



Western Division

Train Collectors Association

Newsletter



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Meet Notice

Our next meet will take place on **Saturday, August 27th**, in the Arcadia Senior Center, located at 405 S. Santa Anita Avenue in Arcadia, CA. Sellers: *Tables are free!*

To get to the meeting, 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 August display theme will be everything related to **Plasticville**. Show off that prized toy train or train related item 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: **September 24, October 22, November 19 and December 17.**

President's Message

By Wayne Sheriff, President, TCA Western Division

In the heat of the July weather, a large contingent of Western Division's membership turned out for the best attended meet, to date, for the year. Not only did the membership turnout, but the hall was full of tables of trains. As extraordinary as always, the back room was full of operating trains in 'O' and Standard gauge, set up and operated by Richard Keppel, Jr. and his crew. There was smoking, chugging and whistles blowing in a brilliant display.

Jim Kenney once again presented the delicious sandwich selection in the kitchen while Jon & Kay Lang provided the coffee and donuts. Thanks to all, for your effort & support. Additionally, thanks to those who helped to setup and take down the tables and chairs before and after the meet.

The historical background of Western Division includes a roster of members who have been in TCA for many years. One such member is **John Parker, CM6-HR-143**. John has been involved in TCA at all levels of the organization. He served as TCA National President (1989), President of Western Division (1966, 1997-1998), National TCA Convention Chairman for the 1971 and 1979 Conventions held at the Disneyland Hotel and the Co-Chairman of the 2003 Convention held at Ontario, California, when Western Division served as convention hosts.

Currently John is a continuing member of the Western Division Board of Directors and serves as the Historian of TCA National. As Historian, John provides an article in each Quarterly publication published by the National office. John's wealth of knowledge on the subject of toy trains and their variations has made him an expert on all types and makes of trains. His knowledge and association with charter and long term members has earned him respect throughout the association. John is always looking for suggestions for articles for the Quarterly, so if you have any suggestions, John will be interested. We look forward to John's continued involvement with TCA for many years to come.

As noted in the last Newsletter (July 2005) issue, I indicated that new standards for toy trains and associated paper items were approved by the TCA Standards Committee. Copies of these new standards are available on the TCA National and Western Division Internet web sites for your review. Copies can also be downloaded and printed from those locations.

There are a few raffle tickets left for sale for the Lionel BB1 engine and heavyweight passenger cars. They will all be gone soon, so hurry and get yours at the next meet. Nancy Cochran was the lucky July \$100 bill winner in the monthly BB-1 raffle drawing.

- *Wayne Sheriff*



July Meet Recap

Submitted by Robert Lemberger

As usual there was a good buzz on the floor with many sellers and many buyers in attendance. There was a lot of talk about the Seattle National convention held this past June. Jon Lang brought in his pictures from the convention and his Alaska cruise, which were displayed nicely on his laptop computer in a revolving slide show. Nice work Jon!

President Wayne Sheriff called the meeting to order by stating, "Remember what it's all about! Toy trains!" He reminded all to be sure to sign in. All those attending every meeting this year will receive free dues next year!

Membership Secretary/Treasurer Harold Shapiro sadly announced the recent passing of longtime TCA Western Division member Darrell Brewer, #79-14283. Harold also introduced some Western Division members visiting from the North Country: Fred & Joanne Albers, Butch & Charlene Cowdery, and Alvin & Catherine Costa all made the trip down to Arcadia for the July meet.

Fred & Joanne operate the Success Valley Railroad in Porterville, CA where they have installed a 7.5" gauge outdoor RR with 970 feet of track on three and a half acres of pasture. Inside their two bedroom house there are three train rooms with separate layouts that incorporate 1,079 feet of 'O' gauge track and 214 feet of Standard gauge track on a 160 square foot layout. There are even

trains running in their bathroom! Jo Anne must be every TCA member's idea of the understanding wife!

Two new Western Division members were also introduced: Joe Farino who likes 'O' gauge and Ayk 'Ike' Hidirshah who is into HO.

Jon Lang was congratulated on doing such a fine job running the monthly meets in Wayne's absence. We all second that!

Bob Caplan is on the Standards committee and said that a final draft was drawn by the committee and approved by the National Board of Directors for a new grading system. The scale is 1 to 10 with 10 being mint and 1 being junk value only. There is a separate grading scale for all collectible paper now, also employing the 1 to 10 grading method.

