

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



# Desert Division

## DISPATCH

ARIZONA • NEW MEXICO • WEST TEXAS



Volume 33, No. 10

Winter, 2004

## HOLIDAY PARTY FULL OF GOOD CHEER

The annual Holiday Party, jointly sponsored by TCA and TTOS, went to a new venue! After years at Dan Palaschak's Holiday Inn on 51<sup>st</sup> Avenue, the seasonal revelers moved to a Holiday Inn Select (being converted to Crown Plaza facility) on 44<sup>th</sup> street. The change was the result of Dan's moving out of state and the need for a larger facility to more comfortably accommodate our needs.

The switch wasn't without its problems (and makes one realize how much Dan did in the background for us). Chris Allen made three visits to the facility in the days just prior to the event, and even so we ended up with just two food lines instead of four, the PA system wasn't what it was supposed to be, the restrooms were under construction, and we were limited to just one section of the ballroom. But even so, the 150 in attendance had a great time and from many perspectives the move was an improvement. The food was fresh, and the food trays frequently refilled. The serving lines moved very quickly. The interior of the ballroom is beautiful and the place settings were attractively done.

Once again there were gifts galore. Toys for the children, Barclay style sleighing figures (two sleighs and a seated and prone figure) for the members and a Lennox ornament for the spouses put a smile on every face. And a great Santa, perhaps a Stanga Claus, was the central moment for many of the adults and children alike.

Once again Katie Elgar and her associates amassed a huge trove of raffle prizes with toys, toy trains, accessories, holiday decorations, and other treasures for the lucky ticket holders. The prizes are so extensive (and expensive) that the raffle tickets seem to be purchased in a frenzy by everyone. Mystery box auctions, reports by the two clubs, and Desert Division golf trophies were awarded.

As is the custom, the election results for both clubs are announced at the event. The TCA officers for 2004-2005 will be Chris Allen (one year remaining on previous term), President; Katie Elgar, Vice-President; Bob Herman, Treasurer; Christie Wilson, Secretary; and Steve Bienstock, Ed Georgevich, and Donald Locke, the three directors. Election Chair Beth Stange also announced that the Bylaws revisions passed.

At the conclusion of the afternoon TCA Desert Division Auctioneer Extraordinaire, Peter Atonna swung into action and successfully stimulated the highest possible prices for the table centerpieces.

All in all it was a very memorable party and thanks go to Scott Russell, Ralph Treichel, Katie Elgar, and all who helped make it so much fun!

## COMING EVENTS

**JANUARY 8 – DIVISION MEET, JAYCEES HALL, SCOTTSDALE – 9 AM**

**JANUARY 15 – GADSDEN-PACIFIC TTOM MEET, TUCSON – 10 AM**

**FEBRUARY 11 – BOD & OFFICERS DINNER, SCOTTSDALE – 6:30 PM**

**FEBRUARY 12 – DIVISION MEET, JAYCEES HALL, SCOTTSDALE – 9 AM**

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## DUES ARE DUE





Santa listened to all the "WANTS" lists.



Janet Mattern "distributed" all the raffle tix.



It appears Santa said  
"YES!"



Bill East makes it known which  
raffle prize he'd like.



The Kids Club kept busy despite an appearance  
by "The Grinch."



Newly elected BOD (L-R): C. Wilson, E. Georgevich,  
D. Locke, C. Allen, K. Elgar, R. Herman. Absent from  
the photo was S. Bienstock.



Checking out some more of the  
multitude of raffle prizes



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to you all!

During the Holiday season many of us become retrospective, looking back at the year past and the accomplishments we achieved and the new friendships we've made, while beginning to look forward to a new year and a fresh start. Others have the realization that some of our friends will not make the leap into the New Year with us and recognize the fact that you can't fence in time, so like it or not, the only constant in our lives is change. Like previous Division Presidents, I get a unique joy in serving as your ambassador to not only fellow train collectors throughout the country but also to the general public as well. They may not be able to tell you the difference between pre-war MARX and post-war LIONEL, but do share that common joy of seeing old trains run. It's one of the best things about this job, representing all of you to both the National TCA and the community. Your commitment to not only the principles of the TCA by preserving the ideals upon which the organization was founded, but the spirit in which you do it is indeed unique amongst the Divisions. I continue to be awed by not only your generosity in donating time and monetary gifts to your Division, but also back to our community. It is truly an honor to represent such a great group of friends.

