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# Bulletin

Southern California Chapter

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SOUTHERN CALIF CHAPTER

WESTERN DIVISION \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ TRAIN COLLECTORS ASSOC-PRESIDENT'S REPORT-

OUR REGULAR OCTOBER MEETING WAS HELD AT THE HOME OF MEL ROBERTS AND HAD AN ATTENDANCE OF 20 MEMBERS AND GUESTS. OUR THANKS TO MEL AND MRS. ROBERTS FOR THEIR HOSPITALITY.

WES FRYE OPENED THE MEETING DUE TO MY LATE ARRIVAL AND EARLY DEPARTURE OF HARRISON BEMIS THE V.P.

A NOMINATING COMMITTEE WAS APPOINTED TO SELECT CANDIDATES FOR THE 1961 OFFICERS. THEY ARE RALPH PAULEY, EVAN MIDDLETON AND WALT DRONEK. BE SURE AND MAKE THE NEXT BUSINESS MEETING SO YOU CAN VOTE.

BILL HARRIS SUPPLIED HIS USUAL HUMOR AS AUCTIONEER, GETTING TOP BUCK FOR ITEMS ON THE BLOCK. MEL'S GARAGE WAS PRACTICALLY CLEANED OUT OF DESIRABLE ITEMS DURING THE PROCEEDINGS.

AT THIS POINT I WISH TO EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION FOR THE OPPORTUNITY OF SERVING YOU AS PRESIDENT AND FOR THE COOPERATION RECEIVED FROM THE MEMBERS. IT HAS BEEN A PLEASURABLE EXPERIENCE. IN PARTING I WOULD LIKE TO PRESENT A FEW CONSTRUCTIVE THOUGHTS. I BELIEVE THE SUCCESS OF ANY ORGANIZATION DEPENDS ON THE EFFORTS OF THE INDIVIDUALS. THEREFORE, WE MIGHT ASK OURSELVES, "WHAT HAVE I CONTRIBUTED TO THE TCA IN THE PAST? WHAT MIGHT I DO IN THE FUTURE?" ALSO, OUR AUCTION ALWAYS STIMULATES INTEREST. WHAT SMALL -- OR LARGE ITEMS, IN FACT -- HAVE YOU CONTRIBUTED TO

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"HE OPERATES STANDARD GAUGE TINPLATE

THIS IS A STORY ABOUT AN HERETOFORE UNHEARALDED OPERATING STANDARD GAUGE LAYOUT. UP IN VENTURA COUNTY, WHICH BORDERS THE NORTH OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY, AND OVER ON THE COAST, IS THE NO LONGER "LITTLE" TOWN OF OXNARD. KING OF THE TIN PLATERS IN THIS AREA IS THE PERSONABLE JOHN PARKER WHO LIVES IN AN ATTRACTIVE HOME WITH HIS WIFE PAT AND THEIR TWO-YEAR OLD DAUGHTER.

INGENIOUSLY, JOHN HAS WORKED OUT A UNIQUE OPERATING LAYOUT IN HIS GARAGE. I SAY UNIQUE AS IT IS IN TWO SECTIONS, ONE OF SCRATCH-BUILT WIDE RADIUS TRACK ENCIROLING A TOWN OF BEAUTIFULLY BUILT SCALE BUILDINGS; THE OTHER OVAL OF TIN PLATE TRACK GROUPS LIONEL AND AMERICAN FLYER STATIONS, TOWERS, STREET LITES, ETC. THESE TWO OVALS ARE CONNECTED WITH SWITCHES AND CROSS OVERS. JOHN RUNS HIS TRAINS ON AC OR DC, BUT THE LATTER IS FAR SUPERIOR, AS IT GIVES HIM SMOOTHER STARTING AND BETTER CONTROL.

BRIDGES ARE A FAVORITE WITH JOHN, SO HE HAS A HELLS GATE MODEL AND EVERY OTHER ONE LIONEL PRODUCED, I THINK. ALSO, HE HAS TWO OF THOSE AF WOODEN TRESTLE JOBS WHICH SURE DO ADD TO HIS LAYOUT'S LOOK.

