

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.



Volume 33, No. 9

Desert Division

DISPATCH

ARIZONA • NEW MEXICO • WEST TEXAS



November, 2004

TURKEY IN THE WINGS

Lots of activities are on the table! If a Desert Division member reviews his upcoming calendar for the next three months, he will find many opportunities to pencil in a toy train related activity. One can almost sense the increased interest in our hobby as the holiday season approaches. This was evidenced by a wonderful selection of toy trains for display and sale during the October Meet. Ed Micale left the hall with a huge smile as he carted out a boxed Lionel Junior set in like new condition along with an early Erector (1915 era) set.

The meeting was opened with a report from treasurer Bob Herman indicating we have \$13,972.28 in savings and \$3,263.60 in checking accounts. Our Toys for Kids fund is up to \$204.75; coupling this with the 20 train sets we already have in inventory shapes up for a happy holiday for many deserving Valley children. The Desert Division has given away hundreds of trains over the past two decades; certainly a record of which we can be justifiably proud. As the holiday "Angel Trees" go up around the Valley, read the tags and look for children requesting a train. Snatch the tag and get in touch with President Chris Allen to complete the process of getting a train to the child who wants it.

The Turkey Meet and Auction is almost here! Ed Georgevich needs your help. Setup will be on the WEDNESDAY preceding the Saturday event. Takedown on Saturday must be completed so that we are out of the hall by 5PM. As 70 tables have already been pre-sold, it appears it will be a table sell out, again. Food service will be improved, and once again Tom and Beth Stange are inviting TCA members to their home Saturday evening. Additionally, the Sunday auction is loaded with great trains including many American Flyer prewar O gauge items.

When Turkey is in the air, the TCA-TTOS Holiday Party can't be far behind. This year the division meets at a new venue, the Holiday Inn on 44th Street and Washington. This hotel offers us more space so we can double the number of food serving lines. As a result the time to feed our group should be cut in half. Katie Elgar is helping prepare a wonderful assortment of prizes that should be attractive to all, regardless of age or gender.

It is time for electing Division officers! Beth Stange presented the list of candidates after motions for additional names were closed. This year's slate of candidates:

Vice President: Katie Elgar
Treasurer: Bob Herman
Secretary: Christie Wilson
Directors (three to be elected):

Steve Bienstock
Ed Georgevich
Don Locke
Phil Monahan
Jonathan Peiffer
Art Triant

**BALLOT ENCLOSED
PLEASE VOTE**

Vote Now

COMING UP...

NOVEMBER 12-14 CAL STEWART MEET - PASADENA, CA
NOVEMBER 27-28 TURKEY MEET & AUCTION – MESA CONVENTION CENTER
DECEMBER 12 HOLIDAY PARTY – HOLIDAY INN SELECT, PHOENIX

Beginning the Educational Segment was Jonathan Peiffer, who brought in a 1967 unbuilt Walther's Gas-Electric kit. Jonathan promises to bring in the Gas-Electric when it is completed. His estimate is "about ten years from now." Katie Elgar shared the 50th TCA Convention mystery accessory, which it turns out was one of the most highly subscribed items from this year's Convention Car sales offerings. It is a lighted station, manned by the late "Mr. TCA," Lou Redman. Paul shared the new Kalmbach publication, Memorable Lionel Trains, featuring among other finds his 1915 0-gauge prototype set. He also brought the Fort Pitt gold coins from the Convention, and those available from the TCA National Office. The new national coins are 24K gold plated. These coins will fit into any Lionel mint car. Finally Paul shared a British Marx Silver Link set and a set of Lionel passenger cars made for export, both the result of a contact with a British TCA member. Chris Allen reminded all of us that the movie Polar Express is coming. His son's cereal box (Golden Crisps) featured the train as part of the decorations.

The Mystery Greeter, Katie Elgar, chose Jonathan Peiffer to receive the 10 raffle tickets. Raffle prizes were as follows:

Earl Rasmussen	Weaver Central Vermont Reefer, license plate, and 1905 Delivery Car Bank
Ralph Treichel	Hudson Ticket
Chris Allen	Lionel Armour Reefer (donated to the Kids Club)
Ed Micale	Lionel Classic Billboard Set (donated to the Kids Club)
Jonathan Peiffer	Book – <u>Classic American Railroads</u>
Katie Elgar	Lionel SP Caboose
Terry Haas	Billboard and Plasticville switch tower

The \$100 Hudson Raffle prize went to Ed Georgevich.

YOUR VOTE COUNTS.

TCA BRICK WALK

by Gordon L. Wilson TCA 76-10233

As one enters the TCA's National Toy Train Museum, a railroad track of silver, black, and tuscan bricks leads to the main door. On those bricks are the names of thousands of TCA members, their families, and loved ones. You too can add your name to this perpetual walkway and financially help both TCA and yourself. Remember, TCA is a 501c3 organization and therefore your Brick purchase is tax-deductible. Currently all Desert Division members up to May of 2000 have their names on a brick, as doing so was a Division project some five years ago.

Each brown/tuscan colored brick represents the roadbed; the black bricks are the ties; and the silver bricks are the rails. The brown bricks in the Desert Division area contain 3 names, one per line up to 13 characters including spaces. A name with more than 13 letters uses an initial for the first name, followed by the full last name. For instance *Paul Wassermann* has 15 characters, including the space. On a brick it would be *P Wassermann*.

