

TCA Mission: To develop an appreciation of and to preserve an important segment of history – Tinplate Toy Trains –through research, education, community outreach, fellowship, establishment of collecting standards, and to promote the growth and enjoyment of collecting and operating toy, model and scale trains.



Desert Division *DISPATCH*



ARIZONA • NEW MEXICO • WEST TEXAS

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.tcadd.org

Volume 35, No. 10

Winter, 2006

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS IN THE DESERT

As the year draws to a close, so do the Desert Division activities. November ended with a very successful Turkey Meet. Attendance was at an all-time high; tables were filled with sales items; layouts attracted the “kid” in all of us; the art display was phenomenal; the auction was spirited – what more could anyone ask. Next year will be at the same venue and the same weekend, so plan now to attend.

Next came the Holiday Party. This year the Mesa Marriott served a sumptuous feast to all who attended. Santa visited young and old, asking whether they had been good or not, and giving gifts to the little ones. Every member received a gift of figures to adorn a layout, and each spouse/guest received a Lenox ornament. Raffle prizes filled the front tables, along with a few “garden” decorations in the form of lighted snowmen. After the brunch, Peter Atonna began his annual sales routine. This year, each table’s centerpiece was different, and the bidding was as varied as the merchandise. Sleights brought a premium, as did the snowmen. The Lenox Holiday Train raffle was awarded to Sam McElwee, whose lucky ticket just happened to be the first one sold. Door prizes went to Vicky Pryor and Bob Johnston. Finally came the long-awaited 2006 Hudson Raffle announcement. The winning ticket belonged to Greg Novak.

Another time-honored tradition was the naming of the Desert Division’s “Member of the Year.” This year that award went to Janet Mattern.

Whew! It seems only a short time ago that we were welcoming the “New Year 2006.” Now we begin with a welcome to the “New Year 2007.” To everyone we wish Season’s Greetings. May your Holidays be merry and bright, and your New Year one of the best ever.



Gerry Klei’s magnificent Meccano Crane



Peter Atonna at the Auction

Member
of the
Year –
Janet
Mattern



COMING UP . . .

JANUARY 13 REGULAR MEET – JAYCEES HALL, SCOTTSDALE – 9 AM
JANUARY 20 RIO GRANDE CHAPTER MEET – ALBUQUERQUE, NM – 9 AM
JANUARY 20 TOY TRAIN SHOW – TUCSON, AZ – 9 AM

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TURKEY MEET KID'S CLUB FUN

By Jonathan Peiffer TCA #01-53047

There were many ways to measure the success of this year's Turkey Meet. With a turnout of over 1000 attendees, lots of vendors, several operating layouts, an exhibition of railroad art and of course the help of all the volunteers, one could nearly miss the activities happening on behalf of the Kid's Club.

Thomas Plies had several activities for attending children in the entrance lobby including an operating Polar Express train on a winter scene layout and a golf putting station, which was used to raise funds for future Kid's Club activities. In addition, over 75 informational packets and Amtrak engineer hats were given to children as they entered the hall.



Thomas Plies and two children operate the Polar Express layout

A young boy's delight watching the "Eggliners"



A large group of children gather around the module.



Inside the Hall, Jonathan Peiffer helped children run trains on Chris Allen's 4x6 portable layout, which he graciously allowed to be used for the event. With an operating Thomas the Tank Engine set and a Union Pacific 'U-boat' set, children of all ages had an opportunity to be the engineer with little supervision. Up to a dozen children were gathered around the layout at any given period of time. While their children were operating the trains,

parents asked for recommendations on what kind of train sets to buy for the Holidays.

Many parents and their children alike commented on how this was the only opportunity they had to actually run the trains. What would it have been like for us as children had we been told that the trains were for looking at only?

Overall, the activities allowed for opportunities for the children to have fun, to discuss the hobby with interested parents and for everyone involved to observe the wonder and excitement of this great hobby from the unique perspective of a child's eye.

A young lady gets Thomas back on track.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

GREETINGS!

What a wonderful time of the year! The Turkey Meet was a great success! We had great attendance and great weather! What a combination! Kudos to Fred Hunter, and his crew of workers, for a smooth set up and activities on Saturday. And kudos to Chet Henry, and his crew of workers, for a smooth set up and running of the auction on Sunday! Events like this take teamwork!

With all of the running displays at the Turkey Meet, there was plenty of opportunity to notice the wonder of children, when they are watching or playing with trains. This makes the season brighter. As does watching the expression on the faces of older people, as they watch the trains, seeing the spark of a memory of days gone by. Just an exciting sight for sure! It is always thrilling to talk to some of these folks and hear their stories about when they worked or rode on the trains. I truly miss that part from when we ran trains at the malls. It is a connection that can't be measured.

