American Locomotive Crane boom as part of Evan Moffitt’s Eagle Leadership Project.

Following up on Ryan’s signal project in the spring, our museum volunteers continued the “conduit trenching” further east to the historic Wig-Wag signal, which is now able to operate on permanent electrical power! In the coming months, the conduit will be extended further east along the track to the future display location of two Southern Pacific “Style B” semaphore signals, which are currently undergoing restoration in our work yard.

It seems there is nothing quite as exciting as watching concrete dry... or at least watching it get ready to dry! As part of the T-2 semaphore project, we prepared and poured separate concrete foundations for three trackside signals being restored for display at Travel Town. Here we see a cadre of Travel Town’s hardcore volunteers, absolutely fascinated by the concrete pumping process at one of the foundations sites. Volunteer Kirk Reinholtz is handling the hose as the pump operator watches over his shoulder. Contractor “Nate” (front right) is handling a “vibrator” which was used to settle the wet cement and remove any air bubbles.

Nothing goes to waste! Here we see the Brothers Teti, Gary and Mike, using up some of the surplus concrete from the signal foundation pour to fill gaps in the central crossing sidewalk.

Some weeks later, the refinished mast of the T-2 signal was assembled on the Navy flatcar and then lifted into place on the base cabinet. Note the freshly painted silver cabinet mounted on the concrete foundation in the foreground. The foundation extends several feet below the ground.

Scout Ryan Heaney and his good friend, Jack Talbot, finished off the concrete pad for the signal control cabinet while the pumping team worked on pouring the next foundation.

Here’s the fully-assembled T-2 Semaphore Signal on display at Travel Town! The signal was manufactured by the Union Switch & Signal Company for the Santa Fe Railway and stood for over 70 years next to the railway’s mainline near Wagon Mound, New Mexico - where it governed the passing of such famous trains as the Grand Canyon Limited, El Capitan, and the legendary Super Chief.

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Tourist Trains Guidebook
on Sale 20% OFF!

This one-of-a-kind guidebook is for anyone looking for a unique travel experience as well as diehard train fans. The book takes you to more than 450 fascinating train rides, museums, trolleys, depots, and dinner trains across the United States and Canada. As an added benefit, the book includes a discount card offering savings at more than 40 of the featured train sites!
National Train Day

On May 8, the Travel Town Museum Foundation honored our volunteers who had donated at least 10 hours during the past year with a luncheon and awards ceremony. This event was held in conjunction with the many National Train Day celebrations held throughout the United States.

National Train Day commemorates the joining of the Central Pacific and Union Pacific Railroads to create the First Transcontinental Railroad in 1869. The 1800-mile long transcontinental railroad was built in just six years and almost entirely by hand. Thousands of workers played a part in the construction. While we have significantly fewer people volunteering at Travel Town, we still manage to accomplish great things here by working together!

The mission of the Museum Foundation is to educate the public about railroad history as it pertains to the development of the Southwest.

For a few weeks each spring, the hills throughout Griffith Park explode with a wide array of colorful wild flowers. Cooler days coupled with a later sunset make this an ideal time of year to take a nice hike through the wilderness areas of the Park’s rugged interior.

Among the flowers that may be seen throughout the Park is the California Poppy, the “state flower” of California. The golden-colored poppy was a popular design motif used by several western railroads throughout the 20th century. A few depictions of the poppy displayed here include the decorative dining car china of the Santa Fe Railway’s “California Poppy” pattern (sauce boat and sherbet dish) as well as the Southern Pacific Line’s “Prairie Mountain Wildflowers” pattern (dinner plate). The poppy also figured prominently on the cover of an early promotional booklet about the Pacific Limited (circa 1920) and on the dinning car menus of the Union Pacific Railroad’s Los Angeles Limited.

Railroading Merit Badge Workshop

In March, the Travel Town Museum Foundation was excited to present another of its semi-annual Railroading Merit Badge Workshops for a group of local Boy Scouts. Thirty Scouts participated in the two-day seminar, where they learned about railroad history, terminology, signaling, and safety around railroad tracks. The Scouts attended presentations on both steam and Diesel locomotive technology, timetable reading, trip planning as well as Operation Lifesaver track-side safety. As a special treat, the Scouts were able to camp out at the Museum overnight and enjoyed a night train ride, courtesy of Travel Town’s next-door-neighbors at the Los Angeles Live Steamers. The Scouts received hands-on experience at operating a old-fashioned “hand car” and signaling a working locomotive! The workshop culminated with an exam to test each Scout’s knowledge of the key concepts and information learned—qualifying the young man for the Railroading Merit Badge!

We fulfill this mission by restoring, operating and interpreting the historical railroad equipment at the Travel Town Museum. All of our volunteers become a part of fulfilling this mission through educational outreach programs, restoration projects, or both! This work happens one hour at a time, one weekend at a time. Each volunteer hour contributes makes a big difference in improving the Museum and the quality of life for others.

The Travel Town Museum Foundation is proud to be a certifying organization with the Presidential Service Award program. This award is earned through an exceptional donation of time and work. The awardee receives a personalized certificate of achievement from the President of the United States, a congratulatory letter from the President’s Council on Service and Participation, and an official President’s Award pin. The individual award system is divided into three categories: children, young adults and adults. The levels of awards are divided into gold, silver and bronze. This year we had four Bronze level awards: Michael Ruble and Peter Hayward each contributed 125 hours in the last year; high school senior Robert Atienza donated 141 hours; and Gary Teti contributed 185 hours to projects at Travel Town. Seven recipients at the Silver level included: high school senior Derek Reinholtz with 186 hours; Edward Temm donated 263 hours; Kirk Reinholtz donated 288 hours; Mike Teti donated 338 hours; Brad Slosar donated 363 hours; Gregory Ramsey donated 382 hours; and Craig Smith donated 443 hours!

