

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.



Volume 40, No. 3

Desert Division

DISPATCH - EXTRA



March, 2010



TOM STANGE
9/24/1946 – 2/27/2010

SPECIAL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Just last month we mourned the loss of a well respected member of our Division and suddenly we are mourning the passing of Tom Stange. Tom was a founding member of the Desert Division, a member of the Standards committee, an active Division participant, the club historian, and a Past Division President. While all of these are worthy accomplishments for anyone in the Division, Tom meant much more to the TCA nationally, locally and personally.

While we collectively share our grief, it is Beth who now needs our support in her personal loss. Let us mourn with her, respect her wishes, and offer our help both individually and as a Division. It is the fellowship we share together that helps us deal with tragedies such as this. May peace be with you, Tom. You are good man and you will be missed.

A REQUEST FROM THE DISPATCH EDITOR

Dear Desert Division Members and Friends:

We learned of Tom Stange's passing on Saturday, February 27, 2010, as the final proof of the Dispatch was nearing completion, just prior to being taken to the printer on Monday morning. After much deliberation concerning "TIMING," we felt it was far more important to give ALL of our members the opportunity to share their special memories of Tom with everyone, rather than to delay the issue for a day and include only a few select remembrances from those whom we could contact immediately. From Star Trek's Mr. Spock, "The greater good for the many."

Therefore, the April issue of the Dispatch will be reserved for as many such remembrances as you might have had with Tom over the years. Send your written thoughts of Tom to either of two (2) addresses: via the internet to christielwilson@aol.com or via the US mail to 16231 East Ocotillo Drive, Fountain Hills, AZ 85268-4950. Should you wish to deliver them in person, neither Christie nor I will be at the March 13 Meet. We will be at the March 20 Picnic.

I urge each of you to put pen to paper and share your memories of Tom, a true ICON of this Division and one of the 25 Founding Members of the Desert Division 39 years ago this June.

TOM STANGE REMEMBERED

Some forty-plus years ago, a young aspiring engineer moved to The Valley of the Sun from Chicago, Illinois. He immediately settled in at his profession with the Motorola Corporation in Scottsdale. There was another part of this young man which was also a passion in his life. Toy Trains were a major force in the life of Tom Stange, who quickly sought out and found other Motorola employees with the same “after work” love. In this area at that time there was no TCA activity and Tom had joined the Train Collectors Association in 1968. That would soon change, as Tom and a group of 24 other Toy Train enthusiasts petitioned the Board of Directors of the TCA to approve the establishment of the Desert Division in June, 1971.

Four years later, Tom Stange was elected as the third President of the Desert Division. Shortly thereafter he became a member of the TCA Standards Committee, a position he would hold for the duration of his life. An active member in TTOS’s AT&NM Division (now called the Grand Canyon Division), Tom would twice serve as the Chairman of TTOS National Conventions that were held in the Valley, once in 1983 in Phoenix and again in 1999 in Scottsdale.

Since the mid-1990’s Tom has served as the Historian of the Desert Division. Classic Toy Trains magazine has twice visited Tom’s home to photograph his magnificent collection and layout, both of which he shared equally with his gracious wife and TCA partner, Beth. In 1997 the layout appeared in an issue of CTT and last year they visited the Stange’s again, this time for a future installment of Tracks Ahead. Most recently Tom and Beth served the train lovers’ community as a retailer of the K-Line Electric Toy Train line. During this time period of about a decade, their donations, support, and generosity spread to every Toy Train venue and event.

The Train collecting community is poorer with Tom’s passing. However, we can be forever thankful for the joy, knowledge, and support he brought to the TCA and the Desert Division. But more than that, he leaves us with a legacy of sharing his love of family, life, and the hobby we all care about so fondly, Toy Trains.

God bless you, Tom Stange.