If you are new to the Division since May of 2000 and would like to have your name placed on this walkway with other Desert Division members, but don't wish to buy an entire brick (they are \$150), you might wish to find two other newer members who would share the cost with you. A black brick is now offered at \$200 and the three (3) remaining silver bricks in our area are sold at \$150. For further information call TCA Headquarters at 1-717-687-6823 and ask for Operations Manager John Luppino.

This could be your final opportunity to permanently have your name placed on a brick honoring the Desert Division of the TCA.

PROMOTE THE ENJOYMENT OF OUR HOBBY	W. N. CHARLES B. CHRISTENSEN PETER COLEMAN	JOHN ELLIOTT DON EMCH J. ENGLISH JR	B. E. GREENBERG MICHAEL GRIPPE A. GRISAKOWITZ	
IN THE SPIRIT OF GOOD FELLOWSHIP	JAMES CONNOR JAMES COOMES C. COUNTRY JR	T. J. FAGAN JAMES FINLEY PAUL FERRARIS	AL HADER M. HALLAND C. HALLBOURG	
PAST RESIDENTS		RON E. CATHY KUNH TEMPE AZ	GORDON WILSON TCA PRESIDENT 1999-2000	LIFE MEMBERS
MARKER RESIDENT 7-1972	BUR. COWLES BRUCE R. COX JOHN E. CRAFT	B. C. FETTER M. FIRESTONE BUD FISCHER	RON HALLMAN JOHN HAMMONS W. C. HARRIS	GEO. BOOMER JIM FENLEY MILES BUTLER
WHITE SIDING 1974	C. CREHORE JOHN R. CROWN LARRY CROWN	R. P. FISHER JR JOHN FISHER FRED FISHMAN	HARTENBERGER JERRY HEDEN R. D. HINEMAN	RAY KORTE ALVIN LEVIN GORDON WILS
TANGE DENT 976	VICTOR CROOM DAVID CROWLEY RALPH CULLO	D. S. FREELY MD M. FREDSTROM W. N. FREEMAN	WERNER HENRIC JOHN HENNY CHET HENRY	
OLDEN ENT	L. CUNNINGHAM DON DANIELSON DAVE DANKSKY	D. J. FREIZE GARY FRERE M. A. FRIEDMAN	BOB HERMAN GLENN W. HILL GREGG HOOKER	

TURKEY MEET AUCTION PIX ON-LINE

Approximately three dozen "teaser" items from the Turkey Meet Auction may be viewed on our Website of www.ddtca.org. The quality and variety of those items is exceptional. For all of you collectors and operators who crave something other than Lionel, check out this year's catalog (\$3.00 from Chet Henry, 2036 E. Lodge, Tempe, AZ 85283-3323).

A substantial portion of this auction is American Flyer, both O and S gauges, and MTH. Here is your chance to get that long wanted or lost piece you've been telling yourself you just absolutely MUST HAVE!

The Dispatch is published monthly except July and December by the Train Collectors Association, Desert Division, 3840 N. Jokake Drive, Scottsdale, AZ 85251. This issue is Volume 33, No. 9 (November, 2004).

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Greetings to you All!

Can you smell what I smell? No, not the turkey in the oven, that other wonderful smell That's it, you got it, it's that smell of boxes of old trains, old grease and smoke pellets, and of course bargains (if you're quick enough). Yes sir, the Turkey Meet is but a few weeks away. If you haven't bought your table, better get a hold of Bob Herman quick, as they are going fast this year. Saturday is shaping up to be a wonderful day of trains and treasures, and Sunday's auction will have a little bit of everything for every taste and era. If you haven't got your catalog, contact Chet Henry, Bob, or myself and we'll see that one is one its way. Our annual Hudson drawing is also held that day. We have a few tickets left that can be picked up at the Turkey Meet or by calling Bob directly at 480-948-2730 or myself at 480-820-9559. Don't miss out on your chance to win a Lionel postwar Hudson for only \$25! Unlike the monthly \$100 drawing, this time you do not need to be present to win. Just ask Beth Stange who was home last year preparing for the Turkey Meet open house when her name was pulled.

The joint **Holiday Party** is also right around the corner. You can help us tremendously if you can get your reservations in to Scott Russell as soon as possible. It does take quite a bit of planning to have 180+ people in for lunch, and we want to make sure you have a great time. **REMEMBER the DATE and LOCATION is NEW** this year. It is at the **Airport Holiday Inn Select** at 44th St and E. Washington. This is still freeway close for everyone. You can take and exit from either the 202 at 44th St. -or- the 143 (The Hohokam Expressway from I-10) @ Washington St. The Holiday Party will be held the **SECOND** Sunday in December this year on **Dec. 12th**. Reservations must be in **NO LATER than DEC. 6th** to Scott, but as I said, the earlier the better.

