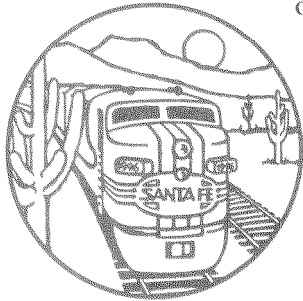


TCA Mission: To preserve an important segment of history – Tinplate Toy Trains – through research, establishment of collecting standards, education, community outreach, fellowship and to promote the growth and enjoyment of the hobby.



# Desert Division

## DISPATCH

ARIZONA • NEW MEXICO • WEST TEXAS



Volume 33, No. 1

February, 2004

## HAPPY NEW YEAR, DESERT DIVISION!!

2004 TCA Desert Division style got underway with over 80 members rubbing shoulders in the Jaycees Hall. The nice 80-degree weather, attractive trains, the chance to share holiday acquisitions, and an after meet visit to "The Little UP" of Jerry Calkins proved to have great drawing power!

Treasurer Herman cheered the members with his report indicating a savings account balance of \$13,922.08 and a checking balance of \$8,839.29. The increase can be attributed to a very successful Turkey Meet and hopefully signals the start of annual increments as we strive to achieve the capital necessary to promote and host the 2009 National Convention. President Allen pointed out that to date we do not have any items for the upcoming Turkey Meet Auction. It is imperative that we find approximately 300 lots to make the Sunday after the meet event a success. So if you have a number of items you wish to dispose of, or are aware of a collection that could be the heart of the auction, contact Chris Allen (480-820-9559) at once. All auction items should be secure by August.

Chris Allen got the meeting underway with his new gavel, a gift from Margeret Butler. He used the first meeting of the year to announce and introduce his new committee appointments:

Dispatch Editors/Publishers - Paul Wassermann, Gordon and Christie Wilson

Kids Club - Thomas Plies, John Huber, and Rob Davis

Auctions - Chet Henry

Sergeant-at-Arms - Pat Eiff

Holiday Party – Scott Russell and Katie Elgar

Turkey Meet - Ed Georgevich

**VISIT OUR WEB SITE:** [www.tcadd.org](http://www.tcadd.org)

February 7 is the date of the Trains, Planes, Automobiles, and Up on Two Wheels event at Falcon Field. The Kids Club will be there with their module, running trains. Youngsters may also get a free plane ride. If you can volunteer some help with module setup and train running, contact Chris Allen.

National President Paul Wassermann announced that Convention Car sales exceeded expectations with several hundred more units ordered than in 2002. The 50th anniversary train deadline is approaching, and once met no additional orders will be processed, so be certain to get your order in now. The Pittsburgh Convention is attracting huge numbers of registrants, and hotels and tours are selling out fast. Finally he urged TCA members to bring a guest to the meet. There is no better way to introduce a stranger to the hobby than to bring him to a meeting.

Frank Koenig, honored as a Founding Member who has remained continuously active in the Division, was presented with a commemorative plaque and gold membership badge. Art Triant demonstrated his directorial enthusiasm with a signboard pointing out benefits from new member recruitment. Our Zoo layout, according to Tom Plies, will be up and running by early February.

The educational segment included participation by Gordon Wilson who brought a bag full of gifts from Santa including an M&M's train set, a blown glass locomotive ornament, a Lionel/Hallmark set, Lionel popcorn tins, and a wonderful Mervyn's Lionel promotion sign that Christie was able to get despite Mervyn's claim that they were not available to anyone, anyway, anyhow. Perhaps Christie did a dumpster dig? Paul Wassermann shared the standard gauge Bob LaDuke Toonerville Trolley Santa brought Irene and a boxed Thomas Industries freight set.

### COMING UP

**February 14**

**Desert Division Valentine Meet – 9 AM**

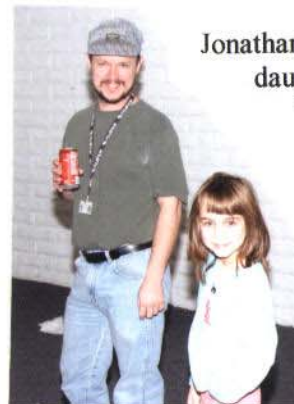
**Theme: A Train You Love!**

**After Meet Visit at the Wassermann Home – 1 – 3 PM**

The raffle drawing got underway after Chris announced that 15% of the raffle sales will go to the Kid's Club. Mystery Greeter, Denise Micale, named Ivan English as the winner of the 10 extra tickets. (He then went on to win a raffle prize!) Remember the February meet will mark the start of the 2004 Hudson raffle. This year's locomotive is in superb condition and chances for winning the \$100 monthly prize are greatest early in the year.

