



TRAIN TALK

THE NEWSLETTER OF
TCA/WESTERN DIVISION

"Where old trains meet the new..."



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SEPTEMBER, 1994

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, TCA/WD! HERE'S TO 40 MORE!

TCA/Western Division will celebrate its 40th Birthday at our next meet, Saturday, September 24 at the Arcadia Senior Citizen's Center, 405 S. Santa Anita Avenue in the city of Arcadia, CA.

The display theme will be anything and everything having to do with TCA and/or Western Division's colorful first 40 years. Dig out your old club cars, publications, or memorabilia of any kind. (Does anyone have some revealing photographs from the early days?)

Our operating layout will again be in place for this meet, and we will have one of the green 0-gauge TCA passenger trains -- as well as something you bring -- chugging around the track.

Ice cream and cake will be served--so bring the kiddies along to help celebrate. (After all, the future of TCA is in their hands!) Highlight of the meet will be the raffling of our TCA Anniversary F-3 ABA diesel set. Tickets for the raffle are still available at \$5 each. If you have not already bought yours, this is your last chance.

If you can escape to the north the following weekend, the Sacramento Division of Toy Train Operating Society is sponsoring a two-day Toy Train Fair, honoring the 10th anniversary of the toy train exhibit at the California State Railroad Museum. As part of the celebration, "A Toy Train Meet" will be held on Saturday, October 1, at the Scottish Rite Temple, 6151 H Street, Sacramento. Dealer set-up starts at 8:30AM; doors open to TTOS and TCA members at 10AM, and to the public at 11AM. For more information, contact Carl Locher at 916-626-0421 or Don Rosa at 916-682-6961.

October 1 is also the date TCA National Ballots are due back at the accounting center. Members should have received their ballots by now. As they used to say, "Vote for the candidate of your choice -- but vote!"

On the national front, TCA's Museum and Education Committee will host a special TCA 40th Birthday Party on Thursday, October 13, at the newly renamed National Toy Train Museum in Strasburg, Pennsylvania. As something of a prelude to this year's Eastern Division York Meet (October 14-15), the Museum plans a full day of festivities (10AM - 7PM). See the September issue of National Headquarter News for complete details.

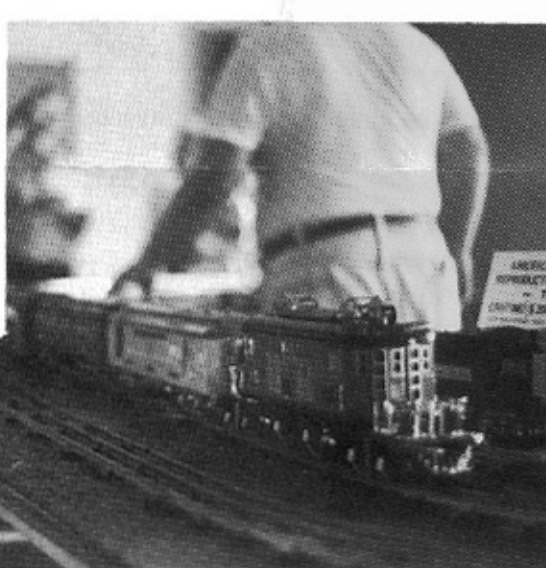
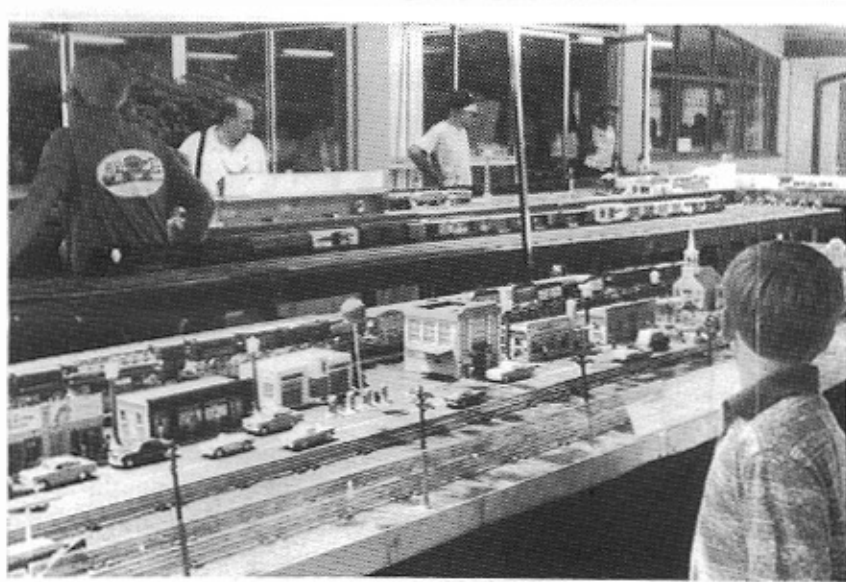
TCA/Western Division's October meet will be held on Saturday, the 22nd, again at the Arcadia Senior Citizen's Center. Doors will open at 11AM. The display theme will be "fall colors," so bring something gold, orange or brown -- or something that for whatever reason reminds you of autumn. If you get back east for York -- and find a new treasure -- bring that along for display, too.