October was a very busy month for the Division. The Kids Club was out in force at Train-O-Rama and had fun with train races, an 027 figure eight and a wonderful set of wooden trains. But there is a story behind these particular wooden trains. Benjamin Rumore, nephew of Tom and Beth Stange, was a frequent visitor to the Kids club activities and especially liked playing with the BRIO trains on the play mat. Enjoying our wooden BRIO's he amassed quite a collection of wooden trains to play with at home as the result of birthday's, Christmas, and just being good. Recently Benjamin began following that "new" American pastime NASCAR, and in particular race driver Jeff Gordon. We all remember our own youthful passions, and when a new one strikes often

the others go by the wayside. In Benjamin's case however, he did something quite commendable. Instead of letting his wooden train collection sit in the corner of his room, he donated his entire collection of wooden trains to the Kid's Club so the other children could play with them and build as he had enjoyed doing in the past. Lest I forget, our benefactor is only seven years old! On behalf of the Desert Division Board of Directors and the Kid's Club we would like to thank Benjamin for his most generous gift. I know they will continue to be played with and shared with other children in the same spirit that they were given.

"Running" a train module is exactly what we did last month at Rail Fair 2004. Run back and forth between Scottsdale McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park and our October Meet. My thanks again goes out to our early morning set up crew who showed up BEFORE sunrise at 6:00 AM to unload and build the Division's 12' X 20' "portable layout." We all had fun both days promoting not only "The World's Greatest Hobby" as ambassadors to Kalmbach Publishers program, but our own niche as Train Collectors out here in the Desert Division, and the upcoming 29th annual Turkey Meet. Wow, all that from just a few trains running around in circles. Make sure you read all about it elsewhere in this issue or stop by our website as I saw our nearly famous webmaster Angelo Lautazi out and about taking pictures of not just our layout, but the entire weekend's festivities.

In this issue of the DISPATCH is your Division ballot and I ask that you to take the time out of your busy schedule to vote. Although some of the offices are unopposed, the office of Director has a list of the three incumbents and three challengers to choose from. We also have the very important Bylaws changes that will allow for the expansion of the Desert Division by allowing chapters to be formed within the Division boundaries. I feel very strongly that the best way we can support our members in New Mexico is by allowing them to have their own chapter. Please consider that the Desert Division started out in 1971 with just twenty-five dedicated members. I feel that the enthusiasm expressed by those members in New Mexico for their own chapter will have a similar beginning, that of fellowship, not only with other TCA members, but within the entire community.

Looking forward to seeing you soon!

Vote Now



PLEASE RETURN YOUR BALLOT BY NOVEMBER 30, 2004.

IT'S TURKEY MEET TIME AGAIN!!!

by Ed Georgevich TCA# 97-44995

Hello, fellow members of the Desert Division. It's that time of year again! Time to get your fill of turkey, football, and of course toy trains! The 29th Annual TCA-DD Turkey Meet is fast approaching! I am looking for volunteers for the Wednesday, November 24th set-up and for Saturday, immediately after the meet to assist in tear down. The more the merrier! We need to expedite set-up on the Wednesday before so that the employees of Mesa Conference Center can start their holiday weekend. The Wednesday time will be determined shortly.

The day of the meet I also need assistance with the TCA layout (Yes, you may bring your own trains!), additional cashiers at the entry doors, and raffle ticket sellers. Saturday after the meet we will need assistance clearing out the hall and tearing down the various layouts and prepping the hall for the big auction on Sunday.

Please, if you can volunteer a few hours or just one, every bit helps make the Turkey Meet successful!!!!

Please give me a call, Ed Georgevich at 623-764-2960, or drop me an e-mail at e.georgevich@cox.net.

IN MEMORIAM

by Art Triant TCA 97-45414

Art Beard has passed away. I had sponsored him into the TCA and only knew him for a short time. In that time I discovered what a great guy and what an avid train enthusiast he was. His Navy background as a photojournalist and his education at the Chicago Art Institute gave him some incredible skills in planning a well thought out and meticulously designed layout. Located in his garage, it had a removable 11-foot wide section that allowed him to park his SUV in the same area. As this was also his work area, this spotlessly clean garage had climate control and professional lighting. Art was a very modest man whose vast education and many accomplishments might go unnoticed by all but those most closely related to him. He will be missed – an incredible man, husband, father, and friend.

Heads Up – Read This

TCA NATIONAL CONVENTION – 2005

by Gordon L. Wilson TCA 76-10233

As TCA moves into its second half century of existence, the Convention SPECTACULARS will not cease. The Pacific Northwest Division promises to present yet another exemplary family-oriented Convention in Seattle, Washington, from June 18 through June 26, 2005. You might be asking yourself, "Why should we be concerning ourselves with a June Convention in 2005 when it is only November, 2004?" Easy! There is going to be a post-Convention cruise on Holland America's *ms Ryndam* to Alaska's Inland Passage starting on June 26, 2005.

What is even more amazing about this trip is its cost per person. The good folks in the PNW Division have negotiated a fare which will literally "knock your socks off." If you've ever wanted to take, or dreamed of taking, this trip to our 49th state, and not needing a second mortgage to do it, then this is the trip for which you've been waiting. At the recent York meet, PNWD President, Merle Parise and Treasurer, Barbara Flinchbaugh both told me that interest for this tour has been extremely high and they expect it to sell out quickly. You can check out the Pacific Northwest Division Website: www.traincollector.org and click on the TOURS tab for the pricing sheet. The contact information for the tour is also listed on that price sheet.

I will have pricing information and at least one brochure at my Turkey Meet table. Feel free to stop by and see for yourself exactly the cost and the itinerary for this once-in-a-lifetime trip. All of the Convention tours and activities will be made available in the January 2005 issue of the National Headquarters News. This is one issue you will NOT want to miss. The tours will also be listed in great detail on the PNWD website as well in November.