Here are the January raffle winners and their prizes:

Ralph Treichel	Lionel PA RR Well Car
Bill Schulte	Lionel TMT Flatbed Toy Truck
Al Levin	<u>Toy Trains Memories</u> by John Gams
Ed Micale	Watch tower and Lionel hat
Marty Wik	K-Line UP Classic Express Service Boxcar
Ivan English	Plasticville Street Light set
Ralph Treichel	UP paper, mirror, and Lionel road signs
Don Locke	Athearn C&O Combination Door Boxcar



Jonathan Peiffer and his daughter enjoy "training" together at the Kids Club.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to you all!

Note to self: keep notes of conversations so you'll remember when members volunteer to help the Division. Now tie string around finger to remember to read your notes. Not trying to make light of several miscues from yours truly, but seems like 2004 is starting out to be quite a forgettable year. Last year when Dave Brown and I were working out the details for the spring picnic, he volunteered to host the January after-meet visitation. Duly noted and then forgotten when in December I was contacted by Jerry Calkins to host the visitation of "The Little UP," which is scheduled for a move to the great plains of Wyoming this year. Dave, and Judy who had baked up several batches of visitation goodies, were gracious to accept my sincere apologies for my serious faux pas, and we will reschedule our visit for another time.

One senior moment in the meeting was bad enough, but then when announcing this year's chair appointments I failed to announce that Scott Russell would return as the TCA chair for the joint club Holiday Party. Scott and family did a great job last year incorporating many changes requested by members and is looking forward to working with Katie Elgar to smooth out a few remaining wrinkles we have in our annual party. Apologizes to Scott, Sue, and family who helped make last year's event one of the best yet.

By the time you read this, the hard work of numerous Division members should reach its culmination, as the Desert Division Phoenix Zoo module should be up and running. The list of materials donated, not only from the club but also from the private sector, is impressive. But it is the time and the talents of so

many Division members that has been the benchmark of this project. From its initial concept, Thomas Plies has worked magic getting the module completed. Wearing many hats and working within the constraints set up by the Phoenix Zoo, Thomas and his crew had to modify (several times) their plans and remain flexible while still maintaining a sense of Desert Division grit, spirit, and most importantly, a sense of humor. Look for a full report at the February meet. If you can't make the meet, we will have a complete write up and pictures on our website soon.

Speaking of modules, Saturday February 7<sup>th</sup> will bring the Rotary International's annual TRAINS, PLANES, AUTOMOBILES, and UP ON 2 WHEELS event. Just south of the 202 Freeway on Greenfield Road in Mesa, the Division will have its module up and running at the Commemorative Air Force Museum at Falcon Field. If you'd like to spend a fun day viewing historic aircraft, custom cars and motorcycles of all types please plan on attending. Youngsters will get a chance for a free ride in a private plane with the Young Eagles program sponsored by the EAA (minimum age requirement), which many of our Kids Club members participated in last year. There is a paid admission to the event which benefits the Rotary's Polio Eradication program. (Event info at [www.plta2w.org](http://www.plta2w.org)) If you can help man or tear down the module Saturday, please give me a call.

Hope to see you soon!



A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Chris".





## DUES ARE DUE

Every year at this time we do our annual Membership Drive. This issue of the newsletter contains a Desert Division Registration Form. Just fill it out, mail it and your check for \$10 per year (payable in advance for up to five years) made out to TCA – Desert Division to the address printed at the bottom. A new roster will be printed in March for all members who have renewed by the end of February. Anyone with any changes – address, phone number, e-mail address, etc. – should also send in a new form at this time.

What do you get for your \$10 per year? We offer ten issues of The Dispatch, free admission and table space at nine meets per year, Kids Club activities for the younger set, auctions, raffles, picnics, camaraderie, and just plain fun. In addition, you may opt to join the Golf Tourney, participate in the largest swap meet in the Desert Southwest (known as the Turkey Meet because of its proximity to Thanksgiving), and attend the Holiday Party by paying the appropriate fees at the time. We're a great Division with a lot of activities, but the only way you can know about them all is if you subscribe to our newsletter, and that can only be done by paying your dues.

Don't delay. Fill out your Registration Form and mail it with your check today.

