



Train Collectors Association Western Division Newsletter

Vol. 71, No. 1

January, 2025

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"The 1st and Oldest Division"

"Celebrating 71 Years"

Arcadia Community Center

365 Campus Dr., Arcadia, CA, 91007
(at Huntington Drive)

9 am - Setup crew

10 am - Attendees

2 pm- approx. end

Next Meet:

January 25 (4th Saturday)

Theme:

New Trains for the New Year!



Lionel 2367 Grand Prize set (see p. 3)



2025 Upcoming Arcadia Meets:

March 29 (5th Saturday)

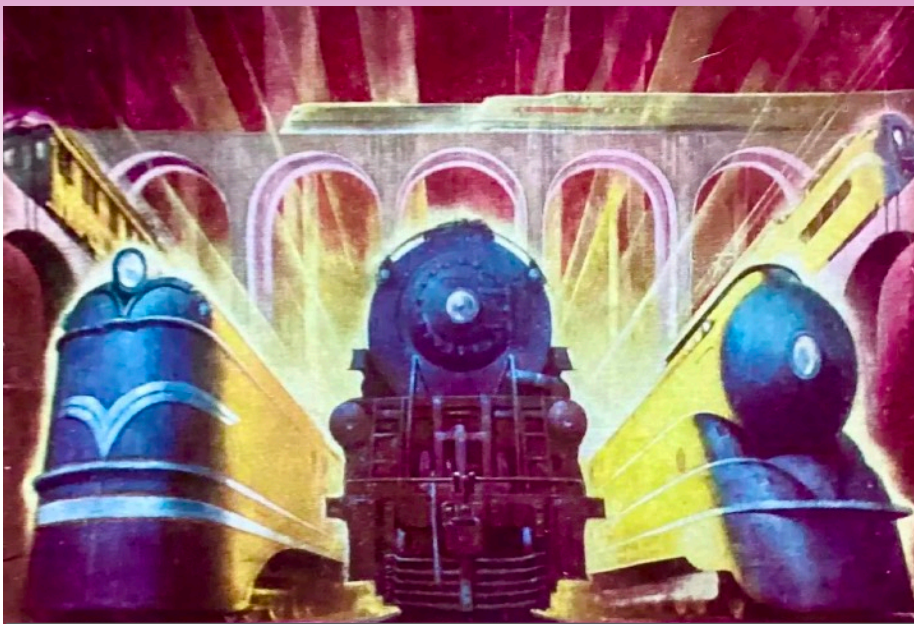
April 26 - Joint Meet with TTOS
Southern Pacific Div. (4th Saturday)

May 24 (4th Saturday)

August 23 (4th Saturday)

October 18 (3rd Saturday)

December 20 (3rd Saturday)



Happy 2025 from Western Division!

Start the New Year off right by joining TCA Western Division and get a full year of benefits. Buy your tickets for the Opportunity Drawing and come to all our meets over the year to increase your chances of winning \$100 at each meet & the LIONEL Wabash set in December.



The meet doors open at 9:00 am for setup, and we officially begin at 10:00 am, typically ending around 2:00 pm; free parking is in the front lot. Ed Vanderpool will again be on-hand to look at your ailing trains. He will diagnose the problem and do his very best to effect a cure.

TCA members & their families are admitted free (please wear your current membership badge). Non-members are welcome to attend one (1) TCA Western Division train meet per year, *gratis*! We encourage those interested to join Western Division. Local membership dues for 2025 are just \$10.

There is no charge to use the trading tables for sellers, but you must be a member in good standing of the Train Collectors Association in order to sell. Reserve a trading table by sending an email to info@tcawestern.org. For more information on the meet, see the President's Message on page 4.

Broguiere's Flatcars with DIVCO Milk Vans For Sale!



Purchase them at our local Western Division meets (*no shipping fee*) or visit www.tcawestern.org to order.



Extra DIVCO vans (boxed) are available!

Editor's Note: This month's cover illustration is attributed to [Otto Kuhler](#) (click his name to see the Wikipedia article), famed industrial designer, who created many fabulous streamliners, including the *Hiawatha* for the **Milwaukee Road** (shown at left above). Other commissions included the **B&O Royal Blue** streamlined steamer (Am. Flyer built it in "O" and "S" gauges), the **PCC streetcar** (MTH) and the **GM&O Rebel**, which was the inspiration for the LIONEL JR. 1700E in red & chrome. Otto Kuhler was eased out of the industry after WWII, due to his German-sounding name and accent. Later, he became an artist and illustrator. The image at top comes from an AAR booklet called "American Railroads at Work" (1944), that was distributed free to schools across America.



Jeff Meyer with the Holiday layout.



Harvey Tafel won the 773 Hudson from 1950.

On Saturday Dec. 20th, 2024, we celebrated the holidays at TCA Western Division. We had a catered meal from a nearby Italian restaurant.



The Grand Prize LIONEL 773 Hudson was awarded to Harvey Tafel. The lucky winner of the \$100 cash prize was Steve Eastman. Congratulations to all!



Steve Eastman with Ben Franklin.