JOHN DISPLAYS HIS COLLECTION ON NICE SHELVES IN THE DEN AND HAS SEVERAL ACCESSORIES, NOT IN USE ON THE LAYOUT, IN A GLASS CASE ON THE GARAGE WALL. YOU REALLY OUGHT TO STOP SOMETIME AT THE PARKER'S AND JOHN WILL GIVE YOU A THRILL AS HE RACES HIS BLUE COMET DOWN THE BACK STRETCH AT BREAK NECK SPEED!



WHAT HAVE YOU FOUND LATELY? WELL THE "OL PRO" SCORED AGAIN! THE AGE OF TRACERS OF OLD TIN PLATE, WES FRYE, CAME UP WITH - YES - A No. 10 TROLLEY IN REAL GOOD SHAPE. ALSO A No. 34 - YOU KNOW, THE SIX WHEEL ELECTRIC TYPE SIMILAR TO THE No. 33. BOTH OF THESE BEAUTIES WERE OF THE "SLIP ON HEAD LITE" VINTAGE. LET US HEAR FROM YOU FELLOWS. WHAT HAVE YOU FOUND LATELY?

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BILL HARRIS TOOK ON A REAL LOAD THE LAST PART OF SEPTEMBER. HE READIED ABOUT HALF OF HIS COLLECTION FOR DISPLAY AND CARTED IT OUT TO POMONA. THE LA COUNTY FAIR WAS GRACED BY BILL'S EXTENSIVE COLLECTION. HE FILLED HIS 30' BOOTH WITH MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED SETS OF ALL GAUGES. AROUND THE BACK COUNTER, UP EACH SIDE AND ALONG THE FRONT HE LAID LIONEL "O" GAUGE SCALE TRACK AND OPERATED MANY TRAIN COMBINATIONS, BOTH OLD AND NEW. THIS AMOUNTED TO ABOUT 75' OF TRACK. BILL WON A GOLD CUP FOR FIRST PLACE FOR HIS DISPLAY. WES FRYE, MEL ROBERTS AND HARRISON BEMIS HELPED HIM SET UP AND OPERATE HIS BOOTH. LITERALLY THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE VIEWED THE VAST DISPLAY WITH AMAZEMENT. TO THINK THAT ONE PERSON COULD AMASS SO MANY TOY TRAINS SEEMED ALMOST UNBELIEVABLE. OF COURSE, HUNDREDS POINTED OUT A TRAIN LIKE THEY HAD WHEN THEY WERE YOUNGSTERS. THE TRAIN SHOW WAS QUITE A SUCCESS.

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THE FIRST SOCIAL MEETING WAS HELD ON A BEAUTIFUL SUNDAY AFTERNOON IN SAN CLEMENTE. ED MILLER AND HIS GRACIOUS WIFE, DORIS, WERE HOSTS. THE USUAL TRAIN

TALK REIGNED SUPREME. ONE OF THE MAIN TOPICS WAS THAT OF A FELLOW WHO IS RAPIDLY ACQUIRING AN ENVIABLE COLLECTION WITH AN EYE FOR THE QUALITY ITEMS. ED'S OPERATING TOY BANK COLLECTION IS GROWING BY LEAPS AND BOUNDS. GADS, I KNEW THERE WERE SEVERAL HUNDRED DIFFERENT KINDS, BUT I NEVER EXPECTED TO SEE BUT A FEW OF THESE. I HAVE VIEWED AND EVEN OPERATED MANY, NOW. MY "ONE" IS LOST IN THE NUMBER AND VARIETY ED DISPLAYS.

RATHER DISAPPOINTING WAS THE TURN-OUT, BUT I GUESS HAVING IT ON THE DAY BEFORE SCHOOL STARTED AND IT BEING A LONG WAY OFF HAD ITS EFFECT ON THE ATTENDANCE. WITH SO FEW THERE, AT LEAST THE WRITER HAD HIS FILL OF WONDERFUL HOME-MADE COOKIES.