As the year draws to a close, watching trains run is even more relaxing than normal! We are still looking for a couple of boys or girls wanting to find trains under their tree, that we can help with our "Trains for Kids" program. If you see a tag on an "Angel Tree" or know of someone, please call me (623-580-6957) ASAP so we can help out.

An interesting thread on the TTML this past week has been along the lines of "What's Running Under your Tree this Year?" I generally have a large scale train running to match up with houses from Hallmark's "Sarah Plain and Tall" series, but this year, I am digging up the Polar Express. They have been adding to this set yearly, and I just received the hand-car with four incredibly small elves at the helm! So even if I don't get the set all out, the hand-car will fit nicely. Every January meet we have an educational segment of "the train related items I got for Christmas." However, this year, it would be nice to have pictures of what you ran under the tree, or even the train itself! If you are so inclined, write a little article telling about it and if you have pictures, send them as well for the January newsletter!

Do you want to help your Desert Division? We have openings for committee people.

Wishing you and your families a safe and joyous holiday season and hope to see you at the next meet with lots of stories and memories to share.

Happy trains!

Katie

SCOTTSDALE LEADERSHIP AWARD

Among our membership we have one member who again and again is honored with one public service award after another. If you do not know this man on a close, personal basis, you will never know of these achievements, for he will not "blow his own horn". He very easily could have run for political office in Scottsdale, Maricopa County, or the State of Arizona and won. Instead, he has chosen to work "behind the scenes." The recognition of his many public service actions has taken him to the Rose Garden of The White House in Washington, D. C. for an award presented by President George Bush, father of our current President. Once again, on Friday, December 8, 2006, William "Bill" Mack was honored with yet another very prestigious award at the Chaparral Suites Resort. The Scottsdale Leadership, Inc. nominated and bestowed upon Bill the Drinkwater Award, presented annually by Merrill Lynch.

Congratulations to Bill for this achievement. The text contained in the program follows:

The Drinkwater Leadership Award, presented by Merrill Lynch, commemorates former Mayor Herb Drinkwater's commitment to Scottsdale by honoring a member of the community who exemplifies leadership and community service values. This award is bestowed upon a community activist who has made a significant and notable contribution to Scottsdale. A man who serves his community with enthusiasm and imagination, William "Bill" Mack lived and traveled internationally before moving to Scottsdale in 1960. He has been active with the Scottsdale Jaycees and the Parade del Sol, Scottsdale Boys' Club, and Papago Rotary Club. Bill helped to establish the Scottsdale Charro Foundation in 1975, and was active for many years with the Charros and the Fiesta Bowl committee. In addition to serving in leadership roles for the Scottsdale Area Chamber of Commerce, and Scottsdale's Board of Adjustments, Cable Television Commission, and Airport Advisory Commission, Bill has been recognized for his work with the U. S. Air Force, U. S. Marine Corps, and the Arizona Air National Guard. Bill Mack is quick to credit the Ghiz family and Paddock Swimming Pools, his employer for the last 40 years, for continuing to encourage his breadth of involvement and service.



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Grand Canyon Railroad



Verde Canyon Railroad



Celebrate two famous tourist railroads that take you to some of Arizona's most spectacular scenery

Instructions:

- Fill out the bottom of this form completely and enclose it with a check/money order for the total amount payable to the: TCA Desert Division
- Mail form and check to:
TCA Desert Division
25375 N. Feather Mountain Rd.
Paulden, AZ 86334-2713

Order Form

Name: _____

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City and State: _____

Zip Code: _____ Home Phone: _____

Email address (optional): _____

Offered Item:

Celebrate Arizona Verde Canyon RR and Grand Canyon RR Boxcar Set	\$95.00 per set
Arizona residents add sales tax	\$ 7.35 per set
Free shipping included in the US	
Total Amount enclosed	_____

The Desert Division thanks you for the order and for your support of the Club.

ART SHOW STOKES BIG INTEREST

by Gordon L. Wilson TCA 76-10233

A great philosophical mind once opined that wonderful things come in threes. At this, our 30th Annual Turkey Meet, we put together our 3rd Railroad Art Show. Once again, like the previous two, it turned into the “silent hit” of the show. This was the first of the three to feature the works, styles, and types of many art forms. Our first one featured the works of Angela Trotta-Thomas and her many works highlighting children and Lionel trains. Our second endeavor brought us the watercolor works of Diane Rodriguez. The thrust of her detailed watercolors is aimed mainly at real railroad rolling stock and equipment.

This one, however, incorporated a wide variety of styles and types of Railroad Art works. For example, there were oil paintings, limited edition prints, calendar art, hand-stitched crewel, original schematic drawings, photography, pen and ink etchings, and yes, even a cartoon. This year’s Art Show was our most diverse ever and surely the most widely visited, an impression garnered by so many positive comments from our visitors.

