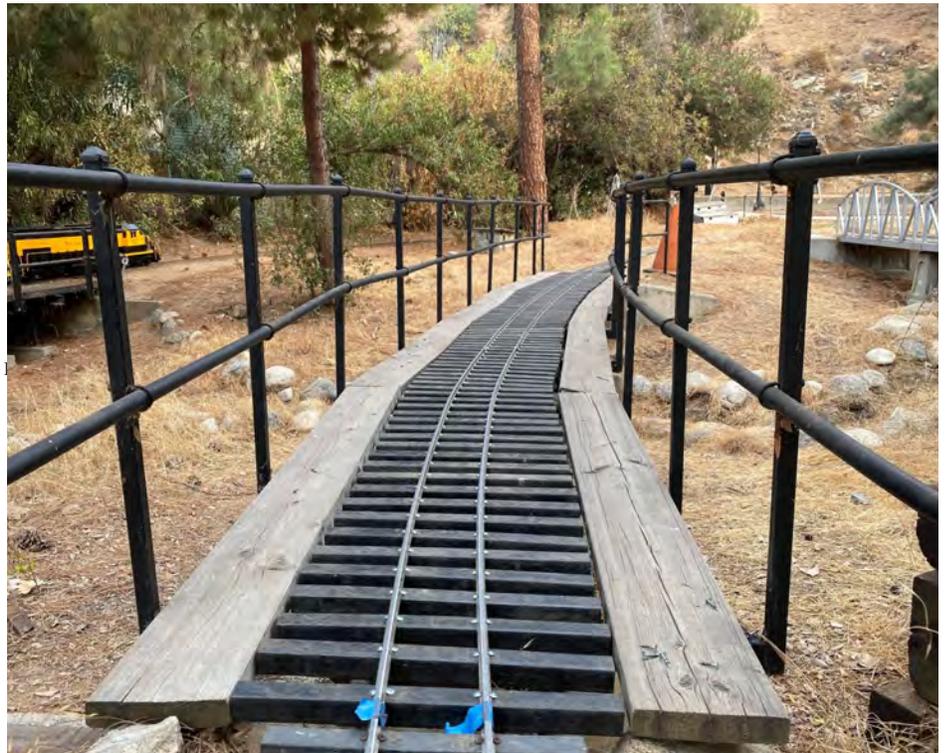




## Billboards Feature Vintage Ads

By Ross Harper

For our billboards I thought it would be fun to use some vintage railroad artwork since our members run old steam engines. I also wanted them to have a strong connection to this area, so the Pacific Electric and the SP Daylight were obvious choices. The Pacific Electric artwork is from an old Time Table from 1942 from the Metro Library Archive. I photoshopped out the words "Time Table" and some of the blemishes and resized it to fit the billboard dimensions. The SP Daylight poster was from an old luggage tag promoting the "New Daylight." The proportions were a good fit for a horizontal billboard. The streamlined Daylight began running on March 21, 1937. The artwork for both was reproduced on premium vinyl banners and attached with velcro so that they can be swapped out with other posters in the future. (Additional photo on page 5)



Bridge at Inchberg is nearly complete with new ties. More photos on page 4.

## Inchberg Renovation Project Leaps Forward

By Nick Guzman

The Inchberg renovation project took another leap forward into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with some long-needed bridge track work.

Nick Guzman spearheaded the effort with the help of Chris Solak, Collin Westphal and Don Kallgren. They chose the weekend of October 3 and 4 to launch the project, even though we were experiencing yet another heat wave (98 degrees) and very smoky air thanks to the three-week old Bobcat Fire in the San Gabriel Mountains. The COVID masks came in handy.

### Old Ties Replaced

Saturday morning they started by tearing out badly rotted ties from the Lower Lake trestle bridge. Nick quickly realized that the original builders had built the deck for the track very solidly because almost all 90 ties were each secured by two screws underneath the C-channel stringers. "After undoing the old screws and spikes that held the rails in, I began prying off the old ties with a crowbar and letting the old screws underneath get ripped from the ties or break off entirely inside them because they were getting thrown out anyway." Tim Silver

(Continued on page 4)

# SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

By Steve Rodstein, Secretary



## October 2020 Board of Directors Meeting

At 7:01 pm on October 5, 2020 the October BOD meeting was called to order by President Ted Merchant. Due to COVID-19 the meeting was teleconferenced on Zoom, and participants connected either by computer or their cell phone. All eight of the directors were present as well as 37 members.