The Thanksgiving weekend saw a new record turnout for the Turkey Meet. I would like to thank Turkey Meet Chairman Ed Georgevich, Auction Chairman Chet Henry, and a supporting cast of 30+ volunteers who ranged from our wonderful wives handling the door admissions and selling raffle tickets, to Sunday's auctioneer extraordinaire Peter Atonna and the support crew of Bob Herman, Angelo Lautazi, Fred Hunter, plus all of the auction runners too numerous to mention. With such a hard working crew for two plus days, you could almost feel that we were on track for a financially successful meet, and preliminary numbers bear that out. Thank you one and all for an EXCELLENT job!

Not to be undone, the annual Holiday Party was another sparkling extravaganza, even though "old man Murphy" was working overtime that day. If it had even the slightest chance of going wrong, it was a total train wreck! Not having our inside connection of Dan Palaschak certainly showed, as a Hotel remodeling project that was to have been completed in early November was still going strong the day of our party! We all learned a lot of hard lessons that day, but a good sense of humor, and a "Damn the torpedos, full speed ahead!" attitude insured that we all had a great time. (Was that guy with the circular saw in our buffet line or just passing through?) Grateful thank yous to Scott Russell and wife Sue who chaired the TCA side of things, Ralph Treichel and wife Sally who chaired the TTOS side, and to Vice-President Katie Elgar who

oversaw the event as the chairman's chairperson, to make sure that everything from the centerpieces to the name badges was taken care of. Though we have no commitment to return to that facility next year, the Holiday Party chairs from both clubs will solicit comments, both good and bad, from the members and make sure that all commitments will be in writing for the 2005 event!

On a more somber note we must report the passing of two Desert Division members this past month. Nick Grippe at the spry age of 83 was always one of the first members to show up at our monthly meets in Scottsdale. He would always have a sly smile, a wink, and a kind word for Laurel working the coffee bar and had such a gentleman's way about himself that she would make sure she would get his favorite dunker to start his morning. In addition, word has come from New Mexico that Bert Adair who worked behind the scenes last year to help nurture the idea that a New Mexico chapter could become a reality, passed on after a brief illness just two days before the vote count made his dream official. Bert's tireless efforts will continue, and I hope to report that a new chapter will be formed later this year.

In mid-December it is always my privilege to represent all of you when we deliver the "Trains for Kids" train sets to various charities in town. This year YOU raised almost \$350 to purchase train sets. We used that money to purchase a dozen K-Line "Fast Freight" battery powered "O" gauge sets from Tom & Beth Stange, who were gracious enough to sell them to the Division at cost. Those sets along with other trains and track that were donated throughout the year were donated as follows: Ronald McDonald House Phoenix and the Phoenix Crisis Nursery received 3 sets each, 2 sets each went to the Angel Tree (Salvation Army) and Samaritan Tree (families of prisoners) in response for requests from children asking specifically for a train set this year, 2 sets were given to the East Valley Crisis Nursery, and 1 set went to the Luke chapter of the VFW for one of their adopted families, that of a returning serviceman who has fallen on hard times recently. In addition Ivan English was very supportive again this year by taking 5 sets to the Tucson area for various needy families around the Old Pueblo. Those of us who travel to these different charities see the joy and even teary eyes from the folks who receive the sets on behalf of the children. I truly wish I could share that moment with all of you. It is indeed my honor to serve as your ambassador to our community, and my first toast of the New Year will be to you! Cheers!

Hope to see you at our first meet of the New Year on January 8!



# DUES ARE DUE

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

All dues with National TCA MUST be current for you to maintain your Division membership. All Desert Division dues must be paid in full on or before February 28. Don't delay. Don't let your dues lapse. Fill out the form and mail it in TODAY.

