

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

DUES ARE DUE



Volume 34, No. 1

February, 2005

NEW YEAR STEAMS INTO THE DESERT

The first meeting of 2005 got underway with more than 75 members and guests enjoying the trains and conversation at the Jaycees Hall. Virtually every available table and seat was pressed into use. New member Bryan Jewel was introduced to the audience along with guest Mike Linn and visiting members Hank Cutter and Roger Meckhof.

Treasurer Herman was able to smile as he reported the coffers had increased as a result of the Turkey Meet. Current balances reported were: Savings \$20,989.32 and Checking \$5,290.01. As a result of our monthly raffle activities, the Trains for Kids program received almost \$300 over the course of the year. The program was a great success, again with train sets distributed, during the holiday season, in the following numbers: 2 to the Salvation Army, 2 to Angel Tree requests, 3 to Ronald McDonald House, 3 to the Crisis Nursery of Phoenix, 2 to the Crisis Center of the East Valley, 1 to American Legion Post #96, 1 to a Phoenix Children's Hospital patient, and 5 to various needy families in Tucson. There is no question that the Desert Division put lots of smiles on deserving children and families this December! And Jerry & Linda Kopff put a big smile on Chris' face as they presented him, and the Division, with a certificate of appreciation from the American Legion Post #96 in Surprise.

Chris Allen made his presidential committee appointments for the current year: Art Triant, Sgt. At Arms; Gordon Wilson, Publicist; Paul Wassermann, Newsletter Editor; Angelo Lautazi, Webmaster; Chet Henry, Auction Chair and Pizza Meetza Chair; Ed Georgevich, Turkey Meet Chair. The Holiday Party Chair is still open.

In a very touching moment, Benjamin Rumore, an eight-year-old member of the Kids Club, was recognized and presented a book about his idol, Jeff Gordon. Benjamin had graciously donated his entire Brio collection to the Kids Club so that the future young club members can enjoy them as much as he did.

Under new business, the membership responded to President Allen's announcement that the Dispatch will be made electronically accessible. This will start as a trial initially, but the goal is to reduce our mailing costs by sending the publication electronically to those who choose that mode of delivery. Only those with a high speed internet connection would be able to conveniently get the newsletter in this fashion. Those who choose to get the electronic version would continue to receive the mailed copy until the Division is specifically instructed to stop the individual mailing.

The combined TCA-TTOS Spring Picnic will be held April 16, so mark your calendar and watch for future announcements.

The educational segment got underway with Ed Micale's Christmas gift, a 1919 wood boxed A.C. Gilbert Erector set. This set featured the broad beamed girders which gave way to the smaller version in 1924. Paul Wassermann brought in his TCA Pride Lines 50th Anniversary Gold Lamp Post and Gold Trolley. Paul also had an intriguing boxed set consisting of a 2-toned green 253E with Stephen Girard Green passenger cars. The E is rubberstamped on the locomotive and Box with an X on the box as well. The label on the box top was not produced after 1932. The label on the side is from 1935, so the set has to be after 1935 and suggests Lionel was using up old inventory, possibly for export abroad. Al Levin brought a beautiful wood paneled peanut vending machine and is in need of help in restoring it. Bill Schulte showed a holiday centerpiece gingerbread train that his granddaughter made for him at Christmas. Bill didn't share the gingerbread, just the looking!

Raffle Prizes this month were awarded to the following lucky ticket holders:

Paul Anstett: MTH 3-over 3 signal
Margaret Butler: Streamliner & Plasticville switch tower & CTT Book (All donated to the Kid's Club)
Pat Eiff: 1996 Holiday Box Car (Donated to the Kid's Club)
Ed Georgevich: Convention Plate, Letter Opener and Lou Redman Figure, Lionelville Corgi Tank Car
Tom Stange: Lionel Book, Liquefied Gas Tank Car



COMING UP

February 12 Regular Division Meet, Jaycees Hall, Scottsdale – 9 AM

March 5 Planes, Trains, Automobiles, & Up on 2 Wheels, Mesa – 10 AM to 3 PM

March 12 Regular Division Meet, Jaycees Hall, Scottsdale – 9 AM

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to you all!

Wow, what a start to the New Year! The January meet had a little bit of everything: new members, guests from out of town, old friends, and of course, trains. The Scottsdale Jaycees were very busy getting ready for the Scottsdale Rodeo so we were a little short of table space, but what was out on the tables did seem to catch a lot of people's eyes. Even the front raffle table had brisk sales, along with a silent auction for the TCA Train Museum 50th Anniversary box car, and Lionel Desk calendars selling for \$5.00 which was \$8.00 cheaper than we could find them on the internet!

