



# Western Division Newsletter



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<http://www.tcawestern.org>

July - August 2010

## Upcoming Meet Notices

Western Division's next meet will take place on Saturday July 24, 2010 in the Arcadia Senior Center, located at 405 South Santa Anita Avenue, in Arcadia, California.

To get to the meet, exit the 210 Freeway at Santa Anita Avenue. Drive south about half a mile and turn right into the Arcadia Park parking lot. The hall is located next to the lawn bowling area. Look for the Western Division sign.

The doors open at 10AM for setup, trading, and selling. Please visit the Western Division website at <http://www.tcawestern.org> for more information and a map.

The display theme for July will be "**Convention Cars**". Show off an item and facilitate the transfer of knowledge on collecting toy trains with your fellow members. There will be a prize awarded to the best display item, as voted on by the attending members.

There will also be the regular monthly raffle for WD members. A reminder that the WD BOD has deemed that to receive a raffle ticket, attending members must wear/display their 2010 membership badge.

The special membership raffle for this year is well underway. Up for grabs is a 1950 Lionel #773 "O" gauge Hudson loco and tender with original boxes. Tickets are a mere \$20. Ticket holders will also have the opportunity to win a crisp \$100 bill at each meet between now and December. The Hudson will be given away at the December meet. Only 100 tickets will be sold.

Western Division remaining meet dates for 2010 and display themes are: July 24<sup>th</sup> - Convention Cars, August 28<sup>th</sup> - Tank Cars, September 25<sup>th</sup> - Southern Pacific Rail Road, October 23<sup>rd</sup> - Military Trains, and December 18<sup>th</sup> - Holiday Trains.

## Layout of the Month

*By Steve Waller*

Our TCA Western Division "Layout of the Month" has been a huge success so far this year with 'O' gauge at the February, April and May meets, and 'G' gauge at the March meet. It continues in July, and thanks to WD member Bob Lemberger, we will have another gauge to run. He will be bringing in some Standard Gauge track, along with some trains to run. Do you have any Std. Gauge trains you'd like to operate? Bring them to our meet on Saturday, July 24, 2010 after 10:30 a.m. and give them a spin on Bob's pike.

The following month, on August 28, 2010, we will erect a "G" gauge layout, recreating the Grizzly Flats Railroad, in remembrance of our late member, Betty Kimball. In addition, we will show some Ward Kimball videos and listen to music by the *Firehouse Five +2* jazz band, in Betty's honor.

We plan to continue our TCA "Layout of the Month" in the fall. If you have trains, any age/any gauge, that you'd like to run for September 25<sup>th</sup>, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, or December 18<sup>th</sup>, please contact [Steve@carolwood.org](mailto:Steve@carolwood.org). (Note: TCA-Western is dark in November.)



## President's Message

*By Wayne Sheriff, WD President*

It has been a busy few months for WD train collectors. In mid May WD members were once again invited to see the Sirius Collection in Anza and treated to a delicious catered lunch. A great big 'Thank You!' to Judy Sirius Anderson and her husband Dwayne for treating us all to a great day. We really enjoyed viewing the collection and watching the antique trains run again.

In early June Western Division set up a booth and layout at the 'Big Train Show' held at the Ontario Convention Center. There was excellent member participation for this event. Thanks to those who came. WD has been asked back again for next year. Once again, we handed out the colorful WD refrigerator magnets to the attendees.

Late June was TCA National Convention time. On behalf of WD members who went to Baltimore, I would like to thank Dan and Hope Danielson, convention Co-Chairs, for putting on a nice party. Everyone had a great time.

For the second time, I have been elected by the TCA National Board of Directors to the Executive Committee. This committee acts for the BOD between meetings to take care of items that need urgent actions.

Please remember our Toy Train Museum and Library with your donations and support. Also, please respond to the appeal from Jane Boyce, our Director of Development, with even a small donation. Every little bit helps and this could prevent any future increase in National membership dues.