Top L – Santa at the Holiday Party
Top R – Tom and Beth with Nick Ladd

Bottom L – Tom’s incredible train room and layout
Bottom R – Tom at Nor-Cal



Rest in Peace, Tom

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Desert Division

DISPATCH



ARIZONA • NEW MEXICO • WEST TEXAS

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Volume 40, No. 3

March, 2010

SWEETHEART MEET

The weather was beautiful, the collectors were abundant, and the camaraderie was pervasive. Our February Desert Division Meet was a huge success. Visitors came from as far away as Anchorage, Alaska; new Desert Division members Bill Hall and Jack Palmer enjoyed the activities, and Dave Higby and Newt Durboraw took application blanks to join TCA as well as the Division.

The activities began at 8 AM when Division members started to set up tables. As more and more folks arrived, the 50-50 raffle, an innovation for the Desert Division, began, with the winner to be announced at 10 AM. Phil Todd was this month's winner. Hudson Raffle tickets were another "hot" item, with over one quarter of all tickets sold on this, the first day of the 2010 Raffle. Bob Herman announced that we have \$23,289.13 in savings and \$16,755.63 in checking.

Chairs for various activities were announced: Bob Johnston will serve as Chairman of this year's Turkey Meet. They will be contacting Division members to serve on the Committee. Fred Hunter will take over Membership this year. Barbara Lautazi continues to be the Coffee and Donuts Chair. Dwane and Barbara Turner will co-chair the Kids Club, and Katie Elgar is this year's Visitation Chair. We still need a Media Chair for the Division. Anyone who knows anyone with media contacts and interest in promoting the club may volunteer to serve on the Media Committee. Next year the Desert Division will celebrate its 40th Birthday. A party is planned. Follow the Dispatch for information.

The Spring Auction and Pizza Meetza will be held on April 10. Publicity for this event has already begun. We are looking for about 70-100 quality lots to go with the 80 lots we already have. Premium items are requested. All club members are urged to participate.

Katie Elgar presented certificates to members who reached 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 35 years of membership as of the end of 2009. Those in attendance received theirs; others will be getting them in the mail.

Our next Meet, March 13, will be in the same complex, but a different room. We will be meeting in the Chapel, beginning at 9 AM. March 20 is the date of the Spring Picnic at the McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park. Members are urged to bring a dish to share with the other attendees – either a side dish or a dessert. The club provides hot dogs with the usual trimmings, ice cream bars, and soda.

Dallas Dixon announced that the Falcon Field Airport Open House will be Saturday, April 17, 2010 from 8 AM to 3 PM. The Desert Division will be represented with a 12' x 28' module. Chet Henry announced that the Atlas Reefer Cars are in Arizona. They will be available on March 13 for those who opted to pick them up at the Meet. Rosters and Membership Cards will also be available at that time, as well as at the Picnic on March 20.