## THE 15<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY POST WAR HUDSON RAFFLE STARTS NOW

The original, and often imitated, 773 Lionel Post-War Hudson raffle is this year celebrating its 15<sup>th</sup> year of existence. Cole Gibbs, at the time the Division Treasurer, suggested the idea as a fund-raising project. With a bit of "tweaking" over the years, it has become the model for other train clubs' major fund-raising project. For everyone's convenience and information, here are the particulars of exactly how this raffle works.

Beginning in February of each year, an Excellent to Like New condition Lionel 773 Hudson locomotive and tender will be displayed. Only one hundred numbered raffle tickets will be made available for sale to Division and TCA members (including family members) only. The cost per ticket is \$25. At each of the seven monthly meets between February and the Turkey Meet (July is excepted, as there is not always a meet in July), a ticket will be drawn and the person whose name is on it, IF he/she is present, will win \$100 in cash. Tickets will be drawn until there is a winner AND all drawn tickets are returned to the bin to remain eligible for future drawings. It is therefore possible for one person to win \$700 and the Hudson. Should you not win the monthly drawing or the Hudson, your ticket stubs, because we are a 501-c-3 organization, should provide you tax deduction status.

The winning ticket for the Hudson will be drawn at the November Turkey Meet AND the winner need not be in attendance. Remember, you cannot win if you don't participate! So do yourself a favor and contribute to the club's treasury – purchase your tickets early and often.

## DESERT DIVISION LIFE MEMBERSHIP GRANTED

January 10, 2004, was a "Red Letter Day" for the Desert Division and the TCA. Dr. Paul Wassermann was presented with Life Membership status by the officers and members of the Division. Paul is the third National TCA President to be elected from the boundaries of the Desert Division in the past decade. Paul will have the singular honor of presiding over TCA's Golden Anniversary Convention. Congratulations to Paul for achieving the highest membership status that can be granted by any TCA Division.

## HELP!!

We are in need of photos any members may have of the Division's early days: 1971-1988. We'd like to include them in an album being prepared for TCA's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. Contact Chris Allen or Gordon Wilson at once, if not sooner.

## WEAR (WHERE'S) YOUR BADGE

Every member of the Desert Division has a name badge. Once upon a time this Division was so small that everyone knew everyone else. For some time now, that has not been the case. Won't you please take the time to pin or clip on your Desert Division name tag? Not only will it help everyone be more hospitable and friendly, but it will show any visitors the pride we all have for the Division. Thank you, in advance, for proudly wearing your badge.

The Dispatch is published monthly except July by the Train Collectors Association, Desert Division, 3840 N. Jokake Drive, Scottsdale, AZ 85251. This issue is Volume 33, No. 1 (February, 2004).

**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**

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

**GAUGE**

- 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**

- 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 HOGE
  - 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?**

- 24 YES
- 25 NO

**PERIPHERALS**

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

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



## DESERT DIVISION MEMBER HONORED

Reverend Davis Illingworth (TCA #88-27798) and his wife Jeanne were recently recognized and honored for their unselfish, long-time donation of time and energy to a variety of community services. Printed here is the article about them which appeared in the Arizona Republic. Congratulations Davis and Jeanne for this richly merited award. We are extremely fortunate to have persons of your caliber and integrity as members of the Desert Division.

# Sun City couple get philanthropy award

**The Rev. and Mrs. J. Davis Illingworth** of Sun City received the 2003 Sun Health Foundation Spirit of Philanthropy Award at a ceremony in Scottsdale this week.

"This is greatly deserved recognition for all the Illingworths have done for Sun Health Foundation and the patients who benefit through their gifts of time, talents and treasures," said **Stephen S. Mather**, president of the Sun Health Foundation board of trustees. "In fact, since the day they moved to Sun City, the entire community has benefited from their presence in so many ways."

The Illingworths moved to Sun City in 1972. He was founding pastor of Faith Presbyterian Church, and she sang in the choir and played key roles in the women's group and at major church functions. By the time he retired 10 years later, the congregation had grown to 2,000 members.

He has served on the Sun Health Foundation board of trustees since 1991 and is an active member of the Annual Giving & Donor Relations Committee. In this role, he visits with hospitalized donors or calls them to thank them for recent gifts.

He served as president of the Sun Health Foundation from 1997 to 1998. He, along with his friend **Roe Walker**, founded Royal Oaks in 1983, and he became the first chaplain of



The Rev. and Mrs. J. Davis Illingworth were honored by the Sun Health Foundation.

the life-care retirement center. The Illingworths later moved to Royal Oaks, where he has served as president of the board of trustees and president of the capital improvement fund.

