President’s Message

A Colorful Locomotive

As part of our celebration of the Golden Spike Sesquicentennial, Travel Town’s oldest steam locomotive is being accorded a much-deserved cosmetic refurbishment! The 155-year-old “iron horse” known to Travel Town visitors as Stockton Terminal & Eastern Railroad No. 1, was an 1864 product of the Norris Locomotive Works of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Originally given the name “Mariposa” - Spanish for butterfly - she came to California by sailing ship to help build new rail lines eastward from the Pacific Ocean. She joined the roster of the Central Pacific Railroad in 1867 and is today one of only three locomotives known to remain from the monumental construction project of America’s First Transcontinental Railroad.

The Mariposa had an extraordinarily long operating career for a railroad locomotive; working the rails for nearly 90 years before retiring to the Travel Town Museum in 1953. Over her long and storied history, the locomotive passed through several different owners and underwent a number of overalls, upgrades and physical modifications. The Mariposa you see at Travel Town today is the product of a locomotive metamorphosis that has been over a century and a half in the making. Refurbishing or “restoring” a historic piece of railroad equipment like the Mariposa presents a challenging question for any museum: “What time period, paint scheme or general appearance should be set as the goal for the restorative process?” The considerations are numerous and rarely, if ever, is there a single “right” answer to the question.

In the case of the Mariposa, we were faced with her 150+ year history of evolution; a great many modification having been made over 90 years of railroad service and still others made during 60 subsequent years of public display - thus any attempt to accurately “restore” the Mariposa to a specific time period or particular past appearance would necessitate the removal, alteration, and/or recreation of significant parts of the locomotive’s historic fabric. With this in mind, we chose to preserve as much of the existing fabric as possible by simply giving the locomotive a good cosmetic once-over - both improve her overall visual appearance for the visitors as well as to help foster longevity of the surviving components.

As an interpretive tool for museum presentation, we wanted to capitalize on the Mariposa’s essential roots in mid-19th Century railroad history. Despite the several ‘aftermarket’ practical modifications made to the locomotive by Central Pacific and Southern Pacific, the Mariposa still retains the basic profile of an iconic 19th Century “American” class (4-4-0) steam locomotive. When the locomotive was first placed on display at Travel Town in the early 1950s, rail preservationists (or enthusiasts) including Gerald Best collaborated to refurbish the locomotive in a style that evoked the colorful period of Victorian locomotives from which the Mariposa survives. For our Sesquicentenntial refurbishment, we decided to follow in those same footsteps, treating the Mariposa to an interpretive appearance that continues to evoke the colorful and decorative look of its early years of service on the Central Pacific. Is it “historically accurate”? – no. But we trust that the refreshed look will continue to give Travel Town visitors a glimpse into that early era of American railroading when each individual locomotive truly had its own unique persona – a name, fanciful decoration, and other special attributes that expressed the great pride the builder, the railroad, and the engine crews held for their accomplishments.

GREG GNEIER
President
The Polar Express Pajama Party!

THE POLAR EXPRESS PAJAMA PARTY
An Exclusive Members-Only Event
Thursday, December 12th 2019
Wear your PJs, bring your pillow or stuffed animal, and enjoy!

Schedule of Fun Events:

4:00  Museum Closes

5:00pm - Doors Open for our Event!!

5:00pm to 6:30pm
Activities include:
• Visiting the gift shop (20% discount applies on everything in the store, gift wrapping available!)
• Playing with a Thomas/Brio playday set.
• Playing with our squishy blocks and ball pool.
• Coloring pictures.
• Writing letters to Santa.
• Making tree ornaments.
• Munching on free cookies and hot chocolate!
• Purchasing a light dinner from the Belly’s food truck!

6:15 Holiday Short Video

6:35pm   Showing the Movie “The Polar Express” (Runtime: 1hr 40 minutes)
8:20pm   Movie will end. Gift shop will remain open until 9 pm.

Cookies and hot chocolate provided until they run out.
Great night to use your member discount and get that special gift at our Store!

RSVP today on our website, or go to https://fs16.formsite.com/ttmf/cqqowra3l6/index.html so we have enough cookies and goodies!
Limited number of guests allowed, so you must RSVP! NO WALK INS!
Depot Day 2019
New and Renewing Members

At this time of year, I want to especially give thanks to all of our members and supporting Foundations and businesses that make our restoration work possible! Special shout outs to the Courtney + Kurt Real Estate Team who gave us a grant as part of their “We Love NELA” donations this year. Check them out at www.courtneyandkurt.com

And Thanks to the California Eatery Restaurant and Bakery who generously donated baked goods to our Depot Day event! These guys have great breakfast and lunch options, and are located on the corner of Buena Vista and Burbank Blvd.