## YEAR-END AWARDS

By Chris Allen TCA #95-40580

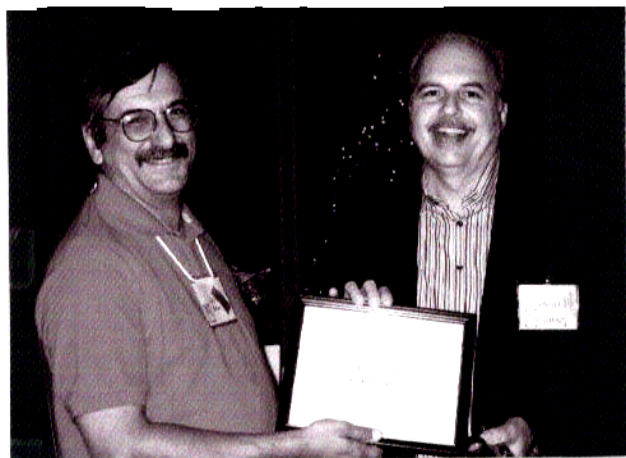
## VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

One of the more enjoyable things I do as President is to recognize volunteers who you might not know about, but who contribute to the Division in many ways. The volunteers are not members of the Division, but rather in our members' families, and as such might go unnoticed by the membership at large. This is especially true of this year's recipient, Angie Davis. Angie has worked tirelessly under the Kids Club co-chairs of Tom Plies, John Huber, and husband Rob Davis. She regularly assists the guys during monthly meets, helping keep the Kids Club on track, so to speak. During the year she prepared and mailed birthday cards for the Division Kids Club members, and engaged the youngin's so our members could attend the business meetings. Angie's (and all Kid's Club volunteers') work goes largely unnoticed to most of us, but being a former Kid's Club chairman myself, I know how time consuming keeping little hands entertained can be while Dad or Grandpa is busy in the trading hall. It is with great pleasure that the Desert Division Board of Directors recognizes Angie Davis as our Volunteer of the Year!



## MEMBER OF THE YEAR

What can I say about the member of the year besides the fact that he continues to be one of the more constantly busy hombres in the Desert Division. Angelo Lautazi has found a way to sell raffle tickets, be raffle prize chairman, build electrical lock-on harnesses (by the dozens), help at the Turkey Meet, Spring Raffle, Holiday Party, and oh, by the way, that's in between his full time "job" as the premier Webmaster for the Desert Division! Angelo took on the task of Webmaster with no previous knowledge on how to do it, so he cracked open a few books, and self taught himself how to put the Desert Division on the web. Since that fateful day in 2002 when he took on the task, the Division website has undergone several changes, a little bit of tweaking, and heaps of praise. I need only to send Angelo an email about a getting something up on the website and it is done, usually better than I had envisioned. His abilities have not gone unnoticed by the National TCA. Angelo serves on the National TCA Internet Committee and is the Webmaster for the National Website [www.tcamembers.org](http://www.tcamembers.org) as well. It is truly an honor to recognize Angelo Lautazi as the Desert Division Member of the Year.



President Allen (L) presents the Member of the Year Award to Angelo Lautazi (R).

## DESERT DIVISION – TCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2005

President:	Chris Allen	480-820-9559
Vice-President:	Katie Elgar	602-547-9010
Secretary:	Christie Wilson	480-837-5344
Treasurer:	Bob Herman	480-948-2730
Directors:	Steve Bienstock	480-998-9237
	Ed Georgevich	623-764-2960
	Don Locke	480-845-2546

**ENROLL YOUR CHILD(REN) IN KIDS CLUB**

**VISIT OUR WEB SITE: [www.tcadd.org](http://www.tcadd.org)**



## IN MEMORIAM

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of two of our members: Nick Grippe of Sun City, Arizona, and Bert Adair of Belen, New Mexico. Both were active Desert Division members for many years. Many of our members will recall pleasant memories chatting with these men. Both were perfect gentlemen, great storytellers, and devoted train-collectors. Below are memories of these men shared by some of our members.

### NICK GRIPPE

by Peter Atonna TCA #75-7578

When we moved to Phoenix in 1975, Nick was already a fixture in train collecting in the area. He had recently retired here from California and the Union Pacific (the original, real UP – before it started swallowing other railroads) and he was known by many of us for his generosity in bringing many UP promotional goodies to meets for give-aways. Some of us still have UP matchboxes, coasters, Centennial folders, etc. In fact, Nick was the contact with the real world of railroading for many toy train collectors, with tales of his days working for the UP.