**President's Report:** Ted again mentioned that the BOD meetings should follow the agenda, and that once the BOD meeting was adjourned anyone was welcome to stay and talk informally.

Ted opened the meeting by discussing that some members are not wearing face masks at the facility as required by the COVID 19 LALSRLM safety policy. Every Board member present agreed that this is an important issue, and that any member not wearing a face mask will be asked to wear one or leave the facility for noncompliance of the Club safety policy.

It was agreed that additional signs will be posted at the member driveway entrance gate, Kountry Kitchen, and locations reminding the members to wear their mask. It was agreed that if this does not help, harsher action will be required by the Board.

**Secretary's Report:** The September minutes were approved. There are no events scheduled at the Club due to the Coronavirus. Diana will continue update the Calendar as necessary.

**Treasurer's Report:** Tim presented the prior periods financials. There was minor discussion and then the Board approved them.

**Membership Report:** Nick presented new members Dalton Johnson and Alex Acuna.

Also, Nick confirmed that no members of the Soibelman family had applied for new membership to LALSRLM, and it was also confirmed that they had removed all of Lew Soibelman's equipment from the storage sheds at LALSRLM. The daughter of Ron Bergmann, Elizabeth Bergmann, has applied for membership to the Club.

There was a brief discussion regarding membership renewals which was continued when Diana discussed registration renewals of existing members later in the meeting

**Report:** Drew with the assistance of Les and other members presented the following:

Les updated us on the progress of the electric panel cabinet installation, and the ongoing Crystal Springs project, aka the "Pit". Ted presented the additional bid from the tree trimmers (Special Tree Service) for \$2,823.00 for work that was not included on the original bid that has since been finished. The Board discussed this matter and then approved the additional work to be done.

Les informed the Club members that the drains at the west end of the Club needed to be cleaned out before the rainy season. Ted stated that he had met with a representative of the park service regarding the possibility of extending the east fence line into the parking lot. The representative informed Ted that a formal request was required to get approval for the fence line to be moved. It was noted that the super-sucker had been broken and had since been repaired.

**Website Update/Communications:** Diana informed the Board that 280 members had renewed their membership for 2020. The balance of members who have not paid will be contacted by letter shortly to resolve this matter. Diana, Nick, and Tim then discussed the new renewal system and the website, and requested that all of the members visit the "Profile" section that includes additional information such as address, phone numbers, equipment, etc. and enter their current information. Diana stated that renewing should be easier in 2021, because most members will have been registered and we will all know the process better.

**Other items:** Ted stated that it appeared some members needed clarification on the run direction for all trains for the balance of 2020. As of the date of this meeting it is now been agreed that the RUN DIRECTION for all TRAINS is CLOCKWISE or EASTBOUND.

The next item for discussion were the drafts of the termination of track rental space letters that had been prepared by the Shed Master, Michael Murphy, and emailed to the Board members. After some discussion the following will or already has taken place:

- The estate of Lew Soibelman has removed his equipment from the Club on Saturday, October 3, 2020.
- One member will receive the termination letter that had been prepared.
- Five other members will receive a modified letter saying that they have not completed the hourly work requirement and have lost their right to rent a track to store their equipment on, and should the Board need additional space for other members they will be notified to remove their equipment or move it to another track within the storage shed at the Board's discretion.

Ted mentioned that he had met with James Femino and his father to try and get resolution to James's Eagle scout project. Ted stated that it is up to James now to complete his project on time.

Stephen Altmayer donated some wire to the Club.

Ted stated he was contacted by a gentleman who was interested in donating 4-4-0 American project to the Club; after minor discussion it was agreed that Ted would contact him and accept the offer for the LALSRLM.

There was some discussion about holding a Club auction for all Club members to bid on donated train equipment. It was decided that this matter required further discussion at a later date. Someone offered to donate an N-scale model railroad to the Club, it was decided to kindly decline their offer.

Tom Hansen has volunteered to build a tabletop dispensing cabinet for the monthly Boosters to replace the translucent plastic container currently being used. It will be located on the counter in the Kountry Kitchen

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 pm. The next open BOD meeting will be Monday, November 2 at 7:00 pm.