At the gold level we were happy to award two individuals who, in just their first year in volunteering with the Travel Town Museum, were able to earn the Gold Award: Kevin Herrera with 271 hours and Vanya Holt with 324 hours. Both of these young adults are in their first year of college! A third Gold Award, and the one with the most hours in the Young Adult category, was awarded to John Stumreiter for his contribution of 375 hours! CONGRATULATIONS to all our hard working volunteers!

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Griffith Park in Bloom

RESTAURANT PARTNER
Sierra Joy Burton

“LITTLE NUGGET” CLUB
Elizabeth Pedroza

STREAMLINES
Brad, Frank & Gabriel
Blessy Sanchez
Brian Higgins

Stephen & Hope Heaney
Patrick and Andrew Hynes

Todd Nelson

TRACK GANG
Monica Acosta
Irina Armendariz
Beverly Blake
Brenda Boswe
Kate Brady
Joseph Calloway
Denise Carver
Rochelle Cohen
Praveena DeSilva
Kim Duran
Jacob Fedregren
Adrienne Flores
Amber & Brett Franklin
Sylvia Galloway
Jericca Gutierrez Heimark

Letty Hernandez

LIGHTS OUT!
Our picnic grounds became “Tent Cities” for one night! True to the Scouting Outdoor code, the boys “left no trace” the next morning, leaving the grounds cleaner than when they arrived.

Boys and leaders from Troop 139 in Glendale and Troop 161 from Temple City stand in front of The Stockton-Terminal, Travel Town’s oldest steam locomotive.

“LITTLE NUGGET” CLUB

Jericca Gutierrez Heimark

Juliann Heaney

Jared Chaves & Nancy

Lyndsay Sherry

Sergio Chaves & Nancy

Medina

Desiree Orozco-Puente
Devon Palermo
Jennette Park
Shirley Paulsen
Elizabeth Payne Finn
Kendall Rucker
Gary Rudolph
Jennifer Sato
Isabel Shpelfogel
Brian Stoltz
Selma Top
Albert & Gloria Vargas Family
Wendy Vargas Guzman
Lisa Wakco
Vance Walker
Gary Whitmore
Jim Williamson

CONGRATULATIONS to all our hard working volunteers!

Griffith Park in Bloom

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Greetings from Travel Town!

Take a look at the newest addition to the Travel Town’s landscape - the Museum’s newly restored “T-2” Semaphore Signal! This vintage trackside signal, originally from the Santa Fe Railway’s mainline in New Mexico, was restored through the fantastic efforts of Boy Scout Eagle Candidate Ryan Heaney of Los Angeles. Working in tandem with our museum volunteers and the Travel Town Museum Foundation, Ryan and his crew completely refinished the signal inside and out, poured the concrete foundation, assembled the parts and wired up the signal in working order.

This beautifully restored artifact punctuates several months of great service efforts around Travel Town, with Boy Scouts playing a significant role in several of our recent activities. Besides Ryan’s signal project, the Museum has also recently benefited from two other Eagle Leadership Projects: Scout Evan Moffitt and his crew refinished the 50-foot boom on the museum’s American locomotive crane, and Scout Markos Generales and his team repainted our historic Shay steam locomotive. Of course, community service runs on a two-way street; I’m also very pleased to report that the Foundation presented a very successful Railroad Merit Badge Workshop in March, through which thirty local Boy Scouts earned the “Railroad-ing Merit Badge”!

In addition to the Scout projects, restoration work is moving ahead on several of our big long-term projects as well. Our volunteers just finished up an electrical service upgrade on the 1921 Union Pacific dining car, while a multitude of other improvements were being made inside and around the Santa Fe motorcar M.177, Southern Pacific steam locomotive No. 219, and the American locomotive crane. It’s hard to touch on every project here, but just thinking through them all in my mind as I am writing this leaves me sincerely amazed and excited at how many incredible things our modest little group of volunteers has accomplished in just the last few months. Wow, what a great bunch of volunteers we have working with us! On May 8th – National Train Day – we treated our hard-working volunteers to a noontime ‘Taco Party’ as a well-deserved show of appreciation. THANKS AGAIN TO ALL!

Saving the best news for last . . . I am very excited to report that the Travel Town Museum Foundation has been awarded a major grant from The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation to aid in replacement of the aging Travel Town Gift Shop building. The Parsons grant represents about one-third of the funds needed for a new Gift Shop and Volunteer Center building at the Museum. Our TTMF team is now working double time to raise the remaining funds needed for this long-awaited improvement project.

Please enjoy the rest of the Tender newsletter, which expands upon several of the topics I have mentioned above. We look forward to seeing you at the Park real soon. Have a great summer!

Ralph M. Parsons Foundation for a grant of $50,000 for new gift shop (Matchers needed!)

IN-KIND DONATIONS:

Operation Lifesaver for presentations over the past few months and at our Merit Badge Workshop
Los Angeles Live Steamers for the gift of rides to our Boy Scouts for our Merit Badge Workshop
Home Depot for gift cards used to purchase supplies for our Museum Enhancement Team Program.

Disney for having the “Give a day, Get a day” program!
Pennsylvania Builders Supply, National Sandblasting Company, and the Cabinet Shop of Inglewood for their generous support of Ryan Heaney’s Signal/Eagle Scout Project.
Frazee Paints for generously providing the primers and paints for Evan Moffitt’s Crane Boom/Eagle Scout Project.