Among the artists of note whose works were on display were Angela Trotta-Thomas, Diane Rodriguez, Fred Bonn, Grif Teller, Howard Fogg, and Scottsdale’s own Bill Keane, of “Family Circus” fame. The local Division members who deserve all the credit for answering the call of the Turkey Meet Committee were: Peter and Mary Jane Atonna, Fred Fishman, Cole Gibbs, Bob and Joan Herman, Fred and Shirley Hunter, Al and Selma Levin, Bill Mack, Phil Monahan, Jonathan Peiffer, Paul Wassermann, and Gordon and Christie Wilson.



DESERT DIVISION - TCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS - 2006

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TCA-RIO GRANDE CHAPTER NEWS

by Gregory Palmer TCA# 94-390396

What a great Meet we had on November 4th. We had 34 tables filled with Toy Trains and Toy Train parts. The meet had over 50 members and public attend. As the Chapter's first major meet, the Pumpkin Meet was a great success. We are now looking forward to next year's Pumpkin Meet. No word as of yet on the March Meet in Las Cruces. The availability of a meeting hall has been the big problem for Ted Hamler and Jon Spargo. However, they are still working towards having a meet in Las Cruces in late March. Thanks to all who helped with the Pumpkin Meet: our coordinator, Bill Spofford, set-up helper Art Sena, treasurer Bill Harris, and check-in crew Secretary Brenna-Leigh Bosch and Marlin Janzen. I would like to welcome a new member to the Rio Grande Chapter, the Desert Division, and the TCA, Mr. Charles Incendio.

Please do not miss our January 20th 2007 Meet. Mr. Art Lites will bring his collection of Lionel missile cars. He will show us the different variations in the development of the cars from Post-War to Modern Era. This is a Meet you should not miss. I will also discuss the recent National TCA Standards Committee Meeting results. At the Standards Committee Meeting held at York in October, some very interesting ideas and rules were discussed. I will share them with you. Also, bring something to show and tell the members, and bring something Toy Train related to sell. Tables are free to members.

Get well wishes go to our current Chapter Vice-President Dale Schafer. He has had back surgeries and is now recuperating at home. Cards would be welcome. Find his address in your Desert Division roster, or call me and I will share it with you.

Hope to see all of you at the Meet on January 20, 2007, at the Sombra Del Monte Church at 2858 Utah NE, in Albuquerque, NM at 10 AM.



Secretary Brenna Leigh Bosch and member Marlin Janzen at the registration table with raffle prizes and the Turkey Meet Poster.



A detailed view of the raffle prizes and Turkey Meet Poster



Little girl and her dad enjoying the Pumpkin Meet. Do you think she's listening for the Proto Sounds?



Members and the public enjoyed shopping the 34 tables of trains.

2009 CONVENTION STATUS REPORT

by Ed Micale, Convention Chair, TCA 93-36857

2006 has been an exciting year in our preparations for the 2009 TCA National Convention in Scottsdale. Here are some highlights of our progress towards our goal for a world-class convention that will celebrate the Desert Division and our beautiful state.

Paul Wassermann presented our logo designed by Mitch Kuhn at the San Antonio convention and it was very well received. Each member of the national BOD was also presented with a jar of 'Habanera' Sting-N-Linger salsa. The next level of salsa that Sting-N-Linger offers is 'NUCLEAR.' This may be too hot for distribution to the BOD in 2007 and so some creativity may be in order for our next offering.

Approximately \$1900 was raised by club donations for the Pizza Meetza and Turkey Meet auctions, sale of shirts and entertainment books, and other miscellaneous items including some terrific pies. Chet Henry, Convention Treasurer, has set up all the appropriate bank accounts and has invested some of the Convention monies in CDs. He also updates the steering committee with a monthly report of the status of the Convention account balance.

Peter Atonna, Fundraising Car Chair, in conjunction with Lionel representatives, has designed a fantastic boxcar set of two cars celebrating famous tourist railroads that take you to some of Arizona's most spectacular scenery: the Verde Canyon RR and the Grand Canyon RR. This boxcar set is currently being advertised in CTT, the Division newsletter, and e-trains web site, as well as being featured in the new products section in CTT. The order deadline for these cars is February 14, 2007. The price of this outstanding set is only \$95, and if you pick the cars up at a club meet you can reduce the price by \$7, as there will be no shipping charge. Desert Division member purchases are currently low with most of the purchases being made from outside the Division. The Convention Committee is now asking for your support of this important Convention fundraising and promotion effort. Don't wait to the last minute! We have a contract with Lionel for a minimum order of 200 sets. Once this order is placed there will not be any extras available for sale. Don't miss out – order now, support a key source of raising funds for the Convention and become the proud owner of this limited and beautiful set. Order forms can be found on the Desert Division web site (www.tcadd.org) as well as the above-mentioned publications. Cars are expected to be available in the summer of 2007.

Antigua shirts displaying the Convention Logo were offered and most were quickly sold with only three shirts remaining as of the date of this article. Many members were interested in shirts with pockets, which we continue to pursue with Antigua. When these become available, we will place another order.