Don’t forget your donations to us are tax deductible – so if you need that extra write-off, remember the Travel Town Museum Foundation at the end of the year and on Giving Tuesday! Give through paypal (you can use a credit card if you don’t have a paypal account!!!) by clicking here: CLICK HERE FOR PAYPAL PAGE

Restoration Partners
Griffith Trust
Barbara and Fred Kort Foundation
Community Foundation of the Verdugos
Courtney + Kurt Real Estate
Stephen & Hope Heaney

Little Nugget Club Members
Fred Glienna

Streamliner Memberships
Jessica Kuhlman
Anita Chan

Track Gang Memberships
Alice Cardone
George Pappous
Debi Walton
Christine McKenzie
Claudia Jimenez
Tanya & Francisco Garga
Leonora Camno
Amanda Erickson
Richard Bartlett
Megan Gilbride
Erin Ross
Heidi Brown Gillison
Vanessa Stinnett
Meiko Mayeno
Dominic Torres
Meredith Fleisher
Carolyn Hart

Junior Engineer Memberships
Theodora Amado
Gabriel Friedman
Katherine Smith
Ricky Cervantes
Elva Povy
Esme' Bianco
Hudson Watts
Ingrid Meilam

Adult Engineer Memberships
Mercedes Younger
Mehmet Pekerol

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

MEMBERSHIPS ARE GREAT PRESENTS FOR THAT SPECIAL SOMEONE WHO HAS EVERYTHING (AND DOESN’T WANT ANY MORE STUFF!!!)
There are so many ways to support Travel Town Museum Foundation!

1. Holiday Shopping online at Amazon? Shop through AmazonSmile and help raise funds for the Museum! NO COST TO YOU! And if you’re an Amazon shopper, please click the Amazon.smile link found on our website, on the left hand column.

2. 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!

3. 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.
A Note from Nancy

Hi Everyone! I sit here at my desk trying to get out this newsletter and realized there is no “informational” section like the “I’ve been working on the Railroad” that we normally feature, but that doesn’t mean we haven’t been busy! Vince and Bob just this weekend got the stairs to close on the Hunters Point, our sleeping car that has been tucked away in the back of the train shed for several years. The great news about this is that we will very soon move it over into the line of passenger cars, and move the diner so it can be worked on to get those new windows in! Brad has been successful in completely sanding, staining and finishing the pantry area of the dining car. New window frames have been built and purchased, and the sashes and jambs will be going in soon. The Stockton Terminal Eastern, has undergone a change and will soon be emerging as the Mariposa, with educational signs to explain her pertinence in American history. As the year closes, I am so thankful for all of our fantastic volunteers that made the repainting and restoration of the Mariposa possible, many were able to attend Depot Day and see the engine roll in for the opening, it was a great day.

Everything we do at Travel Town is built with support from not only the volunteers who do the work, it’s our patrons who shop at our gift shop, its our members who donate membership dollars that we can count on every year, it’s the City staff who allow us to be here after hours if we need to, it’s the Scouting groups and other community groups who give a “day of volunteering” to help us clean the trains and control the gardens, it is the businesses who support us with in-kind donations or grants so we can pay for the equipment we need and use every week. The synergy that is created with all of these factors is dynamic and wonderful – things are changing for the better at Travel Town!!

We have big plans for 2020 and the next decade – and we hope you will continue to be part of those plans. Come out and volunteer and become part of our dynamic crew. Share our pictures and train trivia on instagram. Shop in our gift shop. Enjoy this museum and help us continue educating the public into the next decade. Take a hike in Griffith Park, ride the new bus service that starts up this month. Please, stay involved! In this modern world of “likes” and “shares” everything is very “in the moment” – but if we do not care for and cultivate history museums that allow people to learn from the past, a huge treasure that is America will be lost. This is the time of year to be thankful, to remember people and events that have shaped who we are as families, as friends, and as a people. In planning your list of things to do in 2020, I hope you put “visit Travel Town” down several times! Feel free to drop me an e-mail and let me know your suggestions for making our museum better, and remember, nothing happens without support! Here’s a brief list of some of the things that we have helped make happen in the past decade:

• Purchase, install and operate a bigger, better gift shop.
• Get the M-177 repainted and running.
• Repaint the Mariposa Engine.
• Remodel and manage the Craig A. Smith Volunteer Center and O’Dell Research Library.
• Create and mount the exhibit “Fred Harvey” in the Gallery building.
• Renovate and update the “Holden’s Corner” play area.
• Oversee and help coordinate over 15 Boy Scout Eagle Projects and Girl Scout Gold Projects to improve the museum.
• Raise funds and purchase materials for the dining car window replacement
• Shepherd over 250 youth with our Service-Learning volunteer program.
• Raise funds and purchase new light fixtures in “The Little Nugget”
• Raise funds and re-mount the “Compendium of Comedy” photo collection for “The Little Nugget” car.
• Maintain and operate two Diesel locomotives at the museum, including raising funds and getting donations for replacement batteries.
• Install 5 light signals to operation and educational display on museum grounds.
• Give personal tours to over 34,000 people!
• Design and create several outdoor educational signs to enhance the museum.
• Assemble, operate and maintain our American Crane.
• With a KaBOOM grant create and maintain our “Tracks to Learning” play areas.
• Provide the City of Los Angeles with over 63,936 hours of volunteer service.
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RSVP at our website at www.traveltown.org  Click on the ad!

Travel Town Museum Foundation
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