

# The Travel Town TENDER

A Publication of the Travel Town Museum Foundation

Volume 8, Issue 2  
September 2010



## Greetings from Travel Town!

We're just winding up another wonderful summer at Travel Town, filled with lots of accomplishments. Schools are back in session and we're hoping to see lots of new faces in our *High School Service Learning* volunteer program. And just around the corner is our annual DEPOT DAY celebration on Sunday October 17th!

Throughout the summer, our Travel Town volunteers have concentrated their efforts towards continued progress on trackside signal installations. Those efforts got a great boost in mid-July by an-

other phenomenal Boy Scout Eagle candidate - *Wade Geissel* of Troop 265 – who came in with a small army of Scouts, family and friends to dig and lay over 200 feet of underground conduit on one long, hot Saturday! This electrical conduit has allowed us to supply power to the existing Wig-Wag crossing signal as well as new locations for two future historic signal installations. I want to extend a special note of thanks to the good folks at the *Southwire Corporation* for their generous contribution of the electrical cables for this conduit project. As the

process marches forward, our regular museum volunteers are now working to restore and install two additional vintage "lower-quadrant" semaphore signals, donated several years ago by the *Southern Pacific Lines*.

As I mentioned, Depot Day is coming up in just a few weeks – so if you're a TTMF member, please take a moment to hop onto the [www.traveltown.org](http://www.traveltown.org) website and register your RSVP – you won't want to miss the fun!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg", is written in a cursive style.

Greg Gneier, President  
September 2010



Boy Scout Eagle Candidate Wade Geissel led a huge effort in support of our historic signal displays!

# 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 17!

## Depot Day Performance Schedule - October 17, 2010

- 10:15 a.m. **Doctor Noize**  
The Doctor sings, plays instruments and arranges and records a song *live on the spot* with crowd participation and wowza cool technology.
- 11:30 a.m. **The Conductors**  
Good friends of Travel Town, The Conductors bring a train-load of memorable original songs.
- 12:30 p.m. **The Hollow Trees**  
A fun folk group! Music the whole family will enjoy.
- 2:15 p.m. **Adam Papagon and David Liebe Hart**  
Music that celebrates the history and future of American train travel.



Kids of all ages enjoy the music featured at Travel Town Depot Day!

## THE HOLLOW TREES



The Hollow Trees play what they call “Folk Music for Families.” It’s high energy acoustic Americana music played with passion, skill, and humor. They combine the musical styles of bluegrass, country, folk, blues and jazz and put their stamp on many traditional folk songs as well as original compositions.

The Hollow Trees’ show is geared toward children from the ages of 1-7, but the good humor and high level of musicianship makes it fun for all ages. To learn more, go to [www.thehollowtrees.com](http://www.thehollowtrees.com).

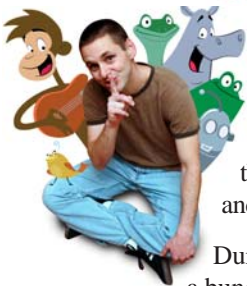


**David Liebe Hart & Adam Papagon.** Musician, actor, puppeteer, visual artist, and train enthusiast David Liebe Hart has been appearing on television sets across the Los Angeles area since 1988, when he began producing and starring in the *Junior Christian Science Bible Lesson Show* on public access cable. More recently, he has achieved nationwide notoriety for his appearances on Cartoon Network’s *Tim and Eric’s Awesome Show, Great Job!*

Adam Papagon met David in 2005 when he began producing his own public access program, *The Del Talk Show*. In the years following, they developed a fertile creative partnership, and have been writing and performing music together since 2008. David and Adam have released four albums together, including 2009’s *Trains of the Past and Present*, a collection of songs taking inspiration from David’s deep interest in the history and future of American train travel.

To learn more and listen to their music, visit <http://www.myspace.com/liebehartmusic>.

## Doctor Noize



Sirius XM Kids Place Live chart-topping artist **Doctor Noize** gives a super high-octane interactive show encouraging kids to explore their creativity. Kids leave thinking “everybuddy” has some creative genius and that they can play an instrument, sing, dance, and even write and record their own songs.

During the show, The Doctor sings and plays a bunch of instruments and arranges and records a song *live on the spot* with crowd participation. Kids add their own vocals to the mix. You can visit him at [www.doctornoize.com](http://www.doctornoize.com).



Respected singer/songwriter Joe Hutchinson (“Smokestack Joe”) is a dedicated and proud parent of a child with Autistic Spectrum Disorder. He started **The Conductors** as a way to celebrate the joys of parenthood and to deliver a fun, positive message to families worldwide while raising support and awareness for the Autism community. Believing in the magic of music to heal and bring people together for the greater good, Joe hopes The Conductors’ music will continue to inspire families for generations to come.

For more information, to listen to their tunes and see upcoming shows, visit <http://www.myspace.com/theconductorsusa>.

