

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.



# Desert Division

## DISPATCH

ARIZONA • NEW MEXICO • WEST TEXAS

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [www.tcadd.org](http://www.tcadd.org)

Volume 35, No. 9

November, 2006

## THE BIG PUMPKIN IN THE DESERT

The Desert Division welcomed four new members today, plus a visit from two “out-of-towners.” Doug Glascock and Joe Pennacchio both visited us from Prescott; Mike Wells came in from Mesa; and Sam Luce made it over from Sun Lakes. Tim Kamper rejoined the Division after a year’s hiatus. Welcome all. Additionally, Ohio was represented by Al Moyer, who brought his local friend David Anderson. It was also nice to see Bob Miazga, who has returned from Minnesota for the season.

Treasurer Bob Herman announced that the Desert Division has \$11,269.67 in savings and \$5,332.66 in checking, with \$198.30 in the Trains for Kids account. As the holidays approach, we are looking for kids who really want trains. Search out the Angel Trees in the malls or stores. If you see a specific request for toy trains, let Katie Elgar know and the Division will try to match that child with a suitable ready-to-run toy train set.

Ed Micale announced that our fund-raiser cars are now a commitment. We have contracted for a minimum of 200 sets. We hope to receive many orders from the various places where we are advertising. Also note that the price includes \$7.00 for shipping. If you buy it at a Division Meet and you will pick it up at a Division Meet, your cost will be only \$88, not \$95. As for the Convention shirts, we thank Antigua and Bill Mack for getting the logo made at no cost to us. Antigua will embroider the logo onto shirts they have in stock. Right now, they do not have any shirts with pockets, but we can order different colors. Contact Ed Micale (480-585-9402) to place your order.

Fred Hunter announced that the Turkey Meet preparations are nearly finished. We still need workers for set-up, tear-down, and module running. Call Fred (480-947-3639) to add your name to the list of volunteers. In addition to the 200 potential tables, there will be several operating layouts and an art show. Half a dozen members have already agreed to display their railroad art on Saturday, November 25. We still need a Parts Dealer. Anyone who knows one should contact Fred Hunter or Bob Herman right away.

The Holiday Party is December 10. Sign-up sheets are in this bulletin and on the Website. Additionally, we have a Lenox Holiday Junction Train engine and caboose. Raffle tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10. The train will be awarded at the Holiday Party.

Three boxes of cell phones have been sent in and a fourth is growing daily. Remember, no charges, no cases, no peripherals – just the phones. All proceeds go into the 2009 Convention Treasury.

The Bylaws Review Committee, Bob Johnston and Earl Rasmussen, will report on any changes we might need to make. The Spring Picnic is Saturday, March 17 at the Ramada by the tunnel at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park in Scottsdale. The Rio Grande Chapter is raffling a Toy Fair Car. Tickets for that are also available at the Meet.

Don Locke, Visitation Chair, announced the following upcoming after-meet visitations: January, Angelo Lautazi; February, Paul Wassermann; March, Thomas Plies; April, Sam McElwee; and May, Don Locke. Anyone interested in hosting an after-meet visitation should contact Don Locke (480-854-2546).

### COMING UP . . .

**NOVEMBER 25 TURKEY MEET - CONVENTION CENTER – MESA – 9 AM**

**NOVEMBER 26 AUCTION – CONVENTION CENTER – MESA – 8:30 AM**

**DECEMBER 10 HOLIDAY PARTY – MARRIOTT MESA – 11 AM**

**JANUARY 13 REGULAR MEET – JAYCEES HALL, SCOTTSDALE – 9 AM**

**JANUARY 20 RIO GRANDE CHAPTER MEET – ALBUQUERQUE, NM – 9 AM**

The Educational Segment began with Jerry Sienkiewicz, who brought three Plasti-Marx sets. First was the only passenger set they ever made. The engine is plastic and battery operated, but the cars are lithographed tin. Next was a #833 freight set. In regular Marx it was usually electric or windup; in Plasti-Marx it takes 2 batteries. The most unusual car is a boxcar that looks like a circus car. Last was a set Jerry bought on e-Bay. After Jerry had bought it, the man said, "Oh, by the way, I have the box for it. It'll cost a couple of bucks more for shipping, but you can have it if you want it." Naturally, Jerry made the supreme sacrifice and took the box. From that box, he gathered that this set was a sample, not a prototype. Prototypes may or may not ever be produced; this was not only produced, but was in a dealer's sample box. It has a name on the top and a label on the side. Additionally it has metal wheels, whereas Plasti-Marx always had plastic wheels. This one has a battery operated Hafner shell, from about 1951.

Matt Imbrogno brought in a 1949 Baldwin catalog. It advertises the real locomotives built that year. One is a 1500 horse powered diesel electric (DRS-6-6-1500) and the second is a 2000 horse powered center cab diesel (DT-6-6-2000). Both are beautifully painted and designed, but they were apparently not very popular with the railroads, as only 50 of the Center Cab were ever made and only one is still around – in the Illinois Railroad Museum; only 83 of the Diesel Electrics were made and only two are left – one in the California Railroad Museum in California and the only operational one at the Arizona Railway Museum in Chandler, Arizona. Interestingly the book also includes a tonnage table, which really points out what a Baldwin engine can do. Pictures of the "shops" show just how massive these engines were.

Bob Mancus brought in an Ives Vagabond Special from about 1930. They are hard to find in good condition, but his are "pristine." He has two engines, one with side rails and one without. The one without side rails never had them, as there are no holes for them to fit into. He is still missing one car – the baggage car is apparently the hardest to find.