As with most organizations, January is when the Board of Directors plans the budget for the New Year and reports about the year just past. Treasurer Bob Herman had the financials out on the front table for the just completed year, along with detailed breakouts of the Turkey Meet and Holiday Party so every member in attendance could see "the bottom line." For the record, we finished the year with a modest surplus of funds, which is very important considering that the 2009 Convention is approaching and we will need to earmark some funds to get things rolling. If you were unable to attend the meet and any of the financials interest you, let me know and I'll see that you get a copy.

This is also the meet when the Board of Directors reports where the Division is headed for the New Year and any changes. We all have our favorite meets of the year; mine happens to be the Pizza Meetza, and we have some changes in store to bring some shine back to the auction this year. I feel the auction has suffered in the past few years and I've talked with several sellers who are reluctant to put high value items in, fearing a poor bid, so instead the auction has filled up with less than stellar items. Recently we've seen slow moving items in the auction as well. It's a pretty good bet that if you've had an item on your table with no interest, there probably won't be much in the auction either. How to change this? Well, this year we will preview auction items and cull out or ask you to combine items that probably will not sell for at least ten dollars or more. You will also need to check items in with the Auction Chairman directly rather than drop them off. We are still working on all the logistics to get this accomplished and will have more details as the meet approaches, but there is no reason that, with many of the same buyers that we have at the Turkey Meet, we can't improve this auction. Keep your ear to the rail on this one. One thing that won't change, the Pizza will still be FREE!

Another change on the horizon is the possibility that some of our members would be interested in receiving THE DISPATCH electronically rather than by hard copy. At present the printing and postage for the newsletter comes out to \$18.00 per member, per year. There are no plans to increase dues, but we also feel it is unfair to siphon funds from other areas to supplement the newsletter budget. The possible solution for those members who do not save and file away old copies of the newsletter would be for them to receive it electronically. The benefits are many, besides the obvious savings in printing and postage costs. You would get the electronic newsletter sooner than snail mail, the pictures in The DISPATCH would be in

color and have better quality, and if you accidentally "deleted" your issue, a two year library of past issues are available to you from the website. To be fair, you would probably need a high-speed cable or DSL connection for this to work, as at typical dialup speeds it would take between five to ten minutes to download the issue each month. Remember that this is STRICTLY VOLUNTARY. You would receive a hard copy and e-mail copy each month during the trial period and only after you give us the word will we cut off mailing the hard copy. If you are interested in signing up for this test there will be a sign up sheet at the February meet or you can contact me directly via either phone, email, or the website. All savings realized by this new method will be earmarked to go directly to the 2009 Convention fund rather than be absorbed by the Division's general operating budget. Just as your raffle ticket purchases have helped make the Trains for Kids program successful, you can now help us take our first steps to hosting the National Convention.

Activities are already filling the calendar. If you are interested in Planes, Trains, Automobiles, or Motorcycles you will be pleased to hear that we will be helping out our friends at the Rotary International again this year. On Saturday March 5th the Desert Division will set up the module for their annual charity fund raiser, so mark your calendar either to help or to spend a day reminiscing about the good ol' days as you walk among a wonderful collection of vintage aircraft at the Commemorative Air Force Museum or the custom car show. We will be among several train clubs in the valley and plan to set up to show both our classic oldies and the newest "custom" creations. There is a \$10 admission charge with children under 10 free to help the Rotary fund their charities. Another springtime favorite is the Ray Korte Memorial Picnic. Because of the Easter holiday falling on the fourth weekend in March, we had to move the date to April this year. Thanks to Dave Brown and the Paradise & Pacific Club for getting us the Ramada on April 16th this year. As Paul Wassermann opined, the Division will feed you free pizza on April 9th at the Pizza Meetza and then the following weekend all the hot dogs you can eat. All you have to do is show up and enjoy.

As I reported last month, it is really a pleasure to represent all of you as Division President. I am always amazed at your generosity in giving both time and money to help out not only the Division but our community as well. At the January meet I was pleased to accept on your behalf a Letter of Appreciation from the Surprise, Arizona VFW. Jerry and Linda Kopff contacted me early in December about a family of a veteran who had served in the Gulf War and recently contracted cancer, resulting in his family falling on hard times. Could the Desert Division donate one of our Trains for Kids sets to them, as the three boys might not have a Christmas otherwise? Jerry and Linda retold the story to the Division members present at the January meet on how the family reacted to your generosity and how you helped make the difference in a family's Christmas. BRAVO!

