



Western Division

Train Collectors Association

Newsletter



Volume 50, No. 7

"T.C.A. Western Division's 50th Anniversary"

November/December, 2004



President's Message

*By Robert Caplan,
President, TCA Western Division*

Our next meet will take place on **Saturday, November 20th** in the Arcadia Senior Center, located at 405 S. Santa Anita Avenue in Arcadia, CA. **Sellers: tables are free!**

To get to the meeting, exit the 210 Freeway at Santa Anita Ave. drive south about half a mile and turn right into the parking lot. We're located next to the lawn bowling area. Doors open at 10 a.m. for trading and selling. Please check our newly updated website, at <http://www.tcawestern.org>, for more information and a detailed map!

Our display theme for November will be to bring anything that has a connection with "Thanksgiving". Show off that rare and prized toy train and facilitate the transfer of knowledge on collecting toy trains. There will be a prize presented for the most interesting item displayed!

Remember that for our **December 11, 2004** Holiday Meet, the NEW 2004 Lionel Pioneer Zephyr Set will be raffled off. This beautiful set includes the locomotive, RPO baggage, coach car, and observation car, TrainMaster Command, Odyssey System, maintenance free motors, fan driven smoke and much more. Also, you must be present for either the November and/or December Meet to become a 'Hundred Dollar Winner'.

Last month Neil Meyer was the lucky "ONE HUNDRED DOLLAR BILL (\$100) winner!"

Speaking of our 'End of the Year' holiday December meet, your Board of Directors has a special treat for all! Can't Tell you yet. (Only Santa Knows!) We are planning to serve a meal. TCA Western Division will be providing the main dishes, drinks and a holiday cake. We are asking TCA Western Division Members to provide a side dish, dessert, or some kind of holiday salad. We are asking you to bring for enough to serve 10 persons. If your last name begins with the following letters:

A through **K** brings a "Side Dish"

L through **R** brings a "Dessert"

S through **Z** brings a "Holiday Salad"

TWO IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

Saturday, November 20, 2004 - TCA Western Division Meet

Saturday, December 11, 2004 - Holiday Division Meet

Doors open at 10:00 a.m.

Please enjoy the photos in this month's newsletter highlighting our 50th Anniversary Celebration in September.



Our 50th Anniversary Celebration was Magic to all!



Past and present TCA Western Division Presidents joined the Celebration! Top row from left: Harold Shapiro, Donald Labdenberger, Robert Caplan, Chuck Stone. Bottom row: Russell Lange, John Parker, Harrison Bemis, Robert Spellmire



Every lady and daughter received a Rose!

It has been my honor to serve you as President of T.C.A. Western Division for 2004. I want to "Thank" all of you who assisted me this past year; the BOD, members, and their spouses, all made that magical moment happen! I look forward to an even greater year to come and a greater future for Western Division. May God Bless!

—Bob Caplan

2005 Western Division Board of Directors & Officers Elections

Included in this mailing is your TCA Western Division 2005 election ballot. Please make your choices by filling in the ovals using a dark pen or pencil. You may mail the completed ballot to Robert Spellmire at the address pre-written on the card, or bring it to our December 11, 2004 Holiday Meet in person. Be sure that if you mail your ballot that you place a stamp on the ballot card (all ballots must be mailed no later than December 1, 2004). **Please VOTE!**

These are the nominees for Western Division officers that will represent TCA Western Division in 2005:

President – **Wayne Sheriff**

Vice President – **Jon Lang**

Treasure/Membership Secretary – **Harold Shapiro**

Recording Secretary – **Bob Lemberger**

Board Of Directors

John Parker

Jim Kenney

Steve Waller

Ray Sugg

Jerry Johnson

Mike Donovan

Bill Clausen

September & October 2004 Meeting Reports

By Steve Waller, Recording Secretary

On Saturday, September 25, 2004, TCA Western Division celebrated the 50th Anniversary of its founding with a specially catered luncheon as part of the regular monthly meeting.

Banquet tables with white linen tablecloths were set up in the north room. The west room was jammed full of tables with trains for sale. In the south room was Richard Keppel's huge "O" and Standard Gauge floor layout. With Jerry Johnson's help, there were at least six trains operating.