Wrapping things up before the raffle prizes, Chris Allen reminded everyone of the Golf Tournament on November 4 at Royal Palms, on McKellips in Mesa, followed by dinner and prizes at Cathy's Café, just up the street from the golf course. Plan to join us from Noon on. Christie Wilson had brought two rhubarb pies to be auctioned, with the proceeds going to the 2009 Convention Treasury. Raffle Prizes were awarded as follows:

Bob Johnston	Boxcar Betty Calendar
Ralph Treichel	Lionel truck with orange automobiles
Chet Henry	Hudson Raffle ticket
Jim Hamra	Lionel flatcar with trailers
Brad Martin	K-Line S-gauge freight car
Joe Pennacchio	Santa Holiday centerpiece
Chris Allen	Tractor trailer
Bob Johnston	Southern Arizona Museum Raffle ticket
Angelo Lautazi	<u>Toy Train Treasury</u> , Volumes 1 and 2
Sam McElwee	DVD, track clip, circuit breaker, and coal dump
Christie Wilson	Caboose and cartoon book

The Hudson Raffle \$100 bill went to Greg Novak. The meeting adjourned, with members heading out for lunch and/or Railfair at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park.



Left: Bob Dennison outbids all others for a home-made rhubarb pie. (Proceeds go to the 2009 Convention Treasury.)  
 Middle: Matt Imbrogno shows a Baldwin (full-sized trains) catalog. One of these engines is in the Arizona Railway Museum in Chandler, AZ.  
 Right: Greg Novak accepts the Hudson Raffle c-note from Treasurer Bob Herman.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings!

The October meet was filled with trains for sale and lots of camaraderie. Even the threat and presence of rain did not dampen people's spirits and eagerness to be out at the meet.

This past month has been a rather full month and looks like it will continue that way through the month of December. It is always good to have train running opportunities, the least being our own Turkey Meet right after Thanksgiving. There are still tables available for selling. Contact Bob Herman to get a couple, call 480-948-2730. If you haven't signed up to help with this event, please call Fred Hunter 480-947-3639 to check when you can help out. You can take a turn at selling raffle tickets or running your trains or the Division's on the club module. Or you can sign up to help set up or tear down for the meet. Remember that this is our largest event and the success helps to finance the Division through the year. If you are interested in helping out with the auction on Sunday, give Chet Henry a call 480-838-0783.

This past month was Fall York and if you have never been there it is an overwhelming experience. Thanks to some great friends, I had the chance to make a flying visit this year. It was a great opportunity to renew friendships with people that I only see at the National Convention. I also had the chance to make a lot of new friends at the various meetings I was able to attend. Particularly interesting, was the TTML breakfast. I have been on line in this group for quite a while and have attended the meeting they hold yearly at the Convention. It was a great opportunity to put faces to the names of some of those participants. I had a good time sharing and hearing stories from them. One of the most interesting operating layouts was the standard gauge layout. This group of primarily TTML participants communicated through the internet and were able to set up and run an awesome layout in the Black Hall. Never did figure out just what 'stomper' was supposed to be, but it did fire up and run. Earl and Janice Rasmussen were able to take the trip this year and they were able to locate some great finds and I am sure they will enjoy their memories of the trip for a long time.

Speaking of Conventions, I hope you have noticed the super offerings by the Rocky Mountain Division for the 2007 Convention. Check these out in the latest TCQ. Remember that the order deadline for these cars is December 31, 2006. Some are quite unique and would be a fine addition to any layout or collection. Make plans for the 2007 Convention as well. The tour list looks great and Denver isn't that far away from us here in the Desert Division.

Also be sure to check out the boxcar set offered by your Desert Division as a fundraising project. These

are handsome looking cars and help out the Division as well. You can see them on the [www.TCADD.org](http://www.TCADD.org) website, as well as pick up flyers that will be at the Turkey Meet.

Keep involved in your Desert Division and see you at the Turkey Meet and the Holiday Party.

Happy trains,



## RIO GRANDE CHAPTER NEWS

by Greg Palmer TCA 94-39039

By the time you read this article, the Rio Grande Chapter will have had its first annual Pumpkin Meet on November 4<sup>th</sup>. At the time this article was written table sales were doing well. A full report on the Pumpkin Meet will appear in the next Newsletter.

Just a note to everyone, our Chapter Vice-President, Dale Schafer, had serious back surgery. He is now home. He had to miss October York. Dale will have a long rehab period. Our thoughts and prayers are with Dale in his efforts to get better. Get well, Dale, we are all thinking about you.

Speaking of October York, I went a few days early, in order to visit the TCA Museum and National Headquarters during their York Week Open House on Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. I encourage all Chapter and Division members to visit our TCA Museum. The Museum is professionally done. It also has many rare toy train items. The TCA Museum also has many operating layouts and displays. It ranks in appearance with many large city museums. It is a must see if you go to York, or are visiting the East Coast. It shows that our TCA monies are being well spent.

Once again, the Eastern Division Meet at York, PA was a Mecca for toy trains and toy train lovers. A lot of the enjoyment of going to York is visiting with friends from the Desert Division and Rio Grande Chapter, and all the informational meetings, which are held only at York. I will give all of you a report on the Standards Committee Meeting, which was held at October York, at our January 20<sup>th</sup> Meet. Make plans now to attend our January 20, 2007 Meet. See you all there.

### LATE NEWS FLASH

by Thomas Plies TCA 01-52481

The Desert Division's train layout at the Phoenix Zoo is now wearing fall colors. Soon it will be decorated for winter and the winter holidays. Also note that the Phoenix Zoo needs a part-time Safari Train Tour Operator. Anyone interested should call 602-273-1341, Extension 7231 or 7313 for details.

# THE DESERT DIVISION'S COMMEMORATIVE OFFERINGS

by Gordon Wilson, TCA #76-10233



Arizona is many things. Standing tallest among its many attributes is its beauty. First and foremost is the Grand Canyon. Lesser known by name, but equally stunning, are the Verde Canyon and Monument Valley, the latter being the site of many John Ford cowboy movies. On the western border of the state there is the Colorado River Valley, and to the south and east of our state is its best-known mineral, copper. If Arizona were not called The Grand Canyon State, it surely would be called The Copper State.

