



Western Division

Train Collectors Association

Newsletter



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April 2005

Meet Notice

The April meet will take place on **Saturday the 23rd**, in the Arcadia Senior Center, located at 405 S. Santa Anita Avenue in Arcadia, CA. Sellers: *Tables are free!*

To get to the center, exit the 210 Freeway at Santa Anita Ave. Drive south about half a mile and turn right into the Arcadia Park parking lot. We're located next to the lawn bowling area. Look for the sign. Doors open at 10 a.m. for setup, trading and selling. Please check our newly updated Western Division website, at <http://www.tcawestern.org>, for more information and a map!

The April display theme will be **April fool's/buyers goofs**. Show off that prized toy train, share an interesting story or two, and facilitate the transfer of knowledge on collecting toy trains. There will be a separate prize drawing for all those who display items!

Remaining Western Division 2005 meet dates: **April 23, May 21, July 23, August 27, September 24, October 22, November 19 and December 17.**

President's Message

By Wayne Sheriff, President, TCA Western Division



The special raffle for this year is going quite well. Over 50 of the 100 tickets have already been sold, just after two meets. Up for grabs is the new Lionel BB1 class electric locomotive in the Pennsylvania road name, and the four related heavyweight passenger cars as shown in the new 2005 catalog, and in the picture above. The March \$100 cash drawing for ticket holders went to Western Division member John Whitmeyer. Tickets will be on sale

for \$20 at each meet until all 100 are sold. Ticket holders must be in attendance to be eligible to win the monthly \$100 drawing. The set will be awarded at our December Holiday meet.



Bob Caplan has authored ground rules for the monthly meet auctions. The Board of Directors reviewed and amended the document and is including it with this news letter. These rules are designed to speed up the auction. Bob also reviewed the proposed new Standards Guidelines for TCA. These will be presented to the National Board of Directors in June. They are designed to make grading easier and more consistent.

Recently, Western Division was represented by Jon Lang, Rudy Felix, Walter Olsen, and myself, as we staffed a booth at the GATS Show in Costa Mesa the 3rd weekend of March. It gave us an opportunity to present the Club to the public. We did make many new contacts and explained what TCA is all about. The Fullerton Rail Fair is in May and will provide another opportunity to promote Western Division. We are asking for 8 members of the division to volunteer to man our booth. Please contact Jon Lang if you are interested in participating.

I will be out of town for the next two meets. Jon Lang will be taking over the reigns. See you in July.

- *Wayne Sheriff*



March Meet Recap

Report by Bob Lemberger, Recording Secretary

There was a great selection and quite a lot of table selling. The room was abuzz with activity. It was great to feel the energy. Items sold by Jim Kreider included a restored 400E in crackle black and three Ives Prosperity reproduction cars made by Varney-Sirus. If you weren't at the meet, you missed out on seeing some rare items.

Wayne Sheriff called the meeting to order and introduced Harold Shapiro who suggested "Everybody have a good time today!" He also stated that "We did an experiment today. We sent out an e-mail to all Western Division members, whose addresses are on file, announcing the special auction today and listing the items to be placed on the block". In the future, members will receive an e-mail containing a link to the monthly newsletter. This is being done in an effort to get the information out sooner, and to cut costs.

The two posters of the BBI Electric and the heavyweight passenger cars that are included in the 'Special Members Raffle' were displayed. Lionel prepared the giant posters just for WD.

Steve Waller announced that "Today's display theme is Trolleys, handcars, and motorized units" He then introduced those who shared their finds. Ed Largay was the first up. He brought in a



neat motorized Clendale trolley, maker unknown, a 'Rapid Rabbit' by McCoy, to cute to pass up, a Marklin prewar 'Flying Hamburger' and a Marklin rail Zeppelin circa 1935. He explained this one is 'O' gauge but they also make a #1 gauge, which he's determined to own someday.

Next was yours truly. I brought in some pictures of a trolley museum I stumbled across in Kiev, Ukraine on a visit last week. Interestingly, I found a number of articles there about Los Angeles.

Calvin Smith brought in a cute Lionel unit he got from the recent sale at the Train Shack; He thinks they still might be available.

Mario Liberatore had a unique Type 'J' 100 watt uncatalogued transformer that ran on 40 to 133 cycles and 90 to 250 volts. Not likely, the mystery was solved when it was explained that the voltage and wattage were actually factory set.