Running on the Standard Gauge rails were MTH reproductions of the Ives White Set and a No. 1764 steam locomotive pulling a string of passenger cars. On the "O" scale loops, we spotted an MTH 3460 Blue Goose, an MTH "Yellowstone" articulated steamer, a Lionel AT&SF 3751 and a RailKing SP Daylight 4449 set.



John and Virginia Kimball accepting Betty Kimball's "Honorary Member Pin" at the September Anniversary celebration.

At noon, the buffet luncheon began. Cheryl Shapiro did a beautiful job of coordinating the meal. The menu consisted of Bar-B-Que Tri-Tip and Chicken, with all the trimmings. The lovely centerpieces were created by Nancy Cochran.

The display theme was "Items from past TCA National Conventions hosted by Western Division". A panel of experts awarded prizes to Bob Spellmire, Dennis Taube and Bob Caplan for their interesting and unusual displays.

Western Division President Bob Caplan presented Mrs. Betty Kimball with a TCA National Honorary Membership. Accepting on her behalf were John & Virginia Kimball.

Vice President Wayne Sheriff presented honorary plaques to Western Division Presidents from the past 50 years. Many of the honorees or their families were on-hand to accept the awards.

Next, Harold Shapiro and John Parker presented a slide show of Western Division history, covering its beginnings on September 14, 1954 to the present day.

After desert, more prizes were awarded to members and their families. Among the gifts bestowed were a Lionel steam freight train, a K-Line Coca-Cola steam set, a highly desirable red boxcar from the TCA 2003 Convention and a crisp \$100 bill.

Our thanks go out to all who participated in the 50th Anniversary Celebration for making it such a great success!

On Saturday, October 23, 2004, TCA Western Division held its regular monthly meeting. Doors opened at 10am and trading was brisk.

At 11:45 am, President Bob Caplan called the business meeting to order. The display theme, in honor of Halloween, was orange & black, or items acquired at the October York, PA meet.

Among the items displayed were three Ives Halloween set variations, a collection of MTH orange & black freight cars and a scarce No. 154 highway signal with an orange base. From York came a rare AT&SF No. 6357 red caboos from the father & son (a.k.a. "over & under") set and a TCA 50th Anniversary plate. A winner was picked from all those who participated in the Display, and that lucky person was Mike Jenkins, who won a Lionel freight car.

Door prize winning tickets were drawn by Michelle Abbe, who was serenaded by TCA members in honor of her 12th birthday on October 25, 2004. Lucky winners included Mike Galante, Tom Hess and C. A. Meyer.



Mr. Meyer won a crisp \$100 bill from the Lionel Zephyr raffle

Elections Chairman Bob Spellmire took nominations for the slate of TCA Western Division officers for 2005. A ballot is included with this Newsletter mailing. Be sure to vote!

September 2004 Meet Photographs Western Division's 50th Anniversary



Getting Ready for our Gala Event! Last minute touch-ups!



Family fun for all! All you could eat in two hours



Ray Sugg, Cynthia Sheriff, Wayne Sheriff and Bob Caplan.



Leslie and Nancy Cochran's grandson is ready to RUN Trains!



Dale, Russ & Jane Lange share conversation with Bob Spellmire.



*Richard and Chris Keppel's Railroad delighted all, young and old!
Note the reproduction White Ives Set*



Raffle and Door Prizes. \$3,000 plus worth of Give-A-Ways!



Past TCA WD Presidents Chuck Stone and Russell Lange share camaraderie. What's in the cup Russ?



Did anyone say; Where are the trains for sale?



The End of the track for a Great Time in TCA Western Division History!

October 2004 Meet Photographs



Steve Waller put a 'horrifying' touch on some rare prewar Lionel accessories in honor of Halloween



The 'Halloween Display'

T.C.A. History - A Blast from the Past!



The train room of Western Division member Thomas Sefton of San Diego as it appeared in 1976. This extensive collection is currently on display at the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento.



November Quiz: Win a chance for a special door prize!

Can you tell us why this Ice Car is so special?

Come to our November meet and enter a contest to win a prize.

In Memoriam

Most, if not all of you, attended Saturday's October 23rd meet noticed Richard Keppel received an emergency phone call regarding his mother's health. Richard left in a hurry and many of us helped him pack up to help expedite his departure for the hospital. Richard's mother passed away a little after noon, Thursday, October 27, 2004. Our sincerest condolences go out to Richard and his family.