One of the outgrowths of these natural beauties and mineral deposits has been railroads, railroads to bring in tourists and railroads to haul out the minerals. Yes, the Southern Pacific, Union Pacific, and Santa Fe railroads plied their way throughout Arizona for the better part of 150 years. In 1971, the TCA came to Arizona in the form of the Desert Division, which also included The Land of Enchantment (New Mexico) and the 12 most western counties of The Lone Star State (Texas).

Such beauty and history have not been lost on members of the Desert Division in terms of developing and issuing commemorative pieces of railroad rolling stock and related items. The first of these was a McCoy Standard Gauge Box Car in bright yellow, green, and red. It celebrated the topography of the entire Division, from El Paso on the extreme southeast to Lake Meade and the Hoover Dam on the northwest.



The very first Desert Division Commemorative car was a colorful McCoy Standard Gauge Box Car.

Since the prototype's assigned number was politically incorrect, the year of the Division's founding – 1971 – was ultimately selected to appear on the side of this, the first of its kind, issued through the Desert Division. Among the McCoy cars, this is one of the hardest to find, as only 100 were produced.

For whatever reason, it wasn't until 1996 that the next limited edition offering made its appearance. To celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Division, a truly unique piece was selected. Up to now, throughout TCA's Divisions, all commemorative offerings had been static. LTI had just introduced their On-line Step Vans. We were able to contract with Lionel for 240 of these "newbies," but the ones from the Desert were quite different. First of all they were made of gray plastic. All other consumer and club issues (LCCA) were either orange or blue. The front side doors, rear doors, and license plate were all laser engraved with lettering and numbers, so they could never be confused with any other factory release. To top them off a holographic three-piece decal was affixed to the van's sides and roof. These are truly hard to find today – a birthday present to ourselves and anyone in TCA who wished to order one.



The On-Track Step Van made to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Division in 1976.



A rear view of the same van, showing the serial number 44 and the laser engraved numbers on the rear door and license plate.

In 1997, the Division went into overdrive, making available a plethora of offerings to celebrate not only Arizona, but also the fact that the Desert Division was hosting its first National TCA Convention.



A TCA first was this HO offering depicting cars from the Grand Canyon Railroad.



New Marx Black Mesa & Lake Powell Coal Hopper, as seen in Monument Valley, one of Arizona's scenic highlights.

The Grand Canyon started things off with the first ever HO scale train set for a TCA Convention. Two Harriman style passenger cars and a Water Car, the same as the ones used on the Grand Canyon Railroad, were offered in a boxed set of three pieces and manufactured by Con-Cor, a Tucson, AZ based company.

Heading north of the Grand Canyon toward the Utah border, a Marx hopper with coal load was another celebratory offering. The Black Mesa and Lake Powell Coal Company services the Navajo nation and coal mines between Window Rock and Lake Powell. It is a fully automated electric railroad whose blue and silver graphics are very stunning, especially when a long line of them pass by Monument Valley.

Between Phoenix and Tucson runs the Southern Pacific Railroad line. The right o' way parallels Interstate 10 for nearly the entire 120 miles between Arizona's two major metropolitan areas. Virtually any motor trip between these two Desert cities will allow the traveler to see at least one long freight. If one is really lucky, and in the right place at the right time, Amtrak's crack passenger train, "The Sunset Limited" might happen along while on its way to "The Big Easy" or "The City of Angels." Along the way is a classic railroad icon – The Water Tower at Red Rock, just outside of Marana. Rich-Art made a copy of this "icon" for the Division, and it was the highest selling TCA Standard Gauge offering, EVER. Still, today, it maintains that status.





Another first for the Division was its fund-raising car, the operating Superstition Mountain Lines operating gondola. This is one of Arizona's most sought after legends, as it depicts Jacob Waltz, the Old Dutchman miner who found gold, chasing his burro, who is running away with the valued nuggets. To this day, expeditions are still launched into the Superstition Mountains in search of the Lost Dutchman's Mine. Of all the many operating gondolas, the various guidebooks rank this one as the hardest to acquire, as fewer than 300 were produced.

American Flyer collectors were rewarded in 1997 with a never-before produced S gauge boxcar. In the '40's and '50's, thousands of AT&SF boxcars displayed the full Santa Fe Railroad system on their sides. They became known as "map cars" and were as famous as "The Chief" and "El Capitan." Lionel liked it so much that the same car appeared in their 1998 consumer catalog.



Naturally there was a TCA 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Passenger Car bedecked in orange, black, and silver. It was a Dining Car, named after the most populous state capital city in the USA. Didn't know that, did you? Yes, Phoenix, the fifth largest city in the country, was the name on the side of this car.

Left: The "Phoenix" Diner, part of TCA's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Set.

Moving to the Copper Country, we were most fortunate to have the full cooperation of one of the nation's premier Copper Smelting Companies, Phelps-Dodge. K-Line made a custom Flat Car, quite similar to the ones Phelps Dodge uses to transport their Copper Ingots. The company aided us by making miniature Copper Ingots to fit on to the custom built car. In 1997 it was one of the most popular offerings made to the TCA members. Even as miniatures, however, this is a very heavy car, best left on a siding or a shelf for display.



L: The Phelps-Dodge especially constructed flat car with Copper Ingots  
R: A better view of the ingots made by the Phelps-Dodge Corporation in Arizona.



Celebrating the Western and Cowboy Heritage of Arizona, Pride Lines produced a special edition Cowboy figure with a Saguaro Cactus and Prickly Pear Cactus on either side of him. Arizona is still home to many working cowboys. The Earp Brothers, Doc Holliday, and Johnny Ringo were honest to goodness western cowboys and gunslingers, who were later popularized in the movies. Such legendary movie stars as Tom Mix, Gabby Hayes, Gene Autry, Roy Rodgers, and of course John Wayne, all made their home in Arizona at one time or another. John Wayne owned a ranch about mid way between Phoenix and Tucson, where many movie stars would come to enjoy the wonderful Arizona sun. "Arizona Cowboy Joe," thanks to Pride Lines, represented all of these Western and Cowboy Icons of the past.