Gordon Wilson has assembled an outstanding list of potential tours/events to offer the 2009 TCA conventioners and their families. These will encompass Arizona's best offerings in sight seeing and historical sites, shopping, and entertainment.

Marty Wik and Ivan English continue to work on some terrific Convention Car offerings. Car/accessory details and renderings are being defined with our final selections to be presented to the national BOD at the June 2007 TCA Convention in Colorado.

Convention chair positions continue to be filled. Congratulations and thank you's go to:

Convention Co-Chair – Bill Mack
Treasurer – Chet Henry
Events/Tours – Gordon Wilson
Registration – Chris Allen
Trading Hall & Loading/Unloading – Cole Gibbs
Recording Secretary – Christie Wilson
Convention Cars – Marty Wik
Kids Club Activities – Thomas Plies
Hotel Liaison – Dannie Martin
Displays – Paul Wassermann
Banquet – Angelo Lautazi
Publicity – Gordon Wilson
Fundraising Cars – Peter Atonna
Web Site – Angelo Lautazi
Convention Store – Cathy Kuhn & Irene Wassermann
Security – Art Triant



Ed Micale surrounded by
Convention sales items

Don't hesitate to contact any of the chairpersons to help out, as we will need a large club involvement for a successful Convention. A few remaining chair positions will be filled in the near future. They include Welcome Party, Ladies' Activities, Auction, Photographer, & Hospitality.

Just as a reminder, the following is a brief list of the key Convention activities that need to be completed:

- Begin general committee meetings, June 1, 2007.
-

- Present Convention Car offerings to the national BOD and initiate fabrication of prototype convention cars, June, 2007.
- Final budgets to be prepared and submitted to the National Treasurer and Convention Guidelines Chair by January 2008.
- Tours/events defined by March 1, 2008.
- Final presentation to the TCA National BOD, including prototype Convention Cars and pricing for BOD approval in June 2008.
- Launch Convention web site January 1, 2009.
- Site inspection with the TCA National President and Convention Guidelines Chair by January 2009.
- TCA National Convention from June 28 to July 5, 2009.

Time really does seem to fly and it will not be long before 2009 will be at the Desert Division's doorstep. Each member's contribution to the planning effort for the 2009 convention, whether it be towards the fundraising effort or as a committee member, is of vital importance to our success in making this convention the best ever for the TCA. I look forward to working with each and every one of you in making our convention "dreams" into an exciting and dynamic reality.

MY FIRST YORK

by Earl Rasmussen, TCA #04-57574

All my fellow Desert Division members must surely know that "York" is the grandest event in our hobby. Because of family schedules, Janice and I traveled to Pennsylvania on Tuesday, October 17th. Our day was spent flying from Phoenix to Baltimore, where we were met by long-time friends. We stayed with our friends for the first four days of our vacation in order to be closer to York, which is only a thirty to forty minute drive from their home in Mechanicsburg. Carlisle, our hometown, is another twenty minutes away from York. Janice and I both have relatives in the Carlisle area.

Wednesday morning, the 18th, was spent enjoying breakfast at our friends' home and then on to Strasburg. We arrived just in time for lunch at Hershey Farm, a very nice place just outside Strasburg where there is a hotel, a never-ending gift shop, and a great cafeteria-style restaurant with the best of Pennsylvania Dutch cooking items available. After lunch and a trip through the gift shop, we went to the TCA Museum where we ran into fellow Desert Division members Gordon Wilson and Chris Allen. We didn't spend too much time at the TCA Museum, as we have been there several times before and we wanted to go to the Railroad Museum of PA since we had not been there before. Janice and I had no idea of the huge size of the display area. We were astounded by the many engines and cars on display, plus many smaller items such as a hearse and the Kruger Dairy cart. I believe that Kruger Dairy was founded in our hometown of Carlisle, PA. As kids, Janice and I used to go to the Kruger Dairy store in downtown Carlisle for ice cream. (This was before we met.) Since I have been in the TCA for a bit less than three years, I cannot quote engine numbers and car numbers of the trains on display in the museum, but I am learning every day.



At the entrance of the National Toy Train Museum



The Kruger Dairy Cart



A Pennsylvania Railroad Engine at the Museum

Well, after we left the TCA Museum and the Railroad Museum of PA, we stopped at a great antique shop in the middle of Strasburg. Probably most of the members who have been in the area have shopped at this antique shop. It is located at the fork in the road where Route 741 goes left and Route 896 goes right (going east). This is directly in the middle of Strasburg. We spent as much time there as we could before returning to Mechanicsburg. Besides a few train items, big and small, the neatest thing that I saw at the antique shop was a cast-iron car carrier from the 1920's. I'm not sure that it was an original, as I don't remember any such car carriers in my youth. However, it consisted of a 1920's Ford truck pulling a trailer with four cars on board. It was about the size of "G" gauge and the attached price tag listed the price at \$2,200.00. The item was a bit over my budget, so I did not buy it. (Ha!)

