



Western Division

Train Collectors Association Newsletter



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May 2000

Monthly Meet Notification

TCA Western Division's next train meet will be held on **Saturday May 27th, 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).

This is our second annual special 'Children's Event'. All members are encouraged to bring their whole families, especially the kids. TCA Western will be hosting guests from several local children's clubs and foster care centers. There will be some very special giveaways!

The Senior Citizen Center 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.

On May 10th 1869 from Promontory Summit northwest of Ogden, Utah, a single telegraphed word, "done," signaled to the nation the completion of the first transcontinental railroad. The Union Pacific and Central Pacific railroads were awarded the task of linking our nation's rails. In celebration of this great event, the display theme for our May meet will be trains and train items representative of those two railroads and/or this event.

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 22nd, 2000
August 26th, 2000
September 23rd, 2000

October 28th, 2000
November 25th, 2000
December 10th, 2000

April 2000 Meet Recap

Compiled from a submission by Dave McCully

There was an exceptionally good turn out for this meeting with well over 75 members and guests and thirty-six trading tables. Once again we began the meeting with a noon auction where a variety of trains and accessories were sold at bargain prices. Marx cars led off and an LGB #4049 flood light car followed. A Lionel hand car sold quickly.

The display theme for the meet was to celebrate the founding of the Pennsylvania Rail Road, which occurred in April of 1846, 154 years ago.

Part one of Ward Kimball's homage to the Pennsy.



Special thanks to Ward Kimball and other members who helped him bring some treasures from home to share with us. Ward showed #one gauge cast iron electric trains from the turn of the century. This display included a Bing locomotive, similar to the Ives #3248. He also showed a Knapp Electric Co. locomotive circa 1912. And a Voltamp Electric #440 loco of the same period along with a #2510 baggage car (made for exhibition at the San Francisco World's Fair). Ward also displayed a #1031 Märklin Electric loco from 1914. All of these trains were lacquered with the prototypical Pennsylvania railroad maroon and gold. Some cars were great examples of early lithography. Ward also brought a Hubley floor train. The loco had a belpair fire box, typical of the Pennsylvania locomotives of that period.

Part two of Ward's tribute



John Whitmeyer displayed a Lionel #0440 standard gauge pre-war twin signal bridge, which was a Christmas gift from his wife. The bridge has the typical position light signals used by the Pennsylvania RR.

John Whitmeyer

John Parker

Peter Searles



Myron Moore showed an 'O' gauge red Penn. RR caboose made by Williams that he had bought as a souvenir on a trip to

Pennsylvania when he stayed at the Caboose Motel in Strasburg near the TCA Toy Train Museum.

Les Cochran showed his 'O' gauge Lionel Century Club GG1 complete with dual motors, command control, rail sounds and display case.

Henry Voskian shared a memory of the Pennsylvania RR when he bought 100 shares of its stock three months before it went bankrupt.

Mike Stella, who has many Penn. RR items in his train collection, showed us the first of many GG1's he purchased over the years. This one just prior to Navy duty in Vietnam. He also reminded us of the rarity of some post-war Lionel plastic locos, with a #249 yellow striped 2-4-2 scout that he displayed.

John Parker displayed two purchases from his recent York trip. A 1936 'Pennsylvanian' with red tin-plate passenger cars and a second set with an oil type tender, complete with an early engine and four-wheeled cars.

Peter Searles displayed two Torpedoes. A 1937 Lionel and a 1980's Weaver loco, which is close to scale. He reminded us that the design was by Raymond Lowey, for the Pa. K-4 and that Lionel ignored the wheel arrangement.

Mike Loewke displayed a Marx 3/16 cattle car in Pennsy. road name. This is quite a difficult item to find.

Bob Caplan showed an unusual bronze paper clip tray with miniature GG1 that is believed to have been produced originally as a Lionel promotional item in the 1930's. One was seen on the desk of Mr. Cowan in a magazine photo from that era.

On the sales tables a number of Lionel flat cars that ended up in the auction were noticed. This included a #6-16968 aviation flat, a 6-17534 diamond T with Mack trucks, and a 6-16958 with an Ertl New Holland Loader.

There was a beautiful pre-war Lionel #044 Round House section, in like-new condition, with the original box. Also seen was a #112 Lionel station.

For those who like plastic post-war oddities, there were four Nor West Hobby kits (Northwestern Products, St. Louis, Mo.) including a Casey Jones, and a Porter Switcher. Kit builders could also find a collection of Inter-mountain Railway Co. 'O' scale kits.

A Bing limousine, sans clockwork mechanism was very attractive. Newer production items were observed in the form of a K-Line six car U.P. aluminum set and a Williams Powhaten Arrow four car set.

A number of 'creative' repaints were noted, alas unmarked as such. If you needed a good older transformer, several were on hand, including a very nice Lionel KW with original cord in good shape.

At the business meeting, new members Don Konieczny, Mike Donovan and Jim Ban were introduced. Fred Kramer was welcomed back after a long absence. Harold reminded members of dues unpaid and of next month's Special Kid's meet.

In the back room Darrell Calvillo and Richard Keppel ran standard and 'O' gauge trains on several large loops. Some of those noticed included Williams #408 loco pulling a State set

and a Western Maryland Shay with three log cars and a Weaver caboose.

Trains Go Hollywood

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Warner Brothers 1938 romantic comedy about public relations consultant Robert Lansford (Errol Flynn) who bungles several attempts at persuading the wealthy John P. Dillingwell (Walter Connolly) to financially support a community hospital project. Lansford finally succeeds by catering to Dillingwell's Lionel train hobby and giant outdoor pike.

Lionel's finest 1938 locomotives provide dazzling toy train race action and layout laughs when Dillingwell's great Danes chase an unwelcome Lansford over trains and accessories.

Lansford's pursuits go beyond 3-rail trains when he juggles his encounters with Lori Dillingwell (Olivia de Havilland) and Jean Christy (Rosiland Russell). This long standing favorite of train collectors has never been available for rent, but clips have been bootlegged from cable station broadcasts.

I've seen a copy of the 16-mm b/w film for sale at York several years ago, but Flynn films are usually in demand and are hard to find.

Layout scenes were filmed on stage and other photos are available from your 1938 catalog and related article in the Lionel Magazine.

As a side note, Olivia de Havilland, a California sweetheart (from Saratoga) is occasionally interviewed because of her role in 'Gone With the Wind'. TCA collector Warren Heid currently owns her childhood home and says, "she is as sweet and kind off the screen as in her film roles". Stay tuned!



In Four's A Crowd Errol Flynn races his streamlined #752E against Walter Connolly's old steamer #763E for a chance to get his money and eventually his daughter. Guess which loco won!