While I am thinking of the Seattle Convention, remember to order your Convention cars for 2005 on or before **December 31, 2004**. The operating Standard Gauge Crane Car and the Kids Club Water Tower are two of the most unique offerings since the Desert Division "broke the mold" in 1997 with the OPERATING Superstition Mountain gondola. The upcoming 51st Annual TCA National Convention in Seattle, with all of its varied offerings, is surely one in which you will want to participate.

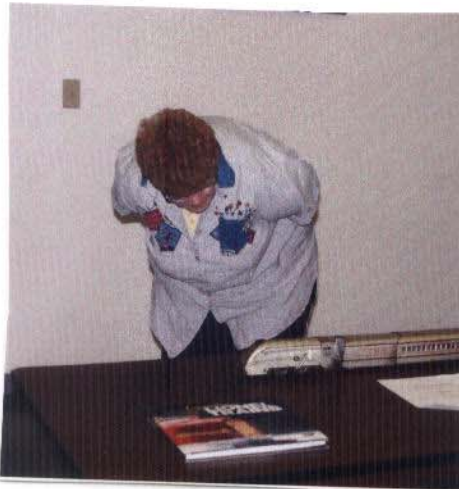
OCTOBER ODDITIES



Tom Stange (L) and Art Triant discuss what K-Line has to offer.



Jonathan Peiffer admires what Robert Mancus has on his table.



Eileen Goulden is checking out the English Marx Streamliner set.



Don Brill is busy looking and talking about something.



A rare/unusual Pre-War Lionel Diner.



Golden Anniversary Convention Car with official TCA gold covered medallions.



Golden Anniversary Banquet Car with Fort Pitt Medallions.

RAILFAIR 2004

by Chris Allen TCA #95-40850

Columbus Day weekend in Phoenix usually means Railfair at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park, and this year was no different, as fabulous weather again greeted those souls who wanted to see what it is like to run trains outside and under a tent. Very early Saturday morning the set up crew of Ed and Denise Micale, Thomas Plies, John Huber, DeLon Freije, Ed Georgevich, Katie Elgar, and Chris Allen did the bench work, track laying, and basic decorating. The four main lines consisted of one for TMCC, one for DCS, and two for conventional, though by the end of the weekend we had swapped everything out and changed things around quite a bit. Many of the early setup crew had to leave to attend the October Meet, so we turned the module over to the capable hands of the Desert Division Kid's Club under the supervision of the adult co-chairs. Rob Davis and son Nathaniel, Jeanine Monahan, and Don Locke joined the other Kids Club volunteers by finishing up decorating the module and running the trains in the early morning hours of Railfair.

One early casualty was a Z4000, which although it was fused and protected by QSI's "Power Guard", seemingly went south. We'll keep you posted as to what happened and the fix, as this transformer gets used under very harsh conditions at every module setup and has proven to be a very reliable power source for the DCS and TMCC modules. Not to let a little power glitch get in the way, out came the backup transformers, and the show went on as planned. Saturday afternoon was a typical early October Phoenix day, which meant temperatures hovered around 100° and the direct sunlight did a number warping the roofs of a few styrene buildings that we forgot to move out of the direct afternoon sun. It also added a wee bit of stress to the black transformers and locomotives, (the very reflective silver Santa Fe's just purred) but we all carried on, enjoying each other's company and friendship. What a great way to spend an afternoon, playing with toy trains, being with friends who enjoy toy trains, and showing them off to people who like to look at and tell you stories about their toy trains!

Sunday was a repeat of Saturday though the weather was a bit cooler. Our volunteers were treated to ice cream sandwiches but had to eat them quickly in the balmy 95° afternoon. Now that is one of life's better combinations, friends, ice cream, and trains! All civic bragging about the weather aside, the tear down crew began to assemble. Ralph and Sally Treichel joined Katie and Ruth Elgar, Rob and Nathaniel Davis, DeLon Freije, Ed Georgevich, Jonathan Peiffer, along with Chris Allen running some of their favorite big stuff, old stuff, and just plain fun stuff until the stroke of 5PM when we began our teardown. With such a large crew, the tear down went very fast, though a tip of the Division cap has to go to our comrades over at Grand Canyon TTOS, who for the first time in years, beat us out of the park that day. What a wonderful weekend of running trains, talking to the public, and advertising the Turkey Meet. Many thanks to all of you who stopped by both days and chatted with the volunteers, brought by munchies, ran trains, or talked to the public about our club and hobby. Inevitably when listing names we will miss a name or two. If so give a shout so you can be sent your Railfair patch for 2004. We hope to see you next year for a fun weekend of friendship and trains.



Sunday afternoon eating ice cream and trying to stay Cool: (l-r) Katie Elgar, Sally Treichel, DeLon Freije, Ed Georgevich, and I think Jonathan's right shoulder.