COMING UP

MARCH 13 – Regular Division Meet – Phoenix, AZ – 9 AM

MARCH 20- Spring Picnic –Railroad Park, Scottsdale, AZ – 11 AM

MARCH 20 – Rio Grande Chapter Meet – Albuquerque, NM – 10 AM

APRIL 10 –Division "Pizza Meetza" and Auction – Phoenix, AZ – 9 AM

APRIL 17 – Runways, Roads and Rails – Falcon Field – 8 AM

APRIL 22-24 – Eastern Division Meet – York, PA

MAY 8 – Regular Division Meet – Phoenix, AZ – 9 AM

MAY 22 – Rail Fair Meet – Expo New Mexico – 9 AM

This month's Educational Segment featured a few "Sweetheart Deals." First was Gordon Wilson, whose most precious item is his TCA Membership Card. He retold the story of his becoming a member, his rise to TCA National President, and his continuing friendships developed through the TCA. The second item he brought was a Jim Fenley legacy. Jim was the Production Manager at Lionel for General Mills, before the era of Richard Kughn. Some of his contributions included the reintroduction of the "J" Steam Locomotive, the GG-1, the General, and a remake of the Blue Comet, plus a Johnny Cash car, and many "quality control" fixes. When Jim passed away, his widow called Gordon and said that Jim wanted him to have an item. That item was Jim's retirement gift from Lionel – half a "J" Locomotive mounted on a velvet background, chromed, and framed. Gordon had admired it when he interviewed Jim for the Dispatch many years earlier, and Jim wanted someone to have it who would appreciate it. To this day it holds a special place in Gordon's heart and a highly visible place on a wall at home. Greg Palmer brought in a Tank Operator's Headset made by Lionel during the Korean War. He had found it by looking at a Radio Collectors site on e-Bay. Next was a part of his "paper" collection – letters, dating back to his boyhood, which he had received from Lionel and Marx, among others. In one he asked Lionel how to fix an engine; in another he asked Marx to identify items which turned out to be Dorfan rather than Marx; in a third he asked how to paint a Hiawatha steam locomotive. Answers from these companies are very interesting and attest to their customer friendliness some 50 years ago. Greg also brought in some old magazines, one featuring American Flyer's 50th Anniversary and another from 1943 showing the World War II ravages of England and Germany. Jonathan Peiffer brought in three cars, two Walther's kit pieces which he had managed to restore and one recent production K-Line. The Walther's items were 2-rail kits which he converted to 3-rail and then added Kadee couplers to make them work on his layout. The brass sided kit presented some challenges in making the paint stick to the sides. One had been a "Harbor Cove," a replica of a lounge/sleeper/barber/secretary's car which ran on the Broadway Limited; another was originally a Louisville & Nashville Sleeper called "Green River," fashioned after a real car which ran on the Pennsylvania Railroad L&N line to Chicago.

The long awaited raffles were next. The first raffle ticket belonged to Nancy Hill, who took the Hudson ticket as her prize. Other prizes were as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Barbara Turner | Lionel Stearman Biplane |
| Chris Allen | Puzzle and die cast truck |
| Beth Stange | Figures and a fork lift vehicle |
| Dwane Turner | American Flyer AT&SF Box Car |
| Tom Stange | Entertainment Book |
| Bill Richardson | CTT Subscription |
| Dave Brown | American Railroads Video Set |
| Bob Dennison | Lionel N&W Cattle Car |
| Bob Miazga | Video CD and Billboards |



Fred Hunter won the first \$100 bill of the 2010 Hudson Raffle.

The Hudson Raffle ticket pulled for the \$100 prize this month belonged to Fred Hunter.

Folks then went to lunch in the area, followed by a visit to Ken Barnes home and his Marx "museum." Anyone who entered through the garage also saw his radio control nautical items.



Marty Wik presented the 50-50 prize to Phil Todd.



Gordon Wilson told the story of Jim Fenley's retirement present from Lionel – a framed half-locomotive, now prominently displayed on one of the walls in Gordon's Fountain Hills home.



Just a small part of Ken Barnes' Marx "museum," scene of February's after-meet visitation.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Why do we volunteer? In a recent survey of over 2,000 volunteers, 70% of the people responded that volunteering was highly important compared to many other things that they do in their life. The survey also indicated that the importance of volunteering increases as we pass the age of 40. Why? The overwhelming majority of respondents noted that they volunteer for a cause they care about, it fits their schedule, has realistic expectations, and is interesting and challenging.

The Desert Division has some great volunteers. Out of the over 300 members in the Division we had more than 100 volunteers help with the National Convention last summer. It was a large undertaking and our Division pulled it off very successfully. The momentum created from that event cannot be looked upon as a one-time effort on our part. We have many things to achieve together over the course of the next several years and it will be the efforts of every single member which make these events memorable for both ourselves and the public.

With most positions filled for committee chairs, we have the framework for a productive year, but we cannot rely on our committee chairs to do all the work. We need your involvement on a committee to help make our events the best the TCA has to offer. We are looking to rejuvenate the Kids Club under the leadership of Dwane and Barb Turner, with new activities and focusing on children who presently don’t have an outlet to enjoy this hobby. Our Turkey Meet will be a wonderful success if we can get the committee started now under Bob Johnston’s able leadership to promote the event. The group regularly operating modules is growing, but there is always room for more with some possible new and very large venues in the coming year. We have a new Chapter in New Zealand and Australia to incorporate into a meaningful part of our Division. How exciting is that! Finally, we have a 40th Anniversary as a Division next year. What an opportunity to make a big splash locally and nationally!

