



Western Division

Train Collectors Association

Newsletter



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May 1999

Monthly Meet Notification

The next TCA Western Division toy train meet will be held on **Saturday May 22nd, 1999**. It will be held 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).

This is our special 'Children's Event'. All members are encouraged to bring their whole families, especially the kids. TCA Western will be hosting special guests from the Santa Anita YMCA, the Olive Crest Foundation, and the McBride's School.

Senior Citizen's Center hall doors will be opened at 10:00 AM for sellers only to enter and begin setting up their tables. The hall will be open at 11:00 AM for members and guests to enter, and for trading and festivities to commence.

For this month's display theme, let's see what your first toy train was/is. Or, show the train that has the most meaning to you personally as a result of a childhood memory. Now creativity counts heavily this month. Since special guests who are very eager to learn about this hobby of tinplate toy train collecting that we love so much will be attending our meet, a challenge to all Western Division members is being issued. Tell a story that is both educational and personal.



April meet raffle winners: John Abbe and family.

There will be another great raffle at the May 22nd meet for members. If you attended the April meet you saw the many prizes given away. Also, a special raffle will be held - just for the kids! And some special presentations will be

made. By popular demand an auction will be held after the business meeting, with auctioneer Bob Caplan presiding.



Auctioneer Bob Caplan, assisted by Russ & Dale Lange

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Western Division schedule of remaining 1999 train meets is as follows:

May 22nd, 1999

July 24th, 1999

August 28th, 1999

September 25th, 1999

October 23rd, 1999

November 27th, 1999

-All meets will be held at the Arcadia Senior Citizen's Center.

June 18th - 27th, 1999 - Railfair '99 - the railroad extravaganza celebrating the discovery of gold and California's Statehood Sesquicentennial. In Old Town Sacramento. Call (916)322-8485 for further information.

June 20th - 27th, 1999 - TCA National Convention - San Francisco Bay Area. Hosted by TCA Nor-Cal Division, contact Robert Spivock, (925)284-5696 for more details.

President's Corner

The month of May is a special time for children, and it offers us a chance to reflect back on our own youth. May always meant that summer was almost here and school would soon be out. The May Day celebration had us decorating a pole and dancing around it in celebration. May Day is also considered to be a working class holiday as it evolved from the struggle for the eight-hour day in 1886. Labor unions, including those that consisted of railroad workers, engineers and conductors, held national strikes in the United States and Canada to fight for limiting the work day to 8 hours. By winning this battle,

the working class gained the ability to spend more time with their families.

I am hoping that May will provide us all with the opportunity to enjoy our families (and especially the children). The train hobby was always a terrific way for a father to spend time with his son or daughter. Along that same theme, the TCA Western Division train meets are a wonderful place for all of us to spend some time with our own children and some kids who are maybe less fortunate. This is why we have scheduled a 'special children's event' for this month's meet.

It is important to remember that the TCA's charter is to preserve a significant segment of history - Tinplate Toy Trains - through research, education, community outreach, fellowship and to promote the growth and enjoyment of the hobby. The legacy of this great hobby wrights in the hands of today's youth. Let's all do our part to make sure the torch is passed.



'Electric' Norman and Blanche Keller at the April meet.

Get well wishes to Blanche Keller. Reports are that she is out of the hospital, and all tests were negative. As of this writing she and 'Electric' Norman were on their way to Tucson for a GATS meet.

Western Division's Internet Web site is back on-line! You can browse the site at the following URL: <http://www.tcawestern.org>. All comments and suggestions from the membership on how the site can be expanded, improved and enhanced, are welcomed.

A reminder that next month there will not be a Western Division train meet in Arcadia. Instead, TCA Western Division members should head north to the San Francisco bay area. The 45th National Convention is convening in Burlingame, CA on June 20th, 1999. Many exciting tours and events have been planned by our neighboring Nor-Cal Division hosts in conjunction with this annual gathering. If you have not yet made your plans to attend, it is not too late. To register, reserve a table, or one of the few remaining seats on a tour, you should contact convention registration chairperson, Karen Rodgers immediately at (650)878-5811.

Once again, a tip of the engineer's cap and a hearty thanks to Dennis Taube, Tim Simendinger, Richard Seccombe, Darrell Calvillo and John Parker for setting up the chairs and tables at the April meet. And a special kudo to Darrell Calvillo and Bob Spellmire for assisting with the set up of the operating layout.



Darrell Calvillo at the throttle

I am really excited about our upcoming Saturday May 22nd 'special event' train meet, and will be looking forward to seeing every one of you there!

Your president – *Harold Shapiro*

In Memorium

Roland E. Mellon	78-12852
Robert S. Picha	88-27186
Carl F. Anderson	91-34295

April 1999 Meeting Recap

Our president, Harold Shapiro, chaired the meeting. There was a very good turn out with over 65 members and guests present, and a full floor of sales tables.



