Greetings from Travel Town!

It was great to see so many of our Travel Town Museum Foundation members at Depot Day on October 12th! I was excited with the great turnout we had this year and want to express my enormous thanks to the many hardworking volunteers who came together to make the event such a big success.

This was our fourth Depot Day celebration and each successive year we have tried to enhance the event’s program offerings. For 2008, we welcomed back our good friends from CalTrans, Operation Life Saver, and Women in Railroading as well as some wonderful new participants including wood carving artist Jackie Hadnot and Bob Crane of the Los Angeles Live Steamers! Jackie displayed several of his incredible base-relief steam locomotive carvings, including one that was over eight feet long! Bob brought over his 1880s-era Baldwin 2-6-0 “Mogul” steam locomotive and shared information with visitors about our Griffith Park neighbors, the L.A. Live Steamers Museum.

This year, we were also able to increase our musical offerings to FOUR different groups! Building upon Depot Day veteran Jim Starr “The Singing Cop” and Glendale’s own Hoover High School Jazz Ensemble, we were also fortunate to feature two locally-renowned folk groups: the Hollow Trees and The Conductors. All four were great hits—even with the kids! The Conductors even used Depot Day to their kick-off event for premier of their new CD release, “Navigating the Spectrum.”

Besides Depot Day, Travel Town has been a hoppin’ place all summer. Our volunteers have been making great strides on several restoration projects: the “S.P. 219” steam locomotive is now completely torn-down to the basic under-frame and the Foundation’s 1945 Railway Express Agency delivery truck is now running and ready to be licensed and repainted!

Our annual Polar Express Pajama Party is coming soon, on December 5th, so get your RSVPs in! You can click on a link at our website: www.traveltown.org.

Have a great Holiday Season and I’ll look forward to seeing you at the Park!

Greg Gneier, President
Travel Town Museum Foundation
November 2008

A color copy of the Travel Town Tender is available on our website at www.traveltown.org. Click the “Hours & Activities” button. If you would like to sponsor color printing, please contact Nancy Gneier at 323-668-0104. Thanks!

The Travel Town Tender is a publication of the Travel Town Museum Foundation, a d.b.a. of the American Southwestern Railway Association, Inc. The Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational corporation, dedicated to the preservation and interpretive presentation of railroad history. We work in partnership with the Los Angeles City Department of Recreation & Parks, helping to support their operation of the Travel Town Museum. Contents © A.S.R.A., Inc., 2008, unless under other copyright.
Travel Town, the Los Angeles City Recreation and Park Department’s unique display of vehicles representing many modes and eras of conveyances, is visited each week by hundreds of youngsters and adults who are interested in the development of transportation.

Located on a 9-acre site at 5200 Hollingsworth Drive in Griffith Park, Travel Town is open to the public daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. There is no admission charge.

Displaying everything from a 104-ton locomotive to a one-horse shay, Travel Town offers its visitors what for most of them is the only opportunity they ever have to see and examine at close hand many different types of vehicles.

Credit for the idea which evolved into Travel Town goes to William Frederickson, Jr., the city’s superintendent of recreation. It was Frederickson who, way back in 1947, was struck with the realization that thousands of youngsters had never been close enough to climb into an airplane and get a look at the pilot’s cockpit and its myriad of controls and gauges. This was at a time when the federal government was disposing of large amounts of surplus war material, so Frederickson resolved to see if it would be possible to obtain a surplus plane to be exhibited at one of Los Angeles’ municipal playgrounds.

George Hjelte, general manager of the City Recreation and Park Department, and the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners thought the idea was a good one and authorized Frederickson to proceed with the project—his dream—toward reality. Enlisting the aid of Orin Wennersten, the Recreation and Park Department’s supervisor of maintenance, he set about the work of obtaining Travel Town’s first exhibit. Wennersten assigned a member of his staff, Charles Atkins, the task of writing a letter to D.J. Russell, president of the Southern Pacific Company, in which the suggestion was made that the railroad company might be willing to donate an obsolete locomotive to the display. Russell, heartily approved the donation and directed his staff to have Engine “3025” prepared for its emergence from retirement and its appearance as an honored exhibit at Travel Town.

With the donation assured, Atkins’ next problem was to determine how to move the gallant, oil-burning chugger from Glendale to Travel Town. The Belyea Truck Company agreed to tackle the ticklish task and, on October 10, the unprecedented hauling job was completed as a free public service. The Belyea Truck Company has since performed several other similar assignments in aiding the development of Travel Town.