## President's Message



By  
Ted  
Merchant,  
President

Hello Railroad Fans!

I have frequently pondered over the last decade: "What is Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum? Why are we here?" I always return to the same answer: "We are a group of friends with a love of trains that want to run a large-scale model railroad." The most important word here is "friends." Friends respect each other. They emotionally support each other. They listen to each other. They accept each other's imperfections. They respectfully correct one another without being hurtful. They help each other. They celebrate their commonalities (think trains and fabrication). They celebrate each other (think birthdays, new equipment, weddings, memorial services, all of which occur at LALSRLM). This is what we do, and it is the responsibility of your Board to keep us doing it!

I am continually impressed with how attractive our campus is despite coronavirus. The place is cleaned up. The grass is mowed (thanks Ron Nelson). Multiple projects are in progress (think electrical panel, 1-inch-scale, small buildings, tree trimming, plumbing wiring and signal repairs). All these things are happening, not because members are ordered, belittled, embarrassed, or hounded into doing them but because members want to participate and enjoy working with and for one another.

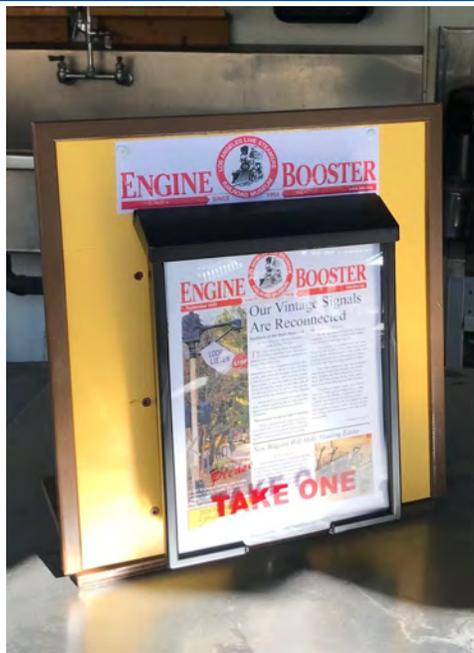
I am frequently complemented by our members and members of other clubs when they recognize that LALSRLM is a friendly place. This is the club we want to be! Let's do it!

Stay safe. Stay well. Think railroads. Your comments are always welcome. I'll see you at the rails.

Ted Merchant

[edwardbmerchant@gmail.com](mailto:edwardbmerchant@gmail.com)

P.S.- I have encountered several members thinking of selling equipment



## New Booster Display Rack in Kountry Kitchen.

By Peter Fuad

In addition to the *Booster's* online edition available on the Club's website, we print a few additional hardcopies for members who don't have access online or who prefer to read an actual newspaper.

Up to now these hardcopies have been placed in a plastic box placed on a picnic table in the Kountry Kitchen. The plastic was not clear and many members did not know the box contained the *Booster*. From a suggestion by Peter Fuad, Tom Hanson designed and constructed an attractive newspaper rack to display *Boosters* in the Kountry Kitchen.

Members are free to take a copy from the rack, which will contain the latest copy plus the most recent back copies of the newsletter.

including locomotives. LALSRLM is keeping several pieces of equipment assuming that someday we will have a Spring or Fall Meet with a President's Auction. None of this equipment is priced, but we are always interested in an offer. Please let me know if you are considering a purchase. I will be happy to connect you with these potential opportunities. Ted



## Masks Are Required

Members and guests must wear a mask while at the Club facility and maintain a 6' distance from others. Those who insist on not wearing masks may be asked by a Board member to leave the campus

## It's Still Fire Season

All coal burning locomotives must have spark arrestors and be cautious when dumping their ash pans. Every engineer should keep an eye out for sparks and be familiar with fire extinguisher locations as well as where the nearest hose is. Any volunteers that can help with leaf removal are appreciated, plus it's a good excuse to play trains! We all need to do our part to keep the Club safe.

## Name Badges

We will be ordering name badges this week. They should be available the 4th Sunday in November to purchase/pick up at the Souvenir Booth.

## Welcome New Members!

Please welcome the following new members to the Club:

Ken Adamson  
Greg Casford  
Andrew Martin  
Dalton Johnson  
Alex Acuna

## Policy for Sodas in KK Fridge

Please donate \$1.00 (bottled water) and 75¢ (soda) to plastic tub on top shelf. Members working on Club work days are welcome to free sodas (two maximum) and unlimited bottled water.





