



Western Division

Train Collectors Association

Newsletter



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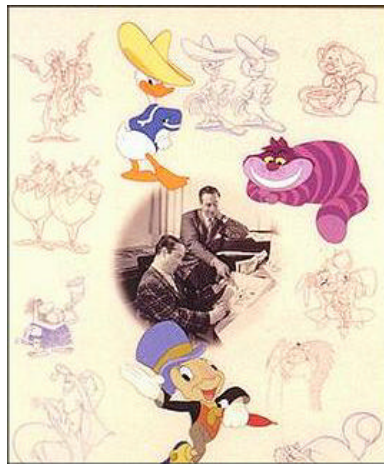
July 2002

Ward Kimball 1914 – 2002

Ward Kimball, the most colorful Disney Animator, and staunch contributing member of the Train Collector's Association, of which he was a Charter Member (CM-31) and past president, died on July 8th, 2002, at Arcadia, California. He was 88 years old.

Ward's three great loves: Animation, Jazz and Railroads, brought him a great deal of pleasure.

At the young age of 20, Ward joined the Walt Disney Studios in 1934 as an animator, and is best remembered for his creation of *Jiminy Cricket* in the movie,



Pinocchio. He worked in a variety of areas for the Walt Disney Company, and his love of trains not only started Walt on the hobby, but also was reflected in his work as a consultant for the EPCOT attraction, *The World of Motion*. He was honored as a Disney Legend in 1989.

In 1938, Ward bought a full-sized 1881 steam locomotive, which he restored and installed with other cars and engines on a track in the backyard of his San Gabriel home. The "Grizzly Flats Railroad", so interested and fascinated Walt Disney, that he decided to build his own Carolwood Pacific Railroad in the yard of his Hombly Hills mansion.



Named for an 1800's opera star, the "Emma Nevada", an 1881 Baldwin 'Mogul' 2-6-0, was the pride of Ward and Betty Kimball's backyard Grizzly Flats Railroad.

Ward was also well known as the creator and leader of the world-famous jazz band, the Firehouse Five Plus Two.

Ward's strong interest in Early Tinsplate Trains brought him into TCA Membership in 1954. Over the years he acquired a substantial collection of both domestic and foreign Toy Trains and became an expert on the many early manufacturers. He has been a great friend of Western Division TCA and an inspiration to many of us, and we will miss him.



Ward Kimball was always inviting folks over to see his wonderful displays of toy trains that he had collected over the years

Monthly Meet Notification

The next TCA Western Division toy train meet will be held on Saturday, July 27, 2002. It will be held in the Senior Citizens Center, Arcadia Community Park, 405 S. Santa Anita Avenue, Arcadia, Ca. 91006.

Our display theme for this month should emphasize our patriotic theme of red, white and blue. Bring in that special piece for display and discussion.

All members are encouraged to bring a guest to this meet, especially a friend or non-member who shares an interest in our hobby.

There will be a short Board of Directors Meeting after the business meeting.

Visit our Web site at <http://www.tcawestern.org>. Harold Shapiro and Bob Caplan have set up the division's Western Pacific car for viewing and purchasing there.

TCA National Convention

The TCA Convention for 2002 was held in St. Charles, Illinois, at the Pheasant Run Resort, some fifteen miles west of Chicago.

The attendance was good. A few of our members in attendance were Bob Caplan and his boys, Bob and Kay Spellmire, Wayne Sheriff and his wife Cynthia, Steve Waller and friend Lynn, Jerry Blaine, Russ and Jane Lange.

Russ Lange represented your division at the board of director's meetings and the general membership meeting.

Harold Shapiro, our past president, prepared a sample newsletter that we used in presenting our convention itinerary to the board of directors. Harold was also responsible for custom decorating a K-Line tank car for each board member commemorating our 2003 convention in Ontario, California.

Wayne Sheriff did a good presentation of our convention itinerary with the board members and officers.

Bob Caplan, our past National President, then did an excellent presentation and introduction of our convention cars for the board of director's approval. Bob was responsible for the planning of and preparation of the prototypes of the cars and he did a terrific job therein.

Bob Spellmire did his usual magic at the board meeting for the official drawing of the ballot order positions for the nominees in the upcoming election. We have our own Alan Rebis running for National Vice President.

