Happy Summertime Good Friends!

When I was about 9 years old, my parents took me to see a special exhibit train that the Union Pacific Railroad was tromping around the country in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the First Transcontinental Railroad and the driving of the famous “Golden Spike”. The “Centennial” year of 1969 was quite an exciting time for the Union Pacific – they ran great publicity campaigns, handed out special souvenir booklets, printed big colorful commemorative wall calendars and featured Centennial menus in the dining cars of their few remaining (pre-Amtrak) passenger trains. What an incredible time to be a youngster in love with trains!

Fifty years later, I was fortunate enough to take my own son to Promontory, Utah on May 10th, where we took part in the Sesquicentennial events marking 150th Anniversary and the official designation of the Golden Spike National Historic Park. Once again, the venerable Union Pacific Railroad lead the celebrations – this time by completing a full working restoration of the world’s largest steam locomotive, the “Big Boy”. The U.P. ran the newly-restored behemoth from Cheyenne to Ogden and back as part of the recent May celebrations! It is quite spectacular to see the 1 million pound “iron horse” running past! Rumor has it that the giant steamer may make an operating appearance here in Los Angeles later this year! Keep your eyes out it.

Completion of America’s first transcontinental railroad in 1869 was one of the keystone events in the development of our nation – connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans by rail, reducing a journey of many months down to just a few days. The construction of “The Pacific Railroad” was the single largest undertaking in our country’s history; involving tens of thousands of workers, building simultaneously from both east and west towards a common goal. Most of the work on this colossal undertaking was done by hand – with simple tools; picks, shovels, wheelbarrows and horse carts. Hundreds of steam locomotives were engaged in moving trainloads of rails, ties and supplies. The engines working on construction from the western end in California had to be brought by sailing ship to San Francisco, since there was then no other way to get them there! Of those scores of locomotives, Travel Town is home to one of only three that survive today – our Stockton Terminal & Eastern Railroad locomotive No. 1.

In our own celebration of the Sesquicentennial, Travel Town’s volunteers are giving the 104-year-old S. T. & E. Number 1 a much-needed cosmetic overhaul, including a fresh paint job that harkens back to the earliest years of the locomotives long and storied history. The engine’s refurbishment kicked off with a Boy Scout Eagle Leadership Project by Burbank Scout, Rohith Saravana. Ro’s part of the effort has included prepping and repainting the front part of the locomotive; the “smokebox”, “pilot” and the headlight. Museum volunteers are currently working on the rest of the engine; the boiler, driving wheels, cab, and tender. It’s a time-consuming effort to be sure. We look forward to showing off the progress at this fall’s Depot Day festivities!

Another fine Boy Scout Eagle Project currently underway is the complete rebuilding of the cab on another of Travel Town’s historic locomotive, an L.A. Harbor Dept. “tank engine”. Scout Luc Gutierrez of nearby San Marino is currently leading this fantastic effort to replace the wooden cab that had literally collapsed into pieces a few years ago. Luc and his team are going gangbusters to build and install a beautiful new cab for this little engine that once toiled to build the Los Angeles harbor breakwater.

GREG GNIEIER
President
**On The Platform – with Volunteer John Stumreiter**

John Stumreiter has been a volunteer and fixture at Travel Town for a number of years. He is in charge of the battery maintenance on our diesel locomotives and is fantastic with locks and many things electrical! John has been an integral part of our team and has won our Presidential service award several times. Enjoy the interview with John below.

**How did you first get involved with Travel Town?**
When I was in High School, they required all students to perform 40 hours of volunteer community service as a graduation requirement. I replied to an ad in the paper looking for volunteers here, figuring I’d just do my 40 hours. 16 years later, I’m still here.

**Why do you like volunteering at Travel Town?**
It gives me an opportunity to gain valuable experience working with complex machinery and work with other people that can share their valuable experience and knowledge.

**What was the beginning of your interest in trains? Do you come from a railroad family?**
My grandfather, Clarence, worked for a lumber railroad in Oregon during the 1930s. He later became a brakeman on the SP&E. He tragically lost both his legs in an accident in 1946 and took his own life in 1949, so I never had a chance to know him on a personal level, though I would have liked to. His story really points out how important safety is while working around these cars and engines, and I always try to be careful and watch out for my fellow volunteers when we move the trains around at Travel Town!