If you are willing to take the time to volunteer for a committee about which you care, consider it a covenant that the tasks you may be asked to do will be clearly defined, manageable on your schedule, and interesting. When we put our best face forward to the public, we become recognized as leaders in the community for our passion toward the toy trains that we all share. The reality is that our community shares this passion too, especially when given the opportunity to become involved.



STANGE FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

All funeral rites for Tom Stange will be held at Green Acres Mortuary/Cemetery, located at 401 North Hayden, Scottsdale, AZ 85257. Visitation is Friday night, March 5, from 6 PM to 8 PM. A funeral service will take place at Noon on Saturday, March 6, and a “Celebration of Tom’s Life” will follow at the Stange home, 8619 E. Chaparral Road, Scottsdale.

APACHE BEER CAR UPDATE

by Peter Atonna 75-7578

The Apache Beer Atlas reefers have arrived! They will be at the March Meet for those who preordered and wanted to pick them up. Those who paid for mailing should already have yours. We have a supply in stock now, so if you still would like one, at the original price, contact Peter Atonna at mjatonna@commspeed.net. There are a few two-rail versions available and both numbers in three-rail.

RAFFLES AROUND

Hudson Raffle tickets are available at the Desert Division Meets. They cost \$25 each and could net the owner \$100, just for being present when the winning stub is pulled from the can at the end of the Meet. The Hudson will be awarded at the Turkey Meet in November.

Beginning at the March Meet, you can also purchase your Spring Raffle tickets. The cost is \$10 each or 3 for \$25, and the prizes are varied enough to please every collector. (See ad in this issue.) Support your Division – buy raffle tickets.

BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the Desert Division Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, March 10, beginning at 7:30 AM at the home of Marty and Paula Wik. Members are welcome to attend. Please call 480-488-8625 to be sure there are enough chairs.

**DESERT DIVISION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2010-2011**

- President: Jonathan Peiffer 602-561-4131
- Vice-President: Bob Johnston 623-582-2110
- Secretary: Fred Hunter 480-947-3639
- Treasurer: Bob Herman 480-948-2730
- Directors: Katie Elgar 623-580-6957
- Greg Palmer 505-898-3840
- Ralph Treichel 602-863-6985
- Marty Wik 480-488-8625

RIO GRANDE CHAPTER NEWS

by Gregory Palmer TCA#94-39039

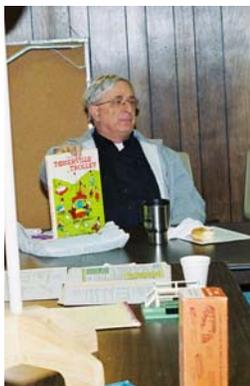
The February Meet was a very busy one. Mike Shea brought in items to sell. Several members took advantage of Mike's sale items. I want to encourage all of our members to take advantage of this free offer to bring items to sell. The tables are free. The Education Segment, once again, was very interesting. John Trever brought in a new book on the Toonerville Trolley. This entertaining story about Toonerville and the crazy trolley is from the 1930's. All of you are probably aware of the toys of the Toonerville Trolley, in both the early floor windup toy and the Pride Lines O Gauge model, made popular by Ward Kimball. I promised to bring in my windup Toonerville Trolleys at the March 20th Meet. I also want to correct last month's Chapter News Article regarding John Trever's Lionel 2456 Hopper with three lines of data. It was not a 6456, as I reported. The Lionel 6456 has only two lines of data. Art Lites brought in three 2500 series passenger cars. He showed us the hex head name plates and the glued nameplate variations. Don Kuster brought back his On30 K-37 Locomotive. Don also told us of his progress of his new On30 layout. Bonnie McIntyre read a news story about her Grandfather, and his untimely death, only 31 days after her Mother was born, while he was working for the Pennsylvania Railroad. The wreck happened because of lack of good signal systems. It was long before the installation of the modern signal systems used today. Her husband Bill, who worked for the Santa Fe and BNSF, talked about how the BNSF today handles its signal systems. George Domeny brought an American Flyer Silver Bullet Work Train Set. Yes, a CHROME work train. He also brought the catalog to show that it was indeed a true American Flyer Outfit. As you can see, we learn a lot at the Rio Grande Chapter Meets.

