

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

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Click on the link to our e-Bay offerings.

Volume 37, No. 10

Winter, 2008

HOLIDAY PARTY – 2008

This year's Holiday Party was one of the best ever. Held at the Mesa Marriott on December 7, it once again featured gifts for everyone, food fit for a king, and auctions which exceeded everyone's imagination. The area was decorated for the season, with Santa centerpieces on each of the 13 tables in the room. Merry, jolly, and festive are all adjectives to describe this year's event.



Barb Lautazi was selected as this year's Volunteer of the Year



Merrymakers in festive attire filled the room, greeting one another, awaiting the call to the buffet line. Once again, boneless prime rib of beef and chicken in a cream gravy were the main entrees, accompanied by two different salads, mashed potatoes, vegetables, rolls and butter, and a dessert dessert table filled with all the variety one could wish for. In fact, some folks had dessert first!

Every table had a Santa, some with sleds, one with a sleigh, two dressed in white, two in maroon, and several in grey livery. The bidding was brisk and successful, as each Santa found a new home for the Holidays. Here Chris Allen displays the Santa from his table.



Each year, the President selects a "Member of the Year" and a "Volunteer of the Year." This year's Member was Don Locke, who was thanked for all the work he has done in setting up the after-meet visitations, including the calendar for 2009.

The "Volunteer of the Year" was Barb Lautazi, for always being on the scene when someone was needed for any task to benefit the club.

TURKEY MEET AUCTION - 2008



The 325-lot Turkey Meet Auction was held at the Scottsdale Jaycees Hall, where Peter Atonna again served as auctioneer, getting the most money for the items as was humanly possible.

Here we see Peter at work, along with a few of his helpers. The Division thanks all who entered lots, participated, and bid.

The Dispatch is published monthly except July and December by the Train Collectors Association, Desert Division, 16231 E. Ocotillo Drive, Fountain Hills, AZ 85268. This issue is Volume 37, No. 10 (Winter, 2008).

GO WEST YOUNG MAN! A 2008 TURKEY MEET REPORT

by Jonathan Peiffer TCA #01-53047

Many noticed something different about this year's Turkey Meet. Mainly, it was not held in the east valley, but rather in Glendale. Clearly this move was made intentionally to see how such an event would fare on the west side of town. The venue was as well appointed as it was large and provided a first class hall for the display and selling of trains. This has no doubt been the topic of many discussions both on the record and behind the scenes, but in the final analysis it can be said that the new location was met with mixed reaction. Some individuals expressed their disappointment that it was not in Mesa this year, while others felt the location to be superior to prior ones. The location introduced a different crowd to the Division's annual tradition and brought some fresh faces into the hall. Looking at the numbers there was a total of 109 tables sold with 602 paid admissions. This was my first experience ever as a seller and, while I can say that I did well with sales as a "newbie," most of the product I sold was HO or N.



In addition to sales tables, there were six layouts operating the entire day. The Division thanks Peter Atonna for bringing a portable layout, Eagles Wings for bringing two G gauge layouts, GCMR for bringing their portable multi-gauge display and their S gauge modules, and last but not least the Tin Plate Trackers for their modular O gauge layout. The help provided on the part of volunteers for this meet cannot go unnoticed as without the volunteers this event would not have made into its 33rd year. Thanks to Gordon and Christie Wilson for manning the Division table and for the number of raffle prizes provided through their efforts.

Thank you to Brad Martin for working the hall to sell raffle tickets. Tom Plies provided activities for the children attending the meet and represented the Division Kids club. Several boxes of HO trains that were donated to him on behalf of the club were sold and a total of \$161.00 was added to the Trains for Kids fund. Finally, thank you to Bob Herman and his crew of helpers for registration assistance, sound advice, and all around common sense. To top off this year's meet, Earl Rasmussen won the Hudson raffle and is the proud owner of one of Lionel's most collectible post-war pieces. Congratulations Earl!



Many decisions will need to be made as soon as possible to help determine not only next year's venue, but also the details of the event. With your assistance the meet can only continue to thrive through its 34th year and beyond. Your board of directors is already working on the idea of a two day meet to attract more operating layouts and more vendors from the Southwest Region. Sound interesting? Volunteer now to be on the 2009 Turkey Meet Committee to have input into the 2009 Turkey Meet. With the National Convention only four months apart from the meet, your help will be needed more than ever. This year's chairs were Katie Elgar and Jonathan Peiffer, so please feel free to provide any and all relevant feedback you may have to them.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings!