Saturday EARLY morning- Katie Elgar, Denise Micale, Thomas Plies, Ed Micale, and John Huber (behind Ed)

YOUR VOTE COUNTS

Fall Train-O-Rama

With the flip of a calendar page, the fall train season roared into the Phoenix area. Kicking off the activities was the Fall Train-O-Rama held at the North Phoenix Baptist Church on October 2nd. The Desert Division Kids Club again participated. We always enjoy letting the children play with trains like many of us used to, on the floor in our own improvised made up "empires." Rather than the Hill Climb challenge that we did in the spring, the "organized" activity this time was to leave the track flat on the floor and have a day of train races. Dueling postwar Alco's, (gotta love that magne-traction!) speeders of all types, even the always popular #68 Inspection Car roared down the 60' drag strip and into pillows. Yes, this is my honest postwar #68 that I let the kids play with; no, it's not mint; and yes, I have as much fun drag racing this one today as I did playing with my friends 40 years ago. Many of the youngsters got a good lesson on how to properly get their "racers" on a three-rail track, so when the starter yelled go, they would have more than a sputter and a spark! The old ZW handles got quite a work out but survived the day, just like mine did years ago. Ken Burling of Burling's "Ton of Trains" donated a wonderful large ready-to-run set to the Kid's Club last year at the Turkey Meet. We took the set out of the original box (yep, that collector "gene" is always turned on even if we do "play" with our trains) and placed it along with other donations of cars, buildings, billboards, and track into a large plastic "under the bed" plastic storage container. This allows our budding railroad planners an easy view of all the track their active minds can use to build their pike, yet makes clean up a snap. Strategically placed duct taped cardboard dividers keeps transformer and track separated from buildings and trains. The design of the day seemed to favor variations of figure "8's" where the goal was to make the track and train long, but still miss at the crossover. We had one young man working with 5" sections trying to squeeze out that last half car length, but as with most youngin's that age, the hits were more fun than the misses! The real little ones had the wooden trains to play with that were donated by Benjamin Rumore. Benjamin used to visit the Kid's Club when Aunt Beth and Uncle Tom Stange would bring him to the Division meets. As he has grown older he has become more attracted to fast cars, (something he shares with many of us, I'm afraid) and donated his wooden trains to the Kid's Club so other kids could play with them. Thank you, Benjamin! What a great thing for a seven-year-old young man to do. Looking at the pictures we took that day, I think you can see that everyone who came over to our area had a great time with all the trains we had running.



Running to the starting line with Alco's in each hand



Prior to the wooden railroad empire merger

*** BUS TRIP TO TUCSON ROADRUNNER MEET ***

Planning on going to the Roadrunner Meet in Tucson on January 15, 2005, and want to leave the driving to someone else? Our friends over at the Grand Canyon TTOS have chartered a bus and have invited Desert Division members along for the ride. The bus will leave Paradise Valley Mall around 7:30 AM make a stop at Tempe Mills Mall around 8:00 AM and then head south to the Old Pueblo, arriving just prior to 10:00 AM. (There will be NO stop for breakfast.) After spending the morning shopping for bargains at the meet the bus will make a FAST FOOD lunch stop and then head over to the Gadsden Pacific Museum for a visitation and tour and returning back to the Valley of the Sun by 6:00 PM. Trip cost is a very reasonable \$20 – Contact George Bean at 602-788-7031. They must have 32 riders by **DECEMBER 1st** so **DON'T DELAY!**

TRIVIA! October's Answer and November's FREEBIE Trivia

The local nickname for Scottsdale, the home of the 2009 55th National TCA Convention, is "The West's Most Western Town"; however, many pundits have altered that slogan to "The West's Most Midwestern Town," due to the large influx of folks who have come to Arizona to visit and now make our great state their own home. Well, the October trivia wishes to challenge those wags and proclaim an area about 150 miles southeast of Scottsdale with that tagline, and we have the facts to prove it! If you remember last month's trivia, it was a photo of a railroad station named Claremore, and I asked you to provide the who, what where, and when. Many members and their families wrote or called telling me that there was a Claremore, Oklahoma, but no record of one in west Texas, New Mexico, or Arizona. How close you all were. Although our Division roster is filled with many native Arizonians, it took that cornucopia of railroad knowledge and near native son, Peter Atonna, to come up with the right answer. As a teenager growing up in Douglas, Arizona, it was a big thing when, in 1954, Hollywood decided to shoot a movie in your "backyard." Seems when looking for a rural Midwest location to film one of tinsel town's all time favorite musicals, OKLAHOMA!, southeastern Arizona was more Midwestern than Oklahoma itself! Yup, that's right, not only the railroad scene, but the entire film OKLAHOMA! was shot in rural Arizona! The picture in our trivia contest is courtesy of Arizona Highways, May 1955, which did an extensive article in that issue on the filming which was photographed in the beautiful San Raphael Valley, 40 miles northeast of Nogales. So you see, little Patagonia, Arizona, and not Scottsdale, really IS the West's Most Mid-Western Town! Thanks to our winner Peter Atonna who also spun a tale at the October meet about what it was like when southeastern Arizona went Hollywood. To all of you who entered the contest but guessed wrong, relax! This month's Trivia will be easier because it's a FREEBIE!