Hope to see you soon!



Desert



Division



NO CHILDHOOD SHOULD BE WITHOUT A TRAIN

KIDS CLUB NEWS

By Rob Davis, John Huber, and Tom Plies



Sarah Russell, Mark Huber, and Benjamin Rumore attended the January Meet and were given gifts from the Kids Club grab bag. They had a good time playing with the 027 gauge trains. The 2004 attendance awards will be presented at the February 12 meeting.

Thanks to the following members for their donations to the Kids Club: Robert Dymacek donated a Santa Fe diesel engine and transformer; Margaret Butler and Pat Eiff donated their raffle winnings. Margaret's winnings included a CTT magazine, building kit and Streamliner. Pat's Holiday decorated freight car will be used next winter season on the zoo train table.

Do you want to enroll someone "FREE" between the ages of 4 through 18 in the Kids Club? Use the form found elsewhere in this bulletin. Give it to one of the Kids Club Chairs at the Meet on February 12, and we will see to it that it is sent on to the TCA National Business Office.



"Boy, is this a hands on experience or what!" During Rail Fair, TCADD members try to get as many kids as possible to participate in hands-on activities. Each child who operates trains receives a grab bag gift from Kids Club.



Here is Nathaniel Davis receiving his birthday present, a Heinz Freight Car. Also shown are his mother Angie, sister Abigail, and dad Rob.



773 HUDSON RAFFLE RETURNS THIS MONTH

Who will win the first \$100 of 2005?

Buy your tickets in February and it could be you!



A Different Kind of HELP WANTED

The Division is trying to be prepared for the possibility that the Jaycees Hall might not be available on a meeting day. As you know the past few Pizza Meetza's have had a wedding party scheduled into the hall on the Saturday evening following our meet. So far that has not been a real problem, but we are trying to be prepared for a possible interruption for any meeting in the future. The Division is looking for other - FREE - meeting halls in the Phoenix/Scottsdale area that might be able to accommodate us on short notice for a few hours on Saturday morning. The hall would need to have tables and chairs and be able to comfortably accommodate 75 - 100 people. One that I am aware of that has hosted my Ham radio club is the SRP Pera Club located on the Tempe/Scottsdale border. Unfortunately you have to be an employee or be retired from SRP to reserve the facility. (My good looks and charm didn't work.) If you or a close family member is employed by SRP, please contact me so we could talk about possible use of the Pera Club. Also if you know of a church or fraternal or union hall that has tables and chairs that could be used as an alternate meeting site, please let me know. This hall would only be used on the rare times that the Jaycees Hall would be unavailable for the day. It's only happened twice since we switched there from Korte Chevrolet, but we would like to be prepared.

Another area I could use some personal help with would be in the purchase or loan of a single axle trailer to move the module around to different events. No, I don't need you to chip in a few extra bucks, but if you have an old trailer sitting around not getting much use and could free it up, let me know. Long before I became a Division Board member I was the Division Module Chairman. Many of you know how much I personally enjoy setting up and running trains for the public at any function. The old module was based on 4' x 6' sections and fit (barely) into the back of my short bed pickup truck. Well, that was then and the old module has been replaced with a newer and a bit bigger version. The new module is based on 4' x 8' tables that no longer fit in the bed of my truck. At present I personally rent, at no charge to the Division, a U-Haul trailer for the duration of any activity for which we set up the module. While the cost is minimal, it has been hectic at times trying to get the rental trailer back in time to avoid an extra day's charge. The trailer needs to be a 5' x 9' minimum, and a utility trailer is often easier for us to use than a covered one. If you have a single axle utility trailer you could lend the Division for a few days a couple of times a year, or if you have or know of one for sale that I could personally purchase, please call (480-820-9559) or email me (sparkyshome@cox.net) with the information.

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 PRESIDENT ELECTED TO MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Once again this year, Desert Division President Chris Allen has been elected by his peers to serve on TCA's Management Committee. This group meets as a Cabinet for TCA National President Brad Fuller. Their job is to solve problems and make decisions pertaining to TCA matters which might arise during the course of the year. Rather than convene the entire Board of Directors, the Management Committee will hold teleconferences and work with the President and the National Business Office for the good of TCA.