As the year winds down, we have a chance to reflect on the year gone by as well as make plans for the coming years.

We had a well-attended Turkey Meet at the Renaissance Hotel in Glendale as well as our Turkey Meet auction held at the Jaycees Hall. A big thank you goes out to all the folks who came over to the Hotel on Friday to help with set up. Unloading seemed to go smoothly as well on Friday and Saturday. Thanks to all who helped out with this activity and the auction.

We welcome new members who joined TCA and the Desert Division at the Turkey Meet: Larry Faw, Bill Fose, and Pat Madigan.

Remember the fun you had with trains as a child or still have running trains? You can share that with a friend, a neighbor, or a co-worker. Don't forget, the *WIN BIG Contest!*

The 2008 Holiday Party was a wonderful event. For those who were unable to attend, the Prime Rib was excellent. The buffet was well stocked and the dessert table had excellent choices. Santa left gift bags for the young ones, and the Lenox ornaments and antique cars were aplenty. Jim and Kay Vokac made a wonderful donation of retired Department 56 buildings, beautifully displayed in baskets. Peter Atonna once again was an excellent auctioneer. The Santa Claus centerpieces were auctioned as well. Thanks to everyone who helped with this event.

The 2009 Convention Committee will be shifting into high gear. January 1, 2009 is when the reservations open for J.W. Marriott, Desert Ridge, for the Convention. If you are planning to stay any nights there, hop on the website www.tcadd and make your reservations. If you want to help out at the Convention, contact Ralph Treichel, the Volunteer Coordinator. Also order your Convention Cars by December 31, 2008. Don't wait; go and check the website for more information NOW.

Just in case you get a new cell phone, bring your old de-activated one in to the January meeting for Ken Barnes. Remember, just the phone, no chargers, cases, etc.

We still have some Lionel Thomas sets for sale to benefit the Trains for Kids Program, as well as K-line Battery operated Christmas sets. Contact Bob Herman or myself and we can get them to you.

Have a safe Holiday Season and plan on attending the January 10th meeting of your Desert Division!

Happy Trains!

RIO GRANDE CHAPTER NEWS

by Gregory Palmer TCA#94-39039

The Toy Train season is moving along fast. October York, the Pumpkin Meet, and the Turkey Meet are all now behind us. However we have several more Meets ahead of us. January 17th at 10:00AM, at the Sombra Del Monte Church, 2528 Utah N.E., in Albuquerque will be our next regular Rio Grande Chapter Meet. We will be discussing next year's Pumpkin Meet. We have a great opportunity arranged by our great Pumpkin Meet Manager Bill Spofford, to move the Pumpkin Meet to the Sheraton Uptown, near Coronado Center. We need to discuss this opportunity, so please make sure you attend this Meet on the 17th. We need plenty of input. This could make this show expand in public attendance. So please come and make your feelings known.

We will also take a survey, for the TCA Standards Committee, regarding the possible adoption of Operation Standards. We also need your input on this subject. We will also discuss gifts for the TCA Rio Grande Chapter's Train for Kids program at the Middle School in Socorro. We will also discuss a gift for the New Mexico Ronald McDonald House. This is our selected Charity. So come with a lot of ideas. The New Mexico Railrunner Express Lionel Billboards are selling. If you want a set, come to the January 17th Meet. I will be putting some of them on sale at Trains West and The Train Room. Pick up the Billboards on January 17th, as I am sure they will go fast at the Hobby Shops. The Billboards are \$5.00. If you want one mailed to you please send me \$6.00 to cover cost and postage. Make the check out to TCA Rio Grande Chapter.

Once again please bring items to show and tell at our educational segment. It is always fun to see what types of Toy Trains all of you collect and operate. Please remember that you can bring items to sell. Tables are free, and you can keep the table set up for the entire Meet. Hope to see all of you at this very important Rio Grande Chapter Meet on January 17th at 10:00AM at the Sombra Del Monte Church 2528 Utah N.E., Albuquerque, New Mexico.



Work continues on the layout at the Saracino Middle School, under the tutelage of Jon Spargo, a member of the Rio Grande Chapter.