The final offering presented for the '97 Convention took everyone to the western border of Arizona in the City of Parker, located in the Colorado River Valley. K-Line made a partial set consisting of an MP-15 locomotive, a boxcar, and a gondola with crates. This was a prelude to the Convention offering of a Crane and Boom Car duo. All of them were decorated in the livery of the Arizona and California Railroad. This set has a bit of irony to it. A month after the Convention, I received, as Desert Division President, a letter from the AZ& CA RR asking for permission to paint their plain black Bucyrus-Erie Crane Car the same way as we had decorated ours. Isn't that "Life Imitating Art?"



CA & AZ Crane and Boom Cars, a Division Convention offering. This is the "Life Imitating Art" crane.

From top left to right:

- The MP-15 Diesel Locomotive that pulled the CA & AZ K-Line set
- The CA & AZ Gondola with LCL crates that was part of the set offering
- The "Regular" issue of the CA & AZ Box Car. It came in the K-Line set.
- The "Reverse" color CA & AZ Box Car. It was a Convention Banquet Table Prize.

Now here we are some nine years later, and the Desert Division is once again going to celebrate the National Wonders of Arizona. It is a set of two 6464 style box cars, made by LIONEL, that will be decorated in the colors and logos of the Verde Canyon Railroad and the Grand Canyon Railroad. Today, these are two of the most popular Tourist Railroads in the Western United States. The Verde Canyon box car will come in baby blue and cream and feature their logo, which is a picture of one of their spectacular vintage F-7 diesels. The Grand Canyon Railroad car comes in a vivid red with their colorful logo in a prominent place. The cost for these two beautifully decorated boxcars will be only \$95, including shipping and handling.

# CELEBRATE ARIZONA!

The First in a Series of Cars by the Desert Division, TCA

Buy this limited production Lionel two car set. Order deadline Feb. 14, 2007. Expected delivery, summer, 2007. Prototype cars shown.

Grand Canyon Railroad



Verde Canyon Railroad



Celebrate two famous tourist railroads that take you to some of Arizona's most spectacular scenery

## Instructions:

- Fill out the bottom of this form completely and enclose it with a check/money order for the total amount payable to the: TCA Desert Division
- Mail form and check to:  
TCA Desert Division  
25375 N. Feather Mountain Rd.  
Paulden, AZ 86334-2713

## Order Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City and State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

### Offered Item:

Celebrate Arizona Verde Canyon RR and Grand Canyon RR Boxcar Set	\$95.00 per set
Arizona residents add sales tax	\$ 7.35 per set
Free shipping included in the US	
Total Amount enclosed	_____

The Desert Division thanks you for the order and for your support of the Club.

## **OBSERVATION DECK COMPLETED**

by Gordon Wilson, TCA 76-10233

Sometimes it's better to be "lucky" instead of planning for an event. At the TCA Convention last June, Roy Aydelotte was presenting a report of the Education and Museum Committee (E & M). One item that was apparent in the report was that this committee of volunteers needed some additional help from TCA members in the area of cataloging and appraising items already in the possession of the Museum. So, I volunteered a week's worth of time one week before the York Week. Now, fast forward from June to October 9.

When I met Roy and June for breakfast on that Monday morning, one of the first things I learned was that the Observation Deck for the Atrium Lobby of TCA's National Toy Train Museum, Research Library, and Headquarters was due to be installed that week. That is what the opening statement referred to, or at least the "lucky" part. This was the Observation Deck that was funded by financial gifts from our National BOD, individual TCA members, and several TCA Divisions, the Desert Division among them.

For reasons known only to the manufacturers of the Observation Deck, they were a tad late with the Monday morning delivery, as they pulled into the parking lot at 300 Paradise Lane on Thursday morning at 9:30. Like Santa in "The Night Before Christmas," they "went straight to their work." By noon all that remained to be done was to establish the electrical connection for the rear warning lights and TCA Drumhead. On either side of the Observation platform are two railroad portable steps, making access to the deck quite safe and easy. If anyone reading this has ever ridden the Wine Train in Napa Valley, California, the resemblance of the rear of their Platform Observation Cars and the facsimile in our TCA Headquarters is remarkably similar. Yet another reason to visit your TCA Museum, Library, and Headquarters.



The Observation Deck is ready for York Wednesday. A generous donation from the Desert Division helped defray the costs.



Gordon Wilson presents the train run at the "Roof of the World" to the TCA Toy Train Museum. It was accepted by Roy Aydelotte, E & M Committee Chair.

## **TOY TRAIN AUCTION IN NEW MEXICO**

Attention to anyone who is NOT heading west to California for the Cal-Stewart Meet in Pasadena. You may wish to go east instead! To Silver City, New Mexico, for an auction of Western Art and Lionel Trains.

Beginning on Saturday morning, November 18, at the Geyer Auction House, the proceedings will start. There are basically three years of Lionel production "on the block." From 1941-2 there is a 1688 gunmetal torpedo style 2-4-2 Loco & Tender. From 1948 there is a 675 Loco and 3459 green Coal Dump Car. The "plum" of the entire auction is a 2367 Wabash A-B F-3 diesel set, plus 4 of the 0-27 Streamlined Passenger Cars. Both of these, from the photos that were sent, appear to be at least in C-7 condition or higher. There do not appear to be any large amount of Lionel boxes. Here is a complete list of what is available:

2460 black crane; 3424 Wabash boxcar w/white man; 3662 Milk Car and Stand; 6465 Sunoco Tank Car; 6357 Caboose; 2423, 2435, 2445 and 2432 0-27 Passenger Cars; 2367 Wabash A-B units; 1682 & 1679 Lithographed freight cars w/OB's; 675 Loco & 2466 WX Tender; 45 Gateman; 352 Red Ice House and 63521 PFE Reefer; 1680 Shell Tank Car; 156 Freight Station Platform; Marx Illinois Central Manual Lift Bridge; 5 Cast figures; Pre-War Lionel Lithographed Small Station; Pre-War 0-27 Green flat car w/logs; unknown American Flyer Set; plus assorted other buildings and signals.