Elected by vote of the Division Presidents only, this is indeed a prestigious honor. Also serving this year are Nor-Cal President Michael Andrews and Pacific Northwest President Merle Parise. Chris is the only one reelected to the position from last year's Management Committee. Congratulations to Chris on his election.

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DESERT DIVISION'S OUTREACH PROGRAM

The Desert Division continues to support programs in the greater Phoenix area which benefit charity groups. This year our Kids Club will again "man the Module" at the Planes, Trains, Automobiles, and Up on 2 Wheels program sponsored by Rotary International. The custom car and motorcycle show, with static vintage and current aircraft displays, will be held at Falcon Field, Mesa, on Saturday, March 5, beginning at 10 AM. "Young Eagles" offers free plane rides and certificates to youngsters in the age 8-17 bracket. Admission, \$10 per person, includes admittance to the Commemorative Air Force Museum, plane rides, displays, and a full day of fun.

Another activity is the Garden Railroad Fans 6th Annual Open House, benefiting Make-A-Wish of Arizona. Held on April 16 and 17 at 4007 N. 22nd Avenue, Phoenix (one block south of Indian School Road), some amazing Garden Railroad displays will be available. Dan Hoag, who donated the framework for the zoo module, hosts this affair. For more information, go to www.eaglewingsironcraft.com. This event will be open after the TCA/TTOS Picnic at Scottsdale's McCormick-Stillman Park on Saturday, April 16, and/or all day on Sunday, April 17.

PADE PROMOTIONS

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

Donors to the Kids Club include Robert Dymacek, Margaret Butler, and Pat Eiff. (See Kids Club page for details.) Dannie Martin gave the Division a Lionel button and 3464 Box Car. Gordon Wilson donated a complete set of nine Lionelville Houses. Steve Palmer continues to donate prizes for use as Raffle Prizes.

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

Have You PADE Your Way?

Purchase raffle tickets

Author an article for the Dispatch

Donate something to the club

Enlist to help



Certificate of Appreciation

This certificate of appreciation is gratefully presented to

"TCA" TRAIN COLLECTOR'S ASSOCIATION - DESERT DIVISION

In recognition and sincere appreciation of outstanding service and assistance which contributed to the advancement of The American Legion programs and activities dedicated to God and Country.

THE AMERICAN LEGION, SURPRISE POST 96

Department of ARIZONA

Attest:

JANUARY 6, 2005

Dorothy M. Winton
Adjutant

Harold E. Futz
Date
Commander

The American Legion, Post 96, awarded the Desert Division a meritorious Certificate of Appreciation (pictured above) for our donation of a Toy Train Set. This was an outgrowth from our "Trains for Kids" program, now in its 12th year. Below, Post 96 member and Desert Division member, Jerry Kopff, presents President Chris Allen with the American Legion's Certificate of Appreciation.



DUES ARE DUE

It's that time of year again, and Desert Division dues are payable. If your bulletin cover shows the words DUES ARE DUE below your address label, your dues are indeed due. The expiration date of your membership in the Division is printed below your name on your address label. Your dues help defray the cost of ten bulletins per year, raffle prizes at meets (at which sales tables are free), and a host of activities which take place during the year. For a mere \$10 per year (payable for up to five years in advance), you will continue to receive copies of the Desert Division Dispatch, announcing and reviewing all of our activities. Additionally, you will receive a new membership card, and have your name published in our Roster (due out in late March). Fill out the Desert Division Registration Form included in this bulletin and mail it with your check (made payable to TCA- Desert Division) to the Secretary at the address listed on the bottom of the form.

Don't delay. The deadline for this year's dues is February 28, 2005. Don't let your dues lapse. Fill out the form and mail it in TODAY.

JANUARY JEWELS



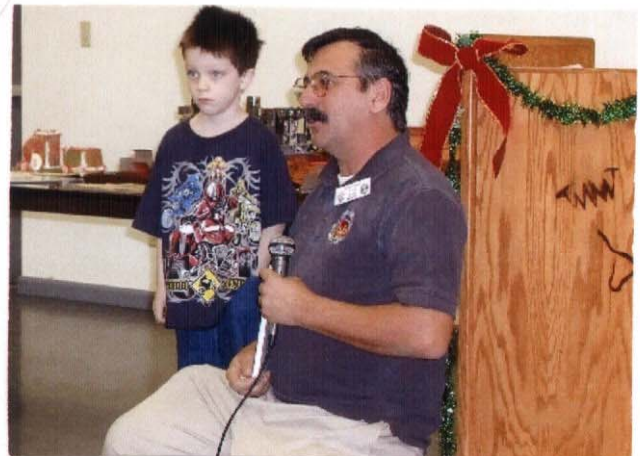
Bill Schulte's "Low Carb?" Gingerbread Train



An overview of the trading pits as members scurry to set up their sales tables at the January Meet.



