



Western Division

Train Collectors Association

Newsletter



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June-July 2000

Monthly Meet Notification

TCA Western Division's next train meet will be held on **Saturday July 22nd, 2000** at the *Arcadia Park Senior Citizen's Center, 405 S. Santa Anita Ave., Arcadia, CA 91006* (Santa Anita exit off of the 210 freeway, then head south).

Hall doors will open at 10:00 AM for sellers only to enter and begin setting up their tables.

The hall opens for members and guests to enter and for trading and festivities to commence at 11:00 AM.

Summer is here. The weather is hot and steamy. That means it's time for our display theme to be 'steam engines'. Bring your finest example of toy trains that have boilers, drivers, fireboxes, cowcatchers, tenders, or whistles. Any gauge will do.

We will continue with the practice of awarding a special prize to the person chosen to have the most interesting display.

The auction will begin at 12:00 noon, and the business meeting and the raffle will follow.

Western Division 2000 schedule of train meets:

July 22 nd , 2000	October 28 th , 2000
August 26 th , 2000	November 25 th , 2000
September 23 rd , 2000	December 10 th , 2000

May 2000 Meet Recap

The special children's meet was held on May 27th. Western Division proudly presented 13 train sets to attending children and faculty from various organizations that provide care to the underprivileged. The following organizations: The Olive Crest Foundation for Abused Children, Fox's Five Acres Boy's & Girls Aid Society for Prevention of Child Abuse, Hathaway Children's Services, the Optimist's Boys Home of Los Angeles, and the Sycamore's Foster Homes, were all represented.



The kids waited patiently for their piece of cake.

In addition, several offspring of TCA Western Division members were on hand to participate in the festivities and receive gifts. Some of the train sets given away were provided through direct donations from Lionel, K-Line and Bachman. Western Division purchased several sets. A cash contribution was made to the club by the Elfun Foundation, as well as by some members, which made possible the acquisition of three of the sets that were presented to the children's groups.



Some of the goodies awaiting new homes.

Western Division members donated several train sets, and train related items, from their own private collections. On this special day, no child in attendance left without some sort of prize. Cake and refreshments were also provided to the kids. There were huge smiles on every child's face.

Thanks to the following for making this a successful event through their donations of trains or effort: Mindy, Brian & Gary Keck from the Train Shack, Bob Caplan, Earnest Norris, Kurt Bondi, John Thousand, Bill Rolak, Peter Searles, Neil Torrence, Daryl Grani from Lionel, Nick Ladd from K-Line, Barbara & Jerry Toerner from the ELFUN Society, and Laura Tankenson from the ELFUN Society.

Also, a big thank you to Richard Keppel, Darrell Calvillo,

Steven Waller and Dennis Taube for making possible the huge layout. There were several large loops of 'O', Standard and 'G' gauge with plenty of motive action to keep the kids' attention.

There was an exceptionally good turn out for this meeting with well over 50 members and thirty-six kids in attendance.

The display theme for the May meet was to celebrate the joining of the east and west regions of our nation with the completion of the first transcontinental railroad on May 10th 1869.



Ward Kimball's homage to the 'Golden Spike' Ceremony

Once again Ward Kimball provided a spectacular and educational display. He recreated the 'driving of the golden spike' ceremony with two steam locos of that era. He also displayed photographs and memorabilia from the May 1969 Golden Spike Centennial celebration in which he played a part. Ward won the monthly prize for best display – the prize was a stock certificate for shares in the Central Pacific Railroad and a ticket to ride the Union Pacific Railroad.

John Parker, Mike Loeweke, Steve Waller, Mike Stella, and Bob Spellmire displayed locomotives, streamlined sets and plaques commemorating this historical event, the Union Pacific and the Central Pacific railroads linking our nation for the first time in 1869 at Promontory Summit, UT.



Bob Spellmire explains what happened that day in Utah in 1969, at the Centennial Celebration as Harold Shapiro holds up the 'Golden Spike' plaque

Running on the giant layout in the back room there were several pieces of equipment representative of the early days of



Plenty of action on the layout

American Railroading, appropriate for the theme for the day. There were General type locos and Pioneer type locos in all gauges. It looked as though the era of 1869 had been recreated right there.

There was a 4-car passenger train in 'G' gauge. And standard gauge McCoy freight consist. In 'O' gauge some Lionel pre-war tinsplate freight was highballing it.

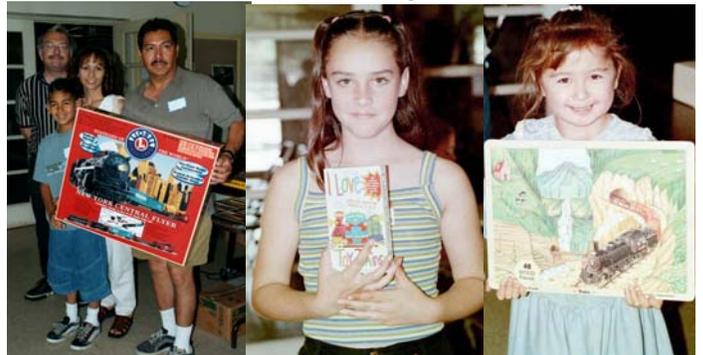


The kids & staff

from the Optimist Boys Home of Eagle Rock show off their brand new K-Line Nestle's set to John Parker.



Bob Caplan, Barbara & Jerry Toerner from ELFUN pose with the kids and staff from Sycamore's Roland Unit as they proudly display their new Lionel Santa Fe Special set.



Dale Lange & the Portillo Family representing Olive Crest

This picture speaks volumes!

John Abbe's daughter with a terrific puzzle.