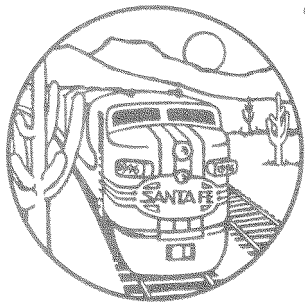


TCA Mission: To preserve an important segment of history – Tinplate Toy Trains – through research, establishment of collecting standards, education, community outreach, fellowship and to promote the growth and enjoyment of the hobby.



Desert Division

DISPATCH

ARIZONA • NEW MEXICO • WEST TEXAS



MAY MEET MADNESS

The Jaycees Hall was filled to the point that all available tables were pressed into service. Despite the near 100-degree temperature outside, carload after carload of trains emerged through the doors, providing tempting choices for shoppers. Just prior to the official opening of the meet, the assembled Desert Division Chorus honored Nick Grippe, 85 years old, with a rousing round of "Happy Birthday." Bernie Lowe, attending his first meet as a Desert Division member, introduced himself as a man who got out of the Insurance business when the entire world went to computers. He was this month's Mystery Greeter, and he selected Earl Rasmussen to receive the ten free raffle tickets for being so friendly and outgoing towards him.

Bob Herman announced that the Treasury has \$13,949.52 in savings and \$7,071.86 in checking. The Toys for Kids program to date has received \$96.90 from raffle sales.

Phil Monahan gave the membership an updated report on the hotel associated with Mesa's Centennial Hall. It is now under Marriott management and extensive improvements have been made. An inspection of the property leads us to believe that all of last year's hotel problems have been resolved. The Division has blocked 15 rooms for our patrons to book during the 2004 Turkey Meet.

Two Division members were singled out for accolades from the group. Bob Johnston was applauded for his efforts as a "Founding Father" of the Desert Division. And Denise Micale presented husband Ed with a kiss for winning two awards at work including a "Lifetime Achievement" honor. On a sadder note, long time member Ray Cripps is seriously ill in a nursing home. His wife, Lori, will deliver cards sent to him at his home address.

Gordon Wilson (TCA #76-10233) was nominated by Chris Allen (TCA #95-40580) and seconded by Steve Bienstock (TCA #93-37034) for the office of TCA National Secretary. The nomination was unanimously accepted and will be submitted to national for inclusion on the upcoming convention nomination approval. Once again the Desert Division membership will have the opportunity to support a "favorite son" in a national election. Convention alternates were also selected and include Katie Elgar, Bob Herman, Christie Wilson, and Gordon Wilson.

The drawings for the Spring Raffle prizes will highlight the June meet. As President Allen put it, "more than \$700 worth of prizes will walk out the door." Chances at the prizes will still be sold in June, right up to the moments before the drawing occurs, so be sure to bring a few extra dollars to by a few more tickets.

Chris then explained the process of amending the division bylaws. At the next business meeting, several motions will be introduced for action and if passed will be published in upcoming newsletters, culminating in a membership ballot vote in November. One issue relates to an expansion of the presidential appointed positions, the other concerns the possible establishment of a chapter within the Desert Division boundaries. TCA members in New Mexico are exploring the development of a chapter centered in the Albuquerque area, but our bylaws would need to be amended first in order to accommodate a chapter.

COMING UP

JUNE 5	TOY TRAIN SHOW	TUCSON, AZ	9 AM
JUNE 12	DIVISION MEET	JAYCEES HALL, SCOTTSDALE, AZ	9 AM
JUNE 20-27	TCA NATIONAL	PITTSBURGH, PA	
JULY 10	DIVISION MINI-MEET	JAYCEES HALL, SCOTTSDALE, AZ	9 AM

The educational segment was filled with interesting items. Paul Wassermann brought a Shell 515 standard gauge tank car and explained how it tied into his early collecting years in Philadelphia. He also brought a Gilbert Kaster, a device that melts metal alloys and allows various figure molds to be filled with molten metal. Jerry Sienkiewicz brought a half dozen versions of the Marx and Plastimarx 999 and 666 locomotives. Tom Stange obtained a Lionel cream and maroon 513 standard gauge stock car at Cal Stewart 2003, then enlarged upon the accomplishment by finding a 213 cream and maroon car at the 2004 meet! Keith Swett has made a little wood wedge device that allows the very simple replacement of a ZW rectifier disc (cutting a 30 minute job down to 5).