Well, the next day was Thursday, the 19th, and the first day of York. My friend and I got up early to rent a car for Janice and me for the remainder of our stay. As soon as I picked up the car and returned "home," Janice and I were on our way to York. A few of the members have met Bill Jenkins, who has visited four or five of our regular monthly meets in Scottsdale. Bill lives in Carlisle and he met Janice and me in front of the registration hall in York. We also met Katie Elgar at the same time and we all converged on the Blue Hall the moment it opened. The next seven hours consisted of walking and looking. Before Janice and I made plans for York, we made a list of items that I "really needed" for my platform in progress. We were looking for a Lionel 6-12037 Graduated Trestle Set, a K-Line K-42417 Ford Auto Showroom, and a Railking (MTH) 30-9034 Original McDonald's Restaurant. First we scurried through the Blue Hall and then the Silver Hall. No luck! Next we traveled to the Orange Hall. No luck! In the Orange Hall I crossed paths with Chris Allen and he told me that he saw a McDonald's in the Purple Hall. So I told Janice that I would be right back and immediately went to the Purple Hall. Yea! I found an Original McDonald's and bought it. The price was right, so I didn't even try to "bargain" with the seller. After finding Janice again, we walked F O R E V E R through several more halls and then decided to head for "home."

The next day, Friday, the 20th, we drove to York very early in the morning in order to meet Katie Elgar for breakfast. We had breakfast and then sat in on the TTML meeting where we learned a bit about the group. The meeting ended just in time for us to CHARGE into more halls filled with train stuff. Next to the cafeteria was the Black Hall in which the TTML had a terrific operating standard gauge layout. During the second day I managed to purchase my Lionel Graduated Trestle Set in the Orange Hall and Janice bought me the Ford Auto Showroom which we found in the Purple Hall. My birthday was on the following Monday (23rd), so the dealership was to be my birthday present. After purchasing a few small items, such as wheels for my Marx wind-up engine and a package of candles for my putt-putt boats, Janice and I had some ice cream with Katie and then met Bill Jenkins for dinner that evening. We followed Bill to a "lavish" York restaurant called "Hooters." Our first trip to one of those. The food was actually very good. After the meal with Bill, Janice and I headed "home."

The next week of our vacation was spent with family and friends, so we had to skip Saturday at York, but we are looking forward to our next adventure there!!!

We have always been told that "If you can't find it or find out about it at York, it doesn't exist!" and I believe that to be a true statement.

I hope my fellow members enjoy my thoughts on York and I hope that everyone will have the good fortune to be able to attend York at some time in the future!!



Earl and Janice

DUES ARE DUE

Yes, it's that time of year again. The address label on the front of your bulletin includes the date that your dues expire. Please check to see if you need to renew. Dues are \$10 per year for up to five years in advance. This money covers any and all expenses connected with our nine open meets throughout the year, the printing of ten issues of the newsletter, food for the picnics/Pizza Meetza, raffle prizes, awards for the golf tournament, and incidental expenses which occur throughout the year.

A Desert Division Registration Form is included with this bulletin. If your label is highlighted in pink, you owe dues. If it is not highlighted, but you want to make any changes in the Membership Roster, please fill in the form and return it to the Secretary at the address on the bottom of the form. Don't delay. Keep your membership current.

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Do you want to save the Division some money and yourself some extra paper? You may opt to receive your monthly Desert Division Dispatch online instead of in the mail. If you wish to receive the newsletter online, please fill out the bottom section of this page and return it to Christie M. Wilson, Secretary, 16231 E. Ocotillo Drive, Fountain Hills, AZ 85268.

_____ Yes, I want to receive my newsletter online.

Name _____

TCA Number ____ - _____

E-Mail Address _____

39th BIENNIAL

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TOY TRAIN OPERATING MUSEUM, LTD.
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SATURDAY JANUARY 20, 2007 9:00AM TO 3:00PM

(Seller Table Setup: 7:00 AM - 9:00AM)

ADMISSION \$4.00

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SELLERS STILL SETUP AT 3 PM WILL PARTICIPATE IN A FREE DRAWING FOR THE FOLLOWING PRIZES
1st PRIZE: \$30 CASH 2nd PRIZE: LIONEL GPD-TTOM ORE CAR 3rd PRIZE: COFFEE MUG

8 FOOT TABLES

PRE-PAID TABLE RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED

TABLE: \$15.00

FOR TABLE RESERVATIONS CALL BUD STEWART 520-749-0228
OR E-MAIL bud@at.tuccoxmail.com

SEND TABLE RESERVATIONS CHECKS PAYABLE TO GPD-TTOM TO
GADSDEN-PACIFIC DIVISION TOY TRAIN OPERATING MUSEUM, LTD.
P.O. BOX 85425; TUCSON, AZ 85754-5425
ATTN: TOY TRAIN SHOW COMMITTEE

DESERT DIVISION REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ TCA No. _____
 Address _____ Phone _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Spouse's first name _____ e-mail address _____

Enclosed is a check made payable to TCA - Desert Division in the amount of \$ _____ to cover my dues for the next _____ (1, 2, 3, 4, or 5) years at \$10.00 per year.