## DINING IN YORK

by Peter Atonna, TCA #75-7578

Yes, I know Gordon will be regaling us with his tales of eating across the country on his travels to and from York. I can never match that, neither in the extent of his geographic travels nor in his ability to find fascinating places to enjoy a good meal. (Well, I presume they are good meals, but I wonder since he still swears by the Four B's in Black Canyon City.) Well, Mary Jane and I returned from York last week and enjoyed two places that I wanted to share with you. Neither are secrets, but would make your York experience a bit more fulfilling (pun intended).

First, for the first time, we stayed in the Historic Billy Budd motel for our York stay. You will not find the Billy Budd in the York phone directory. The hotel's name was changed in long forgotten history, and is now a Holiday Inn. But it has a place in York lore as the foundation of the "bandit meets." In fact, on my second trip to York, we took the bus from Baltimore and Cole met us at the Billy Budd, the bus stop at that time. It was a great location as the parking lot was full of cars with their trunks open, selling trains the traditional way. It evolved into a regular bandit meet, complete with sales tables filling the ballroom and much of the parking lot.

But I digress, across the street is one of the classic York restaurants, the Round the Clock Diner. Right on US 30, on the way to the fairgrounds, it hosts many a train collector for a breakfast before spending the day bandit meet hopping or at the fairgrounds. We have breakfasted there occasionally, but now try to find motels which serve their own "free" breakfast. But the Holiday Inn does not, so we got to eat at the Round the Clock daily for almost a week. The food is classic roadhouse, but with a Pennsylvania twist, Scrapple is on the menu. Now scrapple is somewhat of a joke, since it is a regional "mystery meat" and requires an "acquired" taste. So I happily got my full year's supply of it with my eggs at breakfast. What is amazing was that even as the crowds grew each day, the service remained as fast and efficient as early on. We got our breakfast and were out on the road for training in short, roadhouse order. Being across the street, we even tried it for dinner once. You may even notice a Round the Clock Diner in downtown Douglas on my layout!

Several of the Desert Division members who regularly attend the York meet have also built a tradition of dining at the Railroad House in Marietta, Pennsylvania. Let me explain, we discovered this restaurant years ago when searching for good dinner places. I saw an ad for the Railroad House and we decided with a name like that we had to try it. Marietta is a beautiful old town on the east bank of the Susquehanna River, about halfway to Lancaster. It turned out not only to have a superb restaurant, but was housed in a 19th century tavern and operated a bed and breakfast. And the historic Pennsylvania Railroad's freight line between Harrisburg and Philadelphia ran right across the street. We could not ask for more and it has become an annual dinner tradition.

This year, we had a night before heading back to Arizona so decided to finally try staying at the bed and breakfast. Calling them, it turns out they were celebrating one year of new owners by offering a night's stay at the B&B for a price equal to the year the inn was built, \$18.44! A reservation was made instantly, but I paid \$10 more to be placed in the "railfan's room," a second story room with a door to a balcony overlooking the railroad tracks.

A pleasant surprise greeted us when we arrived as we were not expecting to be able to use our laptop to stay in touch with our email. Mary Jane asked if they had high speed internet, and they said, "Of course, we have Wi Fi in every room." So we settled into our comfy room with no TV but with high speed internet! (Actually there was a TV/reading room across the hall for the second floor occupants.)

We were wondering how the food survived a change in ownership. But other than Mary Jane's disappointment that her lamb chops were off the menu, food was as good as ever. In fact, breakfast the next morning was really delightful with fresh fruit and French toast.

But we did have a major disappointment; no train came by when I sat on the porch looking over the tracks. Yes, they did during dinner and regularly during the night, but all I heard was the horn. I did see the lights of the engines. Well, in retrospect, that wasn't too bad either.

And the final dining spot I will bet is finally one that Gordon has never tried! On Tuesday it rained, so we knew the bandit meets would be a washout and planned a day at the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad museum in Baltimore. We had not been back since a huge snowstorm collapsed their roof and the museum rebuilt. We had heard good things about the new displays and were anxious to see them. If you have not been there in a few years, it is certainly worth the trip, this is one of the classic museums in the country with locos and equipment you cannot see elsewhere, nicely displayed.



The Railroad House  
Historic Bed & Breakfast



Autumn in Marietta, PA.



(By the time we arrived, the rain was coming down quite steadily; and being Arizonans and fearful of melting, we skipped the outdoor ones.) Come lunch time we found the cafeteria in the museum not open, not surprising since there were probably not 25 people on the grounds by then. But the lady at the front desk suggested going across Pratt Street to Patrick's of Baltimore. It was really neat, a classic pub with a bar and food service, all with an Irish lilt. With probably no more than a dozen tables, they proclaim themselves the oldest Irish pub in America and in that same location since 1862. Now this was Irish food after all, so no five stars, just good, fresh soups and sandwiches in a wonderful setting. And a great view out the windows to the B&O Museum.



Mary Jane in the rain at the B&O Museum

## SPECIAL HOLIDAY GIFT GIVING OPPORTUNITY

### Book Signing at National Toy Train Museum

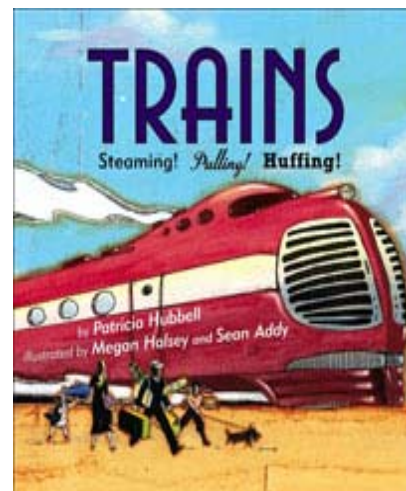
November 3, 2006

Dear TCA Member,

We are so excited about this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for holiday giving that we just had to share it with you. Here's a chance to get something really personal and unique for that special child, niece, nephew, friend or grandchild in your life. But, the offer is limited so you will have to respond quickly.