In honor of Disneyland's 50th Anniversary, the display theme for July was 'anything Disney'. Steve Waller borrowed the Fireman's hat from the Disney barn in Griffith Park. The hat and other items were purchased at the Ward Kimball auction this past May. Steve also had a dedication picture of the Disneyland monorail with then Vice President Richard Nixon standing along side Walt Disney. He also displayed two recent models of the monorail in red and blue as well as a Tyco HO Disneyland train set.

Les Cochran Showed off his Flying Dumbo by Lionel and the 1977-78 Lionel Disney set with the U38 engine and 13 cars. Harry Chortanian brought in his 50th Disneyland gold set by New Bright.



Alvin Costa with his very rare Minnie & Minnie handcar

Alvin Costa displayed a Minnie and Minnie windup handcar from the 30's, a very rare piece if actually built at the Lionel factory.

Bob Spellmire showed off his Lionel Mickey and Minnie #1100 handcar, A Schylling tinplate Mickey and Minnie handcar and a Pridelines McScrooge. Bill Kluss had his 'G' gauge Lilly Belle of Walt's backyard railroad fame, modeled by Heartland. It pulled two LGB cars with Disney characters along for the ride. He also had a 1/24 scale Ward Kimball.



Disney Characters rode all sorts of trains at the July meet

Jo Anne Albers showed her Disney Christmas characters. Harold Shapiro brought in 2 cars from the 1935 Mickey circus set by Lionel. Bob Trimble had a nice collection of Disney characters complete with buildings, most of which his daughter helped him collect. Merv Lew displayed a nice example of a Tinplate Lunch Box from the 50's with a nice Disney Express graphic.

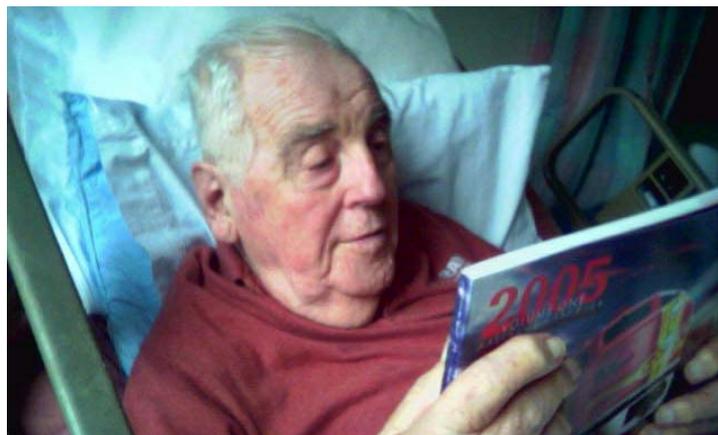
Rudy Felix had the Lionel 6464 Disneyland 1971 TCA convention car with Disney characters and a 1973 TTOS convention car designed by Ward Kimball featuring his own depot. Bob Lemberger brought in a few pieces from the Kimball collection along with a rare Pridelines standard gauge remake of the 30's Mickey set.



Bob Lemberger's Standard Gauge Pridelines set

Calvin Smith had a picture of Ollie Johnson's backyard train recently purchased by John Lassiter of Pixar fame. Bob Caplan showed a photo of Ward Kimball and talked about being at Disneyland opening day from an insider's point of view as his father was a chauffeur for Walt Disney.

Merv Lew won the display award, a shirt that he gave to Steve Waller. He then won a K-Line Great Northern Hopper in the raffle. Other raffle winners: Walter Olsen K-Line Swift reefer, Ken Vaughn K-Line Southern boxcar, John Abbe AT&SF flatcar with a container, Robert Cesarone and Michelle Abbe each won a 2004 TCA Convention Commemorative Plate. The meet ended with an auction of various items.



Darrell Brewer, 1912-2005

A memory by Steve Waller

This is a photo of Darrell Brewer that I took on 4-27-05 at the Foothill Nursing and Rehab Center in Glendora, CA. Darrell was in good spirits that day, and very sharp. Darrell told me about the time he appeared as an on-camera musician for C. B. DeMille. Based on Darrell's recollection, the picture was DeMille's original version of "The Buccaneer" and the date was October 5, 1937. Darrell said that DeMille shut down the production when he learned that his daughter Katherine had eloped with one of the film's actors, Anthony Quinn.

Darrell had a big collection of 'O' and Standard Gauge trains, which he ran on a large layout that took over the dining room of his house in San Gabriel. Darrell died at home at the age of 93. Those of us who know him will miss his fascinating stories and quick wit. Our sympathies go to his daughter Judy and his grandson, Darrell Calvillo, who accompanied his grandfather many times to the TCA meets.