The Treasurer reported that we have \$826.03 in our treasury. A Bylaws change was passed at the last Meet and is now official. The Bylaws will now state that the TCA Rio Grande Chapter's fiscal year will be July 1st through June 30th. The Rio Grande Chapter's 2010 Pumpkin Meet will be October 31st. The members voted to expand the meet to 70 plus tables, so we have rented the entire Ballroom at the Sheraton Albuquerque Uptown Hotel, with a contract for 70 tables. It was also decided to have a Pumpkin Meet Auction of premier items, as well as a table top auction at the end of the day. The Auction will be held at the end of the Meet in the same Ballroom. It was also voted on to look into having a dinner on Saturday night, October 30th. The time and place will be announced later, after investigation of restaurants and the Hotel itself. The Meet did so well last year that we need to increase the number of tables. We will also have more module groups coming. I would encourage all members to find some good items to put into the Auction. With the public invited, prices should be much higher than usual. More information will be available after our March 20th Meet. We adjourned to a lunch after meet activity at the Flying Star, and then a short trip to Carl Cataline's Train Room Store.

At our March Meet we will take a final vote on the dinner location. We will also make plans for the Auction and the auction system. The after meet activity for March will be a tour of the 2926 Locomotive rebuilding project. Jon Spargo will take us on a short tour of the Locomotive and the repair facility. Then you will be free to go to lunch on your own. Sounds like a great time. Directions will be available at the Meet.

In February, we spent almost an hour on business issues, because the Rio Grande Chapter is a very busy Chapter. When you attend our March 20th Meet, bring something to show and tell, and remember we will be seeing a real Steam Locomotive after the Meet. Come out and have fun. See all of you at the Meet on March 20th at the Sombra Del Monte Church, 2528 Utah NE, in Albuquerque, NM.

John Trever and his Toonerville Trolley book



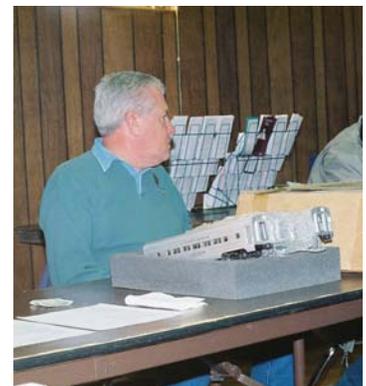
George Domeny's American Flyer chrome work train outfit



Bonnie McIntyre reading a news release about her grandfather's death during a PARR wreck



Art Lites' 3 Lionel 2500 series passenger cars



SPRING PICNIC ON MARCH 20

by Jonathan Peiffer TCA #01-53047

With all the reports of “snowpocalypse”, “snowicane”, “snowando” and “snownami” coming from our friends and families in the East, it is hard to believe that spring will be upon us soon. If the last few days have been any indicator, the Arizona version of “February showers bring spring flowers” should make for a wonderful wildflower season this year. One event not to miss is our annual Spring Picnic. This year the event falls on the Spring Equinox, so we are literally talking about the first official day of spring.

The picnic is one of our family events where members, spouses, adults and children alike can get together and enjoy a nice day at the McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park in Scottsdale. This year’s picnic will be held at the Rotary Ramada, near the corner of Indian Bend and Scottsdale Roads, beginning at 11:00 AM. Hot dogs, potato chips, sodas, and ice cream will be provided, but, if you are attending, please bring a side dish to share. There will be games for the children as well!

Brad Martin is our cook and our Spring Picnic Committee Chair. To help get an accurate count of how many hot dogs we need, please RSVP to Brad at 480-837-1618 no later than March 14th. Brad will also need a few people to help with setup, cleanup, etc. Please do not hesitate to volunteer to help out with these necessary tasks.

More importantly, bring your family and be prepared to have some fun! Hope to see you there.

SPRING AUCTION GOES PUBLIC

by Jonathan Peiffer TCA #01-53047

One event that was missed last year was the Division Public Auction. The event did not happen due to one simple reason: there were not enough lots of items to hold one. To make up for this, the Division is going to try something a little different this year during our “Pizza Meetza” on April 10th.

