

The Travel Town



A Publication of the Travel Town Museum Foundation

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September 2008

Greetings from Travel Town!

This summer has been a “hot” one at Griffith Park, and we’re not just talking about the weather! Throughout the summer, a rash of suspicious brush fires have broken out in various areas of the Park; several of them were quite close to Travel Town and resulted in the Museum being evacuated on three occasions. Fortunately for all, quick and hard work from firefighters brought the blazes under control and prevented any damage to the Museum and its grounds. Nonetheless, we had some pretty tense moments on several busy weekends. The suspicious nature of the fires was confirmed on Saturday afternoon, August 16th, when a series of FIVE separate fires erupted around the Park within a two-hour period. Fire investigators were out in force the following Saturday and, sure enough, another similar fire erupted on a hillside near Travel Town – at nearly the same time in the afternoon as on the previous weekend. Luckily, observant park visitors spotted an out-of-place bicyclist attempting to flee the area of the fire. According to the *L.A. Times*, police arrested and charged the man, a transient already on probation for another arson conviction, with setting the fire.



Investigators believe the same man is connected with a total of eight recent fires in the Park! We’re glad to have that guy behind bars!

Many accolades and great thanks to the Los Angeles City and County Fire Departments, as well as those from neighboring Glendale and Burbank, who all too frequently have joined forces to protect our wonderful park!

Brush fires have always been, and will continue to be, a big concern for everyone in Griffith Park – so just a few reminders for all of us: When you are visiting or working in the Park, please **BE CAREFUL**. Obey the no smoking regulations. Only use barbecues in permitted areas. And please keep a watchful eye out for suspicious or hazardous activities. If you see something or someone of concern, call 911 or the Park Police at 323-913-7390 immediately! We all have to work together to keep the Park safe and secure.



On a lighter note, our annual DEPOT DAY celebration is just a few weeks away! We’ll look forward to seeing you there!

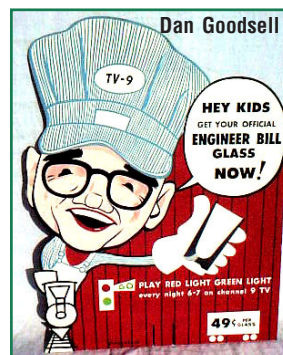
Greg Gneier, President
Travel Town Museum Foundation
September 2008

“Engineer Bill” Stulla, 1911-2008

William “Engineer Bill” Stulla passed away on August 12 at the age of 97. “Engineer Bill” was a well known and beloved Los Angeles TV personality in the 1950s and 60s.

Travel Town Museum Foundation President Greg Gneier remembers,

Many of us grew up watching him and his “Cartoon Express” on Channel 9. He and his “Red Light, Green Light” game helps us remember to ‘drink our milk.’ Engineer Bill also made the rounds of local supermarkets, where kids would line up for a chance to pull the “Big Whistle.” I remember going to see him at “The Boy’s Market” in Long Beach about 1967 - my sister got the ‘Big Whistle’ and received a case of Bit-O-Honey candy bars!



On the Platform . . . Paul Estavillo

The Travel Town Museum proudly welcomes Mr. Paul Estavillo to our Foundation staff as our new Program Director. Paul will be managing our volunteers on the weekends, and has some great expansion plans in store for our educational outreach program:

We need to target adults, educators and students in our community that have a love for trains and history. There are many events and issues which connect people to trains, whether it is a memory of a train ride or a train set under their Christmas tree as a child. My personal connection is inherited from my father's employment by the Civil Conservation Corps in the 1930's where Travel Town Museum is located today. After World War II, metal Quonset huts were used to house WWII veterans and their families after the war. This housing area was called Roger Young Village and it was located where the present Griffith Park



golf course is. My parents did take me on a train ride at Travel Town, put a train set under our Christmas tree and took us on many rides on the old L.A. Red Cars and train trips in the south West United States, so I'm hooked.

