

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 01-166

DATE May 16, 2001

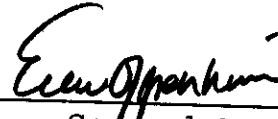
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BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: ARTIFACT DONATION OF ANTIQUE RAILROAD OFFICE DESK TO THE TRAVEL TOWN MUSEUM

J. Combs _____
*A. Corrales _____
J. Duggan _____
H. Fujita _____

J. Kolb _____
M. Tamuri _____
M. Matthews _____



General Manager

Approved _____

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

That the generous donation of an antique roll-top desk to the Travel Town Museum by Marcus and Cynthia Moody {352 Curie Drive, San Jose, California 95119} be accepted with thanks.

SUMMARY:

On May 2, 2001, an antique, roll-top, railroad office desk was donated to the Travel Town Museum by Marcus and Cynthia Moody. The desk belonged to the donor's grandfather, who used the desk while employed for the Pacific Signal Railway Company, and has been in the family for more than three generations. Recently, donors contacted the Museum after visiting the Travel Town Museum's Internet website and made contact with Museum staff through the website's email contact link. The donors will be responsible to appraise the monetary value of the desk.

With this acquisition in hand, Museum staff is preparing for the exhibit called, "The Railroad Office: Keeping on Track," which will discuss the importance of the office worker in keeping a railroad on time and on track. A desk is a dominant object-symbol of the office, and visually represents the connection between railroad station office and the railroad itself. This artifact will be eventually incorporated into a larger exhibit program for the office and waiting area in the Museum's historic Arcadia Southern Pacific Freight Depot. The history of the object and the history of the grandfather's career with the railroad provide opportunities for future study, display, and exhibition. The Museum is delighted to have this artifact as part of its historic collection.

Prepared by Thomas Breckner