Western Division had a table in the registration area for promoting our convention in 2003. Wayne Sherrif, Russ and Jane Lange and Steve Waller and Lynn took turns at the table to promote our convention. Brochures were available for handouts, T-shirts were available for sale and orders were taken for the Grizzly Flats Station. The interest in our convention that we received was very encouraging. We will even have a member from Paris, France that will attend.

Many thanks and a note of appreciation goes to John Parker for his efforts in having the materials and all other aspects of the planning that was done for this convention presentation.

The Midwest Division did an outstanding job for their efforts in hosting the 2002 convention. Chris and Marlene Rohlfing along with Steve and Leah Holic really did a great job of making their convention a success. They had over one hundred and fifty volunteers that assisted with the different phases and events.

Merle Parise of the Northwest Division is going to send our division, two of the McCoy cars that they use, for fundraisers for our convention. This was greatly appreciated and again, our special thanks to the Pacific Northwest Division for their generosity. It is a good feeling to know that the divisions want to help and work together to insure that our conventions will be successful.

August Meeting Conflict

Gary Keck of the TTOS Southwest Division has scheduled their annual picnic on August 24th, TCA Western's regular business meeting date. He informed me that they had no other choice available to them. We as TCA have a choice and that is to join the Southwest Division for the annual picnic at a cost of \$3.00 or have our regular scheduled meeting on August 24th. Let us discuss this further at our July 27th scheduled meet.

April 2002 Meeting Recap

Sellers began arriving at 10 am. Members arrived at 11 am to begin trading. There were approximately fourteen tables with items for sale. There was a good turnout of buyers and sellers.

TCA Western Division Treasurer Russell Lange handed out new TCA 2003 National Convention badges to board members.

The convention will be held from June 24-29, 2003 at the Ontario, CA Convention Center.

TCA Western Division President Russell Lange convened the Business Meeting at 12 noon.

Display theme for the month was the Pennsylvania Railroad, honoring the anniversary of the founding of The Standard Railroad of the World.

Several items were on display. First, a LIONEL 2332 GG1 was shown in a reproduction black paint scheme with cat's whiskers striping.

Steve Waller showed two LIONEL "O" gauge Pennsy K4 Pacific locomotives in streamlined and non-streamlined versions: a prewar 238E Torpedo was compared with a postwar non-streamlined 2035. Also, a prewar 2737 Pennsy N5 standard caboose and a postwar 2437 N5c porthole caboose were contrasted. Next, a limited edition lithographed print of a Pennsylvania S-1 streamlined duplex locomotive signed by designer Raymond Lowey was displayed.

Finally, Ray Nelson showed a custom Standard Gauge Pennsylvania MU made from Ives and American Flyer parts.

The member's applause selected Steve Waller's display as the best that day, and he was awarded a new LIONEL N.P. flatcar with wood load.

TCA Western Division Board Member Robert Spellmire asked for nominations for alternates to attend the upcoming TCA National Convention in Chicago, in the unlikely event that our Division President was unable to attend. Steve Waller was nominated for first alternate. John Parker was nominated for second alternate. The membership elected the two nominees by acclamation.

Next, Mr. Spellmire asked if there was anyone interested in running for national office. Dale Lange nominated Allan Rebus for vice-president. Peter Searls seconded the nomination. The membership approved.

Kay Spellmire explained the procedure to sign up to attend the Chicago Convention. A 5% discount is offered on airline tickets from American Airlines. The correct code to use is AA9562A.

John Parker gave the membership an update on the 2003 Convention. Peter Searls is working on T-shirts, which should be ready soon. A volunteer who is knowledgeable about publishing is needed.

An error in the TCA Directory, which was just mailed, has been discovered. Some of the members' names were inadvertently deleted. A correction will be forthcoming.

Steve Waller discussed plans for the 2003 Convention Display. A request for ideas from the membership was made. Afterwards, Allan Rebus suggested having a military & space display.

Harold Shapiro thought we might honor one of the western railroads, like SP, WP or UP. Steve Waller shared his desire to have a display of Ward Kimball memorabilia.

John Abbe's daughter Michelle drew winning door prize tickets. "LIONEL Standard of the World" books published by the TCA were selected by Al Vargas and Lewis Simmons. Neil Torrence and Peter Searls chose MTH reproduction street lamps as their prizes.

The meeting was adjourned at 1pm.

Respectfully submitted by Steve Waller.