Membership Secretary// Treasurer Harold Shapiro
Bill Brown celebrates 45 Years with TCA.



Catered Holiday luncheon



1924 IVES 3243R white set, one of only two known.



Holiday Layout by Steve Eastman and Denyse & Jeff Meyer

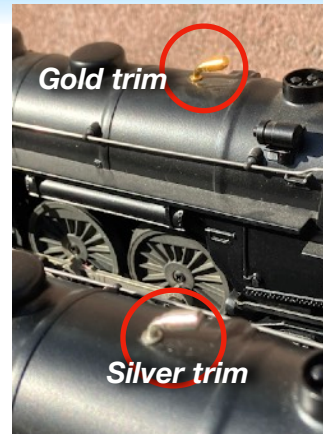


The winners at the Holiday Meet.

Collecting LIONEL Hudsons Through the Years, Part 3

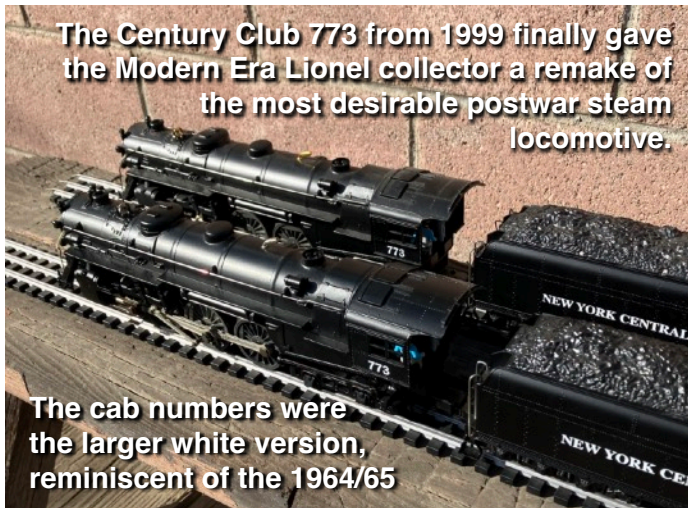
—by **Mike Stella**, Western Division (TCA # 79-13898)

We ended Part 2 in 1997 with the production of two Lionel Hudsons, while waiting patiently for a locomotive numbered 773. As Lionel approached its 100th anniversary, the Century Club announced a 773 would be the 5th locomotive in the series. It arrived in 1999, in time for Lionel's 100 year celebration in 2000. We can't forget that Lionel also produced a gold-plated Hudson for the year 2000. Lionel then moved production to China, but in early 2001 they produced a final 773 from remaining Century Club parts. This "Last Hudson made in the USA" is probably the hardest one of all to obtain.



Sales of the CC-773 in 1999 were lower than planned, leaving Lionel with enough parts to assemble about 190 additional pieces.

Lionel changed the trim from Gold to Silver (note the ornamental whistles) and created the "Last Hudson made in the USA."



The Century Club 773 from 1999 finally gave the Modern Era Lionel collector a remake of the most desirable postwar steam locomotive.

The cab numbers were the larger white version, reminiscent of the 1964/65

Almost identical but assigned a unique SKU# these special 773's were sold by just the Top Ten Lionel dealers. Asking price was higher and they still command a big premium in today's market.



The Celebration Series #6-31739 set included a LIONEL LINES 773 Hudson. The set was

based on the postwar No. 13150 set from 1964 and 1965, which included a ZW transformer.



No more could we look at the bottom of a Lionel freight car and read "Made in Chesterfield" or "Made in Mt. Clemens." Frames might read "Made in China" or were totally blank. Lionel production had moved on and more product flooded the market. Old series were continued and new series were started. Electronics exploded and every year brought new features.

In 2005 Lionel offered a remake of the grandest set ever produced in the postwar era. Celebration Series set #6-31739 featured a 773 hauling seven freight cars and was copied from the 1964/65 Super-O set. While the set was a reboot from 1964, the 773 locomotive was more like the 1950 version, with cab numbers in the silver serif font. This locomotive was not offered for separate sale, so if you wanted one you had to buy the set.

This was the final 773 produced by Lionel in the Modern Era, but not the last NYC Hudson made. As the years rolled on and electronic control systems evolved, further Hudsons have been offered. I have not added any of them to my Lionel roster. *However, I do continue to add a 773 now and then!*

-Mike Stella



The Celebration Series 773 from the #6-31739 set was built in 2005.

TCA Western President's New Year 2025 Message



President
Jon M. Lang

Happy New Year! It's hard to believe that another year is gone. This year, 2025, began with the tragic Los Angeles wildfires. Our Western Division photographer, Roger Hill, lost his home in the Eaton fire. Our hearts go out to Roger & any other Western Division member who suffered a loss.

I hope you will plan to join us on January 25, 2025 for our first meet of the year. We will have trains for sale, the repair desk, our regular refreshments for purchase and an Opportunity Drawing.

