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# Morning Open Thread: Last of the Great Train Stations (/stories/2018/5/14/1763639/-Morning-Open-Thread-Last-of-the-Great-Train-Stations)



**officebss (/users/officebss) for MOT - Morning Open Thread (/groups/MOTley%20Crew) Community** (This content is not subject to review by Daily Kos staff prior to publication.)

2018/05/14 · 03:30

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124 Comments 124 New (https://www.dailykos.com/story/2018/5/14/1763639/-Morning-Open-Thread-Last-of-the-Great-

Train-Stations#comments)



**"Nothing was more up-to-date when it was built, or is more obsolete today, than the railroad station." – Ada Louise Huxtable, architecture critic, awarded the first Pulitzer Prize for Criticism**

**There are no unread comments at this time.**

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Welcome to **Morning Open Thread**, a daily post with a MOTley crew of hosts who choose the topic for the day's posting. We support our community, invite and share ideas, and encourage thoughtful, respectful dialogue in an open forum.

This author, who is on Pacific Coast Time, may sometimes show up later than when the post is published. That is a feature, not a bug. Other than that, site rulz rule.



So grab your cuppa, and join in!

#LAUnionStation  
(/tags/LAUnionStati...

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**“Los Angeles Union Station** was built in 1939 and is the largest railroad passenger terminal in the Western United States. It is widely regarded as “the last of the great train stations.” The station’s signature Mission Moderne style makes it one of L.A.’s architectural gems. It was designed by the father-son architect team of John and Donald Parkinson with an innovative blend of Spanish Colonial, Mission Revival, and Art Deco architecture now commonly referred to as Mission Moderne. In the 76 years since its opening, Union Station has captured the spirit and soul of Los Angeles. The station was designed as an expression of the California lifestyle with a spacious ticket hall. It is equipped with an 110-foot-long ticket counter crafted from American Black Walnut and has a vast waiting room, featuring towering 40-foot windows. Also, it is embellished with brass, massive art deco chandeliers, inlaid marble floors and hand-painted mission tiles, along with expansive shaded patios, towering palm trees and a clock tower looming 100 feet above the city. In 1972, Union Station was designated as a Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument and placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980.”

There are no unread comments at this time

— description from *hollywoodlocations.com*



Only Known Footage of Union Station Opening, Shot by Ward Kimball

There are no unread comments at this time.



## Union Station, Los Angeles



Union Station is a rarity in Los Angeles — an iconic landmark that still looks much the way it did when it first opened — a Way-Back Machine to the ages of film noir, 1940s wartime, and 1950s glamour. It's been featured in countless motion pictures. First-time visitors often experience *déjà vu*, the surroundings seem so familiar. There was even a movie made here in 1950 called *Union Station*, starring William Holden and Nancy Olson, a noir detective thriller about a kidnapping.



In this century, Metrolink commuters are likely to outnumber train passengers, but the last of the Western grande dames of rail travel's glory days still outshines its overcrowded neighborhood, and you can still walk over to Philippe's, "Home of the Original French Dip Sandwich" since 1908, and step even farther back in time.





There are no unread comments at this time.

## G'Morning/Afternoon/Evening MOTlies!

Everybody have a mellow Monday

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🐦 (<https://twitter.com/intent/tweet?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.dailykos.com%2Fstory%2F2018%2F5%2F14%2F1763639%2F-Morning-Open-Thread-Last-of-the-Great-Train-Stations&text=Morning+Open+Thread%3A+Last+of+the+Great+Train+Stations>)

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**officebss (/users/officebss)** AUTHOR

May 14, 2018 at 03:30:06 AM

(/comments/1763639/70149794#comment\_70149794)



### Tip Jar

25 Recommend



**Edward Song (/users/edward song)**

May 14, 2018 at 03:44:34 AM

(/comments/1763639/70149806#comment\_70149806)



Thank you for the info! Other than my grandpa, I have never been on a train for decades. One day, I'd like to take a train around the United States.

3 Replies 11 Recommend



**officebss (/users/officebss)** AUTHOR ▶ **Edward Song**

May 14, 2018 at 03:53:28 AM

(/comments/1763639/70149819#comment\_70149819)



G'Morning Edward —

Train travel looks so much more fun to me these days than getting on an overcrowded airplane, squished into a seat where you can barely move. One of my earliest memories is of a train trip I took with my mother as a toddler — in a compartment with magical beds that folded away into the wall, and a great big window to see everything passing by.

1 Reply 14 Recommend



**bearsguy (/users/bearsguy)** ▶ **officebss** AUTHOR

May 14, 2018 at 04:22:54 AM

(/comments/1763639/70149890#comment\_70149890)



As youngsters my Folks would put us on the Train in the N. Illinois suburbs and we'd ride into Chicago to stay with Grandma!!

That was always a treat!!

Except the one time Granny put us on the wrong train to go home!! Part of the adventure, Thankfully the Conductors helped us out!!

1 Reply 8 Recommend



**officebss (/users/officebss)** AUTHOR ▶ **bearsguy**

May 14, 2018 at 04:26:49 AM

(/comments/1763639/70149898#comment\_70149898)

How old were you when you were on the wrong train?

1 Reply 9 Recommend



**bearsguy (/users/bearsguy)** ▶ **officebss** AUTHOR

May 14, 2018 at 05:15:08 AM

(/comments/1763639/70150070#comment\_70150070)

9 or 10!! From what I was told when we finally got home, The station that we got dropped off at was a Bad area! At the time we had no idea, But we kept quiet, So all went well and no hassles!!

**There are no unread comments at this time.**

0 Replies 7 Recommend



**Vega (/users/vega)** ▶ **Edward Song**

May 14, 2018 at 05:22:41 AM

(/comments/1763639/70150101#comment\_70150101)

I have taken trains around the United States in the late 90s/early 2000s. In fact, I've arrived in Los Angeles Union Station by train from the Midwest. The cross-country train travel was an adventure the first couple of times; it got to be tedious, depressing and annoying. I remember the train sitting in the middle of the California desert for hours because there was a mechanical issue (with the brakes, if I remember correctly). There were also all sorts of minor annoyances — many of the rail cars were quite old.

If there were significant upgrades to the tracks and rolling stock, I could be tempted again. I'd also ride in the Northeast, where there are shorter trips and newer, better maintained trains. I did just take commuter rail as a tourist in Southern California to avoid freeway traffic and parking issues.

2 Replies 8 Recommend



**officebss (/users/officebss)** AUTHOR ▶ **Vega**

May 14, 2018 at 05:41:26 AM

(/comments/1763639/70150184#comment\_70150184)

G'Morning Vega —



They definitely need to do something about the older rolling stock, and the routes, which are clearly for freight, not people.