Nick's pride and joy in those days was his crackle black 400E standard gauge steamer, which is a rare version of the king of standard gauge steamers. Even if we would tease him about it having to be a repaint, he took the kidding with quiet stoicism. He was very active in Division affairs for many years and until very recently was a fixture at meets with a sales table.

Nick's loss will sever a connection with the early days of train collecting, as well as the early days of our local Division.

### Nick Grippe

May 9, 1919 – November 28, 2004

by Tom Stange TCA 68-2347

Returning home from a two-week stay in California, Nick's new Nissan Truck that he was driving was rear-ended by another vehicle on Interstate 10, causing the Nissan with Nick in it to roll over 6 to 7 times. Nick died 10 days later in St. Joseph's Hospital in Phoenix from the injuries that he sustained in that accident.

Nick always believed in being physically fit. He did his home exercises every day and took an early morning three-mile walk every other day at the Arrowhead Mall in the West Valley. As part of his physical fitness life-style, he loved to go roller-skating and country dancing. As a result, at 85 years young Nick looked like a man 45-50 years old.

Joining the TCA through the Western Division, Nick became their President in the early 1970's and co-chaired the TCA's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 1979. In 1975, Nick, wife Jo, and son Joey moved from Downey, California to an apartment in the Maryvale area in Phoenix. Here he joined the Desert Division. Until the last few years, Nick never missed a TCA National Convention, no matter where it was in the country.

Shortly after his move to Arizona, I visited Nick and his family in Maryvale. Nick's first love of toy trains was Pre-War with an emphasis on Lionel. Unfortunately for me, I was not into pre-war trains at that time. But that did not stop Nick from opening up the closets throughout the Maryvale apartment. What I saw stacked from floor to ceiling was toy trains with most of them in their original boxes or set boxes. As he opened box after box to show me some of his treasured Lionel, American Flyer, Ives, and Dorfan Pre-War Trains, I marveled at their pristine condition. Nick was always a perfectionist (or, as he would put it, "discriminating") at what he collected and was continuously upgrading what he had.

With the exception of a few display cabinets, Nick did not display his trains on shelves. Instead he preferred to keep them wrapped in tissue paper in their original boxes. Nick never had a permanent-operating layout, although from time-to-time, he would set-up a loop of standard gauge track on the living room floor. Here he would get on the floor like a little kid and play with his trains. Oftentimes, Nick would bring a Standard Gauge or O Gauge train to run on my layout. He would sit there and just watch it run. Over the years he would bring over American Flyer's Presidential Set, Pocahontas Set, Statesman Set, Lionel's Liberty Set, 400E Freight Set, and numerous other standard and O gauge sets from Lionel to Marx to run on the layout.

Earlier this year Nick brought to my house a reproduction of an Ives' Standard Gauge Olympian Train that he purchased new 35 years ago. That train had never been run since he bought it. That Tuesday evening he unpacked the set, set it up on my outside standard gauge loop and applied the current to the train for the first time in 35 years. The smile that came over his face as he saw this magnificent train move along the right-of-way for the first time was a moment to cherish. I asked him, "Why did you un-mint the set now after all of these years?" He said, "I wanted to see it run." That train was the last train he ever ran on my tracks; he just wanted to see it run.

I will miss Nick at our train meets, as I am sure the rest of the Division will too. But especially, I will miss the evenings Nick and I spent together running these toy trains on the layout just to see them run.

## BERT ADAIR

by Gregory Palmer TCA #94-39039

I have the sad duty to inform you of the passing of Bert Adair on Friday, December 10, 2004. Bert was a member of the TCA Desert Division, and in recent years he devoted much time and effort to creating a TCA Chapter in New Mexico. Bert was an avid Marx collector and operator. His collection had many rare Marx toy train items.

I just had dinner with Bert and several other Division members at Cal-Stewart. It was a shock to learn of his passing. Bert had always added fun to our swap meets with his jokes and life stories. He will be greatly missed by all of his many friends in the Desert Division.