**Besides trains, do you have any other hobbies?**
I’m an Amateur (Ham) Radio Operator, and I restore antique radios from the 1920’s through the 1950’s, as well as vintage electronic test equipment. I also work on cars and I collect records.

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**On The Platform – with Jasmine Gatto-McCann**

The Museum Foundation is pleased to welcome Jasmine to our Administrative Team! Her great attitude, her skills and her dedication have made her an integral part of our team! Please welcome Jasmine!

**What is the beginning of your interest in trains?**
My interest in trains started with watching old Hollywood movies on Turner Classic Movies. Watching actors like Cary Grant and Katherine Hepburn having a cocktail in dining cars fascinated me.

**Why do you want to work at Travel Town?**
I have always wanted to work around history. As a history major, my goal when I graduated to was to work in a museum and educate people. When I saw that a job was available at Travel Town, I knew I had to apply.

**What have you learned most about yourself. that you would like to share with the members?**
I’ve learned that I really enjoy working with volunteers! Leading others has really pushed me to come out of my shell and talk to new people. Not only has it given me more confidence but it has taught me many new skills. I am also a lifelong learner. Even after finishing school, I still take courses at the community college to continue to learn.

**Do you have any other hobbies?**
My other hobbies include white water rafting, hiking, reading, binge watching television, playing my saxophone, and gardening.

**Why should I volunteer at the Museum?**
Folks should come out to volunteer at Travel Town because you will meet new people and learn new skills (like stripping paint off a train!) It’s a place to unwind and decompress from your normal days during the week.
Upcoming Events: Depot Day!!

October 13, 2019
10 am - 3 pm
Travel Town Museum in Griffith Park
Proudly Presents

DEPOT DAY

Celebrating the
150th Anniversary of the
Transcontinental Railroad
and our engine that helped build it

- Tours & talks
  by train
  restoration
  experts
- Great live
  jazz music by
  local high
  school bands
- Food and
  train rides
  available
  upon purchase
- Vintage
  equipment
  and vehicle
  displays
- Thomas and
  Brio members-only
  playday
- Model train
  layouts
- Woodcarver &
  demo by
  blacksmiths
- Fire trucks
  Police cars &
  Park Rangers

In cooperation with Travel Town Museum and The City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks
Donations made at the event help with the restoration of the historic Trains at Travel Town
In honor of the sesquicentennial of the “Golden Spike”, the Stockton Terminal & Eastern No. 1 is being visually restored with parts mended and a whole new paint job. Though this 1862 steam locomotive (the oldest in Travel Town’s collection) has gone through several different color combinations during its time at Travel Town, this will be the first new paint scheme for the engine in decades. The process of stripping away the old paint, reshaping several damaged pieces, and repainting the engine has been quite the undertaking.

The complete stripping, prepping, and repainting of the front portion of the engine has been ambitiously taken on by local Boy Scout Ro Saravana as his Eagle Scout Project.

Ro and his team worked under the guidance of longtime Travel Town volunteer Greg Ramsey, using a brand new color scheme designed for the engine by Travel Town Museum Foundation President Greg Gneier.

Other “regular” Travel Town volunteers have been volunteering to needle gun, strip and condition the rest of the engine. A special shout out to Mark Huber and Noah Miller who have been working during the week to prep the engine for paint. We expect this engine to be completed for this year’s Depot Day event on October 13th!

In these photos there are other Scouts from Troop 210, Burbank who helped Ro with his part of the project. Pictured right is Hayden Layfield, who helped paint the wheels, and David McBride, working on the number plate on the front of the engine.
Eagle Scout Project – Ro Saravana

One key element to the Stockton Terminal’s classic appearance is, of course, it’s antique lantern (headlight). The lantern itself has, understandably, taken some damage over the past 155 years. Thankfully, Travel Town has Noah Miller, a skilled volunteer metal worker who has put in many long hours to smooth dents and reshape bends on the lantern.
Eagle Scout Project – Luc Guitierrez

Rebuilding the deck and cab of the Los Angeles Harbor Department Tank Engine –

Luc has undertaken a great project that will make a huge difference to the appearance of our Harbor Department engine. Luc is working with a professional carpenter to rebuild the cab, but he has used his fellow scouts to carefully remove the damaged wood pieces. The cab and deck are being created and cut offsite, then re-installed at the park. While many eagle scout projects are single day affairs, when scouts undertake a project at Travel Town it is a much larger time and quality commitment. We are so pleased and proud to be working with these young men who are making such a huge difference at the Museum and in their communities!!