SIX MONTHS 'TIL D-DAY

By Gordon Wilson TCA #76-10233

On June 6, 1944, I have no idea what the “D” in D-Day meant, but I surely do for June 28, 2009. That is the date of the opening of the 55th TCA National Convention, which we are hosting. The “D” stands for the most important person on each and every trip/tour we are offering. There are 23 of these trips and each bus must have a representative from this Division to act as a guide, or in proper parlance, you will be a “DOCENT.” We will need one DOCENT on each bus, so if a tour has five bus loads of conventioners, there will be 5 DOCENTS from the Desert Division going on that tour.

What are a DOCENT’s duties? Relatively simple. 1) Introduce yourself to the bus driver. 2) Take attendance of the persons on your bus at each and every stop. 3) Introduce yourself to those on the bus. (You’ll have a microphone.) 4) Arm yourself with some local knowledge of the areas you’ll be driving through. 5) VERY IMPORTANT – YOU WILL NEED A CELL PHONE in case of an emergency. 6) Be able to work (with the bus driver’s help) the Video/DVD player. 7) Pass out ONE bottle of water to all who want one – keep the extra supply up front. 8) A front seat is yours! 9) Impart some tales about where the trip is going. 10) You go on these trips as our guest BUT sign up (pay) for any trips you want in advance to be sure you get it – some are restricted. We’ll worry about refunds later. As soon as the Convention information is released, look through the list of tours and see which ones you’d like to assist us with – we cannot guarantee you’ll get what you want – we will promise we’ll be fair as fair can be. We’ll also supply you with as much information as we have so you can look and sound knowledgeable to the rest of the people on the tour. You will need to give your name to Ralph Treichel and tell him you wish to be a DOCENT.

As much as we’d like to say you don’t have to pay Registration fees, trip fees, Welcome Party fees, room fees, and Banquet fees, those charges are out of our hands. They’re controlled by the TCA National and EVERYONE must pay them, from Katie, the Division President, to Chris and Christie, who are National Officers.

Gordon and Christie have put all these trips together. Any questions you have should be directed toward them. If we can’t answer, we will find out the answer for you. Husbands and wives may sign up for the same trip, but we may have need to split you up; i.e., on different buses, both going to the same site.

This is a real way to help the Division and to get to meet visitors from around the country/world as you spread some real Desert Division Hospitality.

YOUR LAYOUT COULD BE FEATURED IN THE TCA CALENDAR

Jane Boyce, TCA’s Director of Development, is working on a 2010 TCA Calendar. She will be using photographs of member layouts. However, she needs the photos. Do you have a layout? Would you like to have your set-up appear in a TCA Calendar? If so, send a photograph, either hard copy or electronically, to Jane at the National Toy Train Museum, P. O. Box 248, Strasburg, PA 17579 or jboyce@traincollectors.org.

An independent panel will pick the twelve photos to be used in the calendar, which will then be offered to the membership for sale at a very reasonable price. It will also be sold in the Museum store. Though the hope is to make this an annual event, Jane needs your photos for the 2010 Calendar by January 15, 2009. To quote her words, “. . . so hurry!!! Get in the TCA Spirit!!!!”

The Holidays are upon us. This would be a great time to take pictures of our trains running on a layout. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if the Desert Division could be represented in this project? Maybe we, one of the smallest Divisions, could be featured in this calendar not once, but twice, or even three times. That can only happen if you send in your photos. Remember, the deadline is January 14, 2009.

DUES ARE DUE

It seems like only yesterday, but Another year has flown by and the Desert Division is again collecting dues. You can find out the date that your dues expire by looking at your Desert Division membership card, or the address label on your mailed bulletin, which will be highlighted if your dues will lapse with this issue. If you receive your bulletin electronically, you will receive an e-mail apprising you that your dues are due. Fill out the form on page 7 of this issue and mail it, along with your check, made payable to TCA – Desert Division, for \$10 per year for up to 5 years in advance, to the address on the bottom of the form. For those with address or collecting changes, please use the same form to update the roster, which will be printed in March.

LIONEL SERVICE STATIONS

by Gordon Wilson TCA # 76-10233

I came to Maricopa County, Arizona, in February of 1988. Immediately I discovered that words I used on the East Coast in New Jersey had a very different meaning in Arizona. A "sack," for instance, where I grew up was a burlap bag which held feed for farm animals. Out here, it was a relatively small paper bag that held food stuffs at the Super Market. In other words many words were relative, according to where they were being used. "Hot," to a New Jerseyite would conjure up temperatures in the 80's. To someone in Maricopa County, Arizona, "hot" meant the temperature was probably in excess of 105 degrees.