*Above left:* Inchberg bridge before repair. *Above right:* rails and old ties removed from bridge. *Right:* Chris Solak, Nick Guzman and Don Kallgren.

*Photos by Collin Westphal, Zach Jones and Nick Guzman.*



## Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum

In Griffith Park  
Mailing Address—PO Box 2156,  
Toluca Lake, CA 91610

LALSRM.org  
(323) 661-8958

### 2020 Officers and Directors

<b>President</b>	Ted Merchant
<b>Vice President</b>	Bill Schirmer
<b>Secretary</b>	Steve Rodstein
<b>Treasurer</b>	Tim LaGaly
Martha Figueroa	David Holman
Les Kovacs	Nick Suncin

## Inchberg Renovation Leaps Forward

*(Continued from page 1)*

hailed away the old ties, which was a big help.

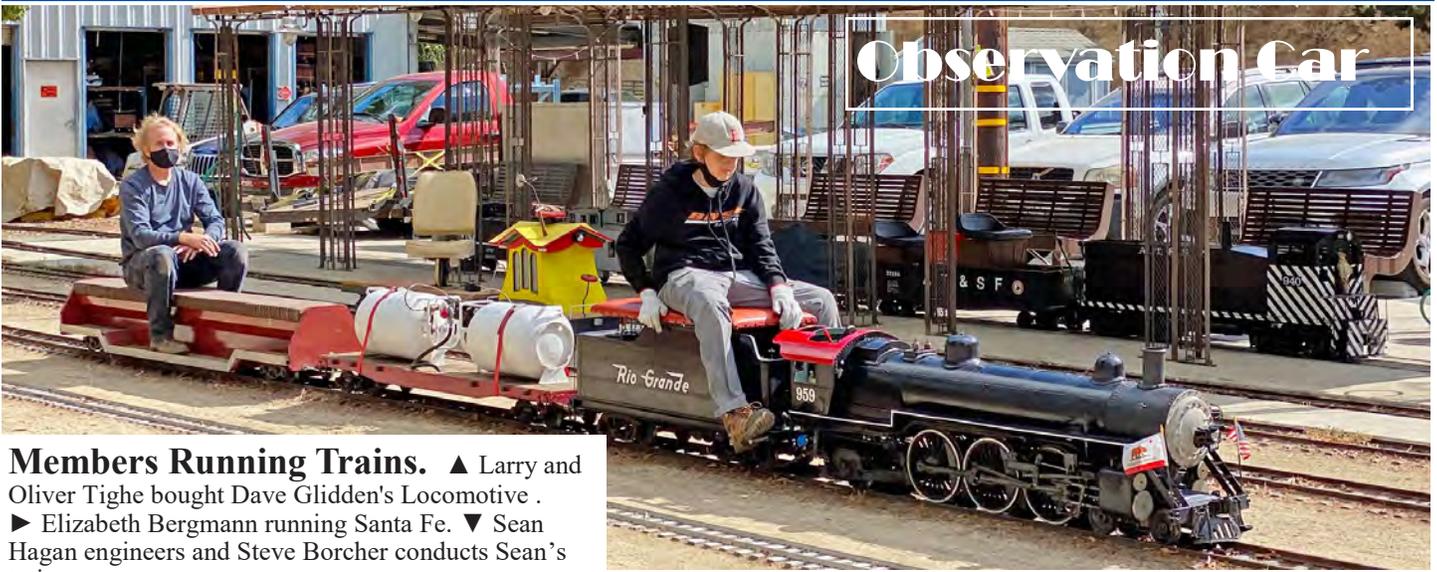
After lunch the track crew decided that they would secure every fourth tie underneath with the new plastic wood ties in order to speed up the job without sacrificing much structural integrity. They were able to get a good workflow going with Don holding the ties in by stepping on them from the top while Nick screwed them in place underneath. Once those were in place, they began placing the new ones in the spaces between and started screwing down the rails. They were able to finish the installation of the new ties by the end of the day.

