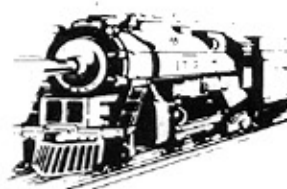




TRAIN TALK

THE NEWSLETTER OF
TCA/WESTERN DIVISION

"Where old trains meet the new..."



VOLUME I, NO. 8

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OPEN HOUSE AUGUST 27TH

The third annual Open House Meet of TCA Western Division is scheduled for Saturday, August 27 at the Arcadia Senior Citizen's Center, 405 S. Santa Anita Avenue in the city of Arcadia, CA.

TCA members, senior citizens and children under the age of 12 will be admitted free. All others will be charged \$2 at the door.

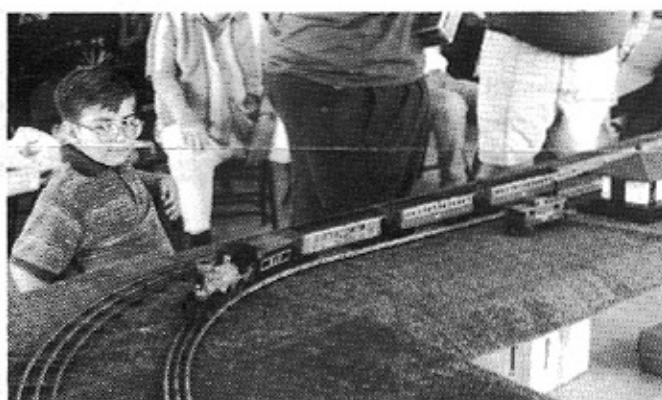
Doors will open to sellers and club members at 10AM, and to the general public at 11AM. (Board members are asked to be at the hall at 8AM to assist in setting up the tables.) The meet will continue until 2PM.

Sellers must be members of TCA, TTOS, MTA, Valley Toy Train Club or All Gauges Toy Train Association, and must agree to abide by all TCA rules.

Tables are available for sellers at \$6 each. Reservations must be made with Kay Spellmire before 9PM on Tuesday, August 23. Kay has informed us that table space has been selling very well, and she expects few if any tables to be available "day of." Please get your reservations in early! Call Kay at (714)536-1510.

As we announced earlier, Brian Fields and the Orange County Tinplate Trackers have volunteered to build their layout, and Dick Mayer has promised to bring his Rich-Art creations, ensuring plenty of activity and train excitement for the day's visitors.

Looking ahead, our Western Division 40th Birthday Meet will be held on Saturday, September 24 (again in the Senior Citizen's Hall) at 11AM. The display theme will be anything and everything having to do with TCA's colorful first 40 years. Bring club cars, publications, or memorabilia of any kind. Our new



operating layout will be up and running again for this meet, and we will have one of the green 0-gauge TCA passenger trains chugging around the track--as well as something *you* bring. Ice cream and cake will be served--so bring the kiddies along to help celebrate. (After all the future of TCA is in their

hands!) Highlight of the meet will be the raffling of our TCA Anniversary F-3 ABA diesel set. Tickets for the raffle are still available at \$5 each -- if you have not already bought yours, do so at the August Open House or at the Birthday Meet.

Jumping ahead still further, TCA Western Division will host a special "Mostly Marx" all-day auction meet, Saturday, November 26. (Note: this date was not included on our calendar published in January.) Longtime TCA member Ron Smith is performing major surgery on his huge collection of 35 years, and will be offering items of all vintage to the highest bidder. There will be no regular business meeting or table sales at this special TCA event. The auction will be open to members of TCA and all the recognized toy train clubs -- TTOS, MTA, Valley Toy Train Club, All Gauges, etc. Exact details regarding start times, etc., are still being worked out and will be announced very shortly.

If this is not enough train news for one newsletter, our TTOS brethren have announced that their National Convention for the year 2000 will once again be held here in the southland -- in Long Beach, California. You can count on the powers that be to "pull out all the stops" to make this millennium-changing get-together a convention to remember.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT...

We drove by the Senior Citizen's Center again the other day, and the walls are still humming from the celebration-like atmosphere of our July meet. What a great crowd! Who said summer meets are dull? A major point of interest was our operating layout, which attracted train fans of all ages. We had 0-gauge on one loop, Standard gauge on another -- and at one point we even had a model "auto-bus" making its way around the track. Photos of the layout and some of our members are included here and on page one.

Our monthly display included seldom-scene motorized units, and many of the treasurers bought this year at our National Convention in York, Pennsylvania.

During the business meeting, Dave Otth shared information about an article he has written for the current September issue of *Classic Toy Trains* magazine. The topic is the 10th anniversary of the Toy Train Parade at the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento. An official celebration is planned for the weekend of September 30 - October 2. Mark your calendars! The museum is excellent and the article fascinating -- so pick up a copy if you haven't already!

See ya on the 27th at our Open House!

-- Thomas J. Watson

