



Western Division Newsletter



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May 2013

Upcoming Meet Notices

Western Division's next train meet will take place on Saturday, June 1, 2013 in the Arcadia Senior Center, located at 405 S. Santa Anita Avenue in Arcadia, California.

To get to the meet, exit the 210 Freeway at Santa Anita Avenue. Drive south about half a mile and turn right into the Arcadia Park Parking lot. The hall is located next to the lawn bowling area. Look for the sign.

The doors open at 10AM for setup, trading, and selling. Please visit the Western Division website, at <http://www.tcawestern.org> for more information and a map.

The display theme for June will be 'Pennsylvania RR'. Show off an item and facilitate the transfer of knowledge on collecting toy trains with your fellow members.

Western Division's 2013 schedule of meets and display themes is as follows: July 27th – Red White & Blue & Military Trains, August 24th – Passenger Trains, September 28th – Trolleys (No Cable Cars!), October 26th - Halloween, and December 14th – Holiday Accessories.



This year's special raffle prize is an 'O' gauge 1990 version of the Lionel #700E Scale Hudson engine and tender with its display case and matching articulated tinplate Rail Chief cars. Tickets will be on sale at the monthly meets for \$20. Only 100 tickets are available, and the regular \$100 bill monthly giveaway is facilitated through the sale of these tickets.

Included in this newsletter mailing is the ballot for the 2013 board of director's election. Please make sure to fill it out and send it in.

President's Message

By Manny Gonzalez, WD President

Famously, Woody Allen once observed "80% of life is showing up". And while often slightly misquoted, the essence of his observation is usually conveyed quite effectively. Regardless of whether you're a fan or not, he may have gotten this one right. It's hard to think of Mr. Allen as one of the great philosophers of the 20th Century, but some feel he may have tapped into one of the Great Human Truths. When young, he realized that he wasn't the smartest, or even the most talented, and would need to find other ways to make up for this possible lack of competitive edge. He would need to work harder, or longer, or do whatever else a particular situation might require – and he resolved to live his life this way.

In a similar vein, there are some folks that espouse the "80/20 Rule". This is the idea that often 80% (or the bulk) of most things are achieved with only 20% of the effort – the rest is energy spent refining and improving with ever smaller return on the effort expanded. And whether we want to argue for 80/20, or 50/50, or

whatever combination, this dynamic relationship has been proven over and over again.

I think these are important reminders for how to involve ourselves in TCA. Much like life, showing up is important yet simple while, at the same time, small efforts often yield big results.

We all seek to influence what goes on, to help set the ship's direction, even when we aren't the ones steering. But we also need to buy into notions beyond 'if I like what's going on, maybe I'll come or stay a little longer'. If not, we will wake up one day wondering, and then lamenting, about what once was and what became of it.

March Meet Recap

By Robert Caplan, WD Recording Secretary



The display theme for the March meet was 'Flatcars'. Bob Nord showed some custom made Marx flat cars with military vehicle loads and crates. He also explained, and showed what happens when you don't think about size when acquiring items on E-bay.

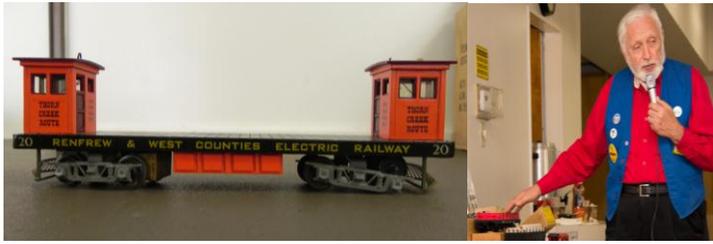


Dave Mabee displayed an unusual pre-war era Lionel 'O' gauge 4 wheel flat car that was made without any mounting slots and holes to accommodate tab insertion for a load.



Herb Mayer presented his Lionel Post-war era 'O' gauge #6418

four truck extra-long depressed center flat car. Les Cochran shared a double-cab semi-truck load flat.



