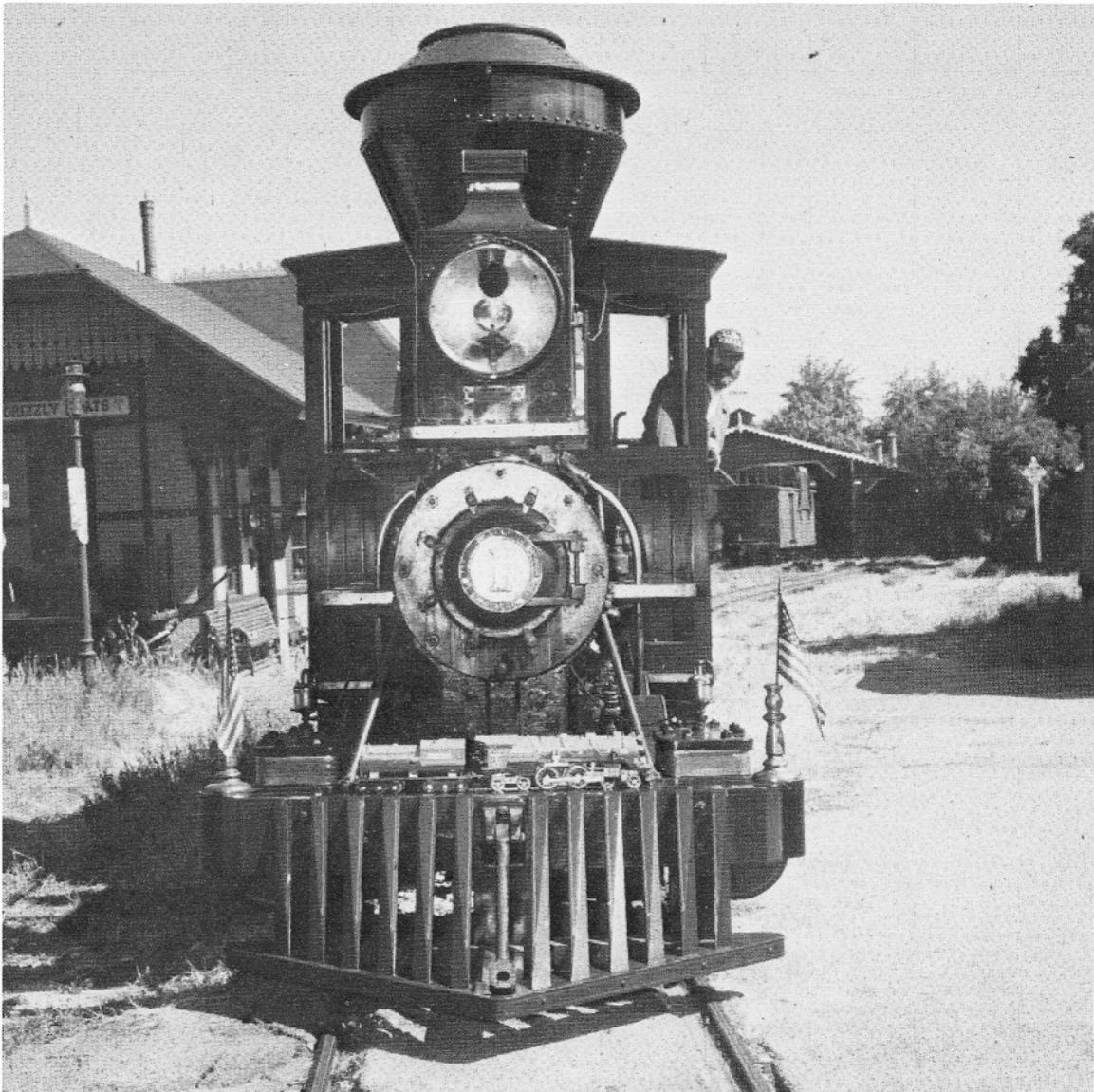


# The Headlight



**CONVENTION NUMBER**

**JULY 1971**

# Train Collectors Association --

The Headlight  
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## OFFICERS

President: Nick Grippe  
Vice President: Dr. Joe DiMassa  
Secretary: Clyde Easterly  
Treasurer: Lee Harris

Directors: Charles Brasher  
Jerry Brown  
Ralph Pauly  
George Smith

Sergeant-at-Arms: Dirk Brown

Editor: Wesley Frye

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . .

In my January message, I mentioned that the success of an organization depends in large part on the participation and cooperation of all its members. And nowhere does this reflect more conclusively than in the willingness to accept the responsibility of conducting the affairs of the organization, whether it be as President, Vice-President, or other elective or appointive official.

Shortly, our nominating committee will be seeking nominees for the various elective offices for the coming year who, in their considered judgment, can creditably promote the growth and well-being of our organization. I know, from personal observation, that there are many in our midst who can "fill the bill".

It is therefore my earnest hope that those of you who are approached by the committee will consider the nomination as the privilege it is and graciously accept.

Nick Grippe

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The August social meeting of the Western Division will be at the Downey Recreation Center, 8441 E. Firestone Blvd., Downey, Calif. The date - Friday, August 6, at 7:00 p.m.

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## OUR COVERS . . .

Front cover shows one of Ward Kimball's real live full scale steam locomotives with a blue Comet on the pilot.

Back cover pictures two treasured pieces from Wes Frye's collection.

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The Headlight is issued monthly, and will contain news items, want ads, gripes, comments and more.

For the present, and until further notice, want ads will be published free. Limit of 30 words on each ad. News items, want ads, etc. will be accepted by the editor at each meeting for publication in the following month's Headlight.

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## Headlight Highlights of the 17th Annual National Convention

With the touching down at Los Angeles International Airport of the chartered 720 United Airlines Jet from Newark, New Jersey, at approximately 2:15 p.m. Sunday, June 20, with 115 Early Bird arrivals on board, the long-awaited 17th Annual Convention of the Train Collectors Association became a reality.

On hand to greet the arrivals at the airport were Herb and Elvira Morley, Jo and Nick Grippe, and Don Ladenberger. Three Gray Line buses transported the Eastern group to the Disneyland Hotel where they were welcomed by John Parker, Convention Chairman, Charles Valenzuela, and their families, and Col. Gordon Bragg.

After a day of relaxation, many of the Charter Flight group, chauffeured by Don Ladenberger, visited a number of our local collectors, including Col. Bragg, Ralph Schisler, George Sirus, Dr. DiMassa, Herb Morley, and Nathan Forman, and were greatly impressed, not only by the size and quality of many of the collections, but also by the typical friendly hospitality of Southern Californians.

An all day Charter Bus tour on Thursday, especially for the Eastern group, included a visit to the Orange Empire Trolley Museum and to Ward Kimball's ever fascinating railroad empire.

Meanwhile, Thursday afternoon saw great feverish activity at the Anaheim Convention Center as a large group of Western Division members descended on the stack of freshly arrived tables, unfolding and placing them according to previously prepared plans, and then adding, for the final touch, new gold colored plastic tablecloths.

The first official event of the great 17th was the Early Bird Pre-Registration and Reception on Thursday evening in the Pacific Room of the Disneyland Hotel which quickly filled to capacity. Registering members received their Convention packet and Lionel car, and with their families and friends spent an enjoyable social evening.

Finally, the long-awaited day arrived, and promptly at 8:00 a.m. Friday morning the doors of the huge Anaheim Room in the Convention Center were thrown open, and in a matter of minutes it was trains, trains, trains, everywhere.

The previous evening's pre-registration and the efficiency of the Friday morning registration team which included Ethel and Ralph Pauly, Erma and Clyde Easterly, Sue Brasher, Marian Rokos, and Jo Grippe resulted in a smooth and fast-moving line into the Convention Center for the large number of early arrivals.

A quick tour of the 200 loaded tables confirmed that a TCA National Convention brings forth the rare, the rarer, the usual, and the unusual. And if that wasn't enough, everyone was treated to a very unusual and thrilling visit by Disneyland's own Mickey Mouse and Goofy, who proceeded to delight children of all ages with their antics.