We will be conducting a book signing for "Trains: Steaming! Puffing! Huffing!" here at the [National Toy Train Museum](http://www.nationaltoytrainmuseum.com) on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 1:00 – 4:00pm. The book's illustrators, Megan Halsey and Sean Addy, will be on hand to personally sign their books. This book is part of a series for ages 2 to adult that the illustrators and author, Patricia Hubbell wrote on modes of transportation. We will only be ordering 125 books for this special event. So, you must hurry! When they're gone, they're gone.

We are offering **you** the opportunity to purchase a book for **\$19.95**, which will include shipping to your home or business. This is an amazing offer and a truly unique way to personalize that special gift to a favorite friend. **Don't wait – we must receive your order by December 1st in order to reserve your book!** The holidays are just around the corner!



Those of you who receive your Desert Division DISPATCH electronically may [Click this link to see the book and place your order.](#) Or type [www.traincollectors.org/bookorder.html](http://www.traincollectors.org/bookorder.html) -editor

Best in Collecting,

Jane M. Boyce  
Director of Development



#### Train Collectors Association

Jane M. Boyce  
Director of Development  
E-mail: [development@traincollectors.org](mailto:development@traincollectors.org)  
Phone: 717-687-8623

### DESERT DIVISION - TCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS - 2006

President:	Katie Elgar	623-580-6957	Directors:	Steve Bienstock	480-998-9227
Vice President:	Gordon Wilson	480-837-5344		Don Locke	480-854-2546
Treasurer:	Bob Herman	480-948-2730		Phil Monahan	480-607-3956
Secretary:	Christie Wilson	480-837-5344		Greg Palmer	505-898-3840

# TCA/TTOS ANNUAL HOLIDAY BRUNCH

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2006

It's time to make your reservations for the Annual TCA-TTOS Brunch. This year the Brunch will be at the MARRIOTT MESA, 200 N Centennial Way, Mesa, AZ.

In addition to the brunch there will be door prizes, a gift for each member, member's guest and any children in attendance. Raffle tickets will be sold for numerous raffle prizes, as well as for a very special separate raffle. There will be Mystery Boxes auctioned off, as well as table centerpieces. As usual, a visit is expected from Santa.

You will again have the opportunity to reserve your table ahead of time, by listing on your reservation form the ten persons who will sit at the table. You and they must name the same persons for this to be assured. Even if you don't have 10 people, you are welcome to the Party! Just fill out your information on the form below and send it in! Also please specify if you require any handicapped accessible seating (ADA).

Send in the form below to make your reservation for the 2006 Annual TCA-TTOS Holiday Brunch. Early replies will be appreciated but the deadline is December 1, 2006. There will be NO tickets sold at the door. Hope to see you there!!

Ralph Treichel

Brad Martin

Holiday Party Chairs

\* \* \* \* \*

### RESERVATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Guest(s): 1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_ 3) \_\_\_\_\_

Children's Names and Ages 1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_ 4) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Adults @ \$26.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ Children @ \$16.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Children are defined as 12 years and under. There is no charge for children 2 years and under!)

\_\_\_\_\_ Please reserve my seat(s) at handicapped accessible tables.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please reserve my table for the following ten persons:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



MAIL FORM AND CHECK (made out to: TCA DESERT DIVISION) TO: Ralph Treichel, 16802 N. 1<sup>st</sup> Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85023. **RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY DECEMBER 1, 2006.**

Festivities start at 11:00 AM. There will be a cash bar. Brunch Buffet will be served at noon. St. Nick will be arriving before the brunch.

This reservation form is also available on the Desert Division website at: [www.tcadd.org](http://www.tcadd.org).

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN DIVISION AUCTION

by Gordon Wilson TCA 76-10233

What an absolutely wonderful time Christie and I had the last weekend of September in Denver, Colorado. We went specifically to attend the Rocky Mountain Division's September Toy Train Auction. Arriving at about noon on Friday, all seemed well until we discovered that one of our suitcases was missing. We took three hard covered ones – one for clothing and two “just in case” I bought lots of toy trains. Several hours later it was recovered.

The first item on our agenda was a trip to Boulder to visit the Leanin' Tree/Trumble Greeting Cards Showroom and Museum. Every year, as we send out their train themed Christmas cards, we keep one of each as part of a collection. Over the years (about 25), some “holes” have crept into this assemblage of cards, so we decided to pay a visit while we were in the area. It was a “fool's errand” as they only have current cards in the showroom. However, if you are interested in Western Art, sculptures, and a variety of paintings, then this is the place to go. They have one room devoted entirely to the railroad paintings of the late Howard Fogg.

From here we found our way to Louisville, CO, and this one is pronounced like LEWIS-ville, not like the city of the same name in Kentucky. It is a small town, but it has a well-stocked train store with a very friendly proprietor. I only know the owner's first name, HANK, but a trip to his place should be on your agenda the next time you're near Boulder, Colorado.

Always a treat is a visit to Mizell's Train Store in Westminster, CO. Warren Mizell, in case you have never met him, is as cordial and classy a person as you could ask for, anywhere or anytime. His train store, famous for its WALL OF TRAINS, is a must for anyone interested in the pre- and post-war eras of Lionel, American Flyer, and Marx. The showcases are full, and the wall is simply a marvel of creativity. Say you have friends who are not into trains, but do have a hobby of some sort? Take them along with you, as Warren's store is a full-service Hobby Shop. It is very easy to find, and should be on the agenda of every TCA member this coming June, as Mizell's Hobby Shop is only a couple of miles south of the Westminster Westin Hotel which will host the 2007 TCA National Convention. Make plans to attend. Guaranteed, you will not be disappointed by the trips and tours planned by the Rocky Mountain Division of the TCA.