Robert Trimble showed some unusual flat cars, including an 'O' scale motorized Thorn Creek Route #20 with two crew houses, one on each end.



Rudy Felix likes flat cars with boat loads. He also displayed a very unusual Lionel #6262 post-war era 'O' gauge black flat car with a Cooper-Jarrett 2 trailer load. It's unusual because the black #6262 was manufactured as a wheel car by Lionel, not as a trailer flat. But the item appeared to be factory built complete with the riveted brace platform for the trailer load.

Steve Waller presented an early post-war era Lionel 'O' gauge die-cast flat car and a later flat car with a custom load. Bob Spellmire showed a green BN gondola and a green BN hopper to match the Lionel 'O' gauge Burlington Northern set he won in the Christmas meet raffle.

There were some great items seen on the trading tables, including



a pre-war Lionel Standard gauge #390 with tender and original boxes, a Williams Reproduction Lionel #381E Standard gauge Bild-A-Loco, and Lionel #260E Loco. Jim Kenney had an Ives #3239 1 gauge electric and an 'O' gauge Marx tinplate M10000 that had been outfitted with a Lionel motor.



Some great rail action took place on the backroom layout with Steve Waller's brand new MTH B&O Standard gauge passenger set traversing the outside loop, and an American Flyer tinplate 'O' gauge freight set navigating the 8.



Raffle winners were Robert Caplan, Bob Nord, Mark Spears, and Ray Sugg. Steve Waller won the \$100 bill.

April Meet Recap

By Robert Caplan, WD Recording Secretary



There were some great items displayed at the April meet where the theme was 'Wrecks & Unusual Trains'. Bob Spellmire brought the entire wrecking yard from his layout, with Shuco tin buildings, Dinkey cars, WM Britains figures, and a Dorfan passenger set that he restored from wreckage.



Harry Chortanian shared his 1946 black Lionel #221 'O' gauge streamlined engine and #221T tender without a whistle. Harvey Tafel showed the members a very rare 1936 Lionel #289E uncatalogued #1700 Set with aluminum cars of which two were #1703 observation cars - one fitted with couplers at both ends.



Herb Mayer brought two items - a Lionel 'O' scale Commodore Vanderbilt Hudson that was factory weathered and a Lionel #7 Standard gauge locomotive and tender. John Abbe shared an unusual G Gauge General Locomotive that had printed on the bottom "0-27".



Robert Caplan displayed a pre-war Lionel #2814R white refrigerator car painted over an M.D.T. Merchant Dispatch Refrigerator Line car.



Steve Eastman presented several unique items including a handmade McKean motor car with two scratchbuilt trailing cars. The cars were all constructed from PVC downspout pipes and had painted bingo chips for the porthole windows. Steve also had a handmade Hiawatha streamliner that was built with wooden frames and aluminum skins. Steve's other train was a US Toy Trains 3 car Metro set with factory installed Marx motors.



Steve Waller brought two Lionel O-27 gauge gondolas. One was the rare dark blue painted version and the other was the even rarer silver Lionel #1002 gondola that he purchased on ebay at a bargain price of \$5. This silver version was the gondola used on the Lionel disappearing train dealer layout and is valued at several hundred dollars. Wayne Sheriff displayed a transformer powered automobile with blinking parking lights, a light in the trunk and under the hood that was in a wreck.



Mike Donovan, Steve Eastman and Greg Pulis enjoying the layout.



Harold Shapiro was the \$100 Raffle Winner, Howard Bishop, Steve Waller and Roy Bell won raffle prizes.

Fullerton Railroad Days



Western Division's portable layout was a star attraction for the kids at the Fullerton railroad Days event, May 4th and 5th, 2013.