My husband took a trip a few years ago from Los Angeles to Austin TX, with a stop in Albuquerque to visit his sister, but it was a strange, really patched together journey. He wound up having to take a bus for hours in one section to cover a gap between train routes. He also spent some time on one train sitting in the desert, but outside Phoenix AZ, waiting for delayed freight traffic to clear, because freight has priority over passengers.

0 Replies 7 Recommend



**PJEvans (/users/pjevans) ▶ Vega**

May 14, 2018 at 07:05:09 AM

(/comments/1763639/70150771#comment\_70150771)

Amtrak has had equipment maintenance problems. (I've heard stories about a locomotive running out of oil, for example; I think it's partly their lack of money.) Metrolink's crews have a lot of former Amtrak people (contract from them, IIRC), and they mostly don't want to go back to Amtrak; they think the regional rail is better.

**There are no unread comments at this time.**

0 Replies 6 Recommend



**Buster40004 (/users/buster40004) ▶ Edward Song**

May 14, 2018 at 08:27:59 AM

(/comments/1763639/70151556#comment\_70151556)

Ah, yes!

Having worked for both Santa Fe and Amtrak in Los Angeles, I am very familiar with Union Station. It such a unique venue that you see it often in the background of commercial and music videos. It is instantly recognizable once you look behind the performers. Another common background is the Los Angeles River. with its wide sloping sides and a rivulet, not much more than a trickle most of the year that becomes a bank-to-bank raging torrent when it rains. You may also see some of the art deco concrete arched bridges that conducts traffic across the once dry riverbed.

This station replaced the Southern Pacific station on Alameda, not far away from this structure. The SP station was in the middle of the wide street, and I am sure its demise was celebrated by motorists. The Santa Fe station was east of the SP station, nestled alongside the river. The Union Pacific railroad station was across the river in East Los Angeles. All three of these early stations were left disused or were razed once Union Station was opened.

The little know Pacific Electric interurban rail line and the Los Angeles Railway city trolley lines had transfer loops at Union Station where passengers could switch from a long distance train to a local route. Pacific Electric served the Los Angeles suburbs and included a line to Mt. Lowe

where passengers could transfer to a steep mountain line that ended at Ye Alpine Tavern and the Echo Mountain Promotory after a harrowing ride up an inclined railway.

You can not easily see the complex interwoven track structure that connects Union Station to the three railroad properties. Mission Tower is the control center where all of the tracks are switched to connect the in or outbound routes with the proper station platform. At Mission Tower the operator lines up a route and the train winds its way through to transition through its interlocking plant.

The Southern Pacific tracks run alongside the river on the east side, heading north to Burbank Junction where they branch to either the Coast Route and San Francisco or the Valley Route that heads north through the Mojave Desert, across two mountain passes to head up the San Joaquin Valley to Oakland. The SP also heads south to cross the mountains at Beaumont Pass and then on to New Orleans.

The Santa Fe runs along the west side of the river, heading north through Pasadena on its way to San Bernardino and on to Chicago, or to the south toward Fullerton where it branches to San Diego or to San Bernardino where it joins the Pasadena route.

The Union Pacific tracks end at a rail yard in East Los Angeles, near the old UP station. The tracks head east to San Bernardino where they share the Santa Fe route through Cajon Pass and then on through Las Vegas and east to Chicago through Omaha.

1 Reply 5 Recommend



**officebss (/users/officebss)** AUTHOR ► **Buster40004**

May 14, 2018 at 08:45:20 AM

(/comments/1763639/70151708#comment\_70151708)

Thanks Buster40004 —

So much of Los Angeles prior to the 1950s has disappeared, we have to treasure the landmarks we have left even more.

0 Replies 4 Recommend



**Stude Dude (/users/stude dude)**

May 14, 2018 at 03:45:19 AM

(/comments/1763639/70149807#comment\_70149807)

I mowed the lawn again and got the Wacom to work.

2 Replies 10 Recommend



**officebss (/users/officebss)** AUTHOR ► **Stude Dude**

May 14, 2018 at 03:55:45 AM

(/comments/1763639/70149824#comment\_70149824)

G'Morning Stude Dude —

Congratulations on getting the Wacom to work! From your previous description, it sounded like a goner.

1 Reply 8 Recommend



**Stude Dude (/users/stude dude) ► officebss** AUTHOR

May 14, 2018 at 04:59:09 AM

(/comments/1763639/70149990#comment\_70149990)

It's probably on borrowed time now. If it dies, I almost have an excuse to buy a Cintiq clone.

0 Replies 7 Recommend



**LamontCranston (/users/lamontcranston) ► Stude Dude**

May 14, 2018 at 04:56:26 AM

(/comments/1763639/70149980#comment\_70149980)

Where did you finally find the drivers for 10.10?

**There are no unread comments at this time.**

1 Reply 8 Recommend



**Stude Dude (/users/stude dude) ► LamontCranston**

May 14, 2018 at 05:01:13 AM

(/comments/1763639/70149998#comment\_70149998)

I went to the Wacom site and got the first few drivers and loaded them going backwards one at a time. I found one that works good enough. The pressure tip works, but the control panel doesn't load.

2 Replies 9 Recommend



**anon please (/users/anon please) ► Stude Dude**

May 14, 2018 at 05:33:59 AM

(/comments/1763639/70150153#comment\_70150153)

And here I thought the lawn mowing played a role....

1 Reply 6 Recommend



**officebss (/users/officebss) AUTHOR ► anon please**

May 14, 2018 at 05:56:37 AM

(/comments/1763639/70150267#comment\_70150267)

LOL!

0 Replies 6 Recommend

**LamontCranston (/users/lamontcranston) ▶ Stude Dude**

May 14, 2018 at 06:14:25 AM

(/comments/1763639/70150378#comment\_70150378)

I'd give their "Tech Support" a call (or email) if you can, and deal direct with them.

0 Replies 6 Recommend

**BOHICA (/users/bohica)**

May 14, 2018 at 03:53:56 AM

(/comments/1763639/70149821#comment\_70149821)

Bastards

## SP 4449 2018 Fall Excursion cancelled due to Amtrak policy changes!

Amtrak announced recently that it will no longer operate charter services or special trains. This unfortunately means that the SP 4449 excursion that was being planned for late summer/early fall of 2018 will no longer be possible. Amtrak stated that these operations caused significant operational distraction as a reason for the change. We regret Amtrak's decision but have no choice but to cancel the excursion at this time.

The next opportunity to ride behind the SP 4449 will be the ORHF Holiday Express held each year on weekends between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Tickets will go on sale in October.

SP 4449 website (<http://www.4449.com/>)

SP 4449 is based here in PDX. A magnificent beast.