### Group Effort Speeds Completion

This was a dedicated group effort, especially considering the heat. "I was a little skeptical we wouldn't get it done by the end of the day, but we knocked this one out of the park." Marie Kyle and William Rogers joined the work party by cleaning up several years worth of landscape debris and detritus around the town of Inchberg.

Sunday, October 11, Nick returned and installed the guard rails on the track. A few test runs over the newly renovated track proved to be smooth sailing. Nick says this will be the last major job of the one inch yard and bridge. All that is left is swapping out some old ties from underneath the track in a few areas.

# Observation Car



**Members Running Trains.** ▲ Larry and Oliver Tighe bought Dave Glidden's Locomotive .  
 ► Elizabeth Bergmann running Santa Fe. ▼ Sean Hagan engineers and Steve Borchert conducts Sean's train.

All members running trains were wearing masks and only lowered them briefly for the pictures. We want you to recognize them and welcome them next time you see them. *(Diana Manchester photos)*

▼ Second of new billboards by Ross Harper.



# How To Set Up Your Profile Page on www.lalsrm.org

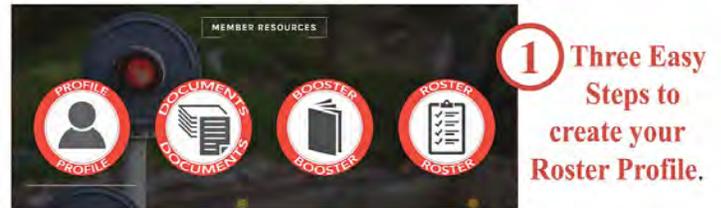
By Diana Manchester

Thank you all members who have registered on our website, and sent in your membership dues. We would like to update our 2020 Roster with your latest information, such as phone #, address and equipment. Here's how:

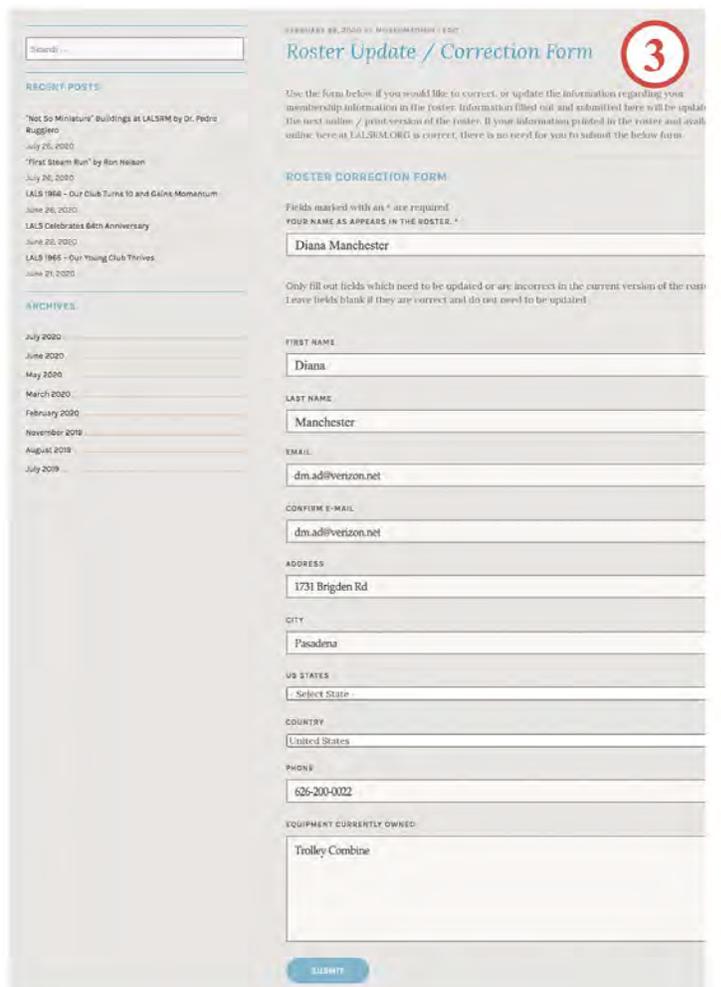
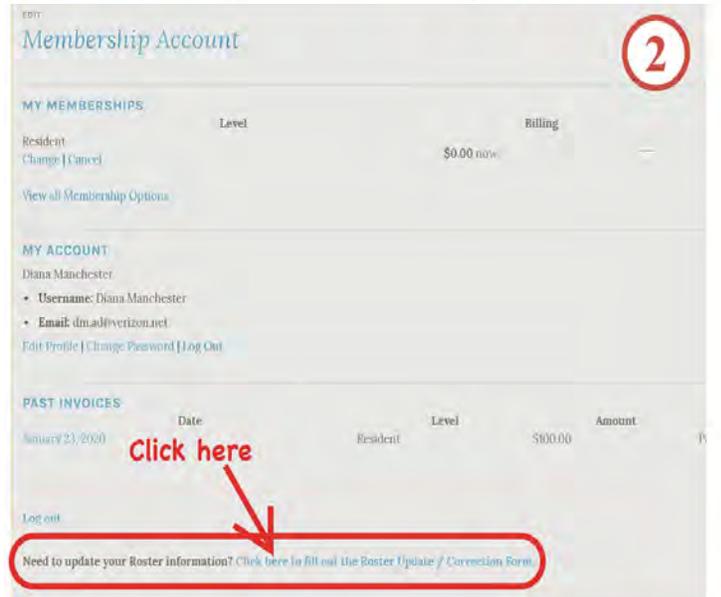
**Step 1.** Go to [www.lalsrm.org](http://www.lalsrm.org), click on "Member Resources" at the top of the Home page and login. Scroll down to the "Member Resources" section and click on the "Profile" icon at the far left.

