



Western Division

Train Collectors Association

Newsletter



Volume 46, No. 6

August 2000

Monthly Meet Notification

TCA Western Division's next train meet will be held on **Saturday August 26th, 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.

2000 marks the 100th Anniversary of Lionel, America's premier toy train manufacturer. In celebration, this month's display theme will be 'A Century of Lionel'. Bring your finest example of Lionel toy trains. Any gauge or era will do. Let's see if we can get an item that represents each of the 10 decades Lionel has been in business. Old or new. Anyone have an original Joshua Lionel-Cowan 'cigar box' dry cell powered gondola to share with us?

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:
August 26th, 2000 **October 28th, 2000**
September 23rd, 2000 **November 25th, 2000**

July 2000 Meet Recap

The July 2000 meeting had an excellent turnout of members and guests, given the warmth of the day. Appropriately the display theme for the meeting was "Steamer's" and a prize was awarded for the best display.



Steam Locomotives were abundant for the July meet display theme.

Bob Trimble brought a representative collection of "Climax Locomotives" in various scales. His 'O' model was a Lobaugh. His On3 model was a Kemtron C-16 Consolidation. And his HO model was by United. Bob noted that there were three versions of the Climax C-16, over the years that it was produced: the



Part of John Thousand's prize winning display.

Note the size of that wind-up key!

original, the intermediate and the modern. Bob also had excellent supporting literature on these interesting 2-8-0 locomotives, which were built in the 1890's.

John Thousand brought a good mix of pre-war and post-war trains. Some from his childhood, including an American Flyer 431 switcher-tender combination, with a type XIV #429 loco and a type XIV diecast tender. He also had a #1680 Hudson, a type XII loco with a #1620 sheet metal tender, type XI, which sold beginning in 1936, through 1939. As a combination it is listed as a #1681, and featured six drive wheels. This was manufactured before Lionel had their Hudson ready to go. The original price was \$15.00. John also showed a Marklin #R950 as well as some esoteric tin plate from Austria. John also had a large friction floor train with 2 cars, from his childhood days.



Merv Lew's massive Erector Hudson

Mervyn Lew displayed a giant sized Erector Hudson. He told how he had seen one as a child in a downtown Woolworth's, and wished he could have it. Eventually as an adult he realized his childhood dream and obtained this one from fellow Western Division member Alan Drucker.

Emmert Stouffer brought a Standard gauge 2-8-2 he had constructed with a pair of motors from #402's. His model had Western-Pacific markings.

Bob Spellmire was wearing a New York Central conductor's hat while, he told us the history of the first streamliner. The Commodore Vanderbilt, a 1931, J-1, #5345 which was later followed by the J-3's with and without cowling as the years went by. The J-1 weighed in at 370,000 lbs.

The prize for best display was awarded to John Thousand.

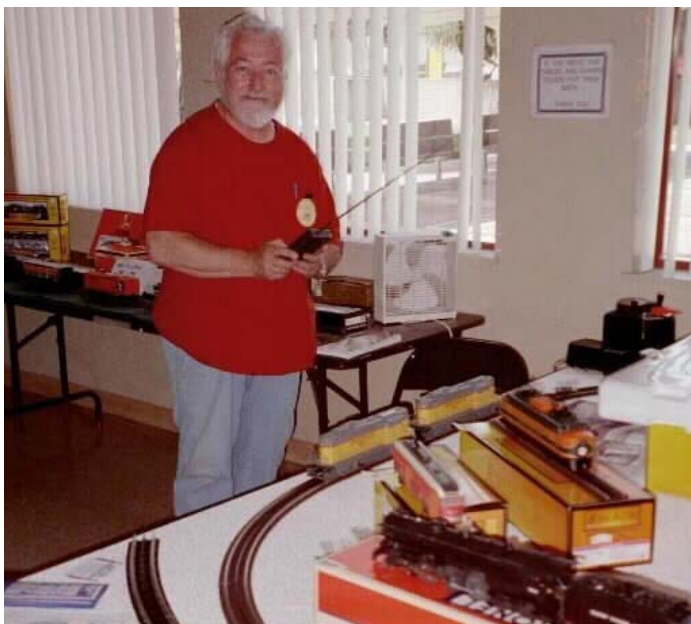
On the sales tables there were some nice items both old and new. There was an America Flyer Wayside Station in its original box. Also noted was a Lionel #164 lumber loader, a four car Yankee Flyer set with gray nose, as well as a black and gray #260E.



Some of the trading pit action at the July meet.

Lloyd Burland had a good dealer-type display with Lionel and Rail King locos running. This included two Union Pacific GP-9's in tandem (#2397 & #2381). Also on Lloyd's small ovals was a new Rail King Burlington Zephyr set.

If post war English passenger cars interest you, there were three Exley coaches, #4250, a restaurant car #10022, a 3rd class passenger car, and a #41 combination car. All three were in IMS livery and were pulled by a tank type loco, by Basset Lowke.



Lloyd Burland and his command control set up.

Running the rails in the back room, were a pre-war American

Flyer wide gauge "Grand Canyon" set pulled by a #4691 loco with #71 tender, brought by Darrel Brewer and grandson Darrell Calvillo. Also seen on the tracks was a MTH Rail King #400E belonging to Richard Keppel. It easily pulled 13 standard gauge cars around the loop. There was an 'O' gauge loop as well featuring a Williams #256 with a long mixed consist of pre-war cars.

The auction saw lively interest in an Ives set in a tattered but original box, as well a Lionel Baby State set with nicely restored roofs.

At the business meeting, new Western Division members Doug Le Tourneau, Tom Hubbard, Ed Maggiora, Ralph Tomlinson and Richard Unfried were introduced.

Respectfully submitted by Dave McCully

Trains Go Hollywood*

By Dave Otth

Metro Golden Mayer's 1927 silent film "Love" starred Greta Garbo (as Anna Karenina) and John Gilbert in Tolstoy's tragedy along with an 'O' gauge two-rail mechanical train.

Anna steals into her former home to see the son she abandoned (for a love affair) to bring him a birthday train. The story is set in St. Petersburg, Russia and the toy wind-up has been assumed to be American Flyer.

Since the film was shot locally, and considering the early production date, use of an American train make sounds convincing. However, can anyone confirm by the body style that it is not European? Don't be misled by what appears as larger than normal lettering under the cab. The photo quality may have blurred the numbering and studios do paint their own props to match the film story.

The box may also be a clue, but it is possible that the train and set box are not the same. So stay focused on style when making your guess on manufacturer. Comments appreciated.

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Just before her 10-year-old son wakes up, Greta Garbo has fun setting up a 2-rail bedside layout for his morning surprise

In Memorium

The Western Division wishes to extend sincerest condolences to long time member Ron Smith. Ron's beloved wife Virginia passed away on August 6th. Our hearts are with you Ron.