IN COOPERATION WITH THE TRAVEL TOWN MUSEUM AND  
THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS  
THE TRAVEL TOWN MUSEUM FOUNDATION PRESENTS

# DEPOT DAY

*An Exclusive "Open House"*



Member's Hospitality  
area with complimentary  
refreshments & playday!  
**CANDY BAR**  
new this year!

Raffles!  
& Great  
children's  
bands!

Sponsored by the Travel Town Railroad and donations from our Members

The Museum Foundation is coordinating a Transportation Safety Fair for the general public with special events for our Members. 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!

**Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 10 am to 3 pm**  
**Under the Locomotive Pavilion and**  
**Picnic Area**

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

*Musical Performances this year by:*  
Doctor Noize • The Conductors  
The Hollow Trees  
Adam Papagon & David Liebe Hart

Special tours  
through  
Passenger Cars  
and Diesel  
Engines!

**Please **RSVP** if you will  
attend to  
323-668-0104,  
or on-line at [Traveltown.org](http://Traveltown.org)**

Event Sponsors and/or Participants:

Art Deco Society, Los Angeles Fire Department Engine Co. 76, Women in Railroad, Adam's Forge Blacksmith Demonstration, Amtrak, LA Live Steamers, Metrolink/Operation Lifesaver, Councilman Tom LaBonge, Trader Joe's, Costco, Jackie Hadenot, Disney Barn, Fairplex Garden Railway, Fillmore & Western Railway, CA High Speed Rail Authority, Griffith Park Rangers

# *We've Been Working . . .*

## ***Wade's Eagle Project - Can You Dig It?***

July 17th was a day about digging! Beginning at 7 o'clock in the morning, Boy Scout Eagle Candidate Wade Geissel and several dozen of his fellow Scouts, family, friends and Travel Town Volunteers all ganged up to dig a 220-foot-long trench across the eastern section of the Museum! Did we mention this was probably the HOTTEST day of the entire summer? The job was phenomenal - by 3:00 in the afternoon, the two-foot deep trench had been dug, two runs of PVC conduit laid, the trench filled in, and the area cleaned up - and that even included a good hour break at lunchtime with a fantastic catered lunch for all the workers! Just incredible! Thanks to all for a great day of hard work in support of Travel Town!

👉 Scouts and others from BSA Troop 265 dug like a bunch of giant gophers!



Like any good leader, Wade got down in the trenches with everybody else!



TTMF Executive Director, Nancy Gneier was right in there as well.



TT Volunteer Chris Flores is simply a DIGGING MACHINE!



Sisters and brothers, everyone got into the act.



Wade Geissel (third from right, in sunglasses) directs other volunteers on filling up the trench and covering the electrical conduit.

## *... on the Railroad!*



After the Museum had closed for the day, the installation team lifted the two refurbished signal cases into position on their new concrete foundations. Both the historic Navy locomotive crane and flat car were put to good use!



### ***Meanwhile . . .***

. . . our regular Travel Town volunteers have been making steady progress on restoring and installing two vintage "Style B" semaphore signals. The two signals were donated to Travel Town by the Southern Pacific Company several years ago, after their retirement and removal from the famous "Siskiyou Line" in Oregon. The two semaphores are being installed at the east side of Travel Town - where our "Lead Track" goes out the gate towards the L.A. Zoo. New concrete foundations for the signals were poured at the first of the year, along with the one for the T-2 signal (see July 2010 Tender). Wade's Eagle Project laid the electrical conduit out to the new foundations. The next step in the restoration process was to sandblast, repair and repaint the two base cabinets for the signals. Work is now underway to restore the upper portions of the signals and refresh the internal mechanisms.



Volunteer Brad primed and painted the signal cases after the new sheet metal was installed.



Volunteer Vanya worked on repairing the inside frame of the signal cases.

### ***Come Join the Fun!***

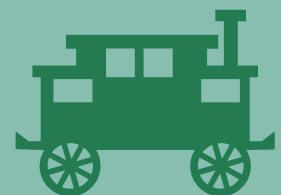
Interested in joining the Travel Town restoration team?

Contact us in any of the following ways:

Call: 323-668-0104

E-mail: [volunteers.tt@traveltown.org](mailto:volunteers.tt@traveltown.org)

Register Online: [www.traveltown.org](http://www.traveltown.org)



## On the Platform . . . Kurt Ulbrich

"On the Platform" in this issue we're pleased to welcome back Kurt Ulbrich as Travel Town Operations Manager for the City of Los Angeles, Department of Recreation and Parks. Kurt is a seasoned Rec & Parks employee and an old friend to the Museum and to the Foundation.

Kurt began his career with the City in 1995 at Cabrillo Beach Park and went on to gain experience at a number of park facilities throughout Los Angeles including the Park Film Office, Tennis Courts, Rental Halls, Traffic Control and the L.A. Zoo. About ten years ago, Kurt was promoted to Travel Town from the L.A. Zoo and served as the museum's on-site manager for the next seven years. He was called away to another Rec and Parks assignment for a couple of years but returned "home" to Travel Town this past July!