2 Replies 12 Recommend

**officebss (/users/officebss) AUTHOR ▶ BOHICA**

May 14, 2018 at 04:05:33 AM

(/comments/1763639/70149841#comment\_70149841)

BOHICA —

What the heck is "significant operational distraction"? Sounds like Orwell's Newspeak!

I know moving freight is Amtrak's major function, but I'm convinced they could get back a lot of passenger traffic if they made an effort — so many people, me included, now hate to travel by air because of all the hassles, and the sardine-like seating.

SP 4449 is a magnificent beast!



1 Reply 12 Recommend



• **Buster40004 (/users/buster40004) ► officebss** AUTHOR

May 14, 2018 at 08:52:27 AM

(/comments/1763639/70151774#comment\_70151774)

When I worked for Amtrak — 1975 to 1995 — We had nothing but hand-me-down equipment left over from the days of steam. Railroads changed forever in 1971 when Amtrak was born. 90% of America's passenger trains faded into the past. All of that equipment was replaced with new over the years. New as in new construction, not an updated technology. Computerized engine and braking systems were not on the table back then. That would come after the new century began.

Regarding how Amtrak came to be, Congress passed a law creating a 'public-private' company that would take responsibility for passenger trains and the railroads would operate the freight trains. To make this happen, each railroad would have to contribute an amount equal to its last year operating loss to a fund that would be the first year operating fund for Amtrak. Amtrak then bought all of the old (1940s) locomotives and cars, spending all of its recently acquired money. They immediately asked for capital and operating money from Congress, and have done so in ever increasing amounts ever since.

The freight railroads then began streamlining their own operations by removing double track, leaving long stretches of single track with passing sidings. Two trains must meet one another at these wide spots, and if one is late, the other waits. Contrary to popular belief, freight trains do not get priority. Whoever arrives first waits. Often, the slow pokey freight train is late and the passenger train must wait for it.

Some folks I have spoken with have said they want to see high speed trains in America. They compare the trains in Europe and Japan as examples. Both of those areas operate in excess of 200 mph at times, something that requires long stretches of flat straight track. It also requires a roadway that has no grade crossings or freight



traffic. Compare this: Japan spends ten times more on its trains than Amtrak does. Their railroad would easily fit within the state of California. Multiply that by the size of the American railroad and you would never get enough money for an operation that size.

Amtrak's problem is, and always was, money. Eating in the dining car on a trans continental train is subsidized by the government by 50%. And that was on plastic plates and flatware with paper napkins.

I have travelled about 65,000 per year on Amtrak the last ten years I worked there. I can tell you this: It takes way too much time to travel any distance as the average speed was about 35 mph on long distance trains. Los Angeles to Chicago is 40 plus hours of boredom after you do it a few dozen times.

1 Reply 4 Recommend



**officebss (/users/officebss)** AUTHOR ▶ **Buster40004**

May 14, 2018 at 09:04:47 AM

(/comments/1763639/70151874#comment\_70151874)

There are state road commissions at this time. What are the state road commissions at this time. The report — I would think it could be feasible to have high speed trains on short-distance high-traffic routes like the East Coast corridor between New York and Washington, and maybe a comparatively flat route such as Los Angeles to San Diego or L.A to Phoenix.

1 Reply 3 Recommend



**Buster40004 (/users/buster40004)** ▶ **officebss** AUTHOR

May 14, 2018 at 11:25:19 AM

(/comments/1763639/70153139#comment\_70153139)

There needs to be a confluence of a number of factors for high-speed trains to work well. First is money. A regular railroad track costs about a million dollars per mile, assuming you own the land. The grade, bank, and curve are special and very expensive as special machinery is needed. Existing right of way won't do as it does not meet the remaining criteria. The route alignment must be level and with as few curves as possible as both cause the train to go slower. Next is the complete separation from other transport modes such as freight routes and highway crossings. That means tunnels and bridges, which add to the cost. Last is the maintenance of the route to keep it within close tolerance for a smooth ride.

For every percent of grade the power needed to move at the same speed doubles. That means you add extra locomotives to hold the speed on the steepest grade or you go slower. Those

extra locomotives are just along for the ride the rest of the time. If you power each axle on a train, you meet that goal, but each powered axel adds to the cost of purchase and maintenance.

Some armchair railroad experts may differ on these facts with alternative theories, but the railroad industry does not adapt well to progress. It has been said that railroading is a hundred years of tradition uninterrupted by progress. The transistor was available in the 1940s and was common in the 1960s. Railroad manufacturers discovered it in the 1970s, reluctantly.

0 Replies 2 Recommend



**Buster40004 (/users/buster40004) ► BOHICA**

May 14, 2018 at 11:35:10 AM

(/comments/1763639/70153250#comment\_70153250)

These steam engines do draw a crowd when they run. The problem is the rules and regulations that the feds mandate when operating them. In Amtrak's case, you must keep in mind that their benevolence in the past was allowed by a little extra in the budget and that varied year to year and relied on Congress critters that liked trains.

Even though the steam engines ruled the rail for 100 years, today they lack the support systems that are now long gone. A fire engine must be called to fill the tender with water. The engine's operator needs to be licensed to operate over the specific route and usually, a 'pilot' engineer must accompany the 'foreign' engineer. Often, the railroad requires a diesel locomotive to be in the lead to respond to automatic train control, which varies by railroad ownership.

Congress has cut Amtrak's budget as an easily chopped un-necessary expense. They fight this battle every year and it seldom works out well when Republicans are in charge. Just one more reason to dislike tRUmp.

1 Reply 3 Recommend



**officebss (/users/officebss) AUTHOR ► Buster40004**

May 14, 2018 at 11:59:12 AM

(/comments/1763639/70153483#comment\_70153483)

And there already so many! But I think he's just the end result of the Republican Party's far-right trajectory, a symptom of what's wrong with the whole party (plus some faux-Democrats too).

0 Replies 1 Recommend



**MsTribble (/users/mstribble)**

May 14, 2018 at 03:58:15 AM

(/comments/1763639/70149827#comment\_70149827)

In the night thread, I posted my frustration of the day; Why does Avenati know how it needs to be done, while Progressives cry in their wine? Today he posts video of Cohen with Qatari bribers...more to come, of course. Don't come out of that men's room without that gun...

2 Replies 11 Recommend



**officebss (/users/officebss)** AUTHOR ▶ MsTribble

May 14, 2018 at 04:12:41 AM

(/comments/1763639/70149864#comment\_70149864)

G'Morning MsTribble —

Sympathies — I am so frustrated that occupant is still in the Oval Office.

Avenati is very savvy — let's hope he can get the orange menace into a courtroom *soon*.