American Flyer Wide Gauge

Submitted By Jim Kenney

This is the 2nd of a 3 part series of articles on rare American Flyer wide gauge uncataloged train sets. Previously, I shared a rare Speigel Department Store uncataloged set with a #4635 St. Paul-style locomotive and 3 Brown 19" long passenger cars, all with original boxes.

This set is an equally, if not rarer example of AF Wide Gauge. It is a J. C. Penney Department store uncataloged passenger car set, commonly called the 'Red Tomato' set due to the deep red color of the locomotive and passenger cars. It is a different color red than what was used for the cataloged sets of the time.

This set is actually an Empire Express passenger set, (Empire Express sets were also sold through J. C. Penney's Department stores in 'O' gauge, but that's another story) consisting of a New



Haven style electric locomotive numbered #4753 along with a #4171 Knickerbocker Pullman car and #4172 Henry Hudson Observation car. These are the only passenger cars with the Knickerbocker and Henry Hudson names. Both cars have Empire Express brass plates along with the numbers for the cars, and have early black, flex trucks without journal boxes.

The Locomotive also has Empire Express brass plates and the number 4753 in brass. The locomotive is painted tomato red and the passenger cars have tomato red roofs. The sides are lithographed and in excellent condition. I bought this set from a collector in the Pacific Northwest a long time ago when I was seriously looking for American Flyer Wide gauge trains, but the set did not come with the original boxes. About 10 or 15 years later, I was doing a search on ebay, and came across the original boxes for the set which included the set box and individual car and engine boxes.



So, what you see in the photos is the original set box with a set #1422 which dates to 1927. The car boxes are stamped with the correct numbers for the cars, #4171 and #4172, as is the engine

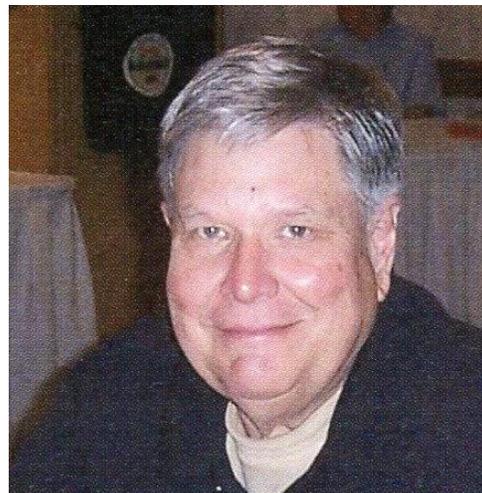
box. They are difficult to read but the numbers are present on the boxes. This set number was a cataloged set number for a cataloged red #1422 passenger set with a #4643 red locomotive and #4141 red litho passenger car and #4142 red litho observation car. The Empire Express was sold from 1928-1929.

I guess American Flyer did not want to use a special box and label for the J. C. Penney set so they packed it into a regular cataloged set box and car boxes. Anyway, this is a very rare uncataloged Department store special set and I am happy to still have it in my collection. I have seen the set at the York train meets in the past but never with the original boxes. See photos attached of the set and let me know if you have any questions.



In Memoriam

Western Division member Brian T. Fields (92-35114) passed away on May 4, 2013. Brian was also an active member of TTOS, serving in a variety of capacities including Southern Pacific Division president, President of TTOS National, co-chairman of the 2000 Long Beach (Queen Mary) convention,



chairman of the 2006 Costa Mesa convention, and volunteer in countless other activities. He was an active member of Orange County Tinsplate Trackers, a firm believer in operating layouts of all sizes, and eager to share his knowledge of toy trains with anyone who asked. Brian enjoyed his spare bedroom layout with all of its operating accessories. We used to say "tin" was in his blood as he loved Marx, Wyandotte, and all other tin toys - both electric and wind-up, with small layouts for each. Brian was always ready for a road trip and the lore of the chase - chasing real trains across southern California. As a profession, Brian repaired BMW cars and was crew chief for Mazdatrix Racing, rebuilding motors, transmissions, and making repairs. Our sincerest condolences go out to his family and loved ones.