Paul is a teacher during the school year at Providence High, right down the road from Travel Town. His fun attitude and ability to understand and motivate teenagers will be a great help with our high school volunteer program, as well as helping develop our educational outreach programs. Being in the military and a coach has also helped him organize our volunteers, and his interest in archaeology seems like a natural fit with all the relics around Travel Town.

We'd also like to welcome two Providence seniors employed part time in our gift shop, Toluca Scarfo and Macy Tone. Paul poses with his two students in the picture at left. Welcome all!

Take "Note" of Depot Day's Music Shows!

Travel Town's annual Depot Day always promises a fun time, with special tours, exhibits, games and guests like "Sir Topham Hat." This year's event promises to be better than ever, thanks in part to a fabulous and talented line-up of musical performances. Be sure to make a point of catching the following shows amongst all the other activities on October 12!

Depot Day Performance Schedule - October 12, 2008

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 11:00 a.m. | The Conductors
Debuting their new CD release at Travel Town! Listen to their tunes and see upcoming shows at http://www.myspace.com/theconductorsusa . |
| 12:00 noon | Jim Starr, the Singing Cop
Learn about Jim and the Starr-Gen Safety Foundation at www.starrgen.org . |
| 1:00 p.m. | The Hollow Trees
A fun folk group! Music the whole family will enjoy - check 'em out at www.thehollowtrees.com . |
| 2:00 p.m. | The Hoover High School Jazz Band
Come listen to the wonderful sounds of these talented young people! |



The Hollow Trees

Jim Starr, The Singing Cop



The Conductors

Travel Town Museum Foundation members are cordially invited to

Depot Day

at the Travel Town Museum

An exclusive "Open House"

Special tours through
Passenger Cars and other
Engines

Member's Hospitality area
with complimentary
refreshments and playday!
Special "game train" for
the kids!

Sunday, October 12th - 11am to 3pm
Tracks 4, 5 and 6 under the Locomotive Pavilion

Learn about our
volunteer program!
See the restoration
work-in-progress!

**Please RSVP if you will
attend to
323-668-0104,
or on-line at
Traveltown.org**

Visit by Sir
Topham Hatt!
Bring your
camera!

We've Been Working . . .

Here's an "at-a-glance" look at the restoration work that's been going on at Travel Town. If you'd like to join the fun, just give a call to the Foundation office at 323-668-0104 or e-mail volunteers.tt@traveltown.org. You can even register online at www.traveltown.org!



S.P. 219 Locomotive

☞ Volunteer steam specialist Paul Boschan (under the hair-splitting supervision of fellow volunteer Steve Devorkin) makes operational adjustments on the newly rebuilt steam air pump for the S.P. 219 locomotive.



☞ Initial mechanical restoration work on our 1945 Railway Express Agency delivery truck is nearing completion; volunteer Greg Ramsey contemplates the next step in rehabilitating the International Harvester's original "Green Diamond" engine.

☞ Volunteer Allan Jennings completes the wood finishing work on a vintage Travel Town depot bench.



☞ Volunteer mechanic Pete Hayward has been really "going to town" when it comes to the S.P. 219 project. Pete comes all the way from Tehachapi to work on our steam locomotive rehabilitation effort.

☞ Veteran volunteer Roger Ringle and students Damien Flores and Dimitar Tantchev, work to remove the rear running board brackets from the S.P. 219 locomotive.



☞ Conservation and restoration work continues on the 1930s Southern Pacific wood-sided Box Car, as seen by these "before" and "after" photos.

☞ Volunteer Mike Teti is replacing the car's roof-top running boards.



U.S. Navy Flat Car

☞ Boy Scout Eagle candidate Zach Totten, of Oxnard, has taken on the very ambitious work of restoring the Museum's ex-U.S. Navy Flat Car as his Eagle Leadership project. The effort involves stripping and repainting the car's steel underframe, rehabilitating the wood cargo deck, and repainting the car's lettering.

☞☞☞ Zach, along with Travel Town volunteers Brad Slosar and Gary Teti, are making great progress on refitting the wood cargo deck on the Navy Flat Car. Many thanks to the folks at our local Stock Building Materials lumber yard for giving Zach a great deal on new replacement timbers!