This "relativity" exists in the train world too. Take the Lionel idea of ordaining a certain train store as a "Service Center." To achieve that status in days of yore, first of all you had to Sell Lionel Trains, almost exclusively. None of that stuff by a competitor was allowed, or at least not much of it. American Flyer and Marx were tolerated; American Flyer in pre-war because it used 3-rail track, and Marx because its couplers were mostly compatible with Lionel's.

Some years ago a close friend of mine, Richard Bimmer, opened a part-time business at his home called Antiques and Trains. The antiques were handled by his wife, Connie, a gourmet Italian cook, and Rich took care of the trains in a converted parlor which adjoined the family room. This was where Connie had her Antique Business. It wasn't long before Rich applied for the title of "Official Approved Lionel Service Station," as there were no other such facilities in Southern New Jersey. The closest ones were across the Delaware River in Philadelphia and its environs. To get such a title, one needed the endorsement of "Mr. Lionel," the late, great, Lenny Dean. Even though Lionel was in the process of closing down their factories in New Jersey and moving to Michigan, they were still planning on operating and doing business as usual. Rich had gotten his training in the repair business first through Scholl's Electric in Bordentown, New Jersey, a long-time Lionel and American Flyer Service Station, and then later, as a business partner with Joseph Rudley at a toy train store on the Admiral Wilson Boulevard near Camden, New Jersey, in the 1950's and 1960's. The basement of Rich's home is where he kept the majority of the train inventory and parts. It was these parts that caused "Lenny" to comment, "Why Mr. Bimmer, it seems as though you have more parts than

we do!" Needless to say, being named and granted an Approved Lionel Service Station was just a formality. A bit of irony would attach itself to this Service Station less than 10 years later. However, more about that when it happens. Recently I purchased an uncatalogued 1948 Lionel Train Set from Rich. As many of you know, I am a "paper collector" and sure enough there was an absolutely perfect piece of paper included with this set that listed all of the 1948 Approved Lionel Service Stations. I was truly amazed by how many there were just 3 years after World War II and equally dumbfounded by their locations.

As I compared the Service Stations in the United States of 1948 with those of 50 years later, some rather interesting facts come to the fore. Not all of the country (USA) was covered in 1948. Only 44 of the 48 states had Service Stations, and of those, four (Arizona, Montana, Nevada, Vermont) had just one Approved Service Station, while five others (Arkansas, Delaware, Maine, New Hampshire, Oregon) had but two Service Stations. Hawaii and Alaska had not yet attained Statehood, but Hawaii had an Approved Service Station and was carried among the list of Foreign Service Stations. For whatever reason, Canada was not included on the 1948 list of Foreign Service Stations. What seems even more interesting is that on the list taken from www.Lionel.com on Sunday, December 7, 2009, there are no Foreign Service Stations listed at all, with or without Canada's inclusion. This seems a bit unusual since Lionel Trains openly uses the Canadian market to merchandise their product.

In 1982 I was working for Antique Trains, whose name had gone from Antiques and Trains to simply Antique Trains. Rich had retired from his full time day job with the Reynolds Aluminum Company and was now devoting his time to the toy train hobby. Connie had come along into the Toy Train business, tending to the financial end of it, giving up on the Antiques part of what had been a part-time business for both of them. I was working full time as a music educator and two other men also had full time jobs, but would work with Rich, doing repairs on a part-time basis. I was a part-time sales person and track manufacturer. I bring all this up because Rich bought out the toy train part of a business from the man who got him started in the hobby many years before. Ed Scholl, owner of Scholl's Electric Service in Bordentown, New Jersey, decided to retire.

Here is where the “irony” comes in, that I mentioned earlier. Mr. Scholl had been a Lionel and American Flyer dealer for some 45 years. If one were to add Ed’s starting date onto Rich’s starting date as a Lionel dealer and Service Center, now that Madison Hardware in New York; Lee’s Train Service in Oakland, California; and the Treasure House in Garfield, New Jersey; are gone, it just might be that Rich’s Service Center, by attrition, is close to #1. I do know that it took three of us filling up two Cadillac Fleetwoods and one Ford Econoline Van to the brim, each of 5 consecutive nights and driving from Bordentown to Turnersville, New Jersey, to haul all of Ed Scholl’s inventory to Rich’s home. It then took the rest of the summer to separate and catalog it all. That was a first-hand way to learn about Lionel Pre-War, Post-War, MPC, and American Flyer from Chicago, New Haven, and the start of Detroit, Michigan.