Gordon Wilson displayed the 8 pages of historical photos the division will submit to the Pittsburgh national convention for inclusion in the anniversary scrapbook. Gordon did an amazing job of sorting through thousands of photos covering more than 25 years of Desert Division history; the process of distilling the images into the best and most important was a very difficult, tedious job.

Gavin Brill pulled the first winning raffle ticket. Prizes were awarded as follows:

Ken Barnes	Hudson ticket and Lionel 2002 Toy Fair Box Car
Steve Bienstock	Lionel #3464 NYC Box Car
Ivan English	Lionel Flat Car with Boat and Microwave Tower
Bob Dennison	Lionel Pacific Square Lighted Window Caboose
Chris Allen	Books and Watchman's Shanty
Dave Brown	Two AMC Movie Passes
Ken Burling	LCCA 4-vintage Lionel Automobiles

The Hudson ticket, pulled by Ernestine Bong, awarded Paul Wassermann with the \$100 prize.

After the meet, members were invited to the home of Ken Barnes to view his collection.

KEN BARNES' COLLECTION

A Visit to Marx Heaven

by Paul Wassermann 73-5169

Following the May Meet, I made my first visit to see Ken Barnes' stunning collection of Marx toys. I was astounded to see toy after toy, in superb condition, filling the walls of his "toy room." The assembled items represent decades of careful, critical collecting. Marx toys are common, but Ken only accepts those that show minimal evidence of use. Couple the discriminating eye with the knowledge of what seems like an infinite number of Marx variations and you have a combination that is destined to result in a superb collection.

Ken announced that there was one item in the entire display that was not Marx. Finding this item is very much like finding a needle in a haystack and my few ignorant attempts to find the object were doomed to fail. However Katie Elgar, after only a few seconds pointed to a small toy telephone and said, "What about that?" BINGO!! Wolverine made the diminutive phone. However I did acquit myself a few hours later while at home. In glancing at the photos taken during the visit, I noticed that the tender behind Ken's Joy Line locomotive is, in fact, a Hafner item, not Marx's Joy Line. So there are two non-Marx items in the room! Of course I called Ken to inform him of the news. I'm not certain if he removed one of the items from his collection or has changed his challenge to "There are two toys not made by Marx."

Trains, boats, cars, jeeps, airplanes, airports, gas stations, home town stores, figures, monorails all contribute to a dramatic presentation of the humor and fun found in the Marx toys, toys Marx designed to be within the financial reach of virtually every American family.

One can't visit Ken's wonderful collection without recalling some version of a Marx toy he/she had as a youngster. If your heart and soul sparkle a little when you see comic characters, bright lithography, and wonderful wind-ups, the Barnes collection is right up your alley. Thanks Ken, for opening up your home for our TCA Desert Division membership's visit.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

In our continuing efforts to increase our National and Division membership, we encourage each member to bring a guest to an upcoming meet. Procure membership materials from your Division Secretary and start the paperwork on the spot. Christie will forward all applications to the National Business Office and enter the names of the applicants onto the Division Roster for future mailings. To expedite the process, a copy of the National TCA Membership Application and Desert Division Registration Form are included in this issue of the Dispatch.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to you all!

Time sure flies when you're having fun, hard to believe that the year is almost half over. In a few short weeks I'll be seeing many of you at the 50th National Convention, where the Association will be celebrating a huge milestone. I am looking forward to all of the activities and hoopla and know that the Fort Pitt folks will be "Puttin' on the Ritz" for all of us. At the May meet, Gordon Wilson had the highlights of the Desert Division which will be included in a scrap book at the Convention and then be on permanent display at the National Toy Train Museum. Looking back at the pictures and events over the past 33 years, the one constant throughout has been the warm smiles and happy faces of the Desert Division. You are a great group of friends.