We're glad to have him back as part of the Travel Town Team . . . but there is even BIGGER news! We are excited to announce that by the time you all read this *Tender*, Kurt will have gotten married and will be on his honeymoon! Kurt and his bride, Joanne, can be seen in the photo at right.



👉 The new Mr. and Mrs. Ulbrich!

Besides Travel Town, Kurt enjoys traveling with Joanne, spending time with his godson and goddaughter, and music.

When asked about what he has learned most about working at Travel Town, his modest answer was that "Kindness and courtesy go a long way with people." We at the Foundation know Kurt conducts all of his work in this manner.

And regarding all of us crazy volunteers at the museum . . . ? Kurt says: "Volunteering is one of the best things you can do for the community and yourself. Travel Town is a great setting to do it in."

Welcome back, Kurt, and congratulations Kurt and Joanne!



👉 Kurt Ulbrich with Sean Hinton back in 2002!



## Traveling Etiquette

*By Emily Post (1945 Edition)*

To do nothing that can either annoy or offend the sensibilities of others is the principal rule of conduct under all circumstances – whether staying at home or traveling.

### SPECIAL DIRECTIONS FOR NOVICE TRAVELERS

Whether you are going on a long journey or a motor trip, or merely spending a week end with a friend, your first concern is your luggage, which should look nice and give little trouble. Nothing makes a worse impression than broken-down bags and numerous carry-alls and bundles.

### TRAIN MANNERS

In a dining car on a day's journey – especially on the Atlantic seaboard – you do not usually speak to your companion at table, beyond a possible "May I have the salt, please?" But in a country hotel, or on a transcontinental journey, if you happen to it next to the same person for a number of meals, it is extremely snobbish and bad-mannered to sit in wooden silence.

During the day in a sleeping car, the seat which faces forward belongs to the occupant of the lower berth; the occupant of the upper berth rides backward. It would be an act of courtesy for the lady who has the right to the seat facing forward to ask her companion whether she minds riding backward—and if she does, to make a place at her side. The window seat would naturally belong to her—unless she prefers the other.



Santa Fe Railway photograph, Greg Gneier collection.

*Coming next Tender....."GOING TO BED IN A PULLMAN"*

# Ways to Help Travel Town

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

In 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 asking that you 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 on file, so don't feel squeamish about registering your card again, only link your usage with the Travel Town Museum Foundation!

This really helps our Foundation when everyone does it! We earned over \$250 in donations last year from our Travel Town friends' support. Please register! Or, 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 on-line!

### Ralphs

- Go to [www.ralphs.com](http://www.ralphs.com) and click on "Sign In/Register" link on the right.
- Most of you are new online customers, so click on the "Sign up Today" link on the right.
- Fill out the information and e-mail address.
- You will receive an e-mail confirmation and activation instructions. Once you've activated your online account, you can log in and go to the "Community Contribution Program" link on the left.
- Enter the Travel Town Non Profit Organization number (NPO), 81111.
- Be sure to click on the little radio button when the foundation comes up at the bottom, then be sure to "SAVE"
- Now, when you make your purchases, your receipt will say "thank you for supporting the Travel Town Museum"!



### All Aboard!

Travel Town Museum Foundation memberships are available in a range of levels, all of which include special benefits including gift shop discounts and invitations to members-only events! In addition, each issue of the *Travel Town Tender* lists all those new and returning Foundation members. A warm welcome to the newest members and renewing supporters of the Travel Town Museum Foundation!

#### RESTORATION PARTNERS

Ferrell/Paulin Family  
Foundaion  
David Russell

#### LITTLE NUGGET CLUB

Robin Foster

#### STREAMLINERS

Jaime Gertmenian  
Braden R. & Dylan Lapa  
Lani Marquette  
William Meurer

**Want to become a member? Call us at 323-668-0104 or visit the Gift Shop for more information!**

#### TRACK GANG

Harry & Evelyn Asato  
McKenzie & Mike Chat  
Robyn Kimbrough  
Nash Marquez  
Sylvia Masushig  
Pam Moeck  
Ara Anoshi Ravani

#### ENGINEERS

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Paul & Bethany Covington  
Greg & Gillian Frame  
Family  
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Ethan Reade

### Vons/Pavillions

- Go to [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com). If you are new to eScrip, click the "1" button under "Make a Difference in Four Easy Steps."
- Search for the Travel Town Museum Foundation by clicking the "Group ID" button and entering 1094834 in the box below, then click "Search."
- "Travel Town Museum Foundation" will appear in the search results. Click this link and you will be prompted through the remaining steps to register your grocery club card.

# VONS.



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT  
of the Travel Town Museum Foundation!**

**The Travel Town Museum Foundation cordially invites you to**

# Depot Day

at the Travel Town Museum

**Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 10 am to 3 pm**

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or on-line at [traveltown.org](http://traveltown.org)**

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