The mention of Michigan and Detroit brings one gigantic question to my mind. In the list of Approved Service Stations prior to 1970, there are none in the Detroit area. I must plead ignorance to the location of General Mills, the large conglomerate that bought Lionel, but I must assume that it must have been somewhere near 23 Mile Road, just north of Detroit. One thing I shall have to do is a “Google Search” of General Mills to find out for sure where their corporate headquarters were located. If not near Detroit, what possible reason would Lionel have for moving from New Jersey to Michigan? Both states are pro-Union – I have been a member of the AFL-CIO since the age of 14, when I joined the American Federation of Musicians. I grew up in New Jersey.

In 2000 I paid a visit to Buenos Aires, Argentina, where a TCA friend of mine served as my personal guide. Jorge Ricardes had a friend who had a supply of Lionel paper that was for sale. Among that stack was a Lionel Catalog, printed entirely in Spanish. I already had one printed in Portuguese that had been obtained for me by a friend who found it in Brazil. One of the sights Jorge took me to see was a furniture store. How could I get excited about a furniture store, you may wonder? Well, that is what it was in late January of 2000. However, back in January, 1948, the building at 1145 San Martin was owned by Ezio Guggiari, Soc. De Resp. Ltd., which was the approved Lionel Service Station. IT is that address which is marked on the catalog and other Lionel paper I purchased that evening. Regrettably, the building was too large and it was too dark to get a decent photo of it the night I was there. Perhaps the next time. Buenos Aires is a big city and one of the major Opera houses of the world, Teatro Colon is there, and I haven’t seen an opera in it, so a photo is still possible.

Lionel was marketed all around the world in 1948. There were Service Centers on 6 continents, only Antarctica being excepted. For a kids’ toy, that was quite a world-wide market. Lionel with MPC continued using as Approved Service Stations those whose names appeared on the late 1960’s lists, and did little to enforce the standards of what was supposed to be a quality Lionel Repair. The repairmen of years gone by passed out small cards which reminded the owners of Lionel Trains to “Bring your Lionel Trains in for a Check-Up by Approved Servicemen.” It went on to say, “Your Lionel Train set is a valuable piece of property, deserving of proper care. When the late Jim Fenley took over, he asked the late Lenny Dean to try to get a handle on what was taking place. That’s when my friend in New Jersey, Rich Bimmer, obtained his status as an Approved Lionel Service Station. After General Mills’ stewardship of Lionel came Richard Kughn. Many Lionel Service Stations became FORMER Lionel Service Stations. By their own admission, they were Service Stations only so that they could get the yearly Lionel Holiday Service Station “Specials” so they could sell hard-to-obtain cars at exorbitant prices to collectors or build their own private collections rather inexpensively. It now seems that the current crop of owners, Wellspring Associates, have a handle on what is going on. The Service Station Specials have been eliminated and for the most part most, Approved Lionel Service Centers can and do fix broken trains. However, it is generally a good idea to find a person whom you trust to do any work on your toy trains, especially since most new trains work with hi-tech electronics and not with E-Units and the items which made the Lionel of the ’50’s move so well.

One final thing has also disappeared; at least I could not find any in Europe last summer. The Lionel Service Station on foreign soil has disappeared, as had I fear, Lionel’s world-wide marketing of their product. Today it’s more of a “Big Boy’s Toy” rather than a kid’s toy designed to build a strong bond between father and son. Somehow I get the idea that those I-Boxes aren’t building too many close bonds between Dad and son.

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DESERT DIVISION REGISTRATION FORM

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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
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WHY THE MUSEUM MATTERS

Contributed by Jane Boyce, Director of Development, TCA

While putting together the Annual Appeal for 2008-2009 this year, I got to thinking about the significance of the National Toy Train Museum in Strasburg. Knowing that the museum is not a “favorite” among some of our members, I got to thinking of the reasons why we all should care about the museum.