"Count your blessings and make your blessings count," is what the Illingworths strive to impart to others, said **Pamela K. Meyerhoffer**, executive vice president and chief executive officer of the Sun Health Foundation.

"Now blessings have been bestowed upon the Illingworths for living these beliefs," Meyerhoffer added.



Frank Koenig accepts a "Founding Member" plaque from President Chris Allen.



Christie Wilson shows off her Lionel-Mervyn's "found" advertising memorabilia.



Two of Gordon Wilson's Holiday Goodies:  
A new Lionel 1947 Freedom Train Set and an exquisite Danbury Mint M&M's train set.



The LaDuke Toonerville Trolley, which now lives in Irene Wassermann's collection.

# Desert



# Division

## NO CHILDHOOD SHOULD BE WITHOUT A TRAIN

### KIDS CLUB NEWS

By Rob Davis, John Huber, and Tom Plies

At the next Kids Club meeting on February 14, Rob and Angie Davis will show TV Toy Train films. John Huber will bring several model house kits for the kids to put together and take home. The Brio set will again be set up for the younger ones.

By the time you read this, the Phoenix Zoo display will be up and running. Also, the Kids Club will be helping out with set-up, working, and tearing down at the Falcon Field event on February 7. (See article elsewhere in this bulletin.)

Kudos to Bob Dymacek for his donation of a complete Lionel Freight Train set. It comes in at a good time, as it will be used on the zoo train table on the inner loop. Several hundred little and big hands will be pushing buttons to make the train run every day. The Kids Club Co-Chairs thank Phil Monahan and Ed Georgevich for taking the time to paint zebra stripes on engines and gondolas for use on the zoo train table.

Thanks to the many members who contributed magazines, newsletters, and catalogs for the Kids Club Kits that were handed out at the Turkey Meet. A total of 95 kits were given to smiling faces.

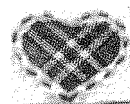
Kids Club attendance awards for 2003 were presented to the following members:

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Mark Huber – Red/White/Blue Caboose

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Nathaniel Davis – K-Line 027/0 scale Tanker

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Rebecca Peiffer – Bear; Melissa Peiffer – Bear; Joseph Iniguez – Marx Streamline Train

Do you want to enroll someone in the Kids Club? Use the form below and give it to one of the Kids Club Co-Chairs on February 14. We will see to it that it is forwarded on to TCA National.



### Kid's Club Registration Form

PLEASE PRINT

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

### SPONSOR INFORMATION

Sponsor Name \_\_\_\_\_ TCA No. \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Kid's Club Member \_\_\_\_\_

### DESERT DIVISION - TCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS - 2004

President:	Chris Allen	480-820-9559	Directors:	Ed Georgevich	623-825-3996
Vice-President:	Katie Elgar	602-547-9010		Phil Monahan	480-607-3956
Secretary:	Christie Wilson	480-837-5344		Art Triant	623-556-0846
Treasurer:	Bob Herman	480-948-2730			

### BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the Desert Division Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, February 4, beginning at 7:30 PM at the home of Art Triant. Members who wish to attend must call (623-556-0846) to make sure we have enough chairs for everyone in attendance.



## THE BLUE COMET

By Werner Hennig, TCA 95-42155

I am sure that some of you have the Blue Comet model train. Have any of you ever been on or even seen the real Blue Comet? When I was a child I walked the length of the Blue Comet. The seats were of dark blue mohair and all the metal trim inside the cars was of a cream color. That included the seat frames, the overhead luggage racks, and the ceiling. After we walked through the cars, we walked to the front of the train and my father boosted me up into the engine compartment. The engine and tender were painted in blue, as was the inside of the engine compartment.

The Blue Comet was owned by the Central Railroad of New Jersey, known as the Jersey Central. At that time, my father was a fireman on the Jersey Central. When the Blue Comet was not operating, it was stored in the Jersey Central freight yard in Newark, New Jersey. It operated primarily during the summer months between Penn Station in New York City and Atlantic City, New Jersey. It was a "Bankers" and "Wall Street" Special and tickets were at a premium price. In those days, very wealthy people owned huge summer homes along the New Jersey seashore.