The WD BOD has decided that the monthly meet raffle prizes will be taken from the leftover items used for the Nixon Library layout. These include Dept. 56 buildings, trains, and accessories.

We are currently in talks with the Ronald Regan Presidential Library for a display of presidential trains for this Christmas season.

TCA Standards Committee member Bob Caplan will present a report at the July WD meet on how to get rid of water stains on Pre and Post War boxes. See you at the meet!

*- Wayne*

## Betty Kimball (1912-2010)

*Submitted By Steve Waller and Robert Caplan*

One of TCA-Western Divisions' best friends, Betty Kimball, passed away of natural causes on July 1, 2010, at the age of 97.

Born October 14, 1912 in Alhambra, California, Mary Elizabeth Lawyer attended Pasadena Junior College (now Pasadena City College) in the early 1930s. Betty had a strong interest in the dramatic arts, and was involved with the Alhambra Theater and the Pasadena Playhouse. In 1935, she began work in the ink & paint department of the Walt Disney Studios. There, Betty met animator Ward Kimball, who had been hired by Disney a year earlier, and the two were married in 1936. Their marriage would last 66 years, ending with Ward's death on July 8, 2002.

In 1939, Betty left the employment of Disney, to become a full-time homemaker and raise three children, Kelly, John and Chloe. Betty was a great support to Ward and his many projects, including an outstanding toy train collection, the famous Firehouse Five jazz band and the backyard narrow-gauge Grizzly Flats Railroad. All this was in addition to the Disney animation and work on Disneyland that was keeping Ward busy.

After Ward's retirement from Disney in 1972, Betty and Ward were constant companions. She could be depended upon as a helpmate to Ward, especially when they expanded the toy train collection. They built a two-room extension to the garage to separately house the world-class collection of American and European trains. After Ward's untimely passing in 2002, it was Betty who felt that she wanted to stay involved with the 2003 TCA National Convention, hosted by Western Division. Without her help, there would have been no ceramic model of the Grizzly Flats depot, no bus tour of the Kimball family trains, or the heart-felt tribute to Ward that occurred at the Ontario Convention Center in June, 2003.



In remembrance of Betty, members of the Western Division recently contacted the TCA National Toy Train Museum in Strasburg, PA and asked that an honorary brick be placed at the museum for Ward and Betty Kimball. The unveiling ceremony will take place in mid-October, 2010, prior to the York, PA meet.

Betty is remembered as a strong person, who was nevertheless, very unassuming, thoughtful and sweet. She will be missed by all those that knew her. Betty is survived

by her three children and five grandchildren. John Kimball and his wife Virginia have been very active with TCA over the years, and our thoughts are with them and their entire family. (Special thanks to Amid Amidi of Cartoonbrew.com for his posting: <http://www.cartoonbrew.com/disney/betty-kimball-rip.html>)

## May Meet Recap:

*By Robert Caplan, WD Secretary*

The display theme was "Red, White, and Blue" in honor of the pending Independence Day. Harry Chortanian displayed an Ives US flag with 48 stars. Dave Mabee showed his 'O' gauge Lionel Bicentennial Special set. Long time member Chuck Stone showed a very interesting antique tin toy called a 'Chicken Stealer'. Al Vargas displayed a Lionel Satellite Launcher. Bob Spellmire showed a homemade 2 7/8" gauge set. Robert Trimble presented an 'O' gauge RPO car. See additional display photos below.



*Steve Waller Bicentennial Special Calvin Smith Norfolk Western GP*



*Chuck Stone "Chicken Stealer" John Abbe's operating fire truck*



*May Display Theme Winner: Chuck Stone  
Raffle Winners: Harry Chortanian, Dave Mabee, John Parker, and Les Cochran. Steve Eastman won the \$100.*



*Al Vargas, Manny Gonzalez and Robert Caplan inspecting the "Layout of the Month" - a nice military display by Steve Eastman.*