0 Replies 7 Recommend



**Otteray Scribe (/users/otteray scribe)** ▶ MsTribble

May 14, 2018 at 08:31:31 AM **There are no unread comments at this time.**

(/comments/1763639/70151592#comment\_70151592)

Found on a twitter thread:



1 Reply 6 Recommend



**sockpuppet (/users/sockpuppet)** ▶ Otteray Scribe

May 14, 2018 at 09:38:54 AM

(/comments/1763639/70152159#comment\_70152159)



1 Reply 3 Recommend

**officebss (/users/officebss)** AUTHOR ▶ **sockpuppet**

May 14, 2018 at 09:57:58 AM

(/comments/1763639/70152319#comment\_70152319)

G'Morning sock puppet!

1 Reply 2 Recommend

**sockpuppet (/users/sockpuppet)** ▶ **officebss** AUTHOR

May 14, 2018 at 11:41:25 AM

(/comments/1763639/70153324#comment\_70153324)



0 Replies 1 Recommend

**bearsguy (/users/bearsguy)**

May 14, 2018 at 04:04:26 AM

There are no unread comments at this time.  
(/comments/1763639/70149839#comment\_70149839)

Morning All, Holy cow is it coming down!! I had left but got called too stay home, At one one point visibility was zero going thru the Construction Zone!

Stay dry and enjoy the day!!

1 Reply 9 Recommend

**officebss (/users/officebss)** AUTHOR ▶ **bearsguy**

May 14, 2018 at 04:15:18 AM

(/comments/1763639/70149872#comment\_70149872)

G'Morning bearsguy —

Very glad you are home instead of out on the road or at work. You stay dry and safe.

As for me, staying dry isn't the problem here!

1 Reply 8 Recommend

**bearsguy (/users/bearsguy)** ▶ **officebss** AUTHOR

May 14, 2018 at 05:10:08 AM

(/comments/1763639/70150042#comment\_70150042)

I had one flash of lightning that was so bright all I saw was spots and I had a Semi in the lane next to me, It was kinda tense, Thankfully he sped up and I was able to move over and exit pretty quick.

1 Reply 7 Recommend



**officebss (/users/officebss)** AUTHOR ▶ **bearsguy**

May 14, 2018 at 05:12:37 AM

(/comments/1763639/70150062#comment\_70150062)

Scary!

1 Reply 7 Recommend



**bearsguy (/users/bearsguy)** ▶ **officebss** AUTHOR

May 14, 2018 at 05:52:11 AM

(/comments/1763639/70150238#comment\_70150238)

No doubt!! I remember a few years ago when I was still a Fireman driving the Ladder Truck to a nearby Town for a pretty big fire that went MABAS. It was Winter and the roads were awful, The Fellas in the back were talking smack about my driving..... At the same time the Officer and myself said anyone back there wanna drive??? Silence until we arrived on scene!! Talk about a white knuckle adventure!!

**There are no unread comments at this time.**

1 Reply 6 Recommend



**officebss (/users/officebss)** AUTHOR ▶ **bearsguy**

May 14, 2018 at 06:05:38 AM

(/comments/1763639/70150316#comment\_70150316)

Wow — even scarier!!!

1 Reply 5 Recommend



**bearsguy (/users/bearsguy)** ▶ **officebss** AUTHOR

May 14, 2018 at 06:23:53 AM

(/comments/1763639/70150429#comment\_70150429)

I'll never forget that one, We were there for 14hrs, Our Initial set-up was a bad spot because the water was running out of the building and pooling in our spot. Well it was Cold, In the Teens and I found out the hard way I had a small hole in my Boot, Yep wet foot that went Numb!! We did move but it was too late, We pumped some serious water on that blaze!!

0 Replies 5 Recommend




**Jake Bodhi (/users/jake bodhi)**

May 14, 2018 at 04:29:28 AM

(/comments/1763639/70149903#comment\_70149903)

By happenstance my Mother's Day DVD double feature had two tough moms in "Lady Bird" and "I, Tonya". I, Tonya was a hoot with Allison Janney as Tonya Harding's mom. I was in stitches, a must see DVD!

2 Replies 8 Recommend


**officebss (/users/officebss)** AUTHOR ▶ **Jake Bodhi**

May 14, 2018 at 04:35:23 AM

(/comments/1763639/70149915#comment\_70149915)

G'Morning Jake —

Thanks for the head's up. Allison Janney is terrific, so that does sound like a must-see.

I noticed that both *Mildred Pierce* and *Mommy Dearest* were shown on television yesterday — somebody in program scheduling really doesn't like moms!

0 Replies 8 Recommend


**dijit (/users/dijit)** ▶ **Jake Bodhi**

May 14, 2018 at 05:04:48 AM

(/comments/1763639/70150017#comment\_70150017)

Saw it about a month ago.

HILARIOUS!

0 Replies 7 Recommend


**Mattrek (/users/mattrek)**

May 14, 2018 at 04:44:14 AM

(/comments/1763639/70149937#comment\_70149937)

Morning, if you aren't already then do one thing today towards achieving victory tomorrow. No one will do this for us, we must be the change we seek.

**Not interested in these races? Not a problem, there's plenty of upcoming races and candidates to look through in the complete 2018 Special and Local Elections Calendar!**

**([https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2018/3/17/1749658/-Special-Elections-Turn-the-Wave-Into-a-BlueTsunami2018?\\_=2018-05-10T07:06:55.023-07:00](https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2018/3/17/1749658/-Special-Elections-Turn-the-Wave-Into-a-BlueTsunami2018?_=2018-05-10T07:06:55.023-07:00))**

**May 15th:**

**AL-SD26:** All of west Montgomery and large parts of northern and southern Montgomery. Incumbent Quinton Ross (D), who was senate minority leader, resigned to become president of Alabama State University.

Montgomery city council member **"Coach" David Burkette (D)** is our nominee.

## Democrat David Burkette

- Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/BurketteSenate2018/>)

**\*AL-HD04:** Last election (2010) D 30.1% R 69.9%.

Southwest/west of Huntsville: Huntsville, Priceville, Decatur, Somerville, Oakland(?), etc. Incumbent Micky Hammon (R) pled guilty to mail fraud and was removed from office.

"One Decatur" chairwoman **Juanita Healy (D)** of Decatur is our nominee for the house district.

## Democrat Juanita Healy

- Candidate Website (<https://kenneth-hines-r5lh.squarespace.com/>)

**There are no unread comments at this time.**

- Textbank

([https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdbwTapkiW9Pv6YctGN3lpNBBbez62pstSsnfFUjNMtJR\\_3yA/](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdbwTapkiW9Pv6YctGN3lpNBBbez62pstSsnfFUjNMtJR_3yA/))

- Volunteer for Juanita Healy! (<https://kenneth-hines-r5lh.squarespace.com/volunteer-1/>)

- Donate to Juanita Healy! (<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/juanita-healy-for-alabama-house-of-representatives-1>)

**PA-HD48:** Obama 45.5% Romney 53.2%, Clinton 40.70% Trump 55.39%, last election (2014) D 58.7% R 41.3%.

Southwest of Pittsburgh; part of Washington County: Canonsburg, Charties Township, East Washington, Houston, North Franklin Township, North Strabane Township, South Strabane Township, Washington. Incumbent Brandon Neuman (D) was elected to the Washington County Court of Common Pleas.