In the afternoon the train would be backed to the New Jersey entrance of the Pennsylvania Railroad tunnel that went under the Hudson River. This tunnel was constructed in 1904-1906. It ended at the Pennsylvania Station in New York City. The station covered six city blocks at 32<sup>nd</sup> Street from 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> Avenues. The station was completed in 1910.

Since steam locomotives were not permitted in the tunnel, a switch engine was connected to the train and pushed it through the tunnel and into the station. After the train was loaded in late afternoon, it was pulled through the tunnel and the steam locomotive was reconnected to the train.

The train would stop at Newark and then proceed on an express route to the New Jersey shore, stopping at such communities as Rumson, Fairhaven, Seaside, and end in Atlantic City. In the morning, the train would reverse its route, ending in Penn Station.

These huge homes along the New Jersey seashore were only used during the summer months. Some of them are now bed and breakfast inns.

### 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

## OOPS! WE MADE A BIG ONE!

by Gordon Wilson TCA 76-10233

Over the past 16 years, the Desert Division Dispatch has been devoid of any major maladjustments. Yes, there have been misspellings, dangling participles, and typos. We once even had a "scoop" about the sale of Madison Hardware a full year before it was announced. Not until the last issue has there been an article accidentally and totally incorrect.

When Beth Stange was announced as the winner of the 2003 773 Hudson raffle, I was informed that she was the first woman to have won that prize. I then made the worst mistake any author/writer could possibly make. I ASS-U-ME-D that statement to be accurate.

Aside from Bill Kotek and the late Jim Bong having won previous Hudsons, the only thing I could say for sure about this raffle is that I have never won it! Therefore, with apologies to two of our female members, this overdue indiscretion needs to be corrected. Katie Elgar was the first female winner of the 773 Hudson. This happened several years ago when the Turkey Meet was still held at the Embassy Suites in Scottsdale. My apologies are extended to both Katie and Beth for the publication of the erroneous article in the previous issue of the newsletter.

## DUES ARE DUE

### PADE PROMOTIONS

The Desert Division thanks everyone who made a PADE donation during the past months. No matter how hard we try to list all the names, there are always a few who slip by. A belated thank you to Ken Barnes, Bob Dymacek, Jan and Terry Fagan, Richard Gayle, Phil Monahan, Marty Wik, and John Wiley for their help in setting up the Turkey Meet. Also a belated thank you to Tony Bua for the Holiday Party gift certificate to Cathy's Rum Cakes. We had a "guest photographer" in the last issue of the Dispatch, and that was Dan Kline's friend Betty, who sent the picture of Beth opening her K-Line wrapped Lionel Hudson. Bob Dymacek donated a couple of raffle prizes in January, and this month we introduce Werner Hennig as an author.

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



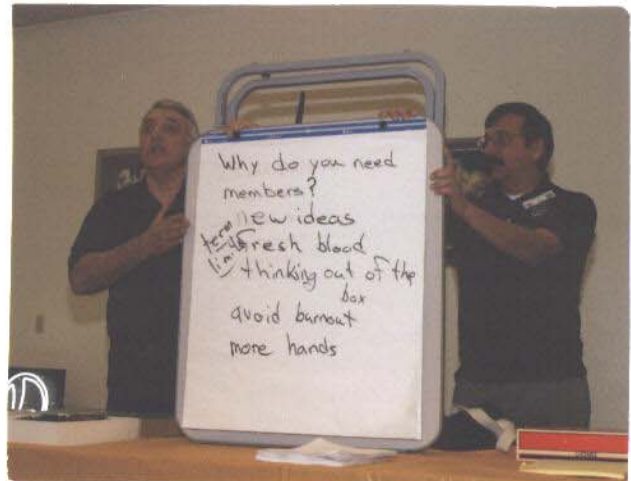
Desert Division's newly elected BOD  
L-R: C. Wilson, Secretary; R. Herman, Treasurer;  
P. Monahan, Director; E. Georgevich, Director;  
C. Allen, President; K. Elgar, Vice-President;  
A. Triant, Director.



Rob Davis with daughter Abigail and wife Angie.  
Behind Rob is John Huber. All are extremely active  
with our Kids Club.



These are the two Mint and Boxed 1950's era  
Thomas Industries Sets, now owned by  
Paul Wassermann. They were made in NJ.



Art Triant and Chris Allen present some ideas  
for Membership recruitment.



Selma Levin has just laid claim to one of the  
Division's many monthly raffle prizes.



Santa made a big drop at Gordon Wilson's home.  
Here is a Limited Edition Hallmark 2003  
Lionel licensed miniature Train Set.