## BERT ADAIR

by Chris Allen TCA 95-40580

It is with great sadness that I relate the information of the passing of Bert Adair on December 10<sup>th</sup> in Belen, New Mexico. Bert was born in 1923 in Chicago, raised in Quincy, Illinois, and served in the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force in WWII. Not only was Bert active as a train collector, but also was a member of the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force Historical Society, the Mustang Club, and was actively pursuing the formation of a TCA chapter in New Mexico. Bert was very honest and easy to talk to, as we investigated his desire for a chapter "a bit closer to home." His legwork paid off with the passing of the chapter amendment this past month. Bert's energy and passion for life will be missed by us all.

## 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



## LIONELVILLE WINNER IN THE DESERT

Last spring Lionel announced a photo contest. All one had to do was take a photo of a real house which bore a clear resemblance to a Lionel-made domicile from Lionelville. While motoring through Kentucky and Southern Indiana, Gordon Wilson noticed a fair number of houses which had a lot in common with those in the Lionel catalogs. Out came the trusty Minolta Sightseer Zoom, and many "clicks" later, these images were secure. In late August seven of the photos were sent to Lionel as entries in the contest. On November 29, Gordon received a letter from Lionel announcing that he had been selected as a Grand Prize Winner. The prize was one each of all the houses from Lionelville.

As these buildings are too large for Gordon's smallish basement layout, the Desert Division will be the Big Winner in this contest. Gordon is donating all nine of the buildings (MSL - \$300) to the Desert Division for use as one of the prizes in the upcoming Spring Raffle.

## 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. First is a general Thank You to everyone who helped out in any way at the recent Turkey Meet. With your help, we had one of our most successful events ever. For over six months, Gordon and Christie Wilson worked on publicity, culminating with a visit from Channel 3 News. Time and effort is always appreciated; therefore we thank everyone who was instrumental in planning and executing this, the largest toy train swap meet in the Desert Southwest. Our members who donated prizes deserve extra mention: Rich Bimmer of Antique Trains, Steve Palmer of Arizona Train Depot, Ken Burling's Ton of Trains, Tom and Beth Stange of Trainland Express, and Don Shaw of The Train Station were especially helpful in providing items for our very successful raffles. The Art Show by Diane Rodriguez was an added treat, and we appreciate her donation of an original painting, a watercolor of a Union Pacific engine. The Auction crew, led by the inimitable Peter Atonna, helped make Sunday's event a huge success. Again, behind-the-scenes help allowed the Division to begin the Auction on time, run smoothly, and finish by mid-afternoon. Both sellers and buyers were happy with the results. The Holiday Party, ably chaired by Scott Russell, was another fun-filled event. The new venue did not stop the Desert Division from having a good time with Santa, with family, and with friends on Sunday, December 12. The "Trains for Kids" program was bolstered by a generous donation by Bill Kane. To one and all we thank you.

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

# DESERT DIVISION REGISTRATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ TCA No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spouse's first name \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a check made payable to TCA - Desert Division in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to cover my dues for the next \_\_\_\_\_ (1, 2, 3, 4, or 5) years at \$10.00 per year.

The following is a list of categories from the Registration Form representing your preferences in toy trains and accessories. Circle numbers of all categories that apply.

## TRAIN ERA

- 1 PREWAR (1850-1942)
- 2 POSTWAR (1945-1969)
- 3 MODERN (1970-Present)

## GAUGE

- 4 SCALE/ NMRA
- 5 STANDARD
- 6 G or #1
- 7 O or O-27 TINPLATE
- 8 S
- 9 HO
- 10 OO/AMERICAN
- 11 N
- 12 Z
- 13 LIVE STEAM

## MANUFACTURER

- 14 AMERICAN FLYER/GILBERT
- 15 LIONEL/WINNER
- 16 MARX/MARS/ALLSTATE
- 17 IVES
- 18 DORFAN/FANDOR
- 19 MTH
- 20 WILLIAMS
- 21 K-LINE
- 22 AMT/KUSAN
- 23 OTHER - PLEASE SPECIFY
  - 23A BASSETT/LOWKE
  - 23B BING
  - 23C BOUCHER
  - 23D BUB/KARL
  - 23E BUDDY-L
  - 23F CARLISLE & FINCH
  - 23G ELLETREN
  - 23H HAFFNER
  - 23I HOGE
  - 23J HORNBY
  - 23K ISSMAYER
  - 23L LGB
  - 23M MARKLIN
  - 23N METZEL