The auction portion of the meet will be open to the public. This is an opportunity for our membership to have a greater number of bidders on items they wish to include in the auction. It also allows for the Division to meet its obligations to sell the remaining collection pieces we have, which were not large enough in number to warrant a full blown auction. Promotion of this auction has already begun. Fliers will be available at the March meet for anyone wishing to help distribute them around the valley.

To facilitate such a meet, we will wrap up the meeting early and have lunch served for our members only as has been done for previous April auctions. At noon the public will be admitted for previewing the various lots and the auction will begin at 1:00. As usual, our master auctioneer, Peter Atonna, will be doing the auctioning.

How does this benefit our Division? Allowing the public access will provide a greater number of bidders for your items, as well as the nearly 200 lots of good quality items from the remaining collections. You should see a higher return on the items you wish to contribute. Should this model be successful, it will prove to be a valuable asset to the Division for times such as this where we do not have enough items to justify a larger auction.

We all know that this will not increase the value of rusty 027 track as that will always sell for next to nothing, but for those of you who wish to sell some of your higher quality items and were afraid to, based on the previous low sales prices of the items at the Pizza Meetza, this will be your opportunity! If you would like to add your items early, please feel free to call our Auction Committee Chair, Chet Henry, at 480-838-0783.

RUNWAYS, RAILS AND ROADS EVENT AT FALCON FIELD

By Jonathan Peiffer TCA #01-53047

The first opportunity of the New Year for running your trains on modules will be April 17th at Falcon Field in Mesa for their “Runway, Rails and Road” event, beginning at 8 AM. This is the second year for this event. We had a very enjoyable and successful time last year with an estimated 1000 or more people attending. The planning for this year’s event is much more organized and the promotion has been good. We should see an even greater number of visitors.

The Module Committee plans to run the 28’x12’ setup we have been using recently. Work has been progressing on making improvements to the modules. Some of these improvements include a complete rewiring of the modules to separate the ground on each track for better use of DCS and TMCC, fixing and improving broken connectors, and replacing the outside loop 072 track with 081 track. Thanks to Dave Hoverstock, Jack Eaton, and Dallas Dixon for all the hard work to date.

We will need at least 6 people to help with setting up and tearing down the modules. Discover the enjoyment of running trains for the public, discussing our interests and why we belong to the TCA. For more information please feel free to call Jonathan Peiffer at 602-561-4131. It should be a lot of fun. This is the opportunity for the Division to show its public face in a meaningful way! Look forward to seeing you there!

LIONEL, TV, and a GEIGER COUNTER

By Gordon L. Wilson, TCA 76-10233

Years ago, when television shows were sometimes only 15 minutes long, Lionel and American Flyer were major sponsors of shows and in some cases they were the main stars of their own sponsored shows. They would have major TV or sports celebrities act as hosts. Baseball players Joe DiMaggio, Roy Campanello, Ted Williams, and Newscaster John Cameron Swayze are four who come to mind from that era. Recently on the TTML there has been some discussion about a Lionel Train Ad appearing on the outfield wall of a ballpark used in the women's Professional Baseball League. This apparently appeared in the movie, A League of Their Own starring Tom Hanks and Madonna. Some readers of that TCA forum didn't think that was legit, as they reasoned that the Women's Baseball League was a WWII item. However, I remember reading about that league being active in the early 1950's. It, along with all Professional Baseball Leagues, was reported upon weekly in The Sporting News, a paper I read religiously all through my school days, even in college in the 1960's. Therefore, such a Lionel billboard on a left field wall in a Professional Baseball Park is completely and probably feasible.

Now, fast forward to 2009 and 2010. Have you seen anything Lionel on TV lately? Probably not! During the "Cold War" and the era of Civil Defense, The Lionel Corporation, under contract with the US Government, made Geiger Counters. These were rectangular bright yellow metal boxes with a set of head phones and a hand-held sensor to determine the radioactivity level of an item. These units were made in 1962 and 1963. Their Lionel number was and is CD-V-700. Here is why they are important now.