John Abbe, Kurt Bondi & Mike Olaerts make incredible deals at the April meet.

Announcements: The TCA Kids Club is looking for volunteers. We will have our May 22nd meet as a special "kids day" and are hoping that members will be prepared to entertain our young guests, and have appropriate donations for all ages.

Some members still need to bring their dues up to date. Bob Spellmire reminded members that nominations for the National officers were due by May 31, 1999. Bob Caplan previewed the mock-up of the TCA Standards booklet 'Pocket Guide', which will be mailed to all members to help identify copies and reproduction pieces.

Introductions: Our latest new member, Ed Superfon was introduced, he is interested in post-war Lionel.

Display Tables: The Theme for the meet was 'Easter, Spring, or what you bought at the York Meet'. Bob Trimble exhibited two Smurf handcars in Easter colors. He had found the Smurfs at Toys R'Us, and placed them on LGB cars.



Bob Trimble's Smurf Handcars



John Parker and rare York find.

John Parker, who is interested in American Flyer tin plate cars with road names or heralds, had found two cars at York. They were numbered #1109 and #1108, both with New York Central road names. What made this a rarity was that one of these cars usually came only with an American Flyer herald.

Emmett Stouffer brought a Lionel # 3434 Poultry Car he had dug out from under his train table. Steve Waller brought a Humpty Dumpty model made by Bachman as part of their Story Town, USA group of six structures made in the 1950's. Steve related that there was an actual Story Town theme park, in Lake George, NY and another in Virginia where he lived. These parks pre-dated Anaheim's Disneyland.

Bob Spellmire's display for 'spring' consisted of two spring-driven windup Hornby locos. They were a #45746 and a #60985, both in green Western livery. Lastly, Harold Shapiro showed us his black Sunx, an early post-war re-issue of the semi-scale #2955 tank car.

Individual Table Displays: Bob Trimble displayed an 'O' scale heavy weight passenger car model. It was originally cast and sold by American Model RR Co. of New



Steve Waller and Humpty Dumpty



Emmert Stouffer with stock car

Rochelle, NY, circa the 1930's. Bob also displayed the original catalogue describing the large selection of cars offered by American Models.

The Raffle: John Abbe won the Lionel Visitor's Center box car, Bob Caplan won a K-Line Toy Train Museum die cast hopper, and Dave McCully won a K-Line Nor-Cal over night So. Pacific 6464 box car. Don Stotts, Dale Lange, Don Haflinger and Harold Shapiro won four sets of Lionel Catalogues from 1995 to 1999, donated by Tim Simindinger of Yorba Toy Trains and collated by John Parker. Dennis Taube, Bob Trimble and Al Vargas picked up some train decorated license plate frames donated to the club by Bill Rolek. Lowell Jeans won a TCA "Lionel Standard of the World" book.

The Sales Tables: Again a wide range of pre-war, post-war and newer trains were offered. The array included: a collection of American Flyer 'S' gauge freight cars in the box, two sets of Flyer B & O Alcos - each with power and dummy, in their boxes. Also seen were a #783 NYC



Lowell Jeans



Dennis Taube

Hudson and a #6907 caboose. Other pre-war items included a #260E Ioco and tender, a #385E loco and tender, an #810 crane car, and a #1666 loco and tender. Newer items included Peterson Supply Co.'s Western Pacific Fruit Express cars, a 1989 Lionel RR Club Tool Car and a 1978 TCA Convention Car.



Don



Al

The Layout: There was lively action on the Standard Gauge loop with a double headed #318 pair of Standard gauge locos (dark gray and light gray) pulling passenger cars #332, #339 and a #341 observation. On the 'O' gauge loop a set of Lionel #2343 SF War Bonnet post-war diesels in an A-B-A configuration pulled a long train of #2500 series aluminum passenger cars. There was a vista dome, 2 Pullmans, a baggage car and an observation car.

Auction: Bob Caplan, our able auctioneer moved Standard Gauge track and switches, 'O' gauge scale European passenger cars, and lots of Lionel items across the auction table.

Submitted by *Dave McCully*



Dave McCully and Howard Bishop admiring the double headed #318 on the standard gauge loop

Reproduction Handbook

Be on the lookout for the TCA Reproduction Handbook: coming to you within the next year!

That's right! Your Standards Committee is hard at work. They are working to provide all interested members with a bluebook (Pocket Guide) that will identify most reproduction, parts be made, fakes, altered items, and reissued items for post-war and Modern Lionel equipment.

The objective, of this 'Pocket Guide' is to provide collectors/operators with a much-needed tool to distinguish original Lionel trains and accessories from reproductions offered in the marketplace today. It will be approximately 128 pages and have color and black and

white photographs with identifying characteristics for each photograph.

This 'Pocket Guide' will be offered only to current TCA members! More information to come at our TCA Board of Director's meeting this June, or ask Bob Caplan, Standards Committee Chairperson.

Meet Scenes