The following is a list of categories from the Registration Form representing your preferences in toy trains and accessories. Circle numbers of all categories that apply.

TRAIN ERA	
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- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1 | PREWAR (1850-1942) |
| 2 | POSTWAR (1945-1969) |
| 3 | MODERN (1970-Present) |

GAUGE	
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- | | |
|----|--------------------|
| 4 | SCALE/ NMRA |
| 5 | STANDARD |
| 6 | G or #1 |
| 7 | O or O-27 TINPLATE |
| 8 | S |
| 9 | HO |
| 10 | OO/AMERICAN |
| 11 | N |
| 12 | Z |
| 13 | LIVE STEAM |

MANUFACTURER	
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- | | |
|-----|------------------------|
| 14 | AMERICAN FLYER/GILBERT |
| 15 | LIONEL/WINNER |
| 16 | MARX/MARS/ALLSTATE |
| 17 | IVES |
| 18 | DORFAN/FANDOR |
| 19 | MTH |
| 20 | WILLIAMS |
| 21 | K-LINE |
| 22 | AMT/KUSAN |
| 23 | OTHER - PLEASE SPECIFY |
| 23A | BASSETT/LOWKE |
| 23B | BING |
| 23C | BOUCHER |
| 23D | BUB/KARL |
| 23E | BUDDY-L |
| 23F | CARLISLE & FINCH |
| 23G | ELLETREN |
| 23H | HAFFNER |
| 23I | HOGUE |
| 23J | HORNBY |
| 23K | ISSMAYER |
| 23L | LGB |
| 23M | MARKLIN |
| 23N | METZEL |
| 23O | MINI-SCALE |

- | | |
|------|-------------------------|
| 23P | PHOENIX LTD. |
| 23Q | PLASTICVILLE |
| 23R | LITTLETOWN/SKYLINE |
| 23S | PRIDE LINES |
| 23T | REA/ARISTO-CRAFT |
| 23U | RIGHT-O-WAY |
| 23V | ROKAL |
| 23W | VOLTAMP |
| 23X | WEAVER |
| 23Y | McCOY |
| 23Z | NATIONWIDE |
| 23AA | USA TRAINS |
| 23BB | S-HELPER SERVICE |
| 23CC | ASTOR |
| 23DD | FLEISCHMANN |
| 23EE | CARETTE |
| 23FF | EASTWOOD AUTOMOBILIA |
| 23GG | AMERICAN MODELS S GAUGE |
| 23HH | DOWNS S GAUGE |
| 23II | COLBER |
| 23JJ | UNIQUE |
| 23KK | SAKAI |
| 23LL | BOWSER |
| 23MM | T-REPRODUCTIONS |

DO YOU HAVE A LAYOUT?	
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- | | |
|----|-----|
| 24 | YES |
| 25 | NO |

PERIPHERALS	
-------------	--

- | | |
|----|--------------|
| 26 | FIGURES |
| 27 | TOYS |
| 28 | PAPER/BOOKS |
| 29 | BUILDINGS |
| 30 | RAILROADIANA |

Mail to: **Christie Wilson**, Secretary
 16231 E. Ocotillo Drive
 Fountain Hills, AZ 85268

“HAVE YOUR CAKE . . .”

by Gordon L. Wilson, TCA 76-10233

We’ve all heard about “Have your cake and eat it too.” Well, on the weekend of November 18-19, 2006, having gone to the Cal-Stewart Meet in Pasadena, the idea was to spend Saturday at the meet and then drive south to Anaheim and spend the rest of the weekend at Disneyland, a place we had not visited in nearly 20 years. Instead, that time worn phrase became reality.

Because we receive newsletters from the other TCA Divisions, we were aware that the Western Division was planning a large toy train exhibition during the Holiday Season, but really had not jotted down the dates. Consequently, we didn’t know exactly where or when it would happen. All of those question marks disappeared at one of the very first sales tables we visited at the Cal-Stewart Meet. Former TCA National President and current Historian John Parker had a plethora of photos taken the night before at a Grand Gala at the Richard M. Nixon Library in Yorba Linda, CA. It was here that the Western Division’s display was housed and the very day we had arrived in Pasadena was the initial and official opening day of the display. What’s more, Yorba Linda would be on the way to Anaheim. Plans changed almost immediately.