Well, that almost took care of Friday. Only one thing left to do in Denver. Baseball!!!! The Rockies play in Coors Field, just off Interstate 25 and a scant three blocks from one of the most classic of all Railroad Stations in the Nation. Denver's UNION STATION is a “must see” for anyone who remembers or yearns for the romance of Rail Travel. Yes, real passenger trains still stop here, and if you are at a baseball game, whether “for kicks” or because the law says they must do so, every train that goes past Coors Field blows its horn!! Loudly!!

Finally, Saturday came and the highly anticipated toy train auction. The catalog said that viewing was to start at 8:00 AM and, sure enough, it did – right on time. What a selection of items – all railroad. Books, paintings, prints, railroadiana, and virtually every manufacturer of toy trains in the USA. What was absolutely wonderful was the condition of probably 95% of the offerings. Like-New to Mint was the rule, not the exception. Ron Stowell, President of the Rocky Mountain Division, and his committee of volunteers have every reason to be proud. This was a first-class operation both days, and the best part of all was not so much what I bought as it was the way Christie and I were treated. With few exceptions, we were total strangers to nearly everyone in attendance. However, that is not the way we were treated. Everyone was most cordial and personable. It was so nice to see a group of men and women having fun with their toys and enjoying the camaraderie and friendship of their fellow club members. Jerry and Connie Calkins asked to be remembered to all of their many Desert Division friends.

Many thanks to everyone in the Colorado and Rocky Mountain Division of TCA for an absolutely wonderful weekend. I personally cannot wait until the TCA Convention begins in Westminster, Colorado, a few minutes west of Denver, this coming June. Incidentally, you can buy the current Convention car offerings right now. Log onto [www.traincollectors.org](http://www.traincollectors.org) (<http://www.traincollectors.org>) or [www.rmdtoytrains.org](http://www.rmdtoytrains.org) (<http://www.rmdtoytrains.org>) for more information about this year's Convention Car offerings.

Warren Mizell poses at his train store.  
the Leanin' Tree Museum.



One of the Howard Fogg paintings at



Baseball (in the rain) in Denver.



30<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL TCA DESERT DIVISION



# TOY TRAINS TURKEY MEET



The OLDEST & LARGEST Toy Train Swap Meet and Auction Held In The SOUTHWEST

## SWAP MEET

Saturday  
November 25, 2006  
9 AM TO 3 PM

200+ Tables of Trains  
For Sale  
Displays and Operating  
Layouts



## AUCTION

Sunday  
November 26, 2006  
8 AM TO 5 PM

250+ Auction Lots



### Special Hotel Room Rates

#### MARRIOTT MESA

200 N. Centennial Way, Mesa, Arizona 85201  
Call 480-898-8300 or 1-888-236-2427

#### BEST WESTERN MEZONA INN

250 W Main Street, Mesa, Arizona 85201  
Call 480-834-9233 or 800-730-7234

Ask for Train Collectors Association rate

Questions or Directions?  
Visit our website at:

[www.tcadd.org](http://www.tcadd.org)

### MESA CONVENTION CENTER

Located at the  
Mesa Community & Conference Center  
University & Center St.  
MESA, ARIZONA

## Where?

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REGISTRATION - PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ TCA# \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
SPOUSE \_\_\_\_\_ GUESTS \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby agree to be bound by the rules of the Turkey Meet in regards to buying, selling, ethics and behavior. I further agree, that in the case of a dispute, the Meet Chairman, or an impartial referee appointed by the Meet Chairman shall arbitrate the matter and render a binding decision. I shall upon the direction of the Meet Chairman, in the case of a disputed sale, refund a buyer's money.

Signed X \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

FEES:  
Registration \* \$5.00  
(Children under 18 FREE)  
Spouse or Guests \_\_\_ x \$ 5 ea \$ \_\_\_  
No. of Tables\* \_\_\_ x \$25 ea \$ \_\_\_  
Auction Catalog \_\_\_ x \$ 5.00 \$ \_\_\_  
Catalog Mail Fee (63¢ Postage) \$ \_\_\_

TOTAL Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\* One (1) Registration fee for registered seller or Table Holder is included in first Table Fee

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Reg# \_\_\_\_\_ Date Rcvd \_\_\_\_\_  
Chk# \_\_\_\_\_ Chk Amt \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: Desert Division TCA  
Mail Registration to: Robert Herman, 11429 N. 68<sup>TH</sup> St., Scottsdale, AZ 85254-5148  
NO MAIL REGISTRATIONS ACCEPTED AFTER NOVEMBER 11, 2006

# RAILROAD -CHANGE



ANTIQUÉ TRAINS - #1 Lantern Lane, Turnersville, NJ 08012 (Phone: 856-589-6224) Rich Bimmer, Proprietor. Lionel Value-Added Dealer/Authorized Service Center. MTH, American Flyer. New, used, trade-ins welcome. Lionel and Flyer parts back to 1915. Repairs guaranteed for one year.

BURLING'S TON OF TRAINS - Authorized Lionel, MTH, K-LINE & Mantua Dealer. We welcome Pat Eiff to 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 are 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Friday and by appointment. 16924 E. Colony Dr., Fountain Hills, AZ 85268 Phone: 480-816-6501

ARIZONA TRAIN DEPOT! - Ready-to-Run sets for around your Christmas tree or the perfect gift! MTH w/smoke & PS/2 Pennsy 2-8-0 or Alaska SW 1500 freight, reg. \$330, club priced \$296.95 - B&O or Pennsy 2-8-0's or the Christmas 4-6-0 Passenger sets, list \$350, club price \$314.95 - AT&SF or Virginia & Truckee freight sets, club priced at \$314.95. Sleigh full of Lionel or MTH Holiday add-on cars - Always ask for your TCA club member discount! - AZ TRAIN DEPOT, 755 E. McKellips Road, Mesa. 480-833-9486, open late Wednesday.