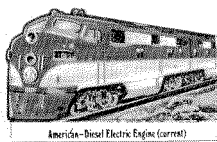
Speaking of showcasing your best, Desert Division Convention Chairman Ed Micale has been working overtime on our bid for the 2009 Convention. The final presentation for approval by the National Board of Directors is tentatively scheduled for the business meeting on Thursday, June 24th. Although we are running unopposed to host the convention, a lot of legal legwork with the contracts still needed to get finalized, and true to the spirit of the Desert Division, Ed is making sure the presentation will be a "notch above." It's quite easy to fall back and just do the minimum, but there will be nothing minimum about hosting a Convention at a five-star resort. Personally I can't wait to blow the socks off of the TCA with these fantastic accommodations. Now if we could only convince the National Secretary to hold one of the National Board of Directors meetings in one of the pools as the Desert Division once did....

Also at the May meet I made several announcements regarding the Desert Division Bylaws. As a member nothing could be more boring than parliamentary procedures. You think to yourself, I just want to collect and play with toy trains, not do all this Magna Carta stuff (well, me too!) but, periodically events change. I personally believe that the Division needs one person to handle all of our publicity. Publicity at present is handled at an "as needed" basis for events such as the Turkey Meet or Hudson Raffle. We do nothing to advertise to the public that there is a group of really nice folks here in town that like to play with old toy trains, has a club, and meets once a month. I'd like to see it handled by one person rather than by committee appointment as it is done right now.

However the best news about the Bylaws change was the potential for the Division to grow. At present our Bylaws do not allow us to have a Chapter. There are a lot of miles between those of us who live in the Phoenix metropolitan area and the rest of the Desert Division. Having our Bylaws modified to allow a Chapter will allow for the growth of the Division outside of the Phoenix area and allow folks to organize and run a chapter tending to their local needs. I'm very excited about this prospect, and I hope that by our opening the Bylaws, many of you who are now reading this column, but live too far away to attend a Division Meet on a regular basis, might consider forming a chapter closer to home. We have formed a Bylaws Committee to look into the legal ramblings so that they can be presented to the general membership in June, run in the DISPATCH for 3 issues (as required by Division policy) and then be voted on by the membership in November.

Going from expanding the Division back to its "roots," I was very pleased to present to Robert Johnston his Founding Member Badge at the May Meet. Of the original twenty-five TCA members who petitioned the National office for a Division in 1971, Robert is one of five founding members we still have on our active roster today. Next time you see any of these founding members at our meets, make sure you stop and say hello to them. These are the guys that thought that having a train club out here in the great Southwest might be fun. They were right; it is!

Hope to see you soon!



American Diesel Electric Engine (current)



Club Shirts For Sale Support the Desert Division

Navy blue shirts with the Desert Division Logo are available for sale
The cost is \$30.00 & are available in most sizes.
Sorry, shirts with pockets are no longer available.

Contact Katie @ 602-547-9010 or kttrains@aol.com

VISIT OUR WEB SITE: www.tcadd.org

DESERT DIVISION SPRING RAFFLE '04

The Desert Division is proud to announce this year's Spring Raffle. First Place is the highly sought after K-Line Black Santa Fe Warbonnet F-3 A-B-A with TMCC and the works! Second Place is a Lionel B&O Berkshire with Railsounds and smoke, while Third place is a nice operating accessory, the Lionel Hobo Hotel.