I watch one TV show without fail each week. Perhaps you do too. It is the #1 TV show in the USA: NCIS, starring Mark Harmon, son of NFL Hall of Famer Tom Harmon. In an episode this past November, while chasing down an Arizona artist who used radioactive paint, what showed up in Abby's lab? None other than that familiar looking yellow box. I watched it intently and suddenly, for a brief moment, there was a close-up showing the active indicator dial. Below the dial were the words "LIONEL Electronic Laboratory." The thought ran through my mind, "Has science not improved upon the Geiger counter since that Lionel apparatus of 50 years ago?" From what I've been able to deduce, apparently not! Or is there a closet Lionel collector on the staff of NCIS? Since that show uses such up-to-date, state-of-the-art crime fighting equipment, why on earth would they use a Geiger counter made by a toy train company from the early 1960's?

Then on February 2, 2010, in another NCIS episode, what should appear again? That same Lionel CD-V-700 Geiger counter, only this time it was Tony and McGhee using it. Perhaps it is a Geiger Counter that CBS had in its Props Department and, to be sure, most people watching this show would not know WHEN this Geiger Counter was made. Come to think of it, I'm only presuming that the fancy looking equipment in NCIS' laboratories is new and up-to-date – I don't know that for sure. Anyhow, it surely is an interesting bit of trivia whose common denominator for many of us happens to be LIONEL.

A PERSONAL THANK YOU

or

A BAD DEAL WITH A SEMI-HAPPY ENDING

By Bob Konski, TCA #92-35155

I wanted to write this article to thank Keith Olmanni for his part in rescuing a part of my toy train collection. On Valentine's Day, I returned home to find that three boxes of American Flyer trains were missing. Immediately I called Keith Olmanni, who located the stolen trains at a nearby train store, ready to be put onto e-Bay. The thief was NOT the store owner, who had bought the trains in good faith, but rather someone who knew my collecting habits and train collection.

I would like for club members to hold trains they buy from an unknown source for a "grace period." Getting identification and keeping a list of the items would seem appropriate. In my case, the trains would have been long gone, had it not been for the fact that Keith saw the exact items at the store to which they had been taken.

I am still missing an AF green passenger set: 951-952-953-954, with masking tape price stickers on the bottom of the frames, and a 781 abutment set with tape on the box. If anyone sees these items, please contact me, as I would love to have ALL of my trains returned. As it is, I cannot thank Keith Olmanni enough for his part in making a very BAD deal have a nearly complete happy ending.

2010 Desert Division Spring Raffle

2010 Desert Division Spring Raffle



First Prize:

MTH Railking Scale SW9 Switcher with PS2.0

Southern Pacific



Second Prize:

Lionel Operating Draw Bridge

6-14173



Third Prize:

American Flyer

769A Aircraft Beacon 3/16" scale

FALCON FIELD AIRPORT

OPEN HOUSE



Runways, Roads and Rails

Aircraft Static Displays, Classic Cars, History Exhibit, Model Railroads, Remote-Controlled Aircraft Displays, Music, Food and a special appearance by Freddy the Falcon

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FREE PARKING AND ADMISSION

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Be sure to visit the Commemorative Air Force Museum for exhibits and plane rides. *(Admission and fees apply)*



RAILROAD



-CHANGE



ARIZONA TRAIN DEPOT - CONSIGNMENT - MTH Pennsy K4 w/PS2 and EIGHT passenger cars, \$465 – NEW ARRIVALS MTH SP bloody nose Alco RS-11, directional lights, MARS, red tail lights both ends, and lighted number boards, reg. \$299.95, Club price \$269.95 – MTH Premier SP bloody nose U30C w/PS2, Club price \$408.45; matching non-powered U30C also available at \$189 – RailKing 60’ SF Baggage, Dome, Observation 3 car set, \$119.95 – RailKing 40’ UP Airlides, 4 car set, \$124.95 - Always ask for your TCA club member discount - AZ TRAIN DEPOT 755 E. McKellips Road, Mesa - 480-833-9486 Mon-Sat 9-6 open late Wed. until 9 PM.

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. For a complete list, contact Peter Atonna 928-636-4228 or e-mail at mjatonna@commspeed.net.