First of all, we are the only toy train collecting organization that actually has its own museum, which truly is a feather in our cap. That shows the public that we’re serious about our hobby and that we’re eager to share it with them. Why then, you say, should you care? I could go on here with endless lists of the dozens of valuable trains and memorabilia that resides here in our Museum. This, in itself, is reason enough for many to consider this collection worth supporting. But I honestly feel it is deeper than this.

As you know, this museum holds the records and personal trains and related items that have belonged to many of our long-time members and some who are no longer with us. When I go through the museum, I don’t see just trains. I see the history of this hobby and the many personalities who have brought it to where it is today. When I close my eyes, I can almost hear the animated conversations of Ward Kimball, Lou Redman and many others. This museum is not only a wonderful repository of train memorabilia, but also the history of the people who make up the membership of the Train Collectors Association itself, and further – the train collecting hobby.

Why then, is this so important?

Folks, if we are ever able to capture the hearts of future collectors, we must be able to personalize the hobby and we must be willing to share it. It’s not just an old engine, its Lou’s favorite engine or Ward’s most unique caboose. And yes, those gentlemen did have an impact on not only this association, but the hobby itself – and -- you do, too. Surely, we have many, many trains whose nameless owners have long been forgotten. But, these mementoes of their youth keep their memories and this hobby and the TCA alive.

When children visit the museum (and adults for that matter), it is critical that they see beyond the pretty engines, and the colorful layouts. It is important that they see the 60,000+ people who have at one time or another been a member of this organization and how they have influenced the hobby. Our membership, in fact, gives the museum life. Everyone in the TCA plays an important role in this museum and this hobby. So, even though you may never be able to physically visit this beautiful museum, rest assured that a piece of you is here. And, as long as you love this hobby and care about your trains, you will always be a part of this museum.

The many fundraising activities I have put together over the past couple of years are all designed to not only keep this museum going, but also the TCA and the hobby itself. When you buy something from the Museum store or go on one of our Legacy trips, or buy a bookplate in our Library Bookplate Club or contribute to our Annual Appeal, you are making a difference.

Below, I have listed some of the many programs and opportunities created to keep this hobby and the Train Collectors Association going. Please look these over and then remember what this organization has meant to you, the hobby and the many friendships you have formed over the years.

- The **2008-2009 Annual Appeal** was included in the November newsletter and also appears on our website. Named donation levels are from \$30 to \$1,000+ - but **ALL** donations are encouraged and are greatly appreciated!
- **Legacy Trips** are a fun way to donate to our Endowment Fund while taking a great vacation with fellow TCA members and friends. 2009 offers two trips – the Canadian Rail and Rocky Mountain Adventure Trip (starting at \$3,829 per person) AND our Bahamas Cruise (starting at \$799 per person). A portion of your fare comes back to the TCA.
- Our **Cruise Raffle** is open to everyone and all are encouraged to purchase a chance on a 5-6 day cruise aboard the Carnival Cruise Line for two to anywhere that Carnival sails. Tickets are available for \$5.00 each. Winner will be drawn on June 26, 2009 here at the Museum.
- The **3 Book-Signing events** that we offer each year are all designed to give you the opportunity to purchase great books and benefit the museum at the same time. We offer a book at each of our “Wednesday Before York” events and another during the Christmas holiday season (usually intended for children). Right now, we are offering our members the opportunity to have the book, “Christmasville”, by Michael Dutton signed and personally dedicated to you or someone you love. Mr. Dutton will be at the museum on December 6th from 1-4pm or you may pre-order the book using the form in the November 2008 newsletter.
- **TCA Bookplate Club** members have helped add to our library collection. Purchase one or two books (or more) in honor of someone special for addition to our library collection. Opportunities are available from \$50 - \$150. Both the recipient and the donor receive a special thank you.
- **National Toy Train Museum Store** features TCA-branded merchandise, books, videos, toys, jewelry and much, much more! Our on-line store includes lots of goodies for the avid collector as well as the novice. Website address is: www.nttmuseum.org and select “museum store”.
- Don’t forget that every time you use your **TCA VISA card**, a percentage of your purchase comes back to the TCA. This is the only card that you can use to pay your dues online! Be sure to apply today!
- The **shopformuseums.com** program is very easy and beneficial to TCA to use. Just go to www.shopformuseums.com and select the National Toy Train Museum as the beneficiary of your shopping experience. Then shop at any of the many, many store sites you may link to and the TCA will receive a percentage of your purchases.