- 23O MINI-SCALE
- 23P PHOENIX LTD.
- 23Q PLASTICVILLE
- 23R LITTLETOWN/SKYLINE
- 23S PRIDE LINES
- 23T REA/ARISTO-CRAFT
- 23U RIGHT-O-WAY
- 23V ROKAL
- 23W VOLTAMP
- 23X WEAVER
- 23Y McCOY
- 23Z NATIONWIDE
- 23AA USA TRAINS
- 23BB S-HELPER SERVICE
- 23CC ASTOR
- 23DD FLEISCHMANN
- 23EE CARETTE
- 23FF EASTWOOD AUTOMOBILIA
- 23GG AMERICAN MODELS S GAUGE
- 23HH DOWNS S GAUGE
- 23II COLBER
- 23JJ UNIQUE
- 23KK SAKAI
- 23LL BOWSER
- 23MM T-REPRODUCTIONS

## DO YOU HAVE A LAYOUT?

- 24 YES
- 25 NO

## PERIPHERALS

- 26 FIGURES
- 27 TOYS
- 28 PAPER/BOOKS
- 29 BUILDINGS
- 30 RAILRODIANA

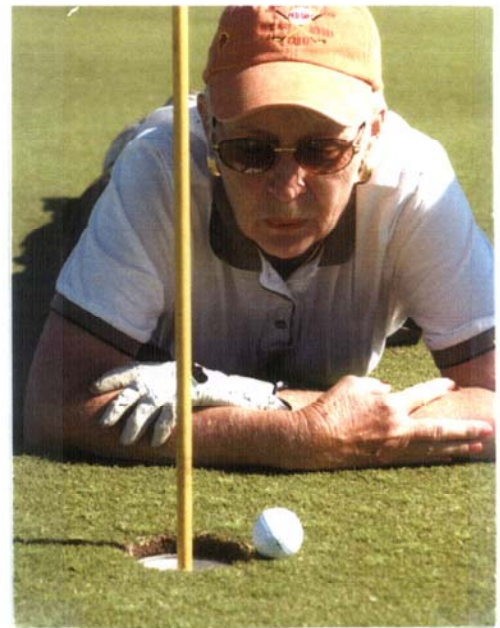
Mail to: **Christie Wilson**, Secretary  
 16231 E. Ocotillo Drive  
 Fountain Hills, AZ 85268



## DESERT OPEN A REAL BARN BURNER

The result of the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Desert Division Open was decided on the final hole. Eking out the one-stroke victory was Paul Wassermann, as he held on to edge out Gordon Wilson. This was Paul's eighth victory, while Gordon has been a runner up 14 times. A record number of participants made this one of the most memorable tourneys yet. Lynne Martin, the lowest scorer among the ladies, came within a quarter turn more of the ball to record a Hole-in-One. The men's longest drive was struck by Mike Elsensohn, while Denise Micale struck the longest one for the women. Chris Allen holed the day's longest putt. Gordon Wilson's score of 76 matched the day's official temperature.

Following a day of fun, camaraderie, fresh air, and moderate competition, the entire group adjourned to the Painted Mountain Golf Club's dining facility for a delicious steak dinner. Between courses, prizes were presented for such things as the "most visible" outfit, longest worm burner, weirdest shot, ugliest socks, and fastest golf cart. All in all, it was a great Chamber of Commerce day and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the time "not playing trains." Hopefully many more of you will plan to join us next October for the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Desert Division Open.



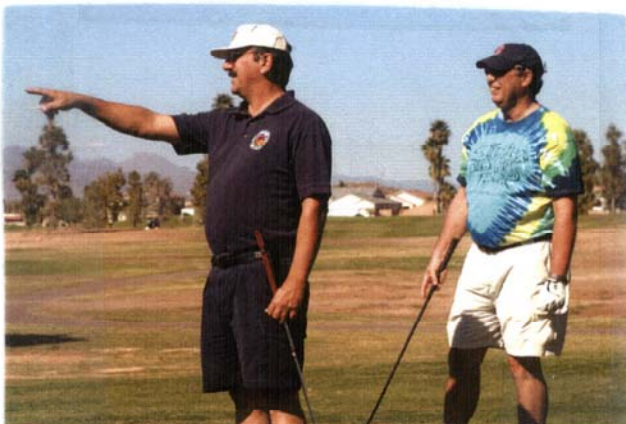
So close . . . but it is a "tap in" Birdie.