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) 991-2536.

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. Call or write for a complete list. Peter Atonna 928-636-4228 or e-mail at [mjatonna@commspeed.net](mailto:mjatonna@commspeed.net).

REPAIRS - Pat Eiff, 28 years of toy train repair experience, does train repairs in his home. Also trains for sale. Call him at 480-816-9624 or visit his website <http://www.toysthruetime.com>.

FOR SALE - Replacement bulbs for your trains - over 80 different ones in stock. Also carry common Lionel parts: e-units, drums, brushes, coupler knuckles, etc. Call DeLon Freije 602-525-0745.

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 my web site, [sykesvillehistory.us](http://sykesvillehistory.us), for a current list.

FOR SALE - Train table 4' x 8', with grid box frame and saw horses - \$100. Also track and switches. Bryan Jewell - 602-234-6970.

WANTED - Industrial Rail IDMU4004 CNW Hoppers w/Coal. Building a consist - can use as many as possible. Contact Bob Johnston, 623-582-2110.

EXCITING TRAIN TRIPS ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD - 2006: Historic Trains of the Southwest; Copper Canyon; New England Fall Foliage; Washington Wineries; California Railroad Museum; and many more. For further information, contact Travel Consultant Linda Kopff, representing Bon Voyage Travel, at 623-556-1391.

FOR SALE - Do you want quality, good-looking, versatile shelving to display your trains? RAIL RAX is the way to go! Contact Bill Mack, 480-391-3336 for an incredibly low price quotation.

FOR SALE - 1150 LASER SET/OB. No rocket. G/8 \$180: Prewar 129E Steam Freight Set, 260E/260T 2-4-2 "O" Gauge Tinplate Outfit, G7/B8/OK \$1795. Lots of Good Stuff at Right Price or will trade for Comparable Std. Gauge Stuff: Buyer pays Shipping & Handling by UPS Ground. Bill Mischen - 915-598-8677 anytime or e-mail: [dzedo2@earthlink.net](mailto:dzedo2@earthlink.net).

FOR SALE - Post War Lionel ZW Transformers in Ex Condition: 250 Watt - \$195; 275 Watt - \$245. Buyer pays shipping costs via UPS Ground. Call Marty Nickerson at 928-778-4294 or e-mail [4aztrains@earthlink.net](mailto:4aztrains@earthlink.net).

WANTED - Motor for 616 Flying Yankee power car or 636 City of Denver power car. Will buy complete power car if reasonable. Call Marty Nickerson at 928-778-4294.

FOR SALE - Lionel 390E Freight Set - 5 cars restored - \$750.00. Santa Fe with 15 cars, Mint - \$650. 400 E Reproduction Engine - Mint - \$800. Contact Sam Testa, 17541 Camino Confianza, Sahuarita, AZ 85629, or call 520-625-8303.

FOR SALE - Lionel and AF Pocket Price Guides. Contact Gordon Wilson 480-837-5344 or e-mail [christielwilson@aol.com](mailto:christielwilson@aol.com).

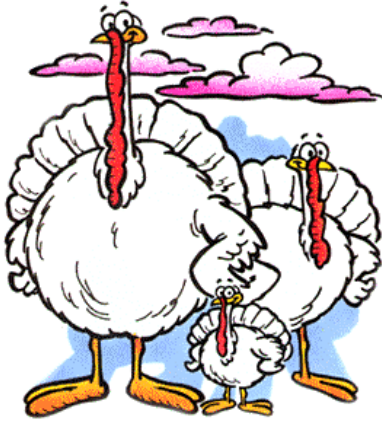
This page is provided as a service to our members for trading among themselves.  
Please contact them for items you may have, want, or need.

**TRAIN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION  
DESERT DIVISION**

Gordon Wilson, Editor  
Desert Division Dispatch  
16231 E. Ocotillo Drive  
Fountain Hills, AZ 85268

**POSTMASTER:** This Federal 501c3 Newsletter  
contains **DATED MATERIAL** requiring action  
by members. **PLEASE DELIVER** on or before  
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## **CONGRATULATIONS!**

### **CHRIS ALLEN WINS ELECTION AS TCA PRESIDENT-ELECT**

#### **COMING EVENTS**

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| November 25-26   | Turkey Meet & Auction – Convention Center – Mesa – 9 AM – 4 PM both days<br>Contact: Bob Herman – 480-948-2730  |
| December 10      | Holiday Party – Marriott Mesa, 200 N. Centennial Way, Mesa, AZ – 11 AM<br>Contact Ralph Treichel – 602-863-6985 |
| January 13, 2007 | Regular Division Meet, Jaycees Hall, 8102 E. Jackrabbit Road, Scottsdale, AZ – 9 AM                             |
| January 20       | Rio Grande Chapter Meet, Albuquerque, NM – 9 AM<br>Contact: Greg Palmer 505-898-3840                            |
| February 10      | Regular Division Meet, Jaycees Hall, Scottsdale, AZ – 9 AM  |

#### **PADE PROMOTIONS**

#### **Have You **PADE** Your Way?**

- P**urchase raffle tickets
- A**uthor an article for the Dispatch
- D**onate something to the club
- E**nlist to help

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

Raffle prize donors continue to aid our cause. Steve Palmer of Arizona Train Depot, Rich Bimmer of Antique Trains, Ivan English and the Southern Arizona Transportation Museum, and Don Shaw of The Train Station have all been very generous this fall. Additionally, Franklin Nickerson donated a G-gauge Thomas the Tank set. Glenn Johnston has donated several lots to the Turkey Meet Auction, with the proceeds to be used to offset the 2009 TCA Convention expenses. Christie Wilson continues to keep the club supplied with rhubarb pies. Ron Kuhn gave the club some train magazines, and Vi DuBay donated train key chains. Shirley Hunter and Ruth Elgar ably handled the kitchen at the October Meet.

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