We left Pasadena around 2 PM and by 3 PM were safely inside the Richard M. Nixon Library and Birthplace in Yorba Linda, California. We were directed to a large “Exhibition Hall” to the east of the impressive entrance of the Nixon Library and Museum. Greeting all visitors at a normal-sized door were decorated Christmas trees with toy trains traversing around their bases. As one took a few steps away from those trees, the next sight was overwhelming. Staring at you was a 12 foot high “Wedding Cake” type of layout with dimensions of 40’ x 32’. It occupies most of the space in this over 4,000 square foot room. On the multiple levels are found operating layouts for G gauge through HO and On3. This last gauge is slightly larger than HO, but is known best as the size of toy trains that are frequently included with buildings of the ilk of Department 56. In all, this layout has nearly a quarter mile of track, contains 736 door hinges, and took 5½ weeks to complete its over \$9000 worth of 2 x 4 lumber framework. The Western Division of TCA took “the bull by the horns” and turned out a real “classic.” Upwards of a dozen toy trains are in operation at any one time.

On the south side of the layout is an incredible “Snow Covered Mountain.” On each level, in addition to trains, are operating skiers, skaters, sleds, and to get up and down the mountain are air-

borne trams, moving up and down at regular intervals. The whole thing was an incredible sight.

Around the layout were static displays. One wall had the Lilly Belle live steam Railroad cars, the same ones Walt Disney used to entertain guests at his Carolwood Ranch. Another wall, roughly 80 feet in length, had a series of glass covered display areas similar to what may be seen along the storefronts on New York’s 5th Avenue. On the shelves in each of these display areas were hundreds, perhaps thousands, of toy trains representing all manufacturers and gauges of toy trains. These were all on loan from the members of the Western Division. All were thoroughly notated to explain to the visitors exactly what it was they were seeing. Yet another wall had a large blown up photo of President Nixon campaigning from the Observation Platform of a Railroad Car amazingly similar to the one which now stands proudly in the lobby of our own National Toy Train Museum. Speaking of the TCA Headquarters, on the far eastern end of the layout, about half way up sits a model of the TCA Museum and close by is a pre-war railroad signal that belonged to “Mr. TCA,” Lou Redman.

This display was opened to the public on the very day we were visitors at the Richard M. Nixon Library and Birthplace, November 18, 2006. It will remain open until January 11, 2007. If you should be in the Southern California area, this is one venue that you should put on your itinerary. Allow at least three hours. You will not be disappointed.



HEALTH UPDATE

Margaret Butler is recuperating at home after a serious fall. She would appreciate cards from any and all of her friends in the Division. Send them to her home address: 5103 E. Calle del Norte, Phoenix, AZ 85018.

RAILROAD -CHANGE



ANTIQUE TRAINS - #1 Lantern Lane, Turnersville, NJ 08012 (Phone: 856-589-6224) Rich Bimmer, Proprietor. Lionel Value-Added Dealer/Authorized Service Center. MTH, American Flyer. New, used, trade-ins welcome. Lionel and Flyer parts back to 1915. Repairs guaranteed for one year.

ARIZONA TRAIN DEPOT! – Have your own track and power? Then check out these Ready-to-Run set breakups, MTH Alaska Diesel Freight club price \$228.95 - Virginia & Truckee or Santa Fe 10 wheelers or the B&O 2-8-0 club priced at \$246.95 – Free MTH T-Shirt with any RTR set purchase – Lionel Southern Pacific cab forward w/TMCC \$850 list, club price \$807.49 – JUST IN! – MTH Premier SD 70 AC in beautiful GM Electromotive Demonstrator blue paint scheme, list \$430, club price \$408.45 - Always ask for your TCA club member discount! - AZ TRAIN DEPOT 755 E. McKellips Road, Mesa - 480-833-9486 open late Wed.

BURLING'S TON OF TRAINS – Authorized Lionel, MTH, K-LINE & Mantua Dealer. We welcome Pat Eiff to our staff to better serve our customers in sales and service of both new and pre-owned trains. With the largest selection of Post-War through new Lionel in Arizona, we invite you to see our different “Set of the Month” each month. We also buy trains. Hours are 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Friday and by appointment. 16924 E. Colony Dr., Fountain Hills, AZ 85268 Phone: 480-816-6501

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BUILDING A LAYOUT? - We can furnish all GarGraves products at discount prices. Flex and sectional track, uncoupling tracks, and accessories in all gauges; the new 072 and 100” and 042 switches; DZ1000, Rix, and Tortoise switch motors, Acme controls, NJ signals, and the new Z Stuff optical crossings. Call or write for a complete list. Peter Atonna 928-636-4228 or e-mail at mjatonna@commspeed.net.

REPAIRS - Pat Eiff, 28 years of toy train repair experience, does train repairs in his home. Also trains for sale. Call him at 480-816-9624 or visit his website <http://www.toysthru.com>.

FOR SALE – Replacement bulbs for your trains – over 80 different ones in stock. Also carry common Lionel parts: e-units, drums, brushes, coupler knuckles, etc. Call DeLon Freije 602-525-0745.