Ed Micale's 1919 #8 Erector Set. The loco is one of many unique pieces that can be constructed from this set.



Chris Allen presents to Benjamin Rumore a Book about Jeff Gordon, a NASCAR star whom Benjamin idolizes.

IN MEMORIAM

Sadly we announce the passing of George Boomer, a life member of the Desert Division. For years he was a fixture at the Turkey Meet, always helping with the Registration Table. More recently, his health precluded him from traveling any great distances. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his family and friends.

ON THE MEND

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Lou MacDowell, wife of Bill MacDowell, and Don Brill, father of Mike Brill.

BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the Desert Division Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, February 9, beginning at 7:30 PM at the home of Katie Elgar. Members are welcome to attend. Please call 623-580-6957 to be sure there are enough chairs.

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 RAILROADIANA

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

BOTTOM OF THE BOX...OR INSIDE THE BOTTOM, AND THE ENDS OF THE BOXES

by Paul Wassermann TCA #73-5169

It has been quite a while since I had a "Bottom of the Box" idea, and then this month two separate candidates came to mind, so I included them both in this brief article.

As most are aware, Lionel acquired the IVES corporation after its bankruptcy in the mid-Depression Era. With the acquisition some very interesting "transition" pieces were made, with Lionel utilizing parts from IVES and its own inventory to produce trains that reflect the joint source of parts. I recently obtained an extraordinary Lionel set box. From first glance it appears to be nothing more than it is...a set box for a Lionel 1058 Junior Freight Train. It is once you open the box and look inside the bottom that you get the surprise. For the inside of the box bottom contains graphics and text for an IVES set box tunnel! The IVES set box tunnel is a premium piece of IVES cardboard. I have only one such box. IVES printed the bottom of the set box in such a fashion that the young owner of the train could cut holes in each end and run the train through the decorated box bottom. Three simulated brick portals are printed on each side, and the tunnel top has an arrow pointing diagonally indicating it is 52 miles to the Ives Airport. An interesting separate question is "why did IVES choose 52 miles?" Perhaps it is 52 miles from corporate IVES in Manhattan to the Bridgeport, Connecticut factory.

Lionel was not likely to let anything go to waste, and apparently they had a batch of IVES tunnel bottoms in inventory after the complete demise of IVES. Turning a tunnel inside out results in the box bottom for this train set. Dave McEntarfer's superb book on Lionel Prewar Sets notes this same box variation for only the 1058 set, so perhaps this is the only Lionel set that had an IVES tunnel bottom! Too bad Lionel didn't assemble the bottom with the graphics on the outside, as then it could still serve its function as a tunnel when not holding its train components.

Another interesting box variation that I just noted for the first time is a box printing error. I have a pair of Lionel gray/red passenger cars, 600 Pullman and 602 Baggage that came in their original boxes. The cars are common, but the boxes are totally unique in my experience. The box numbered 602 contained the 602 baggage car, but is labeled "No. 602 O Gauge Observation Car." The number 602 is correct for the baggage car, not the observation which was numbered 601. Careful inspection of the end of the box reveals that there had been tape over the number, undoubtedly applied to correct the error with "No. 601" on it. This tape was missing from both ends. But the other box for the Pullman does have the tape still present (although partially missing from one end and almost completely gone from the other). The remaining tape has the number "600" present. A cautious peak under the tape reveals No. 601 printed on the end flap! (The incorrect number for the 600 Pullman car).

So these two boxes (and I'll bet there was a third, misnumbered baggage car box) indicate that Lionel printed up its boxes for these cars with the wrong numbers on the

end flaps and corrected the error by applying orange paper tape over the incorrect number. To my memory I can't recall Lionel using this orange tape to correct a printing error. (More commonly the company would black out the error and then restamp the box.) Perhaps some of you have seen this before. And if any of you have a box for a 602 Baggage car with the number 602 applied in tape, I would love to acquire it to complete the set of boxes.