The giant locomotive and its 25 1/2-ton tender, which in their heyday pulled several “presidential specials” during campaign sweeps across the nation, now stands on a strip of track at Travel Town, and visitors may enter the engine’s cab, examine the controls, and tug the cord which clangs its big brass bell.

News about Travel town spread like wildfire, and almost immediately the display was receiving new vehicles and other exhibits in rapid, one after the other sequence. By the first of December, Travel Town had on exhibit a 44-passenger street car given by the Los Angeles Transit Lines; an historic 76-passenger street car; a small army of workmen from Belyea Trucking, Recreation & Parks, and Southern Pacific rolled the “big chugger” into its new home in Griffith Park.
We've Been Working on the Railroad!

Tear-down work on the S.P. 219 steam locomotive is nearing completion. Here, volunteer Greg Ramsey inspects the multi-part steam seal from inside one of the locomotive’s pistons.

Volunteer Bryan Reese welded up a myriad of holes and other anomalies on the REA Truck body.

The historic Railway Express Agency delivery truck made its public display “debut” at Depot Day in October, showing off its new (vintage-style) tires donated by the Coker Tire Company. TTMF volunteers have the 1945 International Harvester K-5 back in running condition and nearly ready for a much-needed paint job!

Volunteer Docents, like Perla Melger, offer guided tours through the 1920s Union Pacific Dining Car.

Boy Scout Eagle candidate Adam Goldman (left) has begun a tie-replacement and track-surfacing project on Track 4. The project addresses some track level issues remaining from the construction of the adjacent Locomotive Pavilion. Adam should finish up his leadership project later in November. We’re so proud to have Boy & Girl Scouts involved in projects at the Museum!

A BIG THANKS to our Event Partners!

Caltrans
City of Los Angeles
Department of Recreation and Parks
The Conductors Girl Scout Troop 7351
Jackie Hadnot The Hollow Trees
Hoover High School Jazz Ensemble
Los Angeles Live Steamers Operation Lifesaver
LA County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Providence High School Key Club
Jim Starr - The Singing Cop
Travel Town Staff and Volunteers
Women In Railroading

We’ve Been Working on the Railroad!
In an extraordinary step aimed at preserving some of Travel Town’s oldest artifacts, the Museum was closed to the public for two days in October so that many of the wooden railroad cars could be rid of termites and other lumber-munching pests.

Wood-destroying pests have been a huge detriment to some of the Museum’s most precious pieces of rolling stock, including the rare Southern Pacific narrow-gauge cars and the 1880s Union Pacific caboose. The voracious little critters have chewed their way through the aging wood in these cars at an alarming pace, bringing several of the artifacts to the brink of total loss. This month’s action, along with future conservation measures, will help preserve these historic relics for the next generations of Travel Town visitors.

**How it all got started** (continued from page 2)

of California; a colorful old circuit wagon, given by the Beverly Amusement Company; Caboose No 2117, a veteran “home on wheels” for nomadic trainmen, given by the Union Pacific Railroad Company; and a one-horse shay, the gift of Knott’s Berry Farm.

To add still more charm to the transportation array, the Pacific Electric Company donated its old Sierra Vista “waiting station,” which had sheltered “big red car” commuters over a period of several decades. With that impressive slate of exhibits cleaned and polished for the occasion, Travel Town was officially dedicated on Sunday, December 14. (1952)

Since then, several new vehicles have been added to the display, including an obsolescent Japanese “zero” fighter plane which was captured on a South Pacific island during World War II; and an ancient petroleum field fire truck, which was donated by the Shell Oil Company. And still more exhibits are being planned and will take their places of honor at Travel Town in the near future, according to Frederickson, whose “pet project” has blossomed into a popular attraction for Southlanders and tourists of all ages. The unique facility is particularly a “Mecca” for transportation hobbyists.

Now here we all are, sixty-two years after Bill Frederickson’s wonderful idea; Travel Town is still open daily at 10:00 AM, free of charge, and kids are still climbing in the cab of the majestic Southern Pacific 3025! I wonder if that unused $700 p.o. is still available?

**Termites, Take a Hike!**

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**Come join the fun!**

To join or for further membership information, call 323-668-0104.

**All Aboard!**

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

**RESTORATION PARTNER**

Don & Peggy Gustavson
Charles Russell

**LITTLE NUGGET CLUB**

Timmy Berry
Fred Glienna
Francine Oschin

**STREAMLINERS**

Hayden Cass
Larry Thomas

- Pacific Electric “Red Car” and Southern Pacific wood-sided boxcar were among the artifacts that received “the treatment.”
- No circus tent here, just the venerable San Francisco Cable Car getting de-bugged.

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