Here’s the “Before” picture of this locomotive – Luc could obviously see that this project needed to be undertaken!!

Here’s the “After” picture of this locomotive – Luc did an amazing job!
Travel Town Tender

Eagle Scout Project – Luc Guitierrez

Luc handles the drill press to drill holes in the beam that will support the coupler for the back of engine.

This photo shows the old coupler being lined up and set for its re-installation.

Here is the beginning of the deck that has been replaced.

Luc’s Dad Marco gets directions from Luc (out of the picture) as they determine where the new walls of the cabin will go.
New and Renewing Members

**Restoration Partners**
Shauneen & Marcelo Militello

**Little Nugget Club Members**
Marianne Leo-Burton

**Streamliner Memberships**
Robert Anderson Arbuckle
Heidy Cach
Sheldon Roth
Janet Smith
Gee Foundation
Build Your Own Monster

**Track Gang Memberships**
Armisetti Andersonn
Ben Besley
Laura Bishay
Jeremy and Megan Cawn
Tara Dell
Betsy Dennis
Rodrigo Dorame III
Nicole Elliott
Ethan Entin
Gus Faerber
Erin Feeley
Patricia Foster
Tyson Fountaine
Jose Garcia
Earl Greene
Eleanor Groper
Rosana Lin Ho
Mika Hogains
Moss Kohrmann
Amanda Massetti
Terri Maya
Mieko Mayeno
Michele Medina
Maribel/ Rene Michel/Guevara
Francisco Moreno
Gabriela Nava
Junny Ngor
Rosemary Oralde
Henry Peet
Alyson Schenck
Rachealyn Stone
Michiko Tamuka
Amy Van Crosk
Adam Watson

**Junior Engineer Memberships**
Gabriel Callan
Levi Corbin
Aja Evans
Wyatt Hart
Wilhelm Hornstrand
Miles Hundgen
Peiman Katiraei
Jordan Norena
Vilma Palacios
Mason Price
Matthew Saracusa
Simona Supekar
Wesley Thebeau
Kat Vanden Bosch

**Do you need to renew your membership? You can do it online!**
Click here for more information!

There’s an easy way to support the Travel Town Museum Foundation!

Did you know you can link your Ralph’s Club Card with our foundation? It takes only a moment and it plays a big part in our fundraising!

First, register your Club Card on www.ralphs.com. Then sign in and click on your name in the top right corner. Click the “Community Rewards - Enroll” link. Next simply fill in the required information: the *NEW* Travel Town NPO is GK464. Be sure to click the circle next to Travel Town to select it and click “enroll”. It’s that easy! Now every time you make a purchase at Ralph’s, they’ll make a donation to Travel Town!

And if you’re an Amazon shopper, please click the Amazon.smile link found on our website. To pay for your order, use an Amazon gift card below purchased with the Benefit App, too!
You can donate to Travel Town without taking time out of your day, or going out of your way!

We’ve teamed up with Benefit, a mobile app that allows you to instantly purchase digital gift cards to use online or in-store, at retailers including Walmart, Target, The Home Depot, and Amazon. When you buy using the app, retailers contribute up to 20% of your transaction back to the Travel Town Museum Foundation — so you don’t have to spend an extra cent!

Download the app and use it for your everyday purchases – use our name
“American Southwestern Railway Association” as your Beneficiary!!

Support our cause whenever you shop!

You can use the Benefit app to pay for everything from groceries and clothing to dinner out and travel. We get a portion back every time you buy, and the amount we raise can make a big impact for the people we serve. See how easy it is!

1. Download the app.
   Benefit is a free download on your iPhone or Android device.

2. Set up your secure profile.
   Benefit partners with top banks and financial institutions to ensure that your data is handled securely, and that your bank and credit card protections remain in place.

3. Select our organization name.
   Simply type our name or ZIP code in the Beneficiaries tab and select our name from the search results.

4. Shop online or in-store at over 160 retailers.
   When you’re ready to pay, use the app to instantly purchase a digital gift card for the amount you need. You just show your phone at the checkout counter in a store, or use the gift card online.

Download the Benefit app today and start making a difference every time you make a purchase.