



Western Division

Train Collectors Association

Newsletter



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March 1999

President's Corner

The next TCA Western Division toy train meet will be held on **Saturday March 27, 1999** 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).

As always, the hall doors will open at 10:00 AM for sellers to enter and begin setting up their tables. The hall will be open for members to enter and trading to commence at 11:00 AM. The display theme for this meet, appropriately is: items that are either green in color, or bear a green herald or road name or in some way relate to the celebration of St. Patrick, or Irish heritage.

Last month's meet display provided an impressive array of St. Valentine's theme related trains. I was quite literally seeing 'red'! The items were all unique, and the stories were interesting, amusing and imaginative. The challenge for this month's display is to see if we can top last month's, in uniqueness, imagination and story telling. I am sure there will be a touch of the blarney thrown in for amusement.



Bob Spellmire at the February meet display table.

We will hold an auction after the business meeting, and there will be a very special raffle prize given away. This year is TCA and TCA Western Division's 45th Anniversary. In honor of this milestone, we will raffle off a TCA Western Division Silver Jubilee Lionel Mint car. Also referred to as the Silver TCA Bullion car, this car was made in 1979 to commemorate Western Division's 25th Anniversary, and Western Division's hosting of the TCA 25th annual convention, held at the Disneyland Hotel. These cars are considered to be highly collectible and very rare. Don't miss out on the opportunity to add this uncommon item to your collection.

On behalf of the entire Western Division membership, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of R. Dale Lange. Thanks from all of us Dale for your continued participation in manning the front table at our meets, for assisting Russ with Treasurer/Membership Secretary duties, and for providing the all important name badges for our members!



Dale Lange

Western Division membership participation with the setting up and taking down of the tables and chairs at our monthly meets is greatly needed. After last month's meet, no one was around when it came time to put everything away, and Bob Trimble and myself had to handle it. As a result, I am implementing a new policy for all future meets. Since we provide tables to sellers free of charge, it will be the seller's responsibility to fold up the table(s) they use, and put them away at the end of the meet. This is a fair policy, and will avoid placing an undue burden on the few members that have continually assisted with this task.

Marlene Rohlfling, Co-Chair of the TCA National Kids' Club, is looking for Division or Chapter representatives for the Kids' Club. The intended duties of the representatives would be to organize educational activities and contests, like train races and engine tug-of-wars at our local meets. If you are interested in participating let me know at the next meet, or call me. My telephone number: 818-986-9975. For those of you who wish to communicate electronically, I welcome your correspondence, my e-mail address: harold.shapiro@nbc.com.

Please spread the word about the TCA Kids' Club. This is a great mechanism for building the future of TCA. There is a contest being held currently on the national level, for a National Headquarters News cover design to be done by a Kids' Club member. The winning entry will

be judged by the editorial staff and published later this year. For further details, see the March 1999 issue of the Headquarters News, or contact Marlene 630-279-7235, Keith Arnold 717-898-9806, or Sarah Reed 703-750-1220.

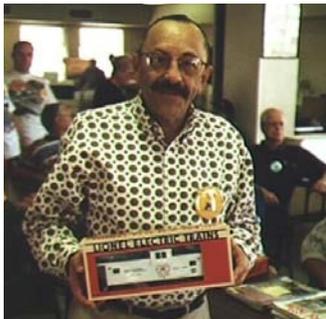
Western Division 1999 schedule of train meets is as follows:

March 27th, 1999	April 24th, 1999
May 22nd, 1999	July 24th, 1999
August 28th, 1999	September 25th, 1999
October 23rd, 1999	November 27th, 1999

Hope to see you all on Saturday, March 27th.
Your president – *Harold Shapiro*

February 1999 Meeting Recap

There were 60 plus members, and guests attending the February 20th meet. Jack Bruto won the grand prize in the raffle. It was a boxed 1986 TCA 32nd National Convention Lionel Extended Vision Caboose, fittingly for Valentine's Day, adorned with a heart. Bob Trimble, Eric Solis, Don Stotts, Les Cochran and Mario Liberatore were among the other raffle winners, taking home 1999 Lionel catalogues.



Jack Bruto with new addition to his collection.

The display table featured "red" cars for Valentine's Day.

Cars brought for display included: A William's red geep #1027 with So. Pacific herald, brought by Les Cochran. A pre-war early 1930's, 'O' gauge, American Flyer red passenger set of some six cars brought by John Thousand. A Marx post-war bay window red caboose and three red 1600 series 'O-27' streamline passenger cars, brought by Myron Moore.

Don Gatz displayed a MTH Standard Gauge 385 E, red loco and tender, which is unlisted, and rare. It was made in the late 1980's in Korea. Don told us of the difficulties in assembly, which led to the loco only running backwards.

Neil Torrence brought a 1910 floor train, by Sebold. A romantic Lionel pre-war couple on a park bench (she almost lost her head, but **not** to love, when she was dropped) and a Mickey and Minnie Mouse red handcar, as

well as an interesting Marklin "ticket booth", were displayed by Bob Spellmire.

Two Union Oil blue and orange tank cars, one 'O' gauge and one Standard, the latter made by Delta were brought by Bob Trimble. Mike Loeweke displayed a wide range of Marx tinsplate cars, bridges and signals made in red. Also displayed were an 'O' Gauge, pre war Ives red loco and tender brought by Emmert Stouffer, a Standard



Don Gatz Neil Torrence Mike Loeweke

Gauge, pre-war red enamel observation car, brought by Dave McCully and last but certainly not least, a small "tableau d'affection" by Ward Kimball. Ward explained that his wife had given him the Marklin pre-war, four-wheel 'O' gauge caboose, with interior fittings of a desk and stove, for Valentines Day some years ago.

Other Displays: Bob Trimble again had an interesting table with scale 'O' gauge cars and a Lionel F3 AA reworked for two rail scale operation. At one point Joshua Cowen owned these pieces, Bob had paper work to substantiate this.

John Thousand challenged Roy Bell to show us his prowess straightening dented cars after his success last month, with a box of Flyer parts that had been sacrificed, possibly to a steamroller? This may end up as a contest at a future convention.



Ward Kimball Bob Trimble

Sales Tables: There were 28 sales tables. Items for sale included: a number of pre-war and post-war boxed sets. A 1932 #1809a Lionel 'O-27' boxed set, a #161 set, a Flyer wind-up set, a 258E set with boxes and set box, a 238E red passenger set, a 763E Hudson and four scale cars, some boxed construction sets, an Am. Flyer, 'S' gauge Track Maintenance Car, #23743 in original box, and a variety of newer MTH and Williams material new in the box, including a station.

Submitted by *Dave McCully*