In honor of Veteran's Day and all my buddies who served in the armed forces I'll give you the following picture and story. The boundaries of the Desert Division hold many unusual stories and even stranger facts. One of them is that within our boundaries is the only city in the CONTINENTAL United States to be bombed via an airplane by a foreign entity during a war. Now you're probably thinking of all the pilot training that has gone on throughout the southwest military bases over the past sixty-five plus years that there might have been a student here when hostilities broke out in their home country. Could be, but as Alex Trebek says, "Ough, not the answer we're looking for." For the correct answer, roll your calendar back to the year 1929 and let's visit that same southeast Arizona area barely fifteen years before the arrival of Peter and Mary Jane Atonna, and travel down the road from Douglas to the quiet little border town of Naco, Arizona, except Naco in 1929 was anything but quiet. Yes, just seventeen years into Arizona statehood and the US Army was sent to the border as a precaution during the Mexican Topete Revolution. Now that revolution might not be familiar to you, but I bet you have heard of one of its famous revolutionaries, the notorious Pancho Villa! Seems the rebel forces had the *federales* surrounded on the outskirts of Naco, Sonora, Mexico. A railroad ran from the mines in Naco, Sonora, across the border to Naco, Arizona, where the Arizona & Southeastern eventually connected to the Southern Pacific. The Army was there to make sure that both the rebels and the *federales* did not cross the border. A barnstorming pilot convinced Pancho Villa and the rebels that for a fee, he would fly over the entrenched *federales* and drop bombs on them from his plane, securing this valuable railroad for their side. The pilot, an Irishman named Patrick "Paddy" Murphy, has been maligned over the years since conjecture, facts, and a "bite" of southwest flavor has blended together with the retelling of the tale. However myself and many others refuse to let the facts get in the way of a great story. Murphy was hired, the rebels had an "Air Force," and the "blitzkrieg" over little Naco, Sonora, started. Not having conventional bombs to drop from his sightseeing biplane, our entrepreneur constructed his from suitcases and satchels filled with scrap iron of all sorts, packed them with explosives and had a fuse sticking out from one corner. Over the target the bombardier (who was usually a cigarette-smoking youngster) would light the exposed fuse with the cigarette, and pitch the thing over the side of the plane. Whether it was Paddy's nervousness of flying over enemy lines, his choice of pre-flight refreshments, or just the crude nature of the bombs, they seldom fell on target and some fell on the U.S. side of the border. One hit a boxcar sitting on the A&SE siding; another went through the roof of the Phelps-Dodge store; while another barely missed the Arizona & Southeastern railroad station, but hit an attached garage, destroying the stationmaster's car. The *federales* eventually shot down the plane with a 30.06 Springfield rifle, and the air war was over, but not before Naco, Arizona, and the Desert Division had one more great trivia fact as the only sight where bombs fell in the continental United States from an enemy airplane. This Veterans Day I salute all my brothers in arm, past and present, and though each branch of the Armed Forces has its own motto, the U.S. Marines Corps sums up all of our feelings best, *Semper Fideles* – Always Faithful.



STRASBURG/YORK – FALL 2004

By Gordon L. Wilson TCA #76-10233

For me, the week of mega-trains in York, the first capital city of our country, is much more than an overdose of toy trains. Since I moved to Arizona in 1988, this week-long saturation of toy trains has expanded into an excuse to visit with friends and relatives in the Delaware Valley. This year I arrived in Philadelphia around midnight on October 9/10 and immediately headed for Salem County, New Jersey, for some sleep at the home of my sister-in-law.

An interesting thing took place at the Budget Rent-a-Car counter at Philadelphia Airport. The agent asked, "Are you all right, sir?" I told her yes and asked why she thought I wasn't. She replied that it seemed unusual for me to be sweating so profusely. I explained to her that it was the unusually high temperature (about 75⁰), but it was mostly the 85% humidity – where I lived in Arizona, the humidity was 8 – 10%.

Sunday morning in the area means a trip to the Lambertville Flea Market where, once again, toy trains were plentiful although not as affordable as some times. Instead of returning immediately to my sister-in-law's, I crossed the Delaware River and headed for a site I had learned about while watching the History Channel – the Mercer Museum in Doylestown, PA. It is a seven-story high, concrete building resembling a castle. In it one finds virtually every tool – large, small, and in between – known to mankind. In order to find out more about this wonderful and unique facility, log onto www.mercermuseum.org. Across the street is the James Michener Library and Museum, worth a trip if his literary works and lifestyle appeal to you.

I made one additional stop that day, and that was to Cosmi's Deli at 1501 S. 8th Street in Philadelphia. What's so special about Cosmi's? Philadelphia Magazine has just awarded them the very coveted title of "Best Philly Cheesesteak"! It was very good, but the difficulty of negotiating Philadelphia's narrow side streets will prevent me from an encore visit.

The highlight of my Monday was a visit to Antique Trains on Lantern Lane in Turnersville, New Jersey. Rich and Connie Bimmer are long-time friends, and Connie is a gourmet cook. I ate very well Monday evening.

Tuesday morning I headed west toward Strasburg and my motel in York. This time of year in Pennsylvania the leaves are changing color. The sights, sounds, and smells of fall are in the air. One of the neat things to do as you approach Strasburg on Route 741 is to stop at the cornfield maze and see if you can figure your way through this giant labyrinth of cornstalks. It's only about three miles east of our Museum and Headquarters.

My stop at Headquarters on Tuesday provided an opportunity for a visit with the office staff, our librarian Jan Athey, and Operations Manager John Luppino. My thanks to John for the wonderful pictures he obtained for me of members of this year's Philadelphia Phillies team. Then it was on to the Chateau Motel in York.

Tuesday night in York for several of us in the Desert Division means a trip to the Paddock Bar & Grill. This is a York "locals" hangout, which has wonderful seafood and steaks.

Wednesday morning before any trains can be chased, there must be a good breakfast, and very few places can top the 'Round the Clock Diner on Route 30. Peter Atonna, TCA's Membership Committee Chairman, is without a doubt the bravest member of our group, as part of his breakfast diet includes scrapple. Have you ever asked, "What are the ingredients in scrapple?" Don't! You really don't want to know.