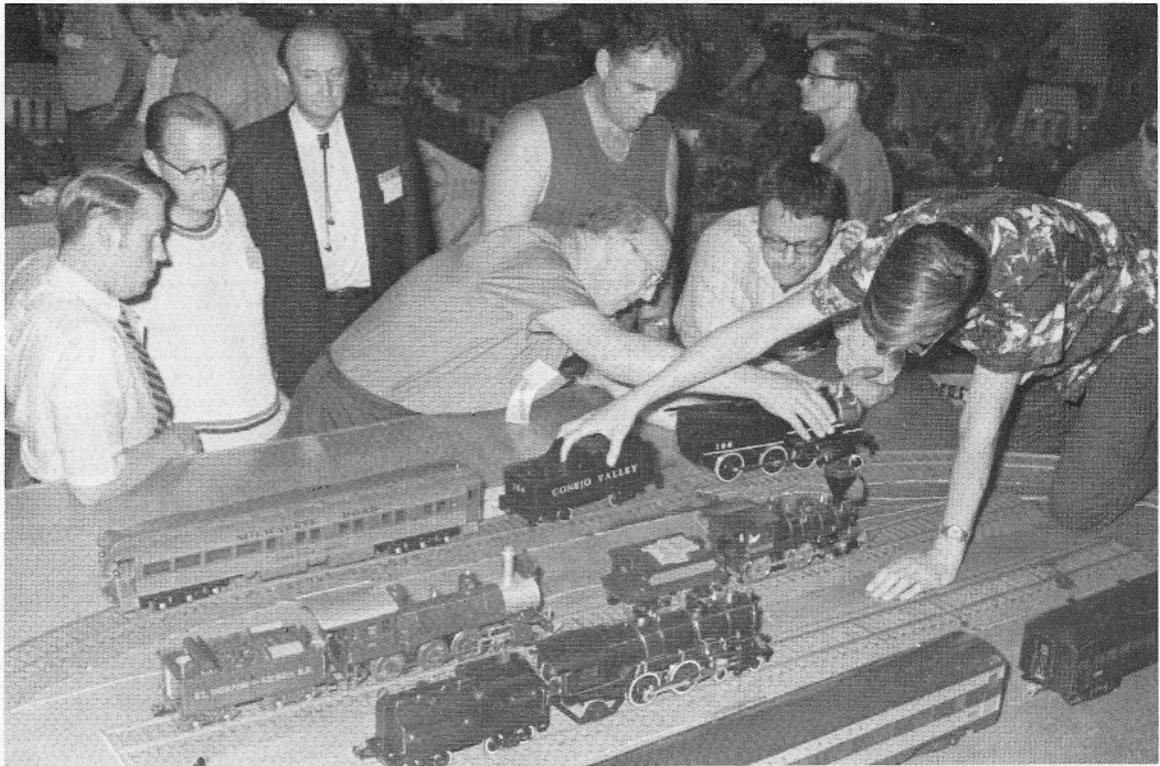
In addition to Herb Morley's Standard Gauge layout of McCoy Trains, two Standard Gauge layouts and an 'O' Gauge layout set up on the stage by Wallace Ripley of Placer-ville, and Jerry Brown and Jim Dempsey, drew considerable attention.

At the eagerly awaited raffle drawing which took place Saturday afternoon, Ken Carpenter was the winner of the beautiful 400E Lionel locomotive. The D&RGW Diesel

(Continued on page 6)



Ralph Pauly presenting Ward Kimball with Convention car and gift pack.



Train operation at Convention center.



Clyde Easterly  
with a real prize.



Some of Ward Kimball's rarities, on display at his home.

(Continued from page 3)

found a home with Chuck Brasher, while Mickey Mouse will be pumping away on the hand car at Ken Bryan's home. The complete McCoy Convention Train went to a lucky Allen Drucker, and an equally lucky ticket holder was Keith LaBar who walked off with the complete set of Lionel Convention cars.

The complete McCormick Train Set with its hidden delights will now age gracefully at the home of Bill Clapper.

Many problems were thrashed out at the lengthy Board of Directors meeting which took place Friday at the Disleyland Hotel, and the usual Business Meeting was convened Saturday afternoon in the Garden Grove Room of the Convention Center. The forthcoming National newsletter will as usual contain the details of both meetings.

As always, the highlight of every Convention is the sumptuous banquet, and as members of the Western Division, we can pridefully say that ours was one of the finest and most enjoyable. It was attended by approximately 400 people, and was held in the beautiful Embassy Room of the Disneyland Hotel. As for the steak dinner, it could only be described as "Par Excellence".

A carnation corsage was presented to each of the ladies seated at the head table. The banquet tables were highlighted by attractive centerpieces set in ceramic locomotives and cars.