During our October Meet, we will accept nominations from the floor for Western Division offices and six seats on the Board of Directors for 1995. Offices include that of the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary and Membership Secretary (although these last two may be combined). If you are interested in serving the club in one of these positions, please contact Tom Watson (818-981-0752) or any of the other current officers/board members by October 22. This year's election process will be supervised by Past President Robert Spellmire.

This year's Cal-Stewart Meet, sponsored by the Southwestern Division of Toy Train Operating Society, will be held a week earlier this year: the weekend of November 11-13. The meet will be held at the Pasadena Convention Center, 300 E. Green Street, Pasadena, CA. Registration fees are \$25 (prior to September 30) and \$30 (thereafter). Please contact Jerry Latner (818-888-0603) for complete details.

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"Open House" Spectacular



AND FROM THE MAIL CAR:

Dear Tom and other TCA Officers and Members of the Board of Directors for TCA Western Division,

May I take this opportunity to express the pleasure received at your recent Open House Meet. It was pure joy to go to a meet where the hall was properly set-up -- tables were in order and numbered, and all was in readiness for the meeting to begin. A real surprise it was for the sellers to be allowed in early out of the heat -- and it was HOT out there! -- and be able to set up their precious for-sale items and be ready for the doors to open at 11AM. I was in total shock all day that there was no hassle at the door as we came in, and that there was no one on the microphone yelling that someone or somebody was not obeying some stupid rules or regulations. Again, I tip my hat to all the officers and board members who worked so hard to bring off the meet so smoothly!

If there was anything to complain about -- and I find it hard to do -- it is that maybe, just maybe, we need to find a little bigger hall to hold the meet in next year. If it means a little more cost to sellers per table, so be it. I wouldn't mind -- the huge overflow crowd sure would justify the added cost. But to quote a beloved friend to all us train people -- the honorable John King, "It's better to have a full small hall than a half-full large hall." May his soul rest in peace. He was an inspiration to us all.

Again, thanks for a great train meet. See you all on the 24th, Lord willing. Best regards...

-- Ed Karper

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Our thanks to everyone who participated in our TCA/Western Division "Open House" Meet August 27. Special kudos go to Kay Spellmire, who handled table reservations, and to Bob Spellmire who assigned tables and prepared a detailed map, allowing sellers to find their tables easily.

The "Open House" was a huge success! We not only welcomed dozens of our own members and those of our sister (or is it brother?) toy train clubs, but well over 100 members of the general public.

Highlight of the day was the huge outdoor operating layout assembled by the Tinplate Trackers from Orange County. These gentlemen entertained us all for over four hours, inviting guests -- particularly youngsters -- to man the controls. What a great way to get kids enthusiastic about trains. Thanks, fellas...You can come play in our backyard anytime.

-- Thomas J. Watson



TRAIN TALK -- (Continued from page 1)

As we mentioned in our last newsletter, we have added a special "Mostly Marx" all-day auction to our fall schedule. Longtime TCA member Ron Smith has decided to divest himself of his huge collection of Marx and Company creations. (There may be a smattering of items from other manufacturers as well. We hope to have a more complete inventory available in October.) Ron promises to include Marx items for every budget: military sets, William Crooks sets, a Canadian Pacific set ...There will be crane cars, streamliners, a milk car with cans...spare engines and tenders, plastic ABA sets with metal passenger cars...bridges, stations and other accessories...even catalogues. (See photo above.)

The auction will be held Saturday, November 26, in the Arcadia Senior Citizen's Center. Doors will open at 10AM for registration and for previewing items. The auction itself will start at 11AM. (There will be no regular business meeting or table sales at this special TCA event.)

To facilitate matters, we ask that all persons wishing to bid on merchandise register with the auction clerk and obtain a buyer's number prior to bidding.

The auction will be open to members of TCA and all

the recognized toy train clubs -- TTOS, MTA, Valley Toy Train Club, All Gauges, etc. General public will not be admitted. We intend to invite members of other TCA divisions from around the country, and expect a good turnout. Add this date to your calendar today.

TCA National has announced a full inventory of 1995 toy train cars, to be released in conjunction with the 41st National Convention in Seattle, Washington, June 20-25. You cannot wait until June, however, to order these beautiful cars. Orders must be postmarked no later than December 31, 1994. Included on the list is everything from a Lionel 0-gauge streamliner observation car, to an American Flyer flatcar with trailers, to a McCoy Manufacturing Standard-gauge boxcar. For complete details, see the centerfold in September's National Headquarter News. Don't delay -- December 31 will be here before you know it!