All of these programs are designed to benefit the museum, the TCA and ultimately, the hobby itself. It is important to keep the museum alive so that future generations might share the same fun and enjoyment you have experienced.

TCA ANNOUNCES MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE - MEMBERS AND DIVISIONS WIN BIG



The challenge is to increase TCA membership by 1500 to 2000 new members over the next year in the 2009 “WIN BIG” Membership Drive. It runs from November 1, 2008 through October 31, 2009. You and the Desert Division are automatically entered to win from \$50 up to \$1000 when a Division member signs an application for a new member. Check out the member, Division, quarterly and Grand Prizes below.

WIN \$50, \$100, \$200, \$500 - Even \$1000

Member Prizes

\$50 Gift Certificates to TCA Museum Store awarded each quarter to two current TCA member recruiters.

\$200 Check awarded at the 2009 TCA National Convention in Scottsdale, AZ, by random drawing from all participating members.

Division Prizes

\$200 Gift Certificates to the TCA Museum Store, awarded each quarter to two Divisions.

\$200 Check awarded at the 2009 TCA National Convention in Scottsdale, AZ, to the Division recruiting the greatest number of new members to date.

\$200 Check awarded at the 2009 TCA National Convention in Scottsdale, AZ, to Division recruiting the greatest percentage of new members to date.

Grand Prizes – awarded at the end of the membership drive on October 31, 2009.

\$100 Gift Certificates awarded to top 10 TCA individual member recruiters.

\$500 Check awarded to the Division recruiting the greatest number of new members.

\$500 Check awarded to the Division recruiting the greatest percentage of new members.

\$1000 Check awarded by random drawing from all participating TCA members.

See the November 2008 National Headquarters News or visit www.traincollectors.org or www.tcamembers.org for complete rules and an application form to get started.

Join in; simply signing a TCA Application can make us all winners!

RAILROAD



-CHANGE



ANTIQUUE 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.

ARIZONA TRAIN DEPOT - Lionel UP 4-6-2 w/Railsounds GREAT whistle! Club price \$279.95 – Lionel 6-30025 C&O Ready-to-Run set w/Railsounds and TMCC, list \$475, SALE \$299.95 – Lionel UP GP-7 w/legacy & Railsounds, reg \$400, Club Price \$395.95 – Atlas SF or BNSF MP15AC w/Railsounds and TMCC, 25% off! You must mention this ad to get these special club prices! Always ask for your TCA club member discount - AZ TRAIN DEPOT, 755 E. McKellips Road, Mesa - 480-833-9486 Mon-Sat 9-6 open late Wed. until 9 PM.

BUILDING A LAYOUT? – We can furnish all GarGraves products at discount prices. Flex and sectional track, uncoupling tracks, and accessories in all gauges; the new 072 and 100” and 042 switches; DZ1000, Rix, and Tortoise switch motors, Acme controls, NJ signals, and the new Z Stuff optical crossings. For a complete list, contact Peter Atonna 928-636-4228 or e-mail at mjatonna@commspeed.net.

BURLING’S TON OF TRAINS – Authorized Lionel, MTH, K-LINE & Mantua Dealer. Pat Eiff has joined our staff to better serve our customers in sales and service of both new and pre-owned trains. With the largest selection of Post-War through new Lionel in Arizona, we invite you to see our different “Set of the Month” each month. We also buy trains. Hours: 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM, M – F and by appointment. 16924 E. Colony Dr., Fountain Hills, AZ 85268 Phone: 480-816-6501 Website: www.tonoftrains.com

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

MESA MODELS/MESA TRAINS – Valley’s largest selection of building and structure kits, layout details and accessories at everyday discount prices. Atlas O (2 and 3 rail) and Weaver rolling stock plus a full line of Atlas O track and accessories. Scales include O, On3/On30, HO and G. Store hours: 10 to 5 Mon-Fri and 10-4 Saturday. Visit our website at <https://www.mesamodels.net> 6032 E. McKellips Road, Mesa (NE corner of McKellips/Recker Road) 480-357-8800.

THE TRAIN STATION – Mountain Lakes, NJ. Top 10 Authorized Lionel and AF Sales and Service since 1974. New, Used, Bought, Sold, Repaired. 973-263-1979 www.train-station.com

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

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.toysthrutime.com>.