Born and raised in Washington County, Attorney **Clark Mitchell Jr (D)** is our candidate.

## Democrat Clark Mitchell Jr.

- Candidate Website (<https://www.voteclarkmitchell.com/>)

- Facebook Page (<http://www.facebook.com/voteclarkmitchell>)

- Textbank

([https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdbwTapkiW9Pv6YctGN3lpNBBbez62pstSsnfFUjNMtJR\\_3yA/](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdbwTapkiW9Pv6YctGN3lpNBBbez62pstSsnfFUjNMtJR_3yA/))

- Donate to Clark Mitchell Jr! (<https://act.myngp.com/Forms/-8879772178276480000>)

- Volunteer for Clark Mitchell Jr!

([https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1mBTkCdXxnwXCnJNRSyOAHm4e0H7jY-H1yNJgcdNOSQE/viewform?edit\\_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1mBTkCdXxnwXCnJNRSyOAHm4e0H7jY-H1yNJgcdNOSQE/viewform?edit_requested=true))

**\*PA-HD68:** Clinton 20.98% Trump 74.62%, Obama 31.3% Romney 67.0%, D 17.8% R 82.2% (2014).

Roughly-rectangular district located along the New York border, in central northern/northeastern Pennsylvania, containing all of Tioga County and parts of Bradford County (Alba, Armenia Township, Canton, Canton Township, Columbia Township, Granville Township, Ridgebury Township, Smithfield Township, South Creek Township, Springfield Township, Sylvania, Troy, Troy Township, Wells Township, West Burlington Township) and Potter County (Galeton, Pike Township). Incumbent Matt Baker (R) resigned to become regional director of the Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs at the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services.

Special education teacher **Carrie Heath (D)** is running.

## Democrat Carrie Heath

**There are no unread comments at this time.**

- Candidate Website (<http://www.heathforpahouse.org/>)

- Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/carrieforthe68th/>)

- Donate to Carrie Heath! (<http://www.heathforpahouse.org/donate>)

- Volunteer for Carrie Heath! (<http://www.heathforpahouse.org/volunteer>)

**\*PA-HD178:** Obama 42.9% Romney 56.2%, Clinton 46.82% Trump 50.00%, last election D 38.93% R 61.07%

West and northwest of Trenton, NJ; part of Bucks County: New Hope, Northampton Township, Solebury Township, Upper Makefield Township, Wrightstown Township. Incumbent Scott Petri (R) will resign to join Philadelphia Parking Authority.

Solebury Township Supervisor **Helen Tai (D)** is our candidate.

## Democrat Helen Tai

- Candidate Website (<http://www.helentai.com/>)

- Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/giveemhelentai/>)

- Twitter (<https://twitter.com/GiveEmHelenTai>)

- Textbank

([https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdbwTapkiW9Pv6YctGN3lpNBBbez62pstSsnfFUjNMtJR\\_3yA/](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdbwTapkiW9Pv6YctGN3lpNBBbez62pstSsnfFUjNMtJR_3yA/))

- Donate to Helen Tai! (<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/r2vht>)

- Volunteer for Helen Tai! (<https://www.helentai.com/contact-us.php>)

1 Reply 9 Recommend



**officebss (/users/officebss)** AUTHOR ► **Mattrek**

May 14, 2018 at 04:55:01 AM

(/comments/1763639/70149973#comment\_70149973)



G'Morning Mattrek —

Thank you so much for doing this!

1 Reply 6 Recommend



**Mattrek (/users/mattrek)** ► **officebss** AUTHOR

May 14, 2018 at 01:06:15 PM

(/comments/1763639/70154109#comment\_70154109)



No problem, I'm not always up super late so my posting is spotty at best being a one man information spreader. Doing what I can though.

~~There are no unread comments at this time.~~

0 Replies 2 Recommend



**Crashing Vor (/users/crashing vor)**

May 14, 2018 at 05:18:34 AM

(/comments/1763639/70150086#comment\_70150086)



Dang, I love trains.

NEVILLE BROTHERS Mistery Train



[1 Reply](#) [9 Recommend](#)**officebss (/users/officebss)** AUTHOR ▶ **Crashing Vor**

May 14, 2018 at 05:30:11 AM

[\(/comments/1763639/70150135#comment\\_70150135\)](/comments/1763639/70150135#comment_70150135)

G'Morning Crashing Vor —

There is something about trains that's just missing from travel today.

There's only a couple of freight trains that come through here in the middle of the night — once in awhile I'll hear one of them whistle, and I always think of Gordon Jenkins' *Seven Dreams* album, which has two train-related dreams — "The Conductor," and this one:

### Crescent City Blues

There are no unread comments at this time.

[0 Replies](#) [7 Recommend](#)**lancelotta (/users/lancelotta)**

May 14, 2018 at 05:26:07 AM

[\(/comments/1763639/70150120#comment\\_70150120\)](/comments/1763639/70150120#comment_70150120)

Your post brings back some great memories for me. In the sixties, when I was a young child, my mother used to travel regularly from New York City to High Point, NC. We would take an Amtrak overnight train. We had our own compartment, with a fold-down bunk bed and our own tiny bathroom. I'd go to sleep gazing out the window at lights passing by, listening to the great rumble of the train as it chugged through the night. In the morning, there'd be a knock on the door to awaken us, and we'd troop down to



the dining car, where we'd enjoy a fine breakfast on a neatly clothed table (with folded cloth napkins and real plates/cutlery). Of course, the kindly and efficient stewards were the heroes who made it happen — ever gracious, and always at hand when needed. Great times... a different, more civil era in America.

1 Reply 9 Recommend



**officebss (/users/officebss)** AUTHOR ► **lancelotta**

May 14, 2018 at 05:44:16 AM

(/comments/1763639/70150205#comment\_70150205)

G'Morning lancelotta —

Thanks for sharing your wonderful memories!

It was a more leisurely and "civilized" way to travel — faster is certainly not always better.

0 Replies 5 Recommend



**River Rover (/users/river rover)**

May 14, 2018 at 05:28:43 AM

(/comments/1763639/70150127#comment\_70150127) ~~There are no unread comments at this time.~~

mornin' everybody

1 Reply 7 Recommend



**officebss (/users/officebss)** AUTHOR ► **River Rover**

May 14, 2018 at 05:49:25 AM

(/comments/1763639/70150230#comment\_70150230)

G'Morning River Rover —

"Little do ye know your own blessedness; for **to travel hopefully** is a **better** thing **than to arrive**, and the true success is to labour."

