Western Division

Train Collectors Association Newsletter

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FEBRUARY MEETING NOTICE

Saturday, February 22nd is our next meet at the Senior Citizens Center, Arcadia Community Park. The address is 405 S. Santa Anita Ave, Arcadia, CA. The meet starts at 10:00 am. Visit our web site at www.tcawestern.org.

MONTHLY DISPLAY THEME

We missed "something new" for our January theme, so perhaps we can combine "something new" that you may have received in **RED**, to commemorate Valentine's Day or just bring a commemorative piece in **RED** for show and tell.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

By Russ Lange, TCA Western Division President

Our January meet was well attended. It was gratifying to see the large turnout. We welcomed back Bill Clausen and Bruce Peterson. It is good to have them aboard again.

Although we had a nice crowd, I would like to see more of the tables that are available, FREE to members, being used to the fullest extent to take advantage of such a nice crowd

Time is of the essence. Please get your orders in for our Grizzly Flats Station and the Western Pacific Box Car.

John Abbe & Michelle admire the *new* **LIONEL** Aquarium with Car.

MEETING NOTES

by Steve Waller, Recording Secretary

Our first meet of the **New Year** took place on Saturday, January 25, 2003 at the Arcadia Senior Center.

Bob Spellmire started off the New Year right, by handing out *free* **OSH 2003 Railroad Calendars**. This year's artist is the very talented Larry Fisher. Check out the detail on the roundhouse painting in the center spread. Thanks to Mr. Spellmire and all our friends at Orchard Supply Hardware.

Richard Keppel, Jr. and his son **Chris** had a beautiful layout going in the south wing. There were at least six trains running at one time. Probably the highlight was a white Ives set racing along the standard gauge figure 8 in the center. We spotted a Pennsy GG-1 and a Union Pacific M-10000 streaking around the outer loops.

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MEETING NOTES, *continued*

Now that the deadline for ordering the TCA 2003 Convention Cars has passed, you won't want to miss placing your order for the beautiful TCA Western Division Car, a **LIONEL** 6464-style Western Pacific blue feather boxcar, No.1954-2003.

We had the official Sample Car on display at the meet and it just looked fantastic. This is going to be a really *hot* item. (Order more than one and make a killing on eBay!) **Bob Caplan** did a great job on this car. Use the order form you received in last month's newsletter or contact **Dale Lange** at (805) 581-3061; his email is dkbk101@aol.com.
Don't wait till it's too late!

We illuminated the ceramic **Grizzly Flats Depot** at the January meet display table, using a single night light-type bulb. *What a great effect!* The colorful stained glass windows looked beautiful and the bay window really stood out. Contact **John Parker** at (714) 637-0952 or jgptrain@aol.com to order. We ran the new **LIONEL** *"Great Train Robbery"* set (6-31928) around the GF depot. The 4-4-0 American steam loco and yellow Old Time coach reminded us of **Ward & Betty Kimball's** railroad.

Are you going to **TCA NorCal Division's Spring Cal-Stewart** meet? The dates are February 28 thru March 2, 2003 at the Santa Clara Convention Center. Their website is http://www.norcaltca.com/ If you go by train, Amtrak offers discounts! For more info, contact-- **Richard White**, NorCal Newsletter Editor/webmaster at (925) 376-5821 or email him at **toytrain13@hotmail.com**.

We had some nice door prizes at the January meet. **Michelle Abbe** (age 10) handled the drawing with aplomb. *Congratulations to all the lucky winners:*

- **Don Stotts-LIONEL** 6-19487 flatcar w/plane
- **Bob Wall--LIONEL** 6-17914 Englehard flatcar
- **Dave Otth-LIONEL** 6-29258 Reading boxcar
- **John Palmer-LIONEL** 2003 Catalog, Vol. 1

Plans for the **TCA 2003 National Convention** this June in Ontario, CA are proceeding well. Convention Co-Chairman **John Parker** tells us that the registrations are streaming in. Don't miss out; get your registration in now!

Betty Kimball and family have been most generous in supporting the Convention. They have donated numerous items for the Banquet Auction. Many thanks to the entire Kimball family!

Wayne Sheriff, Convention Co-Chair, reminds us that there is still much work to be done for the Convention. Be sure to sign Wayne's ***Volunteer Sheet*** at the next meet. All Western Division members should donate a few hours of their time between now and the end of June!

An auction rounded out our very exciting January meet. **Bob Caplan** was our auctioneer. Some of the items that came through the auction included an Aquarium Car, a postwar Transformer Car, a Western Pacific boxcar and several other **LIONEL** freight cars. Then some great **MARX** items appeared, including two (!) streamlined Mercury windup locomotives. The first was in **BLACK** and the second was a brilliant **RED**. *(Hint: bring for February display!)*

Those who stayed late got a real treat. **Dave Otth** and **Hollis Cotton** showed a mockup of their proposed TCA Convention display. Dave is calling it *"Toy Trains Go Hollywood!"* They plan to have photographs and film clips showing toy trains in the movies. For more info or to volunteer, contact **Steve Waller**, Convention Display Chairman, at (626) 792-6750 or tca2003@earthlink.net.

Program Note: Rare film ***Four's a Crowd*** (1938) starring Errol Flynn, Rosalind Russell and Olivia de Havilland, featuring **LIONEL TRAINS,** airs on Turner Classic Movies (TCM) Wednesday, Feb.19th at 9 a.m. Pacific Time. **Set your VCR!**