Anticipation runs high



Nearing the first tee box



I think I just killed some worms –  
Yeah, over that way somewhere.



Friends, steak, and an Arizona sunset in the clubhouse veranda overlooking the 18<sup>th</sup> hole

**DUES ARE DUE**



## HAPPY NEW YEAR AND A TURKEY MEET THANK YOU

by Ed Georgevich TCA 97-44995  
Turkey Meet Chairman – 2004

As we begin 2005, I want to take the time to thank all of those who assisted with the 2004 Turkey Meet. Our Meet was very successful, and I have received many compliments from Division members, as well as some of our visitors who came for the first time. The door count was up this year, and the three brand new ready-to-run train sets we raffled off made their way into some new homes for the Holidays. Among those sets was the very desirable Polar Express outfit by Lionel. Beth Stange had the “lucky” ticket. Our highly anticipated 773 Hudson Raffle was won by Division member David Ratino (TCA #80-15313).

I would like to give a special Thank You to Bob Herman, who does more behind-the-scenes preparing for the Meet than anyone can imagine. Chet Henry deserves a pat on the back for another great auction? To all of the members and their wives and family members who helped set up, collect money, or assist our guests during the meet, plus those that helped tear down the meet after the last auction item was gone, a warm and hearty THANK YOU goes to each of you for making the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual TCA Turkey Meet a success!

If anyone has any ideas or comments, either good or bad, please let me know by e-mail ([e.georgevich@cox.net](mailto:e.georgevich@cox.net)) or phone (623-764-2960). Each response will be used to make the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Turkey Meet even better!



(L) David Ratino receives the 773 Hudson raffle prize from Meet Chair, Ed Georgevich(R).



Gerry Klei always has an animated Erector/Meccano creation.

### TURKEY STUFFINGS – 2004



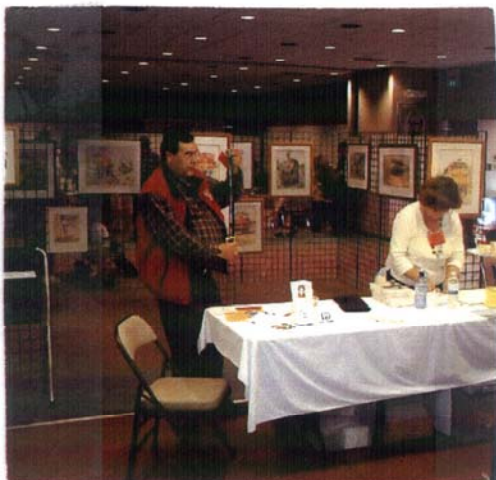
The TCA National 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Flag hung proudly from the balcony.



Beth Stange had the winning ducat for the the very prized “Polar Express” Set.



## STUFFING "SECONDS"



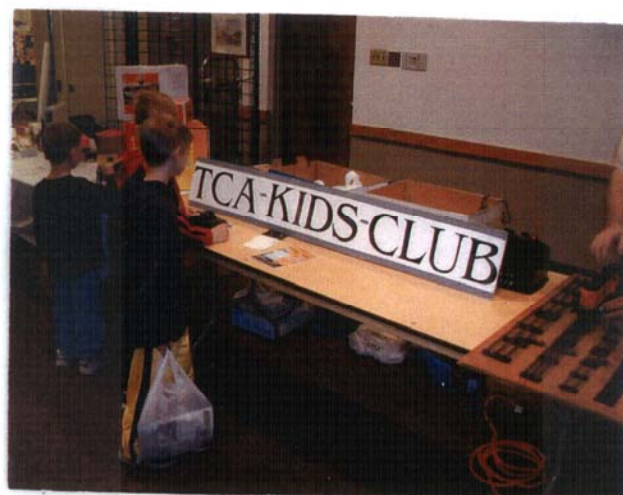
Diane Rodriguez presented a display for Viewing and buying of her magnificent Railroad Watercolor paintings, prints, and cards.