☞☞ Boy Scouts from Zach's troop pitched in to help refinish the Flat Car underframe and remove the old wood decking. Here we see the collective efforts of some of the Troop 234 Scouts, including Griffin Ross, Tyler Young, and Josh Thomas, along with Zach's dad, Tom Totten.



On the Railroad!

This spring the foundation continued two great relationships with schools in the Los Angeles area. Our Zoo Magnet volunteers this year were five seniors who volunteered and helped finish painting the exterior of our boxcar. In the first year of this project, students helped prepare and paint the south side of the boxcar, by far the side in the worst condition as it was under constant exposure to the sun. In the second year, students participating in the Work-Study program at the Zoo magnet painted the north side. By thiws time, the car had been moved under the shelter of the locomotive pavilion.



Ian Guerra, Josh Calvo and Hugo Plummer, 2008 graduates of Zoo Magnet High School.



South end of the boxcar, after corrosional was applied to the bottom of the end-panel.

This year, our seniors prepared and painted the ends of the car, and prepared and sealed the roof of the car. This year the work has been more difficult because the ends of the car are metal, so they needed to be cleaned up with air-operated needle guns. They also needed to be cleaned continuously as there is a great deal of dirt and dust that gets circulated since we are so close to the freeway. The students would wipe down an area, corroseal it (a process which seals the metal from water and stops rust), and then paint it.

Part of the learning process for these students was time-management and planning – a bit of a challenge as all of these students had other activities that press in on Seniors in their last semester of school. (Add to that that two of the boys had physical injuries this year, and they had to switch off which ones were able to climb on scaffolding!)

The Foundation hopes to use this great talent resource again in the future – as a matter of fact, we have hired two Zoo Magnet students as employees in the past because of their excellent enthusiasm and dedication!

Our second relationship was with the Los Angeles Trade Tech students in Mr. George Evans' Graphic Arts class. These students had the assignment to develop advertising flyers for our educational outreach programs in hopes of recruiting students, seniors and others interested in volunteering at our Museum. Nancy Gneier, our Executive Director, visited the campus and was able to critique and choose the advertisements for the Foundation's advertising for next year.



L.A. Trade Tech students (from left): Sherman Clark, Angela Contreras, instructor George Evans, Nancy Gneier, Anthony Johnson and Manuel Garica.

The students mounted their designs and had them on display in the Museum's Arcadia Depot during the month of May. "The opportunities present at the Travel Town Museum are wonderful for my students," Mr. Evans says. "I like the fact that these kids are not only learning graphic arts and advertising, but being helpful members to society and giving back to their community. I'm teaching them social responsibility as well as design." We hope to foster other programs with the college and Mr. Evans in the next few years also.



Above left is the winning design by Sherman Clark. Two runners up, from top right, are by Anthony Johnson and Angela Contreras.

Experience History Hands-On!

It's easy to join the Travel Town restoration team:

- Call: 323-668-0104
- E-mail: volunteers.tt@traveltown.org
- Register Online: www.traveltown.org

First Annual "Train Day" Celebrations a Big Hit at the Museum



May 10th was celebrated across the Nation at railroad stations as a way to celebrate "Train Day," the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869. Our Foundation had a sale in the gift shop and a special awards ceremony and luncheon for our dedicated volunteers who had earned special levels of volunteer hours in the past year. Below is a list of our volunteers and their awards:

Gold Level

Young Adults: 250 hours or more

John Stumreiter – 319 hours

Silver Level:

Young Adults: 175 to 249 hours of service

Derek Reinholz - 212 hours

Adults: 250 to 499 hours of service

Kirk Reinholz - 330 hours

Gregory Gneier - 363 hours

Gregory Ramsey – 436 hours

Bronze Level

Young Adults: 100 to 174 hours of service

Samantha Desjardins – 115 hours

Sabrina Desjardins – 116 hours

Robert Atienza – 117 hours

Alan Jennings – 169 hours

Adults: 100 to 249 hours of service

Roger Ringle - 142 hours

John Evans – 160 hours

Michael Teti - 168 hours

Brad Slosar – 180 hours

Craig Smith – 248 hours

If you are interested in earning one of these awards and coming to great luncheons like this, restoring pieces of American history, or making that history available to the visiting public please give Paul Estavillo, Volunteer Program Manager, a call or e-mail at 323-668-0104 ext.13 or volunteers@traveltown.org.