WE ARE ANTICIPATING A LARGER CROWD AT THE NEXT "IN-BETWEEN" GATHERING WHICH WILL BE NOV. 7TH AT HERB MORLEY'S.

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JIM AND ZERETA KURTEN'S HOME IN ARCADIA IS THE SITE OF THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING ON DEC. 2ND. "DAD" MIDDLETON, PLEASE BRING YOUR MAP, COMPASS, TOY TRAIN DIRECTORY AND A NAVIGATOR AS WE WANT TO SEE YOU BEFORE 9:30 ON THIS EVENING.

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HERE IS A HELPFUL HINT FROM JIM KURTEN WHO HAS ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL COLLECTIONS OF LATE LIONEL STANDARD GAUGE ON THE WEST COAST. INCIDENTALLY, WE ALL CERTAINLY ADMIRE JIM'S BEAUTIFUL NATURAL WOOD CASES AND THE GLASS SLIDING DOORS WHICH KEEP HIS ALMOST MINT COLLECTION FROM GETTING DUSTY.

(OVER)

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WHEN JIM ACQUIRES A NEW PIECE WHICH IS DULLED BY DIRT HE FIRST REMOVES THAT TRIM WHICH IS EASILY DONE AND THE TRUCKS. THEN HE USES A RAG SOAKED IN WHITE GASOLINE TO CAREFULLY REMOVE ANY OILY OR GREASY-TYPE DIRT AND STAINS. A WATER SOAKED RAG COMES NEXT FOR THE OTHER TYPES OF DIRT. HE NEXT USES A DRY SOFT CLOTH TO GENTLY, BUT FIRMLY, POLISH OVER AND OVER THE PAINTED SURFACE TO BRING BACK THE ORIGINAL SHEEN. AS A RESULT, THE PAINT NOW LOOKS NEW AND ORIGINAL. THIS EVEN MAKES TRAINS WITH SCRATCHES AND SCUFFED MARKS LOOK REAL FINE. IF THE TRIM IS BRASS IT IS PLACED IN LACQUER THINNER TO REMOVE THE OLD LACQUER. THEN IT IS CAREFULLY, PIECE BY PIECE, IMMERSSED IN NITRIC ACID UNTIL CLEAN, RINSED THOROUGHLY IN WATER, AND RUBBED WITH FINE STEEL WOOL. THESE BRIGHTENED PARTS ARE RELACQUERED BY DIPPING, BRUSHING OR SPRAYING. NICKEL TRIM IS CAREFULLY CLEANED WITH THE FINE STEEL WOOL AND RUBBED BRISKLY WITH A SOFT CLOTH.

AFTER CAREFUL RE-ASSEMBLY, SHOULD YOU FOLLOW THIS PROCEDURE, YOU WILL HAVE AN ITEM WHICH WILL FAR SURPASS, IN APPEARANCE, THE TRAIN YOU STARTED WITH.

