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# Bulletin

Southern California Chapter

JCA Bulletin  
2317 GLEN CANYON RD.  
ALTADENA, CALIF.



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 -President's Report-

The April meeting was held in Bill Harris' Piano Shop and all enjoyed his hospitality. His trains were neatly displayed in the portable exhibition booth which he uses in shows, one in particular, in the Los Angeles Hobby Show that is held every year in the Shrine Convention Hall and is viewed by many thousands of people.

This Meeting was our largest local gathering to date, there being 27 present, including new members and guests. After the business session, a lively auction followed. The old members were especially pleased to have Ed Demack present, after some three years in the Philippines and the Orient. To our new members, I wish to state that our local Chapter owes a debt of gratitude to Ed. When TCA was being formed in the East, Ed was busy here, preparing, planning and gathering together collectors in this area. The first meeting was held in his home and we were told of the plans for TCA. An organizer - that he is - proving it daily in his own field, doubling and tripling his company's business in three years. Our thanks, Ed, and hurry back.

The Northwest Chapter's loss is our gain, meaning one and the same Russ Hafdahl. Welcome to Southern California, Russ and family. Another collector and organizer - having done equally as well in Seattle as Ed did in Los Angeles. I believe Seattle collectors will surely Miss Russ' humor and company as much as we will welcome it.

Signed - George Smith

The Hollywood Hobby Shop has a new look. Jim Rogers and his able wife have really brightened 1522 Cahuenga Blvd. since taking over this well known spot last month from the former owner, Mr. Howard Walters. Old Buddy "L" and cast iron toys and Standard Gage Trains are on display in his showcase. Not only does Jim feature Lionel "O" Gage, but Ho Trains and accessories, model boats and airplanes, and for others, Hobby Craft Materials of all kinds. Jim is also equipt to perform repairs on any and all trains.

Of special interest to we train collectors, Rogers Handles used equipment and collectors' items in all gages.

The best of luck to the Roger's on their new venture. And don't forget, they are open Friday and Monday nights till nine and Sundays from noon until five.

Jim Rogers, Wes Frye and Harrison Bemis made a Wednesday night jaunt to Frank Luttasetti's chicken ranch to see his scale "O" Gage and "HO" operating layouts. If you are interested in trains as a Hobby this is a must. Frank is friendly and cordially greets all interested on Wednesday nights which is his night for operating. The train building is approximately 40 by 100 ft. with the "O" Gage layout in a 40 x 70 section. At least six "O" Gage trains, which are 10 to 15 cars long, are in operation at one time. It takes in the neighborhood of 11 min. to complete one circuit which includes the Tehachapi Loop, Tunnels, Trestle Bridges and through the yards. His "HO" layout is 8 by 18 but has not received the scenery treatment as yet.

-- News Along The Collecting Front --

Don't forget to reserve the week-end of July 22nd. This is the date of the West Coast get-together in San Francisco. A meet like this stimulates interest in collecting and is a real nice way to spend a couple of days.

San Francisco is most always cool and has many places of interest for those accompanying you who are not interested in old trains. Some of these are the Golden Gate, The Bay Bridge, Golden Gate Park and Zoo, The New Candle Stick Ball Park, Top of The Mark, Fisherman's Warf, China Town, and various surrounding communities such as Castro Valley, Walnut Creek, or the Peninsula cities below San Francisco.

Let's be well represented. If transportation is a problem contact Herb Morley, our good Secretary, to help solve it.

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Lionel Representative, Jim Stewart, recently returned from New York where he attended a Lionel policy meeting. He related the New Management is going all out on a product to the high standard it formerly maintained. The "New" Lionel and it's policies should be interesting to observe.

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We'll miss "Mr. Collector" Mel Roberts, at the next meeting as he will be back East on business - Iron toys and toy train business. He will represent our group at the 1960 National Convention at Yardley, June 24, 25, and 26.

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A committee has been appointed to study the By-Laws. This Group, composed of Ralph Pauly, Wes Frye and Harrison Bemis, will come up with recommended changes and additions to the existing By-Laws.

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What have you found lately? Well, we don't know until you tell us. Here are a couple of real finds. Just in case you don't know what we are talking about, here is what and how it is done. The keynote, perserverance and observance.

Now take Dick Wheeler's case. He has known about a Standard Gage train of some note for a long time, maybe six years. But the answer has always been "No" when he has tried to buy it. But comes the right time, and Saturday the 16th of April was the day. So he took his prize home. What was in the box? As he already knew, a beautiful and complete President Special, Eagle and all. Four unscratched passenger cars and the coveted blue engine. Dick was thrilled, but the box was not empty. Out came an A.F. 4671 and four freight cars, six Ives passenger cars and a Lionel #200 series freight, all in beautiful condition. And guess where this was found? Right across the fence from Wes Frye who is a "Mr. Big" in finding trains himself. You see, it's easy fellows. Oh yes, we said a couple of examples of digging up old trains.