For the next ten hours, we chased trains at each of the hotel and firehouse venues. Then it was time to eat again. In Marietta, PA, just east and north of the Susquehanna River, is the Railroad House. It is an early 1800's stagecoach/canal boat stop on the routes between Philadelphia and Harrisburg. It is listed on the Register of National Historic Places and is now a wonderful Bed and Breakfast, as well as a fine dining establishment. If you've never been here, it should certainly be added to your list of places to visit while you are in the area. Desert Division members have been coming here regularly for the past sixteen years. We generally don't repeat a place unless it is really really good.

Thursday is a mixed bag, so to speak. Most of the Desert Division visitors will head to Strasburg, for the TCA Museum and the program held there. President Wassermann, Past-President Jaworowski, and I managed to break away from a very pleasant lunch in Strasburg at the Iron Horse Inn, one of three places I would recommend for food in the Strasburg area. The other two are Isaac's, next to the Choo-Choo barn, and Ye Olde Strasburg Inn. While most of our group on Thursday evening headed off to the Roosevelt Tavern for dinner, I headed east to Philadelphia International Airport to pick up my wife Christie.

Early Friday morning we were eating breakfast at the York Fairgrounds. Traditionally the back end of the spacious dining area is "overrun" by TTML participants. No one leaves until the author of Clem's Primer speaks – that is Clem Clement, President of Eastern Division. Clem generally has a few thousand words of welcome and sage advice for the "newbees." The main focal point of Clem's Fall 2004 welcome was "I can't fix stupid" – a

warning about paying lots of money for post-war boxes, many of which are "antiques" and virtually indistinguishable from the originals. The best defense against the forgers who have become very good at their disgusting craft is for us, as collectors, to be equally educated and vigilant about what we buy, especially the high dollar items.

It was then time to head for the Blue, Silver, Red, White, Purple, and Orange Halls. It is said that "Hope springs eternal." That was the hope of each of the roughly 15,000 attendees - that somewhere among the over 3,000 tables would be that elusive piece that needed to complete the collection or layout, which was the catalyst for getting them to York in the first place.

I find the treks through the various halls to be an opportune time to renew old friendships and acquaintances and to make new ones. If in the process I happen to add a piece or two to my already substantial cache, then that is a bonus and unexpected delight. I also have the added responsibility of setting up and tearing down the TCA Internet table near the Registration Desk in the Silver Hall. I wish to publicly thank Dr. Joseph Lechner, H. Mike Spanier, and Al Szirony for their assistance with both the Internet and the TCA National Business Office presentations.

Friday evening's dinner was a really fun roast of our outgoing President, Paul Wassermann. This affair, attended by more than two dozen guests, was held at Bumper Bob's, Exit 32 off of I-83, north of York. The name of this restaurant sounds perhaps hokey or childish - the owner's name is Bob and he collects Bumper Cars, and his restaurant has perhaps the finest Maryland crab cakes outside of the state of Maryland. Should you ever find yourself able to go here, by all means make sure you have a healthy appetite - portions are not only delicious, they are huge!

Saturday morning's breakfast consisted of hot chocolate and the best donuts in the world - Maple Donuts, a company indigenous to York County. I always knew these were the best donuts, but now there are highway billboards which proclaim the same thing.

Saturday at the Fairgrounds allows one to finish what could not be completed in the time allotted on Friday. Eastern Division's York Meet is the largest of its type in the world. As I've proclaimed many times before, this train meet is to this hobby what Mecca is to a Moslem or the Vatican to a Roman Catholic. Your devotion is not complete without at least one visit there during your lifetime.

Saturday night I was back in southern New Jersey, breaking bread with long-time friends in Pitman, NJ, a town in which we taught for so many years. Sunday morning simply meant a plane trip across the country and back to the sun and warmth of Arizona. Next April can't come soon enough!

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. Various members have made contributions to the club this month. A huge Thank You to everyone who helped with set-up and tear-down for Railfair this year. (See Railfair 2004 elsewhere in this issue.) In addition, Benjamin Rumore, 7-year-old Kids Club member, donated his wooden toy trains to the Kids Club for all members to enjoy. Chris Allen and Ed Micale donated their Raffle Prizes to the Kids Club for use on their layout/module. To date, your raffle ticket purchases have given \$204.75 to the Trains for Kids (Holiday) program. Laurel Allen and Denise Micale graced the kitchen this month as volunteers for the Coffee Club.

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

KIDS and TRAINS ...

Children and Trains seem to have a universality about them. Here we see a youngster of about 8 or 9 years of age waving to the passengers and conductor of the passing Strasburg (PA) Railroad Train in where else, but PARADISE. Paradise Township, PA, is where the TCA Headquarters, Museum, and Library are located.



YORK/STRASBURG, OCTOBER 2004

These photos follow chronologically the article on the previous page.



1. Super detailed, hand carved duck decoy on display at the Mercer Museum.



2. Peter and Mary Jane Atonna (L,C) and Paul Wassermann (R) at the Paddock. Gordon is taking the picture.



3. The TCA's Headquarters in Paradise Twp., PA, early Thursday AM. Note the "Brick Walk" Railroad Track leading through the main entrance.