Don't miss out on any of these fine prizes this year. Remember you do not need to be present to win when the drawing is held on June 12th at the June meet. Price is \$10.00 each or 3/\$25.00

GOT YOUR TICKET? SPRING RAFFLE ENDS JUNE 12

This year's Spring Raffle is sure to please everyone. The prizes, which can be viewed on our website (www.tcadd.org) include the following: A) Black Santa Fe F-3's by K-Line, B) Lionel Berkshire locomotive and tender, and C) Lionel Hobo Hotel. Tickets for the three superb prizes in this raffle will be available for purchase through June 12. You do not need to be present to win a prize, so be sure to buy your tickets, fill out the stubs with your name and address, and place the stubs in the appropriate raffle tin. The cost is \$10 per ticket or three for \$25. Yours could be a winning ticket on June 12th, but only if you participate. Don't forget! Get your tickets during the next meet and support your Division in this fund-raising activity.

BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the Desert Division Board of Directors will be held on Saturday, June 12, beginning at 8:00 AM at the Jaycees Hall. Members are welcome to attend.

BEAT THE HEAT MEET

by Peter Atonna TCA #75-7578

Yes, summer will come to the low deserts, and by August you will wish it would go away. So that is why the fellows in the Prescott area tempt you each year with our annual "Beat the Heat" Meet. This year will be no different. Mark your calendar for August 21 and set your sights on a Prescott weekend. We will be at our usual venue, the Prescott Activity Center, located at 800 E. Gurley St., the main street as you come into downtown Prescott off SR 69. (Coming from the north or south on SR89 will also take you right to Gurley as you go towards downtown.)

The meet runs from 9 AM to 2 PM with dealer setup beginning at 7 AM. Admission is \$3, children under 12 free with an adult. Tables are \$15 each and must be prepaid in advance. We have sold out the last two years, so be sure to get your reservations in early. Each seller's reservation includes admission for the table holder and one helper. Send your table reservations, with checks made out to CAMRC, to Bob Wittman, 387 Tamarack Ln., Prescott, AZ 86301-1250. If you need any information call Bob at 928-778-5372 or Mike Nelson at 928-445-7634.

The Prescott area fellows have always tried to entice you to spend the weekend. So to get you started, here is a list of nearby hotels: (the Prescott area code is 928): Heritage House Motel (across the street from the Activity Center), 819 E. Gurley, 445-9091; Apache Lodge (a genuine 30's motel), 1130 E. Gurley, 445-1422; American Motel, 1211 E Gurley, 778-4322; Super 8 (on the next street to the north), 1105 E. Sheldon, 776-1282. If you would like to stay at a beautiful historic downtown hotel, we have: Hotel St. Michael, 205 W. Gurley, 776-1999; Hotel Vendome, 230 S. Cortez, 776-0900, and the Hassayampa Inn, 122 E. Gurley, 778-9434. In addition, there is the new Marriott Spring Hill Suits in Depot Square downtown at 776-0998.

And speaking of downtown, don't forget this is a great weekend to bring your spouse. Downtown Prescott has one of Arizona's finest arts and antique shopping districts. Area woods and lakes always beckon for the ultimate relief from low desert heat. If you like western art, the Phippen Museum, just north of Town on SR 89 will be featuring an exhibit of Frederick Russell paintings and sculptures. In addition that weekend features the Cowboy Poets Festival, a three-day celebration of the storytelling and songs of Arizona working cowboys with over 125 cowboy performers. Finally, to wrap up your enticements, the traveling Smithsonian Transportation Exhibit will be in Williams this month and for the weekend of our swap meet, it will be featuring railroad transportation. In conjunction with that, the Grand Canyon Railroad will have exhibits, caboose tours and possibly a caboose hop, as well as BNSF exhibits on display in Williams. What a great way to spend Sunday after the meet.

