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 smoking regulations. Only use barbeques 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!

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

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 helped 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!
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

The Hoover High School Jazz Band

The Conductors

A fun folk group! Music the whole family will enjoy - check ‘em out at www.thehollowtrees.com

Come listen to the wonderful sounds of these talented young people!

The Hollow Trees

Go to www.ralphs.com and click the “community contributions” link 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.”

Please help us turn that into $5000 by registering your cards, your family’s 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!!!!!
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 Aitken – 117 hours
Alan Jennings – 160 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.

First Annual “Train Day” Celebrations a Big Hit at the Museum

[Images of people accepting awards and enjoying lunch]

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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 this time, the car had been moved under the shelter of the locomotive pavilion.

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; our seniors were able to wipe down an area, corrosel 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 year. This year 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 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.

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

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
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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. Zach, along with Travel Town volunteers Brad Slosar and Gary Teti, are making great progress on refitting the wood cargo deck and repainting the car’s lettering.

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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.

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.

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![Image of people at event]

In line at the lunch table are (from left) employee Bill Dike, 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 Ramsey’s 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.
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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!

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 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!

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!!!

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!

O n the Platform . . . Paul Estavillo

The Travel Town Museum’s annual Depot Day always promises a fun time, with special tours, exhibits, games and guests like “Sir Topham Hat.” This event promises to be better than ever, thanks in part to a fabulous and talented line-up of musical performances. Be sure to mark your calendars and turn up the volume, whether it’s a memory of a train ride or a train set under your 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 was 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.

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Take “Note” of Depot Day’s Music Shows!

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**Depot Day Performance Schedule - October 12, 2008**

11:00 a.m. The Conductors Debating 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!
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Greg Gneier, President
Travel Town Museum Foundation
September 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.

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