BURLING’S TON OF TRAINS – Authorized Lionel, MTH, K-LINE & Mantua Dealer. Pat Eiff is on 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: 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM, M – F and by appointment. 16924 E. Colony Dr., Fountain Hills, AZ 85268 Phone: 480-816-6501 Website: www.tonoftrains.com **AUTHORIZED LIONEL SERVICE CENTER**

GERRY’S TRAINS – Complete parts & repair service for Lionel, American Flyer, standard gauge pre & post war and Marklin HO trains. I buy old trains and toys, one piece or entire collections. Gerry Klei, 8608 E. Cheryl Drive, Scottsdale, AZ Phone (480) 998-5349.

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FOR SALE – Prewar accessories and figures. Lionel and American Flyer O and standard gauge. Everything from an 840 power house to street lights. Also Leland Detroit monorail set. Buddy L Industrial train and roundhouse/turntable. Send an e-mail for a complete list. Most have photos available. Peter Atonna e-mail: mjatonna@commspeed.net.

WANTED – Plasticville O gauge trestle bridge. New or used (complete if used, please). Peter Atonna 928-636-4228 or mjatonna@commspeed.net.

AVAILABLE – **QSI 3-rail Products** information, including QS3000’s, QS2+, QSI Reverse Units, Hooters, Tooters, and other QSI accessories, please go to: www.The-Scaled-Tin-Rail.com. Art Boynton, The Scaled Tin Rail, Inc. 928-525-0755.

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 his web site, www.sykesvillehistory.us, for a current list.

WANTED – 1700 engines, cars, and parts. Condition unimportant. Contact Bob Herman 480-948-2730.

FOR SALE – 2343 Santa Fe Louvered AA \$300, 205 AA Missouri Pacific \$150, 229 AB M&StL \$95, 628 NP GE 44-ton Switcher \$125, 681 6-8-6 WX 2046 \$150, 736 2-8-4 736W \$275, 2025 2-6-4 6466 WX \$125, 2026X 2-6-4 6464 \$80, 2036 6466 W \$85, 2037 2-6-4 6026W \$50, 2245 F-3 Texas Special A unit only \$125, 2321 Lackawanna w/gray roof/ Box \$465, 2328 Burlington GP-7 \$175, 8551 Penn EP-5 \$100, 8600 NYC 4-6-4 \$175, 224E Set \$675, 225E Set \$675, Santa Fe ABA+2530-2533 \$1300, 2613 Pullman restored professionally \$295, 6445 Ft. Knox \$100, 6464-25 GN Box \$70, 6464-350 MKT Katy \$195, 6464-475 B&M \$95. Dannie L. Martin 520-360-0519 or e-mail dannieaz@cox.net.

WANTED – Used Armature for 621 JC NW2 1956, VG Body cover any road name. Need OGR runs 209 through 215, 217 through 224, 231, 232, 233, 235, 236, 237. Need 12 pieces Marx 034 5-tie curved track, 12 used VG 042. Contact Bud L. O’Toole at 520-886-2234, or mail at 5602 E. Edison Apr. 11, Tucson, AZ 85712

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

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COMING EVENTS

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| March 13 | Regular Division Meet – Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ – 9 AM |
| March 13-14 | Nor-Cal Meet – Santa Clara, CA – 9 AM |
| March 20 | Spring Picnic – McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park, Scottsdale, AZ – 11 AM |
| March 20 | Rio Grande Chapter Meet – Sombra Del Monte Church, 2428 Utah NE, Albuquerque, NM – 10 AM |
| April 10 | Regular Division Meet and Pizza Meetza Auction– Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church,
Phoenix, AZ – 9 AM |
| April 17 | “Runways, Roads, and Rails” – Falcon Field – 8 AM
Contact Dallas Dixon at 602-826-2996 or Jonathan Peiffer at 602-561-4131 |
| April 22-24 | Eastern Division Meet – York, PA |
| May 8 | Regular Division Meet – Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ – 9 AM |
| May 22 | New Mexico Rail Fair Meet – Expo New Mexico, the School Arts Building – 9 AM
Contact: Greg Palmer 505-898-3840 |

DIVISION MEET LOCATION

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 1500 W. Maryland Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85015.