Again this year, local club members will be offering open houses of their layouts and collections Saturday afternoon following the swap meet. Maps will be available at the meet. You will be able to enjoy an old west themed garden railroad that circles Stan's entire house. Ray Dextrase will have his beautiful early 20th century trains and toys on display. We have a new HO layout for you, as Brent is building a large layout with beautiful, broad curves so he can run long trains. He has also just started his scenery. Mike Nelson has been adding buildings to his O scale layout and the G gauge is almost finished. He will wrap up his afternoon by offering visitors some nibbles for those who would like to chat and socialize a bit. Finally, on the Atonna layout, the new mountain division features the Hell Canyon bridge and on the main line, you can see more fannies than on any layout north of Prescott. Peter will also be open Friday afternoon and evening for those who may be coming up a day early for you to enjoy a bit more time layout viewing and train running. Just call or e-mail him to let him know you are coming.

ENROLL YOUR CHILD(REN) IN KIDS CLUB
Use the form found elsewhere in this bulletin.

DEADLINE LOOMS FOR AUCTION ITEMS

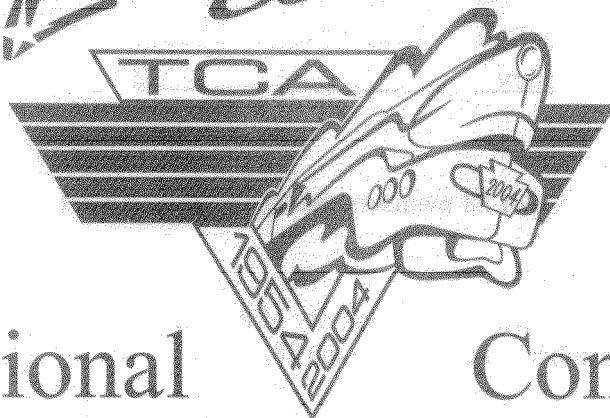
If you are planning on adding items to this year's Turkey Meet Auction, this is your last call! Because of travel commitments with the National Convention and summer vacations, we will need to know what items you would like us to auction for you by the July General Meeting, Saturday, July 10th. This will insure that the Auction Committee can get the items into the Auction Catalog before it goes to the printer.

Hosted by the Desert Division each year, the Annual Turkey Meet and Auction is the largest Toy Train event in the Southwest and with the exception of York, the longest running Swap Meet and Auction (29 years) in the National TCA. Toy train collectors and operators from several states, along with members from various local clubs, join us to kick off the Holiday season of toy trains in this much anticipated annual event. This year's auction will catalog trains from every era, pre-war to modern, and from all major manufacturers. For additional information regarding listing your trains, accessories, or "railroadiana" items in the Turkey Meet Auction, contact Auction Chairman Chet Henry at 480-838-0783. Turkey Meet table seller information will be available in the Summer Edition of the Desert Division DISPATCH.

2004 TCA NATIONAL CONVENTION

50TH ANNIVERSARY GOLDEN EXPRESS CELEBRATION

June 20-27, 2004
the train collecting
world converges
on Pittsburgh.



*And It's
Your Party!*

50th National Convention Pittsburgh (Monroeville), Pennsylvania June 20-27, 2004

Visit On-Line www.tca2004convention.com

BEAT THE HEAT WITHOUT DRIVING?

By Gordon Wilson TCA #76-10233

An idea was proposed at the May Grand Canyon TTOS Division meeting which has merit. Owing to the high cost of fuel in Arizona, it was suggested that a bus be chartered to transport members and their families to the "Beat the Heat" Meet in Prescott on August 21. Its itinerary for the day would be to stop in Black Canyon City for breakfast at the famous "4B's," drop members off at the "Beat the Heat" Meet, transport family members to downtown Prescott for shopping/antiquing, pick everyone up and go to the After Meet Visitations before returning to the Valley. The number of participants will determine the cost per person. If you are interested, contact George Bean, President of the GCD of TTOS at 602-788-7031 at your earliest convenience.

** TRIVIA **



What? Isn't this the same trivia question as last month? Yes, it is. While I'm still awaiting permission to use a photograph for the next trivia question, NO ONE correctly guessed the answer last month so I'll give you a clue that should put this one away for one lucky Division member. The building in the background is a Harvey House and the photo was taken somewhere within the Desert Division boundaries. WHERE? Remember only one guess per member so those of you who guessed wrong last month are out of the running until the next contest. For everyone else the first correct answer to Chris Allen at 480-820-9559 or email at TCADD.org@cox.net gets 10 free raffle tickets for the June meet. Remember if you're not at the meet the best prize available when your ticket is pulled will be mailed to you at our expense!