In line at the lunch table are (from left) employee Bill Dale, volunteer Greg Ramsey, George Evans from Los Angeles Trade Tech, and volunteer Roger Ringle.



Lunch service as our volunteers wait. In line are, left to right, Thomas "Doc" Halle, Bryan Reese, Bob Arbuckle, Nancy Gneier, John Evans, and a Scout from Greg Ramseys troop who was finishing up his railroad merit badge work that day.



Nancy Gneier presents Sabrina Desjardins with her Presidential Service award.



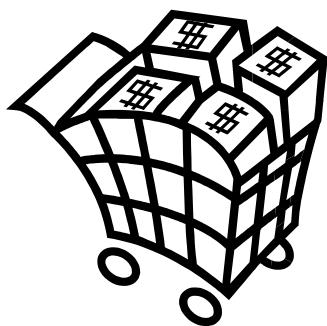
Brad Slosar proudly shows off his award packet while enjoying lunch.







Michael Teti and his award in front of the SP219, which is undergoing restoration.

Buy Groceries and Restore Trains... at the Same Time!



With these challenging economic times, we are all looking for ways to save money, make money or use our money more wisely. If you shop at either Vons, Pavilions, or Ralphs in the local Los Angeles Area, we are hoping that you will take two minutes to really make a difference for the trains at Travel Town. If you shop at the above-mentioned stores, you probably use their "Club cards" in order to take advantage of their savings. Good for you! They already have all your information



Ralphs

-  Go to www.ralphs.com and click the "community contributions" link on the left.
-  You are a "participant" so click on the "sign up" on the right box.
-  Fill out the forms. The Travel Town NPO is 81111.
-  When you make your purchases your receipt will say "Thank you for supporting the Travel Town Museum."

VONS/Pavilions

-  go to www.escrip.com.
-  Follow the simple directions. The Travel Town Museum Foundation's Group Number is 1094834.

on file, so don't feel squeamish about registering your card again, just link your usage with our foundation! This really helps our foundation, but everyone has to do it!

With only three families signed up last year, we earned over \$50 in donations from these programs. PLEASE help us turn that into \$5000 by registering your cards, your families' cards, your friends' cards, etc!

If you are at the museum, feel free to stop by the Foundation office next to the gift shop and we will be glad to do the registering for you online!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!!



All Aboard!

A warm welcome to the newest members and renewing supporters of the Travel Town Museum Foundation.

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Nathan Otholt
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Remy Peirce
Alison Sweeney

*Come join the fun!
To join or for further
membership information,
call 323-668-0104*



Did You Know?

A full-color copy of the *Travel Town Tender* is available on our website at www.traveltown.org.

Click the "Hours & Activities" button on the left.

If you would like to sponsor color printing, please contact Nancy Gneier at 323-668-0104. Thanks!

Travel Town Museum Foundation members are cordially invited to

Depot Day

at the Travel Town Museum

Sunday, October 12th, 11am to 3pm

The Museum Foundation would like to thank you, our members, for your support and patronage over the past year. Please come to our celebration of Depot Day and see the work we have done to make Travel Town a better museum for Los Angeles!

- ☐ Refreshments for Members!
- ☐ Members only Thomas Playday!
- ☐ Tours through railroad cars!
- ☐ Visit by Sir Topham Hatt
- ☐ Games for the kids!
- ☐ Learn about having a birthday party at Travel Town!
- ☐ Learn about the volunteer programs!
- ☐ See restoration work!

Please RSVP if you will attend to 323-668-0104, or on-line at traveltown.org



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