



Western Division

Train Collectors Association

Newsletter



Volume 46, No. 3

April 2000

Monthly Meet Notification

The next TCA Western Division toy train meet will be held on **Saturday April 22nd, 2000** at the *Arcadia Park Senior Citizen's Center, 405 S. Santa Anita Ave., Arcadia, CA 91006* (Santa Anita exit off of the 210 freeway, then head south).

Hall doors will open at 10:00 AM for sellers only to enter and begin setting up their tables. Each seller is allowed to use a maximum of two tables for free. Please provide a suitable cover to prevent damage to the tables, and your trains.

The hall opens for members and guests to enter and for trading to commence at 11:00 AM.

April 13, 1846 was the day the charter for the Pennsylvania railroad was issued. In 1935, at the peak of its existence, the Pennsylvania railroad owned and operated 12,000 miles of road and 30,000 miles of track, its lines traversing the District of Columbia and thirteen States. This was truly one of America's great railroads. To celebrate what would have been the Pennsylvania railroad's 154th birthday, April's meet display theme is "the Pennsy". Please bring in your most prized train or train item bearing the Pennsylvania road name and famous Keystone heralds.

We will continue with the practice of awarding a special prize to the person chosen to have the most interesting display.

The auction will begin at 12:00 noon, and the business meeting and the raffle will follow.

Western Division 2000 schedule of train meets:

April 22nd, 2000	September 23rd, 2000
May 27th, 2000	October 28th, 2000
July 22nd, 2000	November 25th, 2000
August 26th, 2000	December 10th, 2000

March 2000 Meet Recap

Approximately 70 members and guests were on hand for the March 25th, 2000 TCA Western Division meet.

The display theme for the March meet was 'something wrecked', in honor of Casey Jones' 136th birthday, celebrated March 14th.

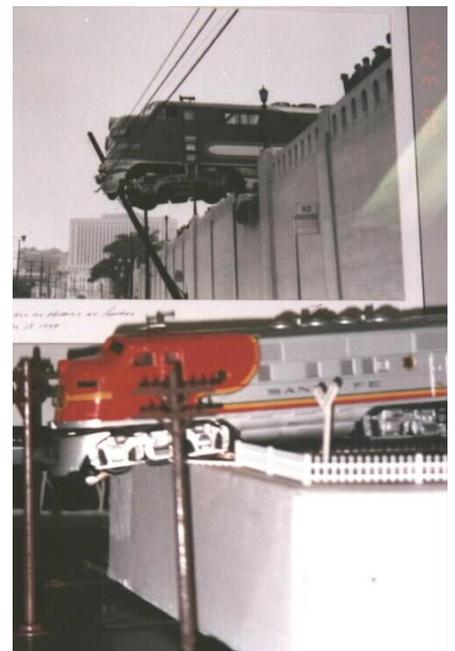
Mike Stella put together a diorama in 'O' gauge that he called 'no rails'. It showed an abandoned sideline with the remains of structures and only the railroad ties to remind us of days gone by. It was a testimony to the disappearing railroads of our times.



Bob Trimble's 'Casey Jones wreck' re-enactment

Bob Trimble had two displays. One featured the famous wreck where the engineer Casey Jones rode the rails to his death. Bob used a Rivarossi steam loco with tender and a pair of 'S' gauge wrecking cranes. Bob also showed three #752 E's from his junk box. All to be reworked some rainy day. He also had some excellent photographs of famous train wrecks. The photos included the wreck of the Royal Scot in 1931. He also had a Casey Jones stamp. Most interesting was a notice from the cab of a streamliner found in an Omaha junkyard dated 1937 saying, "No more passengers will be allowed to visit the cab of the train".

Steve Waller constructed an 'O' gauge diorama of "The case of the Flying F-3" using a Lionel #2343. It was accompanied by an article from Trains magazine and illustrated via a large black & white framed photograph. Fletcher Swan took the large photo. This incident occurred at LA's Union Station on January 25th 1948. A Santa Fe engineer reversed an ABA set and lost his air brakes, sending the engine through the bumper and surrounding wall. The F-3 hung precariously in the air over Aliso Street via some telephone wires. Steve's re-



creation won the monthly prize for 'best display'.