The theme for our display table show & tell will be **New Trains for the New Year.** That could be brand-new or new-to-you. *Bring a train to share!*

There will be no meet in February. Then, we will meet three months in a row: March 29 (5th Saturday), April 26 (4th Saturday), which is a Joint Meet with TTOS Southern Pacific Division, and May 24 (4th Saturday). In June, we will be dark, in honor of the 2025 TCA National Convention in Jacksonville, Florida. Visit www.tcatrains.org/ for Convention information.



The Western Division Board of Directors has chosen the Grand Prize for 2025. It's the LIONEL 2244W passenger set from 1955 featuring a Wabash 2367 F3 "O" gauge, twin-motored locomotive, plus a matching 2367C trailer unit. It comes with a baggage car, dome & observation.



TCA Western's
2025 Grand Prize
was shown at the
Holiday Meet.

Buy your tickets early & often to increase your chances to win a \$100 bill at every meet. You must be a member in good standing to enter and be present to win the cash prize. Tickets are priced at just \$20 this year. The Grand Prize will be awarded on December 20, 2025. (You need not be present to win the train set.)

We'd like more volunteers to help with our club's functions, such as planning, promoting, setting up/breaking down, etc. Please contact me on this...

- Jon M. Lang

p.s. your 2025 dues are due! (See bottom.)

Bob Caplan's collection of LIONEL TRAINS will be auctioned online by Steve Harris Toy Train Auctions of Reno, Nevada. The second and final auction is currently scheduled for Saturday, March 22, 2025 and will consist primarily of Lionel pre-war trains.

For more information on the auction, please visit <https://bid.harristoytrainauctions.com/about> and click on the **Auctions** tab at the top of the screen. Also, look in the mail for an ad in the February issue of the National Headquarters News or click on: <https://www.tcatrains.org/publications/>



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TCA Western Division Officers:

Jon Lang - TCA Western Division President
Greg Pulis - TCA Western Division Vice-President
Harold Shapiro - Membership Secretary/Treasurer/
Webmaster/Past President
Tom Watson - Recording Secretary/Past President

Receive free club communications via email:
visit- <http://www.tcawestern.org/archives.htm> and fill in the form in the middle of the page.

TCA Western Division Directors:

Bob Caplan - Immediate Past President
Rudy Felix - Director at Large/Hot Brews
Roger Hill - Director at Large/Club Photographer
Larry Pearson - Director at Large/Repair Clinic
Steve Waller - Newsletter Editor/Past President



TCA Western Division Volunteers:

Steve Eastman - Layout Manager/Past President
Denyse & Jeff Meyer - Layout Managers

Join TCA National & TCA Western Division:

Visit <http://www.tcawestern.org/membership.htm> & click on the "Adobe" forms in the first paragraph. (Search for the word "Adobe.") *Print out & mail, or join at the next meet!*



Western Division

Train Collectors Association

A 501 (c)(3) Non-Profit Organization



December 11, 2024

Dear TCA Western Division Member,

Western Division has spent 2024 celebrating its 70th anniversary! With the terrific support of the Western Division membership, this club continues to exist, meet regularly, and to foster the hobby that we all love, here in the Southern California region.

The Western Division Board of Directors has determined that it will be necessary to reinstate payment of membership dues covering the year 2025 to help keep the Division solvent. 2025 Annual dues will be in the amount of \$10 and are **due by January 1, 2025**. This amount will cover the Division member and spouse. Please remember that in order to be a member in good standing with TCA Western Division **it is necessary that you belong to the TCA National organization and have paid your separate annual TCA National membership dues**. The TCA National business office notices and invoices its members separately from the Western Division. Depending on whether you have opted in to receive notifications from TCA National in physical/paper form or electronically via email, you may or may not actually receive a hardcopy of their annual dues renewal notification. Likewise, unless you have opted to receive physical copies of the WD Newsletter, you will not receive a hardcopy of this dues request letter.

Due to the cost of printing and postage, Western Division still requires that those requesting paper copies of the Western Division Newsletters and other correspondence sent out via US Mail; continue to pay an additional fee of \$10.00. The newsletter will now be published 4 times a year to further reduce costs.

In order to maintain accurate records for sending newsletters and correspondence, **it is requested that you provide your membership information, physical address, telephone contact info and e-mail address using this form. Please complete the sections below.**

Western Division greatly appreciates the support of the membership and offers an opportunity for you to make a tax-deductible donation to the club. You will receive a personal thank you letter that you can retain for your tax records.

_____ Regular WD Membership for 2025	\$10.00
_____ Request receiving Newsletter hard copies by mail	\$10.00
_____ A Tax-Deductible Donation to Western Division	\$ _____
Total Amount Enclosed: Date _____ Check # _____ Total:	\$ _____

Please provide your current information: (Please Print Clearly)

Name(as it will appear on your WD Membership card): _____

TCA #: _____ - _____ **National Expiration Date:** mo./yr. _____ / _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

Primary Phone: (____) _____ - _____ **Alternate/Cell Phone:** (____) _____ - _____

E-Mail Address: _____ @ _____

Spouse's Name (as it will appear on membership card) _____

Please either bring this completed form along with payment to the next WD train meet or mail it to:

**Harold Shapiro, Western Division Treasurer,
3855 Woodcliff Road, Sherman Oaks, California 91403**