Well, last month Harrison Bemis was on the way to his brother's with two of his children. He was driving behind a truck when he noticed some

trains tracks sticking out the top of a carton on this truck. There was a stove, misc. furniture and junk in general piled in the bed. But the attraction of trains was strong, so he waved the driver over and asked if he has a train in the back. The man grunted "Yes" and Bemis climbed up to look. Upon seeing the track was Standard Gage and there were trains piled in the box, the old familiar "How Much" was asked. "I know the value of these" the driver said, "so don't think you are to get them for only a couple of bucks\_\_\_\_\_".

Well now, let me tell you what was in the box. A Black Single Motored 42 with sliding doors and stand up head lite, six large freight cars in good condition, of the Lionel Mfg. Co. Vintage; three large green coaches and a #7 Tender Embossed with Lionel Mfg. Co.

To continue the quotation above, "Don't think you are going to get these for only a couple of bucks. If you want these trains it will cost you fifteen dollars". Fortunately, Bemis had the fifteen.

Perserverance, observance and a little luck, maybe.

And then Walt Dronek, last month, dug up a beautiful Mayflower Chrome-plated President Special set, in Virginia, by inserting an ad in a National Publication of limited distribution. Herb Morley acquired this set from Walt, and it is the only one of its kind in our Southern California Chapter, and maybe on the West Coast.

So, see fellows - they are around. Let's dig them up. We want to tell of your find in this column.

(7)

Who Am I?

I was born in Los Angeles, Calif. on Dec. 28, 1902. My Father was an employee of the Santa Fe Railroad from 1895 to 1908, working between Cajon Pass and San Diego. While I was still a small boy, my Father and I were offered a ride with Wright Baldwin, one of the most highly rated engineers on the Santa Fe, but I was afraid to get into the cab of the big black monster with the hot breath, so guess I took up collecting steam types to compensate for this. I started collecting old toy trains in 1950. My favorite loco is the 400E and I own 12 of these beauties.

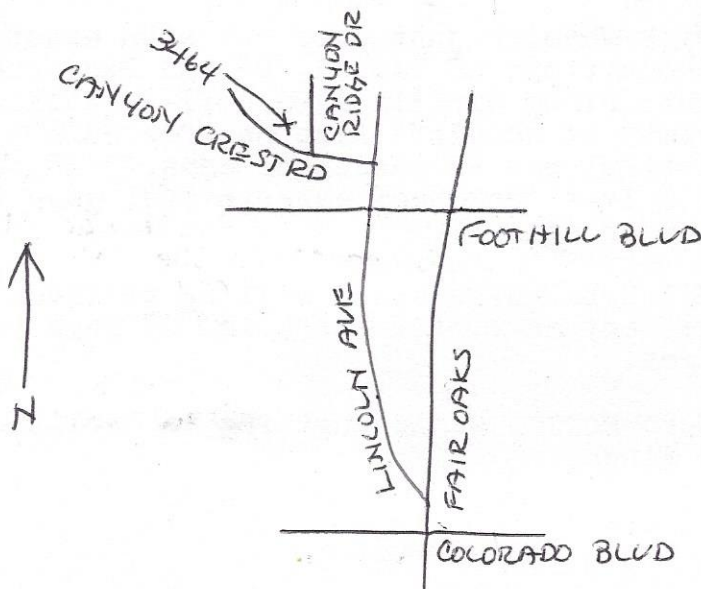
Who Am I? (See bottom of Pg. 8)

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- Next Meeting -

June 6, 1960

7:30 PM

At Harrison Bemis'  
3464 Canyon Crest Road  
Altadena, Calif.



## — Trading Post —

(8)

Bill Harris wants an original 700E Hudson Boiler Front and also one for a 392, with Latch. Also is interested in acquiring some Lionel "O" Gage Scale Freight Cars.

Walt Dronek wants "O" Gage Scale Locomotives.

Wes Frye has for sale a #8 for \$8.50, a #10 for \$10.50, a #380 for \$16.00, a #248 for \$5.00, a #254 Locomotive with 2-607 and A608 cars for \$12.50 complete and in good condition.

Jim Rogers has 3 "O" Gage Dorfran passenger cars and 4 excellent Lionel Litho "O" Gage freight cars for sale. Many other items coming and going all the time.

Harrison Bemis needs a 1930 Ives Catalog in good condition. Also a cover for 1926 Lionel Catalog.

Dick Wheeler just came out with exact reproductions of Lionel "O" and Std. Head lights along with his #392 boiler latches and variety of wheels. Also has for sale 3 beautiful red AF passenger cars, 3 AF freight and 6 Ives passenger cars in Std. gage to trade or sell.

Mel Roberts is still willing to trade Std. gage, any make, for Marrklin "O" gage or larger.

Herb Morley wants anything in Carlisle and Finch.