FOR SALE – Out of print Greenberg books: Lionel, American Flyer, Marx, etc. Please call Bruce Greenberg at 703-461-6991 (9-5 Eastern Daylight) or visit his web site, www.sykesvillehistory.us, for a current list.

FOR SALE – Lionel 227 0-6-0 (C-7) w/Tender (relettered) and the semi-scale 2954, 2955, 2956, 2957 (C-7/8) - \$3200. Presidential Passenger Cars 2521, 2522, 2523 (C-10) – Boxed \$775. 2363 Ill. Central F-3’s (C-7) \$850. Following are all Mint/Boxed - Nickel Plate FF#6 Set – 18505, 17612, 19602, 19318, 19527, 19411, 19235 - \$550. 18304 Lackawanna M. U. Commuter Set (1991) - \$400. 11733 Feather River SSS (1992) - \$325. 19138 S. F. Roomette \$100. 19128 S. F. Full Vista Dome - \$175. 18115 S. F. “B” Unit - \$150. Tony Griskowitz 928-717-1206.

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 – Lionel 1700E, 1701 (2), 1702, C-7, \$395. Lionel 440N Signal Bridge & 440C Panel Board C-6, P-4, \$475. Lionel 6-7515 1981 Denver Mint Car C-8, P-9, \$65. 6-25026 R. I. High Cube C-10, P-10, \$25. 6-26401 NP Ore Car C-10, P-10, \$20. 6-26197 D&H Tank Car C-10, P-10, \$20. 52077 TCA Great Northern High Cube C-10, P-10, \$300. Marx 7096 Mercury Passenger set C-7, \$450. Marx 3993M Commodore Vanderbilt Freight set C-7, \$175. Marx 490 Union Pacific set C-7, \$90. Marx 666 2-4-2 SP 8-wheel tender C-6, \$25. 666 2-4-2 Penn Central 8-wheel tender C-6, \$25. Marx 254000 scale Gondola C-7 & 20102 scale Caboose C-7, \$15 each. Marx 59 UP Stock Car C-7, \$25. American Flyer: 322AC Hudson w/AF 6-wheel tender-link C-7, \$150. 283 4-6-4 Northwestern Lines knuckle C-7, \$80. 210(88) FY&P Franklin C-7, \$100. Dannie L. Martin 520-360-0519 or e-mail dannieaz@cox.net.

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 – Painted 4x8 HO layout board with electronic control board - \$35.00 – track already in place with some switches – no landscaping – will need some work to finish. Contact Phil Webster evenings 623-877-0754 or e-mail pwebs10319@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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COMING EVENTS

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| January 7, 2009 | Desert Division BOD Meeting – Home of Katie and Ruth Elgar – 7:30 PM
Call ahead if you plan to attend – 623-580-6957 |
| January 10, 2009 | Convention General Meeting – 7:30 AM and Regular Division Meet – 9 AM Jaycees Hall
8102 E. Jackrabbit Road, between McDonald and Chaparral, Scottsdale, AZ |
| January 17, 2009 | Rio Grande Chapter Meet – Sombra Del Monte Church, 2528 Utah NE, Albuquerque, NM – 10 AM
Contact: Greg Palmer 505-898-3840 |
| January 17, 2009 | Roadrunner Meet – Tucson, AZ – 9 AM
Contact: Bud Stewart 520-749-0228 |
| February 14 | Convention General Meeting – 7:30 AM and Regular Division Meet – 9 AM - Jaycees Hall
8102 E. Jackrabbit Road, between McDonald and Chaparral, Scottsdale, AZ |
| February 21 | Rio Grande Chapter Meet – Albuquerque, NM – 10 AM
Contact: Greg Palmer 505-898-3840 |

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

PADE PROMOTIONS

Thank you to all who helped with the Turkey Meet and the Holiday Party. Special thanks to donated raffle and/or door prizes: Terry and Jan Fagan, Jim and Kay Vokac, Rich Bimmer, Don Shaw, Ken Burling, Terry Gibbs, Gordon and Christie Wilson. Chairs Ralph and Sally Treichel (Holiday Party) and Katie Elgar and Jonathan Peiffer (Turkey Meet) had help from volunteers too numerous to mention here. Thank you to all who helped.

Your name can appear in this column. You only need to do something helpful for the Division.