— Robert Louis Stevenson

1 Reply 5 Recommend



**River Rover (/users/river rover)** ► **officebss** AUTHOR

May 14, 2018 at 06:13:34 AM

(/comments/1763639/70150373#comment\_70150373)

you can't come to

know a river

from the

banks

The

soul

of a

river is

found in

the current

0 Replies 7 Recommend



**The grouch (/users/the grouch)**

May 14, 2018 at 05:46:22 AM

(/comments/1763639/70150214#comment\_70150214)



“Morning, O’boss and everyone. ~~There are no thread comments at this time.~~ Interesting stuff. The way they do it matter. They seem to do it so much better in Europe and Asia now.

**Nilsson - Nobody Cares About the Railroads Anymore**



1 Reply 7 Recommend



**officebss (/users/officebss)** AUTHOR ▶ **The grouch**

May 14, 2018 at 05:54:52 AM

(/comments/1763639/70150254#comment\_70150254)



G'Morning Grouch! —

Thanks for the Nilsson. Sadly true — railroads are all about freight in most of America these days.

0 Replies 5 Recommend



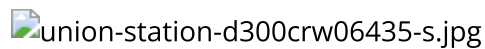
**exlrrp (/users/exlrrp)**

May 14, 2018 at 05:53:11 AM

(/comments/1763639/70150244#comment\_70150244)

but the last of the Western grande dames of rail travel's glory days

**What???** You never heard of Portland Union Station ???!!



**There are no unread comments at this time.**

3 Replies 9 Recommend



**bearsguy (/users/bearsguy) ► exlrrp**

May 14, 2018 at 05:54:40 AM

(/comments/1763639/70150252#comment\_70150252)

Union Station must be a common name for stations Nationwide, Union Station in Chicago as well!!

3 Replies 6 Recommend



**exlrrp (/users/exlrrp) ► bearsguy**

May 14, 2018 at 05:57:45 AM

(/comments/1763639/70150273#comment\_70150273)

It meant Trains from different railroads stopped there. Originally each railroad had its own station but that got unworkable sometimes—Chicago had 17 railroads at one time-- so cities started putting them together

2 Replies 9 Recommend



**exlrrp (/users/exlrrp) ► exlrrp**

May 14, 2018 at 05:59:58 AM

(/comments/1763639/70150284#comment\_70150284)

In Portland station at one time trains from Southern Pacific, Northern Pacific, Union Pacific, Great Northern and Seattle, Portland and Spokane stopped there

0 Replies 6 Recommend



**PJEvans (/users/pjevans)** ► **exlrrp**

May 14, 2018 at 07:00:39 AM

(/comments/1763639/70150729#comment\_70150729)

LA Union has Gold Line (area trolley), Metrolink, and Amtrak. Does that count?

1 Reply 6 Recommend



**exlrrp (/users/exlrrp)** ► **PJEvans**

May 14, 2018 at 07:15:58 AM

(/comments/1763639/70150867#comment\_70150867)

When it was built, it served SP, UP, Santa Fe and Pacific Electric

0 Replies 5 Recommend  
There are no unread comments at this time.



**Chitown Kev (/users/chitown kev)** ► **bearsguy**

May 14, 2018 at 06:00:35 AM

(/comments/1763639/70150290#comment\_70150290)

and Washington D.C.

0 Replies 6 Recommend



**officebss (/users/officebss)** AUTHOR ► **bearsguy**

May 14, 2018 at 06:03:05 AM

(/comments/1763639/70150301#comment\_70150301)

Yes it is — “union station” is the term for a station where more than one railroad company operated — in Europe, they’re called “joint stations.”

1 Reply 8 Recommend



**bearsguy (/users/bearsguy)** ► **officebss** AUTHOR

May 14, 2018 at 06:16:41 AM

(/comments/1763639/70150391#comment\_70150391)

See, Learn a little tidbit everyday!! :)

1 Reply 7 Recommend

**officebss (/users/officebss)** AUTHOR ► **bearsguy**



• May 14, 2018 at 06:20:06 AM  
(/comments/1763639/70150404#comment\_70150404)

One of the benefits of being a MOTley!

1 Reply 7 Recommend



• **bearsguy (/users/bearsguy)** ► **officebss** AUTHOR

May 14, 2018 at 06:25:39 AM  
(/comments/1763639/70150439#comment\_70150439)

LOL, My bride thinks I should be on Jeopardy!!

2 Replies 6 Recommend



• **officebss (/users/officebss)** AUTHOR ► **bearsguy**

May 14, 2018 at 06:32:15 AM  
(/comments/1763639/70150495#comment\_70150495)

**There are no unread comments at this time.**

My husband is a 5-time Jeopardy! champion — it was an amazing experience — for both of us — but sitting in the audience was *really* nerve-racking — absolutely nothing you can do but think good thoughts!

0 Replies 8 Recommend



• **bearsguy (/users/bearsguy)** ► **bearsguy**

May 14, 2018 at 06:39:39 AM  
(/comments/1763639/70150547#comment\_70150547)

My bride finds it amazing just how much Random and please don't take this as anything bad, But Useless items of knowledge that in many ways could pay off that I or anyone for that matter know!! Is there anyway that one could prepare for that experience?

1 Reply 7 Recommend



• **officebss (/users/officebss)** AUTHOR ► **bearsguy**

May 14, 2018 at 07:00:18 AM  
(/comments/1763639/70150723#comment\_70150723)



Yes and no — you won't know until Alex Trebek reveals the categories what you'll be dealing with, but doing crossword puzzles helped my husband with the "10-letter words for" categories, and learning the U.S. state symbols and nicknames came in handy.

Knowing U.S. Presidents, and the names of their First Ladies and VPs often helps.

He also studied the #1 songs and names of groups and singers from 1990 on, since that was an area where he didn't know much.

Hand speed counts a lot more than people realize — it put him at a disadvantage in the Tournament of Champions, since he was the second-oldest player there.

**There are no unread comments at this time.** And betting is important — so many people lose because they get intimidated by the money — you have to think of it as play money, like Monopoly, until you actually win — because it *isn't real* until then.

He knows a lot about Opera and Ballet — categories where men usually don't do as well, but he also knows sports, where women often don't do well.

He was so frustrated when players in a different championship game got the Astronomy category, and knew almost none of the answers — he would have run the category.

A lot of how you do is just luck — whether you get categories you know about or not. But the more things you have knowledge about, the better you'll do.