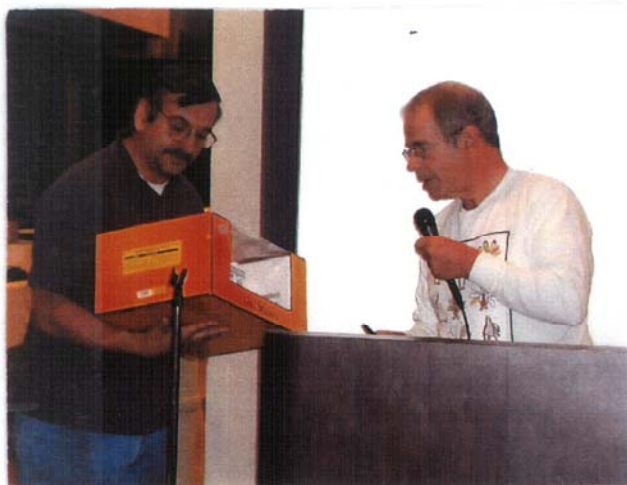
Diane painted this picture specifically for the Desert Division. It is of the CA and AZ Railroad of Parker, AZ, one of our 1997 National Convention Car offerings. Prints are \$25.00 and available from Diane at [srod@earthlink.net](mailto:srod@earthlink.net).



Vi and Doug DuBay were busy at their table. Vi also assisted at the Registration Desk in the spacious entry lobby.



Our Kids Club was active throughout the meet distributing Welcome Packets and assisting with the Test Track.



Auctioneer Peter Atonna, aided by Chris Allen (L), looks over a large, boxed toy Train accessory.

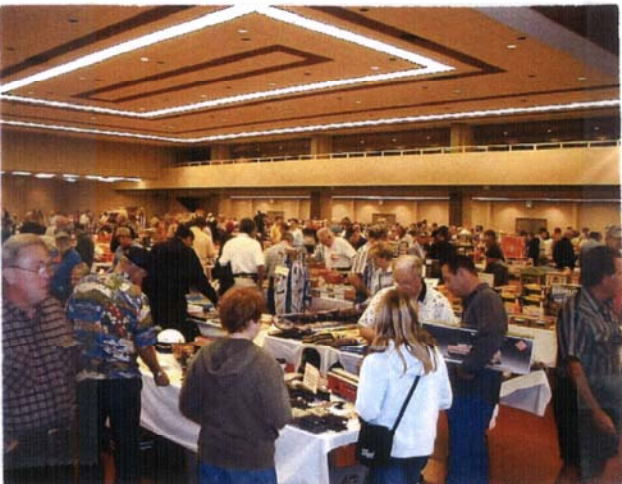
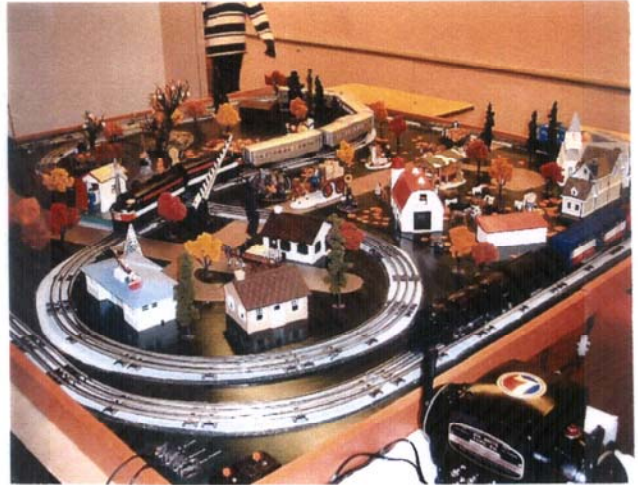


A view of the auction items which were Available on Sunday morning.



MORE "STUFFING"

DUES ARE DUE



No Security problem at a Desert Division's Turkey Meet. Cameras are welcome and photography encouraged. The top four photos show some of the operating layouts present. The other three pictures provide an overview of the busy trading pits at the Mesa Convention Center. It was busy all day: 9 AM – 3 PM.