FOR SALE – Out of print Greenberg books: Lionel, American Flyer, Marx, etc. Please call Bruce Greenberg at 703-461-6991 (9-5 Eastern Daylight) or visit my web site, sykesvillehistory.us, for a current list.

FOR SALE – Train table 4' x 8', with grid box frame and saw horses - \$100. Also track and switches. Bryan Jewell - 602-234-6970.

WANTED – Industrial Rail IDMU4004 CNW Hoppers w/Coal. Building a consist – can use as many as possible. Contact Bob Johnston, 623-582-2110.

EXCITING TRAIN TRIPS ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD – Historic Trains of the Southwest; Copper Canyon; Washington Wineries; California Railroad Museum; and many more. For further information, contact Travel Consultant Linda Kopff, representing Bon Voyage Travel, at 623-556-1391.

FOR SALE - Do you want quality, good-looking, versatile shelving to display your trains? RAIL RAX is the way to go! Contact Bill Mack, 480-391-3336 for an incredibly low price quotation.

FOR SALE - 1150 LASER SET/OB. No rocket. G/8 \$180: Prewar 129E Steam Freight Set, 260E/260T 2-4-2 “O” Gauge Tinplate Outfit, G7/B8/OK \$1795. Lots of Good Stuff at Right Price or will trade for Comparable Std. Gauge Stuff: Buyer pays Shipping & Handling by UPS Ground. Bill Mischen - 915-598-8677 anytime or e-mail: dzedo2@earthlink.net.

FOR SALE – Post War Lionel ZW Transformers in Ex Condition: 250 Watt - \$195; 275 Watt - \$245. Buyer pays shipping costs via UPS Ground. Call Marty Nickerson at 928-778-4294 or e-mail 4aztrains@earthlink.net.

WANTED – Motor for 616 Flying Yankee power car or 636 City of Denver power car. Will buy complete power car if reasonable. Call Marty Nickerson at 928-778-4294.

FOR SALE – Lionel 390E Freight Set – 5 cars restored - \$750.00. Santa Fe with 15 cars, Mint - \$650. 400 E Reproduction Engine – Mint - \$800. Contact Sam Testa, 17541 Camino Confianza, Sahuarita, AZ 85629, or call 520-625-8303.

This page is provided as a service to our members for trading among themselves.
Please contact them for items you may have, want, or need.

**TRAIN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION
DESERT DIVISION**

Gordon Wilson, Editor
Desert Division Dispatch
16231 E. Ocotillo Drive
Fountain Hills, AZ 85268

POSTMASTER: This Federal 501c3 Newsletter contains **DATED MATERIAL** requiring action by members. **PLEASE DELIVER** on or before **December 20, 2006**

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DUES ARE DUE

**Every Childhood Should Have A Train
Enroll your children in Kid's Club Today!**

COMING EVENTS

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| January 13, 2007 | Regular Division Meet, Jaycees Hall, 8102 E. Jackrabbit Road, Scottsdale, AZ – 9 AM |
| January 20 | Rio Grande Chapter Meet, Albuquerque, NM – 10 AM
Contact: Greg Palmer 505-898-3840 |
| January 20 | Toy Train Show – Rodeway Inn Event Center, Tucson, AZ – 9 AM
Contact: Bud Stewart 520-749-0228 |
| February 10 | Regular Division Meet, Jaycees Hall, Scottsdale, AZ – 9 AM |
| February 17 | Rio Grande Chapter Meet, Albuquerque, NM – 10 AM |

Have You PADE Your Way?

- P**urchase raffle tickets
- A**uthor an article for the Dispatch
- D**onate something to the club
- E**nlist to help

*Your name could appear in this column.
You need only do something generous to
improve the Division.*

PADE PROMOTIONS

The Desert Division thanks everyone who made a PADE donation during the past months. Various members have made contributions to the club.

Thanks go to DeLon Freije for selling items at an out-of-state meet to bolster the Kids Club Treasury. The newsletter has a new author this month, Earl Rasmussen. You can read about his experiences at York, and he says it's all TRUE! The Turkey Meet profited from donations from various sources. For the benefit of the 2009 TCA Convention, Glenn Johnston donated several auction lots, as did Ed Micale. Ron and Cathy Kuhn, and Ron's brother Mitch, provided the buttons again this year. Gordon Wilson's Polar Express set ran all day on Katie Elgar's track in the lobby. Terry Fagan lent us his HO transformer for the test track. Various workers, too numerous to mention, helped all day. For the Holiday Party, special thanks go to Fred and Shirley Hunter for getting us the venue and the fine menu. Peter Atonna once again served as Auctioneer Extraordinaire! Ralph Treichel and Brad Martin saw to it that everyone was well fed and that raffle prizes were awarded with dispatch. Thanks also to everyone who bid on a centerpiece, ornament, or snowman.