4. Eastern Division President Clem Clement opens the TTML breakfast. Clem told us, "I can't fix stupid."



5. Friday night, TCA President Paul Wassermann seems to be enjoying his "Roast" dinner at Bumper Bob's.



6. The Pride Lines Station and Platform presented to Paul as a present by the attendees at the Roast. The station is known as "Tinplater Junction."

7. The best donuts in the world are Maple Donuts, a York exclusive.



Vote Now

ELECTION INFORMATION

The following candidates are asking for your vote on the ballot enclosed with this issue of the Dispatch. Please vote and return your ballot as per the instructions printed thereon. President Chris Allen is serving the second year of his two year-term. However, all other positions are open. In addition, you are asked to vote on the proposed Bylaws Amendment which has been published in each issue of the Dispatch since July, and is found elsewhere in this month's issue.

Vice President – Katie Elgar (TCA #94-39348) – Since joining, I have served on numerous committees and served as Chair of the Holiday Party. I have been elected a Director and Vice-President. Since 1996, I have attended all the TCA National Conventions, and other out-of-state meets, where I continue to gather ideas to assist in our 2009 Convention. I am committed to Desert Division members and ask for you to return me to the office of Vice-President.

Treasurer – Bob Herman (TCA #95-40200) – My goals continue to be simple and straightforward: to improve the financial strength of the Desert Division through prudent management of its funds and to foster the preservation and expansion of our organization dedicated to the collecting and operating of toy trains.

Secretary – Christie Wilson (TCA #91-32878) – Having been your secretary for the past six years, I have provided minutes for every meeting, served as membership chair, and maintained all correspondence. This I will continue to do if reelected. I appreciate your vote of confidence in me.

Director – Steve Bienstock (TCA #93-37034) – I have been an active member of the TCA for over ten years. I have always found the leadership of our Division to be superior; however, over the years, I have seen the “graying” of our club and believe that a greater emphasis should be placed on the recruitment of younger members. I have held a number of positions in other organizations where membership recruitment has been my responsibility and I would like to bring my knowledge and skills to the Board of Directors of the Desert Division. Thank you for your consideration.

Director – Ed Georgevich (TCA #97-44995) – The past 12 months on the Board of Directors has been a

learning experience. The Turkey Meet has been a large part of my life for these few months and I have enjoyed learning the process and working to make this a successful Meet and drive the Turkey Meet 2004 to a new level. I look forward to serve the members again in 2004.

Director – Don Locke (TCA #98-46559) – I have been a member of TCA for seven years, and have worked at our annual Turkey Meet and Railfair at McCormick Park. As an active member of the club, my wife Beverly and I have attended York and numerous TCA Conventions. I feel well qualified to hold the position of Director, having had experience serving as Director in the Grand Canyon TTOS Division. As a retired school administrator from Southern California, I have many years experience in being part of a leadership team. I collect pre-war and post-war 0 gauge Lionel, and occasionally buy that special MTH or K-Line locomotive. I consider it an honor to serve our organization and continue to promote the hobby.

Director – Phil Monahan (TCA #98-47603) – I think that the future of the TCA and the hobby depends on attracting new and younger members. My involvement in the model train repair business gives me an opportunity to see what people buying trains want to get out of this hobby. Over the course of the last year TCA-DD has met many challenges that have confronted us. The BOD has made more clearly defined goals; however, we continue to struggle with the budget and fund-raising. If re-elected, I will continue to promote the club and the hobby.

Director – Jonathan Peiffer (TCA #01-53047) – “Playing with trains” since age six, I have an interest in sharing the hobby and sustaining the TCA for future generations. I am interested in all scales and have extensive knowledge of railroad history. As a partner in an architectural firm and board member of several other non-profit organizations, I also understand the challenges facing today's small businesses. Thank you for your consideration.

Director – Art Triant (TCA #97-45414) – A good club is measured by the spirit of its members and as such participation in its activities is more fulfilling than spectating. For this reason I would like to get more involved, to learn, and to contribute whatever I can for the betterment of this organization. I therefore ask for your support.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The Bylaws Committee, chaired by Keith Swett, has proposed the following changes to the current Desert Division Bylaws. Please compare the items below with your copy of our current Bylaws. These revisions were published in the previous three issues of the Dispatch, and are included herein to help you make an educated choice on the ballot enclosed with this edition of the newsletter. What appears below allows for a group of members to petition for Chapter status. It also allows the Division to have a Media/Relations Chairperson.

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES

Change Article II Section I to Article II Section 1A.

Add sections B and C to read as follows:

B. A Chapter may be formed by filing a petition to the Desert Division Board of Directors with the geographic boundary, proposed name, and 25 signatures pledging membership as outlined in Article II Section 1A.

C. Final approval of the petition for Chapter formation resides with the Desert Division Board of Directors.

Change Article III Section 3 as follows:

Add the words "all Chapter officers" so that Section B reads as follows:

B. The terms of office for the Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Directors, and all Chapter officers shall be for one calendar year.

Reletter "C" to "D"

Reletter "D" to "E"

Reletter "E" to "F"

Insert a new section "C" as follows:

C. The elected President of a Chapter becomes a Director on the Desert Division Board of Directors.

Article VII – Add a new Section 3 as follows:

A Media Relations Chairperson shall be appointed by the President for a one-year term. He/She shall promote the growth of the Division through exposure of meets, events, and activities.

VOTE NOW