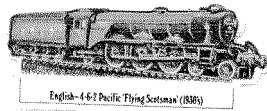
Have You PADE Your Way?

Purchase raffle tickets

Author an article for the Dispatch

Donate something to the club

Enlist to help



PADE PROMOTIONS

The Desert Division thanks everyone who made a PADE donation during the past months. Kids Club thanks Bob Dymacek for the donation of a Santa Fe engine and a Lionel transformer. We have a new author this month. Read what John Wiley says about shelving to display trains. Steve Palmer of Arizona Train Depot continues to supply us with substantial raffle prizes. The efforts of Denise Micale and Laurel Allen, who staffed the kitchen this month, were greatly appreciated. Finally, as a result of your generosity, the Kids Club earned \$96.90 so far this year.

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

IN MEMORIAM

We have recently learned of the passing of John Tokach, a long time member from Sierra Vista. Our belated condolences to his family. A donation to the TCA Museum has been made in his memory.

DISPLAYING TRAINS

By John Wiley TCA
#92-36406

Not having a lot of wall space to work with, I had the idea of tiering my trains on two levels. First, I looked around at different kinds of shelving (wood, metal, plastic, etc.) to see what would work best for me. The next thing to look at was shelf brackets. How deep should I make them? What trains would I be putting on them?

I chose "spur" heavy-duty twin-track adjustable shelving system uprights 78:" and 7" brackets. They range from 5" to 24", which gave me the room needed for two "0" gauge trains. Then, to see the second row of trains, I went shopping for something to raise them up.

When I came across plastic down spouts 2½" x 2½", very light in weight, 10' in length, either in white or brown, this was the solution. With 7" brackets, I also chose 7¼" manmade wood shelves in 10' lengths and painted them white to match the white down spouts. To be safe, I screwed the plastic down spouts to the shelf and then to the bracket.

Photo #1



Photo #2



Photo #3



Photo #1 – How the shelf looks with just 2½' by 2½" down spout setting on it.

Photo #2 – With two trains set on the same shelf.



Photo #3 – Just how the shelves look when you step back from them.

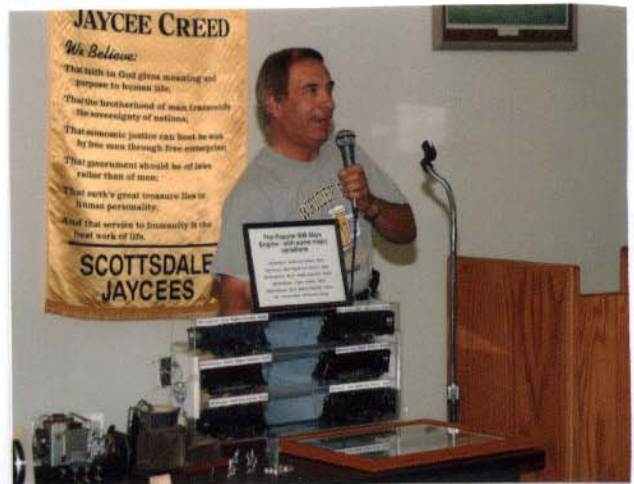
Photos #4 and 5 – Close-up of two levels of train cars



