



Western Division

Train Collectors Association

Newsletter



Volume 46, No. 7

September 2000

Monthly Meet Notification

TCA Western Division's next train meet will be held on **Saturday September 23rd, 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.

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

Streamliners! We love to look at them. They are magnificent. They are the most famous of all trains. The prototypes are marvels of engineering. They have been modeled in all gauges for hobbyists like us to enjoy. Everybody has at least one or two in their collections. They are the theme for this month's display! Bring one of yours to show off at the meet, or bring one to run on the layout.

We will continue with the practice of awarding a special prize to the person chosen to have the most interesting display and the best story to go with it.

The auction will begin at 12:00 noon, and the business meeting and the raffle will follow. See you all on Saturday!

Western Division 2000 schedule of train meets:
September 23rd, 2000 **October 28th, 2000**
November 25th, 2000 **December 10th, 2000**

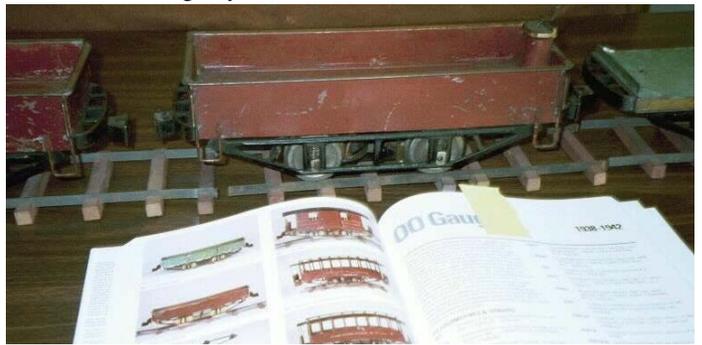
August 2000 Meet Recap

A loyal group of around 50 members enjoyed an active and interesting meeting. The highlight thanks to Ward Kimball, was a wonderful display of the earliest Lionel Trains, c. 1900 to 1905.

The theme for the meeting was 'Celebrating Lionel's 100th anniversary'. On a long line of Joshua Cowen's early 2 7/8" gauge 2 rail track, Ward arranged a #100 electric locomotive in maroon and black, a #175 Converse trolley, a #300 City Hall Park Trolley, a #200 electric express, stamped Lake Shore, a #309 trolley trailer, a #500 derrick, in apple green, a #800 electric box stamped Metropolitan Express, and a #1100 summer trolley trailer.



Ward reminded us that Lionel tried to copy the electrics in actual use during that time period. That was more realistic. But of course the public was willing to accept steamers with electric motors not seeing any contradiction to such models. At that time



the only way to present a realistic steam engine was with a live steam model which Markelin and other manufacturers made. This realism was a costly decision for Lionel and allowed other manufacturers to get a head start making the popular steamers with electric motors. All had realistic individually sprung trucks and all were in 2 and 7/8ths gauge except the summer trolley.



As noted in the Lionel 100th anniversary price guide, 2 and 7/8ths gauge trains "are extremely rare" and the largest collection has nine pieces. We had the opportunity to see seven.

Emmert Stouffer brought three #33's, second version 0-4-0's (a black 1913-15 not restored, with curved frame), an olive 1916 restored, and a blue with super motor from 1924 which he had painted simply to satisfy the yearning for a blue train. There does exist a midnight blue version, which is quite rare.

John Parker has a special interest in Lionel transition period trains that carry an Ives marking. He displayed a Lionel #262,



which was sold as an Ives #1663, and is quite rare. John told the tale of the long involved search for the matching tender.

Bob Spellmire showed a Lionel #9319 TCA Mint Car, made for the Silver Jubilee convention. He also reminded the group of the need for volunteers for our own convention coming up in 2003.



Harold Shapiro brought a representative collection of Post-War Lionel motive power. This included a 1948 #2332 GGI, #51 Navy yard switcher, #2321 Lackawanna FM, #2331 Virginian FM, #2343 Santa Fe F3 AA, #2363 Illinois Central F3 AB, #746 Norfolk and Western bullet nose steam engine, #646 baby Hudson, #2350 New Haven EP- 5 rectifier, and #2346 Boston and Maine GP- 9.

While not a part of the Lionel display, Mike Stella had a commemorative Bassett-Lowke live steam engine on his table, one of 500, an Ex-Stanier 2-6-0 Mogul in O gauge.

On the sales tables was a nice selection of new and older trains. Including a Lionel #773 Hudson with the master carton. There was a #350 transfer table with extension, and a pair of #21005 Gilbert 0-6-0 switchers, each with a work train set of cars. Also seen was a Flyer searchlight car with six wheel trucks.

Also noted, was a nice collection of pre-war children's books on trains. Including 'The Real Book of Trains', and the 'Big Book of Real Trains'. Also seen was a selection of the Pride Lines Queen Mary Commemorative taxis, trucks, baggage carts and porter sets and the 24 carat gold plated Markelin lamp.

Riding the Rails: Each and every meeting it is a pleasure to watch a new train take a spin in the back room. This meeting we had a JED Union Pacific consist, manufactured by John A. Daniels, and a red Fireball Express that handsomely and effortlessly ran a double figure eight. Thank you to the 3 generations of Keppel's for engineering.

The Raffle: Up for grabs were a K-Line Joshua Lionel Cowan heavyweight observation car, a die-cast 4 bay hopper by K-Line, a K-line club car, a TCA Museum Frisco box car, and some fine TCA books – appropriate for the day's theme 'Lionel, Standard of the World'. Among the winners were Mike Jenkins, Jay Keely, Richard Seccombe, Wayne Singer, Mario Liberatore, Terry Fortuna and Bill Shepard.

The Auction: First up was a copy of Louis Hertz's Collecting Toy Trains which did not find a buyer at its asking price, followed by a 100th Anniversary Lionel Clock. A collection of old photos found a taker, as did a #16 Lionel ballast car. Thank you to Ron Smith for filling in as 'guest' auctioneer.

Respectfully submitted by Dave McCully

Trains Go Hollywood*

By Dave Otth

Holiday Adventure, is the RKO, 1949 black and white film whose top stars Robert Mitchum and Wendell Corey are attracted to the beautiful widower Janet Leigh who realizes her nine-year-old son needs fatherly attention.

A Christmas season love story set in Manhattan, touches on the old American tradition of a train set around the tree and the financial burdens relating to purchasing an expensive Lionel Santa Fe Passenger set. Janet Leigh has a difficult time choosing her man, but a boy's Christmas wish for a big red-nosed diesel and Mitchum's surprise gift from Macy's department store eliminates further competition from Corey. The young couple rides into the sunset to California on none other than the SuperChief.

The original black and white version is difficult to rent, as it was selected for color conversion. I suggest you try to rent the original version as the color matching on the Santa Fe's and other train items were done by a blind person.

The film's opening train sequence of a SuperChief is worth noting as it initially appears as the prototype. But you decide if it is real or a Lionel. The prototype sequence transforms into the typical Macy Christmas frenzy around the toy department operating layout operated by Robert Mitchum and that fake snow we all remember as kids. The film shows how humble those layouts were compared to our train room layouts today; and we all thought they were so cool!

* Copyright 1989



Janet Leigh, employed by a comparison-shop marketing firm, returns the Santa Fe set she bought the day before to salesman Robert Mitchum. Note the angry floorwalker viewing the transaction in the background. Obviously, there is more to the lost sale and conversation than Lionel's best O-Gauge set.

In Memorium

Tca Western Division wishes to extend sincerest condolences to the family of member Ray Smith. Ray passed away on September 3rd as the result of a heart attack.