**Step 2.** A window entitled "Membership Account" will open. Scroll down to the section near the bottom that says "Need to update your Roster information?" and click on the blue text that says "Click here to fill out the Roster Update/Correction Form."

**Step 3.** A new window entitled "Roster Update/Correction Form" will open. Fill out the form as shown at right. When entering your phone number, please indicate whether it is cell, home or bus. The large white box at the bottom is for you to type in your equipment. Then hit "Submit" and you are done.



1 Three Easy Steps to create your Roster Profile.



## Electric Panel Enclosure Takes Shape

Les Kovacs and Francis Barnes have been working to build concrete block enclosure for our new electric panel. Main photo shows them hard at work on Friday, October 23. Inset shows enclosure nearly complete with blocks in place. (Diana Manchester and Tim LaGalay photos)



Dramatic photo by Zak Holman approaching the newly renovated Inchberg Bridge .



Eagle Scout James Femino, dad and sister dig trenches for concrete forms with Ted Merchant looking on.” (Diana Manchester Photo)



The *Engine Booster* is the monthly publication of the Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum, a not for profit 501(c)(3) organization.

Editor Peter Fuad

## Member Schedule

### November

- 2 BOD Meeting via Zoom 7 pm
- 29 Souvenir Booth open 11-2

# Back in the Day



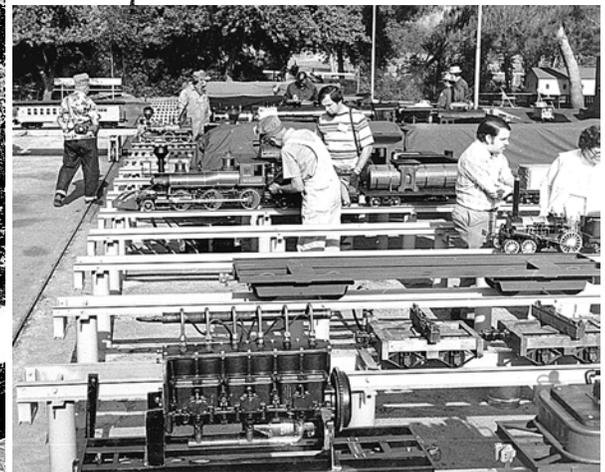
*Left:* Looking west at the southwest corner of LALS during the 1970 BLS Meet. The unfinished Alkire engine/car barn is just left of center, the first "Phil West" car barn is at the upper right, and the registration booth is at lower right.

*Left below:* Looking north at the infield steaming bays during the 1970 BLS Meet. At the left is Sutchville Station with its outside viewing area for the public. At the right is the original stationary steam plant shelter.

*Below:* New parallel steaming bays in 1970.

*Milt Harker Jr. photos.*

*Bottom:* 1898 SP ad for Sunset Limited.



*Below:* Our new P.E. billboard (photo on page 1) has a long lineage.