Our Convention Chairman, John Parker, extended his sincere thanks to the many Western Division Officers, members, wives, and families who unselfishly gave so much of their time and energies to insure the success of the Convention.

And from the words of praise voiced by President Hugo Kuehn and other National Officers, and the many association members, we, as hosts, can feel justly proud of this, the 17th Annual National Convention.



Erma Easterly, Mickey Mouse, and Ethel Pauly.

June Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of TCA-Western was again held at the Downey Recreation Center on Friday evening, June 4, 1971. The business session was called to order by President Nick Grippe at 8:07 p.m. and the first order of business was the reading of the minutes of the May meeting by Secretary Clyde Easterly. There were no corrections or additions so the minutes were approved as read.

The many guests were then introduced and given a cordial welcome.

John Parker was given the floor and made the following announcements about the National Convention - Parking at the Convention Center will be 75¢ per day. The Sunday trip will be by Greyhound and will leave the Disneyland Hotel at 9:00 a.m. It will arrive at The Orange Empire Trolley Museum at 10:00 a.m. and leave at 12 noon. There will be lunch at McDonalds at Riverside and then on to Ward Kimball's in San Gabriel for a two hour visit.

As of June 1 there was a registration of 236 with 200 registrations for the banquet. The total attendance at the Convention is expected to be between 400 and 500 people. John stated that a 1971 Lionel catalog would be given with the purchase of two raffle tickets. He also showed the McCoy 1971 Convention car which is a Standard Gauge Circus Animal car that sells for \$11.

TCA National sent out a complete set of Lionel Convention cars and a set of McCoy Convention cars as door prizes.

The charter flight from the east is scheduled to arrive on Sunday, June 20. John advised all members to register early and before the Convention to avoid a lot of wasted time and confusion. Only members and their spouses and children will be able to attend the Convention.

Eighteen new members were voted into TCA - C. O. Beauschesne, Allen Drucker, Milt Gregg, Ralph Johnson, Merlyn Lavery, Charles Messier, Gene Monte, Earnest Renn, Frank Rubino, Rodger Schwind, Ronald Smith, Tom Snyder, David Thomas, Al Vanderboss, Donald VanPelt, Chris Watt, John Weaver, and Richard Wolan.

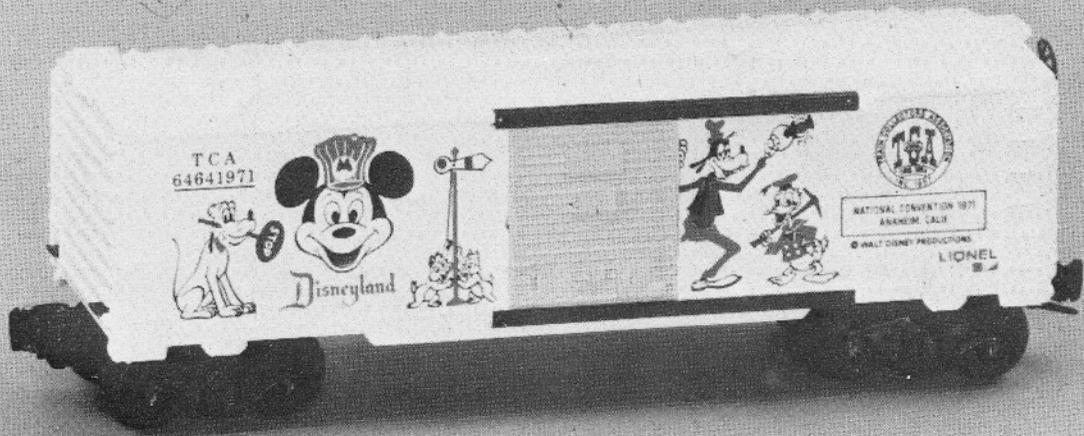
This report was taken from the minutes submitted by Secretary Clyde Easterly.

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WANT AD For Sale. Custom built display cabinet, 6' in length, 6'3" in height. Sliding plate glass doors. Built especially for display of trains. Has storage space in bottom. Nick Grippe 923-7877.

Nick Grippe still has an unclaimed blue cloth jacket with sheepskin type lining, left at our May meeting at the Downey Recreation Center, and would appreciate owner claiming same. Call Nick at 923-7877.

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