-NEXT MEETING-

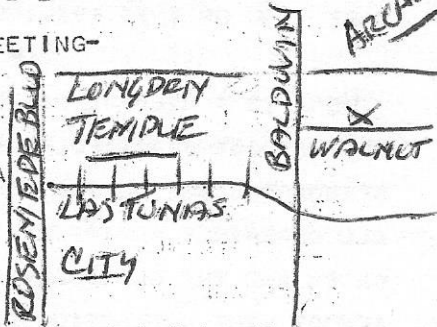
DECEMBER 2, 1960 - 7:30 PM

AT: JIM KURTEN'S

619 W. WALNUT, ARCADIA

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SAN BERNARDINO FREEWAY





## WHO AM I?

I WAS BORN MARCH 7, 1913, IN LOS ANGELES. AS A SMALL BOY I WASN'T PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN TOY TRAINS. IN 1950, I STARTED TO BUY USED ELECTRIC TRAINS AND SELL THEM AT A PROFIT AT CHRISTMAS TIME. I ALSO HAD AN OPERATING LIONEL LAYOUT OF MY OWN, USING LIONEL SCALE EQUIPMENT. ABOUT THIS TIME I MET EVAN MIDDLETON, AND THE COLLECTING BUG BIT ME. I SOON HAD A GOOD SIZED COLLECTION AND BEGAN TO DISPLAY IT IN THE HOBBY SHOWS AND AT THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY FAIR. I HAVE A NUMBER OF FIRST PRIZE RIBBONS AND A GOLD CUP AS AWARDS. MY "O" GAUGE COLLECTION IS ONE OF THE LARGEST IN THIS SECTION OF THE COUNTRY. WHO AM I?

(SEE PG 8)

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WELL, HERE IT IS ALMOST CHRISTMAS AGAIN. HAVE YOU STARTED PLANS FOR A TRAIN LAYOUT AROUND THE TREE OR WHEREVER YOU SET UP YOUR HOLIDAY DISPLAY? NOW IS THE TIME TO START THINKING ABOUT IT.

ALSO, MAYBE YOU HAVE A TRAIN THAT IS NOT A COLLECTOR'S ITEM THAT YOU MIGHT CONSIDER GIVING TO A LITTLE BOY OR GIRL WHO IS NOT AS FORTUNATE AS WE IN HAVING EVEN ONE TRAIN TO RUN. THIS IS JUST A THOUGHT.

IF THAT TRAIN NEEDS FIXING AND YOU HAVEN'T TIME OR THE PARTS, SEE OUR FRIENDS JIM ROGERS AT HIS HOLLYWOOD HOBBY SHOP, RUSS HAFDAHL AT THE FARM, OR FRANK COX IN THE SAN DIEGO AREA.

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IN A LETTER TO WES FRYE, DON ROBBINS SAID HE WAS BUSY LOOKING INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF A TEXAS DIVISION. THE TCA IS STEADILY GROWING.

— *Trading Post* —

(PRESIDENT'S REPORT CON'T)

THIS CAUSE? MANY OF OUR COLLECTING FRIENDS, ESPECIALLY THE NEWER ONES, MAY NEED SOME SMALL ITEM TO COMPLETE A SET. ARE YOU HELPING TO STIMULATE THE INTERESTS OF OTHERS? BY AND LARGE IT WAS ANOTHER'S ENTHUSIASM THAT STARTED EACH OF US COLLECTING. WHY NOT PASS THIS ON? LET US ENLARGE OUR CIRCLE OF FRIENDSHIP WITH OTHERS WHO SHARE THE SAME HOBBY INTEREST. MY PARTING THOUGHT IS "LET'S MAKE AN EFFORT TO SHORTEN THE BUSINESS MEETING".

SIGNED - GEORGE SMITH, PRES.

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THE BULLETIN WASN'T ASKED TO PRINT THIS, BUT AS YOU KNOW, FELLOWS, IT COSTS MONEY TO OPERATE OUR CLUB. THIS IS A SUBTLE REMINDER TO PUT ASIDE A FEW DOLLARS SO WHEN OUR GOOD SECRETARY ASKS FOR OUR DUES WE CAN ALL PLUNK OUT THE DOUGH -- POST HASTE! (\$4 NATIONAL, \$2 LOCAL).

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HERB MORLEY NEEDS A 405, 405E OR 407E SET, UNOPENED, SO LOOK AROUND AND IF YOU HAVE AN EXTRA SET LET HIM KNOW.

JIM KURTEN IS LOOKING FOR ANOTHER MINT 704 TO GO WITH THE ONE HE ALREADY HAS SO HE WILL HAVE A BRACE OF 704's.

SINCE GEORGE SMITH IS OUR PRESIDENT AND HE IS SPECIAL, HE WANTS A PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL.

(WHO AM I? - BILL HARRIS)