Michelle Abbe displayed a Lionel Burro crane, a Peanuts handcar and a circus car that made animal sounds, including those of monkeys and elephants.

John Whitmeyer showed off a limited edition Corgi PCC car in Lionelville colors which he bought at a recent convention.

Mike Jenkins displayed three motorized units: a Great Northern rail car, a UP ballast tamper, and a SF speeder.

Bob Caplan showed several items, including a very unusual Lionel #455 Geiger counter tester made for Civil Defense, two unique multi position switches made by Lionel, still wrapped with the Hudson factory paper, a Lionel 15 year employee pin, and a Lionel radio. Bob explained that Lionel had the original patent for radios that it sold to RCA. Lastly he showed off the Polar Express Toyfair 2005 car made by Lionel.

Nancy Cochran showed the cute trolley she received as a wedding anniversary present from Les. She was so excited by it, that she bought Les a pair of diamond earrings for his birthday a few weeks later. Les brought in a number of trolleys that included an SI switcher made by MPC, an Industrial Rail that has an E-unit, but also operates via bumpers, an MTH PCC trolley, a P&E car, a J.C. Penny Exclusive that he bought on eBay, and three versions of a Corgi trolley that he rode on the prototype of, as a kid.



Al Vargas showed a huge lift bridge that he first saw 2 years ago at a Cal-Stewart meet. He recently found this one, which was made in Illinois.

Greg Pulis had a beautiful Carlyle and Finch trolley from 1907-08. The frame is made of wood which C&F usually used to prevent conduction. The track was all handmade in the era when Lionel and other competitors were stamping it out in mass. In 1915 C&F quit making trains but is still in business today.

Bob Lemberger won the display raffle and selected a double door 'O' gauge box car by K-Line.

Steve Waller announced that, "Darrell Brewer is currently in Foothill Nursing Center, 401 W. Ada Avenue, Glendora. The phone number is 626-335-9810. Please give him a call or go by to see him and say hello. John Parker recently had minor surgery and was at the meet. Ray Sugg is still recovering from his surgery.

Bruce Lazarus announced that Hilly Lazarus had recently passed away. Hilly was working on a souvenir car project for TTOS Southwest Division and TCA Nor-Cal Division. Bruce displayed drawings of this Ward Kimball commemorative car, which features Disney approved artwork by Ward. Orders are being taken now until fall 2005 for delivery in spring 2006.



February raffle winners were Alec Tan (D&RG car), John & Michelle Abbe (Coil Car), Steve Waller (Coil Car), Mike Donovan (Coil Car), and Bob Williams (Canadian Pacific Log Car). Lottery ticket winners were Nellie Pulis, Tina Corsello, David Gabay, and John Parker. In the raffle for kids, both Steven Johnson and Jack Zisakis won.

Walter Olsen commented about membership in the division: "Remember, if you are not growing, your are dying".

Western Division Auction Rules

- Only TCA members may sell or bid in a TCA Western Division authorized auction.
- TCA members may bid on behalf of a non TCA member, but must bear full responsibility for item(s) bid on.
- Before the auction begins, all sellers must sign up on an auction list that is kept at the meet registration desk. This will determine order of sellers.
- 15 minutes will be allotted for the auctioneer to sell the lots for each seller.
- If the auctioneer does not get to all of the seller's lots within the 15 minute time limit, the seller has the option to bring those unsold lots back to the auction at the end of the last seller's allotted time slot.
- Auctioneer has final authority.
- All items are as is and all sales are final.

Sellers:

- There is no auction fee for sellers
- Sellers may bring up as many lots of trains or train related items during the allotted 15 minutes of time.
- A reserve is allowed on every third lot only. Sellers may choose to pass that lot if the bidders do not meet the minimum desired price. All other lots must sell to the highest bidder without reserve. If sellers have only one item, a reserve may be placed for that item. If sellers have two items, one item is permitted a pass, and the other item must be a no reserve item.
- Seller is responsible for any sales tax.
- Have Fun!

Buyers:

- There is no buyer's fee.
- Buyers must obtain an auction number from the auction recorder/cashier in order to bid.
- All payments must be made in full at the end of the auction. Buyers may pay by cash or check (check must be left blank).
- Have Fun!