Harold Shapiro displayed an early 1950's Thomas Industries 'Pioneer Car' which had been flattened when it flew off a bookshelf during the 1994 Northridge earthquake.

The meet turnout was excellent. This was probably our most heavily attended meet this year. There were so many sellers, that extra tables had to be pulled out of storage to accommodate displaying of the wares.

There were well over thirty sales tables used, with a good variety of trains offered. This included a post-war tin-plate Karl Bubbs in-the-box set, Lionel post-war Presidents' Garfield, Harrison and McKinley passenger cars, a post-war #265 loco and tender with three blue passenger cars #600, #601 and #602.

Also offered for sale was a very nice early Ives #143 Station as well a good assortment of early standard gauge Lionel passenger cars, including #190's, #429 series and two pair of #19's.

There was also good representation of K-Line product for sale, with a GP-38 Union Pacific loco and lots of box and freight cars. There were also two MTH Big Boy locos offered. In 'G' gauge there was an Alco FA-1 and passenger cars; a replica of the Napa Valley Wine Train. Also offered for sale was an American Flyer pre-war 'O' gauge set with cast-iron loco and tinplate passenger cars in brown #1205 and two #1306's.

In the raffle, Bob Trimble won a K-Line Toy Train Museum heavyweight car, called the William Hafner. Merv Lew won a K-Line TCA die-cast hopper car. Don Phillips won a TCA Pacific NW Division 40th anniversary lumber car. Darrell Calvillo won a TCA 'Lionel Standard of the World' book, and Peter Searles won a VHS video titled 'Famous Train Wrecks', donated to the club by Pentrex.

New members John Konieczny, Don McCutcheon, and John Franklin were introduced at the business meeting.

In the back room the Keppels (Richard and Dick) ran dad's Ives Olympian set around one of the standard gauge loops on the layout. Jerry Butler ran his MTH standard gauge Blue Comet #400E set with lots of sound effects and authentic smoke around a second loop. Jerry also had a Christmas gift that was



Auctioneer Bob Caplan, assisted by Russ Lange at March meet

assembled by his son. It was a standard gauge 'Galloping Goose'. The goose was scratch-built using a pre-war tin plate truck and a new MTH boxcar.

Bob Caplan chaired another excellent auction. There was energetic bidding on several antique railroad oil lanterns, old erector sets, post-war and pre-war American Flyer rolling stock and accessories, and a European tin-plated 'O' gauge set new in the box. A variety of Marx tin-plate cars were quickly swept off the auction table by anxious bidders. And a mix of railroad photography books was also vied for. Robert Spellmire and Harold Shapiro assisted with the auction.

Alma Caplan once again provided her 'cuisine extraordinaire' from the kitchen.

Respectfully submitted by Dave McCully

President's Corner

Once again this year, Western Division's May monthly meet will be dedicated to kids. Last year we had a very successful meet with over 35 kids from underprivileged, foster care or troubled youth facilities in attendance.

The club gave away several train sets and other train related items to these kids. Not a single child went home empty handed that day. The children spent the afternoon learning about the hobby, talking to and meeting our club members, and just plain having fun. There were lots of big smiles, not just on the kids, but on our club members' faces as well. It was truly a great day.



This year I am asking that we make an effort to outdo last year's event. I am looking to you, the membership, to help plan and organize this day.

"How can I help?" you ask. Here's how: first off, this event is also for the kids, grandkids, nieces, nephews, little brothers & sisters of any TCA Western Division members. Drag the kids away from the TV or the video games for what promises to be a good afternoon of train running, giveaways, refreshment, and education.

Secondly, if you are aware of any organizations who sponsor or care for kids... this can be a local 'Y' or an orphanage, or a counseling center... please put me in contact with someone there who can organize bringing, and chaperoning a group of kids to this meet. Finally, if you have any trains that you would like to donate as kids raffle prizes, please bring them to the April meet. Thanks in advance for participating in this event!

Your President, Harold Shapiro