1 Reply 8 Recommend



**bearsguy (/users/bearsguy) ► officebss AI**

May 14, 2018 at 07:12:30 AM

(/comments/1763639/70150833#comme

Awesome!! LOL The betting, I'm one to go All in to Win, OMG, My bride would be screaming at me!

1 Reply 6 Recommend



**officebss (/users/officebss)** AUTHOR ▶ bears

May 14, 2018 at 07:20:55 AM

(/comments/1763639/70150902#comme

Maybe in her head, but she'd be escorted out of the studio if she actually screamed at you — I had fingernail grooves worn into my palms for hours after each game.

1 Reply 5 Recommend



**bearsguy (/users/bearsguy)** ▶ officebss AI

May 14, 2018 at 07:28:52 AM

(/comments/1763639/70150959#comme

**There are no unread comments at this time.**

That's Good!! :) I could imagine the stress you had. Tell your Hubby Outstanding job!!

Who knows.....

1 Reply 5 Recommend



**officebss (/users/officebss)** AUTHOR ▶ bears

May 14, 2018 at 08:52:29 AM

(/comments/1763639/70151775#comme

He had to try out six times — he always did well on both the written tests and the mock games, but most of the applicants are middle-aged white males, so it's easier to get chosen if you are somehow unusual — but sheer persistence also works!

1 Reply 4 Recommend



**bearsguy (/users/bearsguy)** ▶ officebss AI

May 14, 2018 at 10:28:55 AM

(/comments/1763639/70152563#comme

I can be eccentric, That could help me!! LOL



**officebss (/users/officebss)** AUTHOR ▶ **exlrrp**

May 14, 2018 at 06:00:30 AM

(/comments/1763639/70150288#comment\_70150288)

G'Morning exlrrp —

Impressive, but not as elegant as L.A's Union Station.

2 Replies 6 Recommend



**exlrrp (/users/exlrrp)** ▶ **officebss** AUTHOR

May 14, 2018 at 06:02:45 AM

(/comments/1763639/70150300#comment\_70150300)

Ever been there? Its impressive enough.

1 Reply 5 Recommend

There are no unread comments at this time.



**officebss (/users/officebss)** AUTHOR ▶ **exlrrp**

May 14, 2018 at 06:09:51 AM

(/comments/1763639/70150345#comment\_70150345)

I'm looking at your picture — it has a much more "rustic" look.

1 Reply 6 Recommend

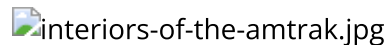


**exlrrp (/users/exlrrp)** ▶ **officebss** AUTHOR

May 14, 2018 at 06:28:44 AM

(/comments/1763639/70150463#comment\_70150463)

Its a lot older than LA Union Station, completed in 1890, which would make it the Grand Dame of West Coast Union Stations. LA Station completed 1939 which would make it a teenybopper compared to Portland



1 Reply 6 Recommend



**officebss (/users/officebss)** AUTHOR ▶ **exlrrp**

May 14, 2018 at 06:36:00 AM

(/comments/1763639/70150519#comment\_70150519)

I think it's the really handsome lumberjack of railroad stations — apples and oranges!

1 Reply 5 Recommend



**exlrrp (/users/exlrrp)** ► **officebss** AUTHOR

May 14, 2018 at 06:50:10 AM

(/comments/1763639/70150634#comme

Maybe, but I guarantee you the diary title is wrong.

Typical Californian

*"The world ends north of Yreka!!"*

(rolls eyes)

1 Reply 5 Recommend

There are no unread comments at this time.



**officebss (/users/officebss)** AUTHOR ► **exlrrp**

May 14, 2018 at 07:15:41 AM

(/comments/1763639/70150865#comme

LOL! The title is a quote from the *hollywoodlocations.com*

description of L.A.'s Union Station.

I'm not alone in my appreciation of the Mission Moderne style of our station — it's the first picture in a *New York Times* article about L.A. Art Deco treasures.

(I admit that the *New York Times* saying something positive about L.A. architecture was a surprise to me.)

0 Replies 4 Recommend



**RiveroftheWest (/users/riverofthewest)** ► **officebss** AUTHOR

May 14, 2018 at 11:10:54 AM

(/comments/1763639/70153000#comment\_70153000)

That *Mission Moderne* is lovely with its strong Deco influence. Portland's has a vibe similar to the great mountain vacation lodges of that era. I'm very glad both have survived when so many others didn't.

L.A.'s was built the year after I was born; I'm sorry I never went to see it when I lived in SoCal.

0 Replies 1 Recommend



**enhydra lutris (/users/enhydra lutris) ▶ exlrrp**

May 14, 2018 at 08:01:07 AM

(/comments/1763639/70151275#comment\_70151275)

Pizza stop on the Oakland-Seattle run, remember it well.

1 Reply 6 Recommend



**exlrrp (/users/exlrrp) ▶ enhydra lutris**

May 15, 2018 at 06:06:40 AM

(/comments/1763639/70158926#comment\_70158926)

~~There are no unread comments at this time.~~  
YEs and I always buy a taco when I go by LA on the way to San Diego

1 Reply 2 Recommend



**enhydra lutris (/users/enhydra lutris) ▶ exlrrp**

May 15, 2018 at 07:23:14 AM

(/comments/1763639/70159584#comment\_70159584)

;-) (actually, you can probably get a better taco in San Diego)

FWIW, we didn't get off on our one trip through, but the P.A. announcer did state that we would be holding there long enough to hop of and get a slice should we see fit.

0 Replies 1 Recommend



**LamontCranston (/users/lamontcranston)**

May 14, 2018 at 05:57:45 AM

(/comments/1763639/70150274#comment\_70150274)

I grew up taking the train to my relatives apartment in the Bronx, and have fond memories of the New haven Train Station as a kid along. Ever since I was a little kid, I have always had a fascination with trains, and I now ride them every time I get the chance to do so.



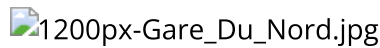
**New Haven  
CT train  
station —  
My earliest**

**memories  
of rail travel**

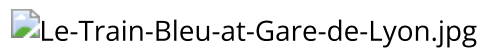
---

Most of my rail travel over the past 30 years has been in the EU, and the rail system there is great. My favorite train stations are to be found in Germany, and in France.