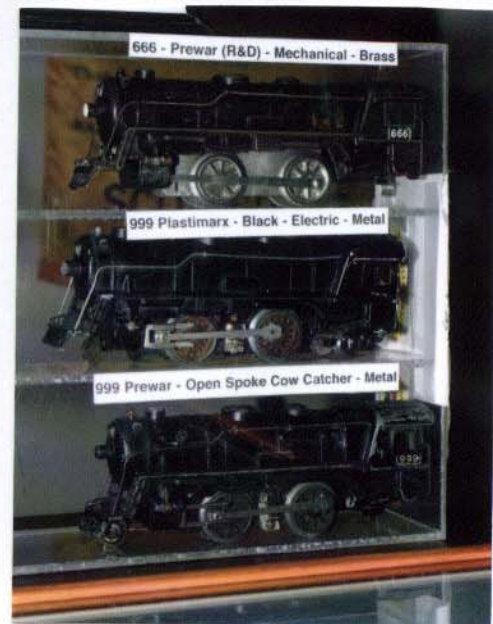
“THE MERRY MONTH OF MAY” or MAY’S MARX MONTH



A very proud wife, Denise Micale, made the whole Division aware of the “Lifetime Achievement Award” presented to Ed by his employer, the Honeywell Corporation.



Remember all those really neat operating toys you had as a kid? They didn’t get thrown out, as you thought! Ken Barnes has them ALL, and they STILL WORK! Amazing stuff, that Marx! Louis Marx was an insightful genius.



Jerry Sienkiewicz began our Marx education in May with an in-depth look at the Marx 999 Locomotive variations.



Chris Allen (R) honors Robert Johnston (L), one of our Division's Founding group of 25 original members.



Tom Stange was excited to find a 513 and a 213 Stock Car within months of one another.



Keith Swett showed everyone how best to replace a ZW rectifier disc. A tedious chore now made easy!



TCA President Wassermann relates the tale of the "lost is found again" rare Shell Oil Car.



Gerry Klei enjoys his trains and retirement. However, he still handles a goodly supply of toy train repairs.



Roh Kuhn is seen here explaining some of the finer points of pre-war Lionel to a "Connecticut Yankee" – a visiting nephew. Need "00" information or repair? Call Ron, a true "00" expert.

Desert



Division

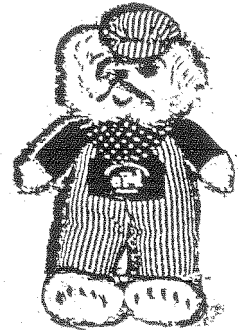
NO CHILDHOOD SHOULD BE WITHOUT A TRAIN

KIDS CLUB NEWS

By Rob Davis, John Huber, and Tom Plies

Here are some more thoughts on the subject of kids' collecting, edited from an article "Young Collectors" by H. Rinker.

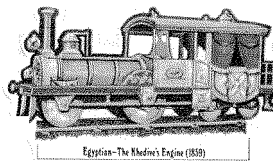
H. Discourage your child from thinking of the objects he acquires as investments. It breaks my heart to see a group of young boys pouring through a sports card price guide. They do not understand that the prices are retail – what they would have to pay to buy the card on the open market and not what they would bet if they tried to sell it. A heavy reliance on price guides also creates the concept that collectibles are easy to liquidate. Nothing is farther from the truth. Collectibles are merely objects, not investment futures. I. Let a child play with the objects he collects. Love comes from, and memories are created through, handling objects. Concepts such as preserving the period packaging and mint in the box are best introduced at a later date. A child's collecting experience needs to be immediate and personal.



J. Provide shelves and cabinets in which your youngster can store and display the items in his collection. Objects packed away are no fun. Make certain the shelves and cabinets are child height so that the objects can be easily removed for play.

Thanks to Bob Herman for making a 50" x 18" x 12" airport board to be inserted in the center of the module. Tom Plies did the Falcon Field in abstract and the dioramas. The Zoo train table now has a "Jiminy Cricket" standing next to Ward Kimball, who created Jiminy at Walt Disney Studios, thanks to Marjorie Fink. John Huber donated several house kits to the Kids Club. They will go on three different table tops of various sizes which are being worked on and will be given out to some lucky child when finished. Train magazines are always welcome for Kids Club packets.

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



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 _____

ENROLL YOUR CHILD(REN) IN KIDS CLUB