One of three train stations in Paris France, and the one that services high speed travel throughout the EU called "Gare du Nord": Big, and beautiful. The waiting area of this station is filled with restaurants and shops of all kinds, and is different than those found in America today, and from yesterday:



Here's a picture of probably the best train station restaurant in the world, again found in one of the other of the three Paris train stations called "Gare Du Lyon". The restaurant is called "Le Train Bleu":



**No Burger King, or fast food found here!**

---

A modern Deutsche Bahn in the main train station in Frankfurt Germany, ready to leave on one of the many tracks found underneath the large, overhanging station platforms:

**There are no unread comments at this time.**



**Nice and  
dry.**

---



**Frankfurt train station from the  
outside**

---

Picture of German Inner City ICE high speed train seating (yes, those are tv screens on the seats in front of you): Why fly when you can ride a train like this around the EU (and even regionally)?? NOTE: Always purchase the first class seating option, not surprisingly that much more in price, but far better in comfort and amenities, as well as you can reserve your seats when booking, as opposed to 2nd class seating in most countries. That's real handy if you choose to travel at peak holiday times around the EU, as everybody is scrambling to travel to get somewhere for the them. You know you have a seat, no matter what. We leaned that tick from having traveled to Germany and France for a couple of Xmas trips, as well as travel in the month of August when many Europeans are on vacation doing what you are doing: On vacation, and traveling around!



These seats are 1,000 times more comfortable than even First Class airline seats, and they serve some serious good food, and beverages along with reading material, all brought to you, in your seat! Notice the seat back sleep feature on the seat to the right in the picture. You can catch some serious "ZZZ's" if

you've been on the go, and need to catch up before your next travel destination. In 30 years of international travel, "Ms. LC" and I have only rented cars twice, and have ridden the rails throughout the EU to where we have traveled to: Wouldn't do it any differently.

Take time to smell the roses along the way in your travels (and to look out the train window at the beautiful passing scenery, wherever your travels take you).

Happy rail travels!

Be safe out there.

5 Replies 9 Recommend



**LamontCranston (/users/lamontcranston) ► LamontCranston**

May 14, 2018 at 05:59:07 AM

(/comments/1763639/70150281#comment\_70150281)

Ignore poor grammar and broken thoughts in first sentence.. No coffee yet.

Sorry.

**There are no unread comments at this time.**

1 Reply 6 Recommend



**bearsguy (/users/bearsguy) ► LamontCranston**

May 14, 2018 at 06:46:00 AM

(/comments/1763639/70150597#comment\_70150597)

No worries LC, That's my Norm even after coffee!!! :)

0 Replies 6 Recommend



**LamontCranston (/users/lamontcranston) ► LamontCranston**

May 14, 2018 at 06:02:35 AM

(/comments/1763639/70150299#comment\_70150299)

WOW!!! What was I typing, and thinking this AM.

To bad there isn't any edit feature to use on comments after you hit the submit button!! My brain is not functioning... leaving to get that coffee.. See ya!

1 Reply 5 Recommend



**officebss (/users/officebss) AUTHOR ► LamontCranston**

May 14, 2018 at 06:12:23 AM

(/comments/1763639/70150363#comment\_70150363)

G'Morning Lamont —



No worries — It was very clear to me — Thanks for the tour — but now I'm craving a croissant!

1 Reply 5 Recommend



**LamontCranston (/users/lamontcranston)**

► **officebss** AUTHOR

May 14, 2018 at 06:15:33 AM

(/comments/1763639/70150383#comment\_70150383)

Sipping that first cup, and now, right as rain!

0 Replies 5 Recommend



**Major Kong (/users/major kong)** ► LamontCranston

May 14, 2018 at 06:17:01 AM

(/comments/1763639/70150394#comment\_70150394)

Well sure, but those are *civilized* countries.

1 Reply 7 Recommend



**There are no unread comments at this time.**  
**officebss (/users/officebss)** AUTHOR ► Major Kong

May 14, 2018 at 06:23:22 AM

(/comments/1763639/70150426#comment\_70150426)

G'Morning Major Kong —

The gap between the *civilized* countries and us is currently growing at an alarming rate.

Good to see you here this morning.

0 Replies 7 Recommend



**Brecht (/users/brecht)** ► LamontCranston

May 14, 2018 at 07:18:42 AM

(/comments/1763639/70150888#comment\_70150888)

I enjoyed your scenic tour. I've been to all of those but Frankfurt. Had more than a hundred train trips in Europe, mostly British Rail, though I found SNCF the best. When I was living in Europe, the ambitious travel option was to get a month-long Eurail pass, and get to as many countries as you could manage, going overnight if you couldn't afford hotels or hostels in between.

Now I'm lucky to live two blocks from the #10 Big Blue Bus, which can drop me one long block from Union Station in downtown LA. I've been there a few times, on my way down to San Diego, which is a pleasant and lovely trip. And the last Raymond Chandler I read, Playback,

spends its opening chapters in Union Station and on that same train south.



2 Replies 8 Recommend

There are no unread comments at this time.



**officebss (/users/officebss)** AUTHOR ► Brecht

May 14, 2018 at 07:54:06 AM

(/comments/1763639/70151213#comment\_70151213)

G'Morning Brecht

0 Replies 5 Recommend



**LamontCranston (/users/lamontcranston)** ► Brecht

May 14, 2018 at 05:13:16 PM

(/comments/1763639/70156052#comment\_70156052)

I am jealous of your having lived in the EU: Unfortunately, it is a dream for me, but we to many responsibilities owning a farm to even begin to think about that, so short trips is all we can do for now.

0 Replies 3 Recommend



**RiveroftheWest (/users/riverofthewest)** ► LamontCranston

May 14, 2018 at 11:23:06 AM

(/comments/1763639/70153116#comment\_70153116)

Those are magnificent. The only overseas RR station I've been in was in Helsinki. Not on the grand scale of the ones above but very nice, also a '30s Art Deco design. I remember my friend pointing out a newly-arrived passenger train at the far side of the tracks, saying *"That one just came in from the Arctic Circle!"*

Finland has a fine transportation system.

1 Reply 2 Recommend



**officebss (/users/officebss)** AUTHOR ▶ **RiveroftheWest**

May 14, 2018 at 11:51:59 AM

(/comments/1763639/70153429#comment\_70153429)



G'Afternoon RiveroftheWest!

0 Replies 2 Recommend



**Chitown Kev (/users/chitown ke)**

May 14, 2018 at 06:05:56 AM

(/comments/1763639/70150318#comment\_70150318)



Union Station- Chicago, Illinois



Union Station, Chicago...the interior

1 Reply 8 Recommend

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**officebss (/users/officebss)** AUTHOR ▶ **Chitown Kev**

May 14, 2018 at 06:16:28 AM

(/comments/1763639/70150389#comment\_70150389)

G'Morning Chitown Kev —

Thanks for the pictures!

0 Replies 5 Recommend



**wesmorgan1 (/users/wesmorgan1)**

May 14, 2018 at 06:46:37 AM

(/comments/1763639/70150603#comment\_70150603)

**For some, US passenger rail still works well.**

From Kentucky, I can do Amtrak round-trip to NYC for \$240. It's a long haul — 17-½ hours one-way, 2 hours of which are spent in layover in DC's Union Station — but it's comfortable, scenic and relaxing.

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