



THE SIDE TRACK

NEWS

from the Toy Train Operating Society
Sacramento Valley Division

SUMMER

2001

"Show and Tell" a Big Success

text by Richard Zanotti

We have had five months of successful "Show and Tell" at our meetings. In January we looked at strange and unusual track. Clyde Easterly and Jack Hornor contributed to this display. In February we looked at old German tinplate. The focus in March was on American Flyer switch towers. A Chicago Flyer switch tower was compared to one from the Gilbert Flyer era and a MTH reproduction. Jeff and Karl shared their authentic switch towers. Chuck Stone shared an Ives repair kit loaded with irreplaceable parts. Jack Ahern shared an ancient Ives rheostat.

At our April meeting Jeff shared a wind-up Russian train toy. Jerry and Anna shared an intricate wind-up Technofix rack-and-pinion relay railway system. I brought a windup ALPINE RAILWAY, a Technofix rack-and-pinion work train layout, and a reproduction wind up TRAIN STATION.

Our May SHOW AND TELL was the best yet. Jerry Azzaro had a display that explained and demonstrated the development of American Flyer from O gauge tinplate through S gauge diecast

to S gauge plastic. John DeHaan set up a layout and display of pre WWII Hornby clockwork and tinplate. Jack Ahern introduced another one of his depression era mini-layouts. He had a very interesting tunnel. The subject of Show and Tell at our June meeting will be general. I will be displaying some modern Marklin Maxi tinplate.

Many people have shared items for display. Many have found the displays interesting and enjoyable. Our goal is to get all of our members sharing items from their collections. Even though you might not think your items would be worth sharing, YOU WOULD BE SURPRISED! After all, who would think that old track would be interesting? The subject is interpreted very loosely, and the items that you share do not necessarily have to be related to it. The goal is to have fun (even though you might learn something!) Please come and bring something to "Show and Tell".

I would like to thank Clyde, Karl, Anna, Jerry, John, Jeff, Larry, Jack Hornor, Jack Ahern, and Chuck Stone for helping to make SHOW AND TELL a success.

Membership News

Several toy train lovers have joined the Division since the first of the year. Please join me in greeting Rich and Barbara Bradham from Folsom, Dave and Pat Kennedy from Roseville, Frank Smith from Rancho Cordova, and Paul and Susane Wells from Newcastle. We also welcome back Joe Bargas from Modesto and Lee Hobold from Carson City. Thanks to each of you for helping keep the hobby fresh.

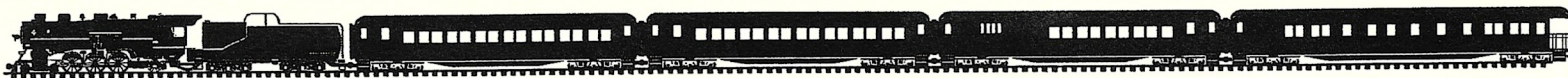
Who says toy train operators have no time for romance? Congratulations are in order for newlyweds Dave and Marcy Thomsen and Joe and Betty Rohers. And I'm assured that Marcy and Betty knew about the trains before they committed themselves!

I have been attempting to gather e-mail addresses from as many members as possible to add to the membership directory. If you did not receive a message from me before the May meet, then I don't have your latest address. If you would like to be added to the list, please send a message to me at honors@mindspring.com.

George Ann Hornor, Membership Chair

Reminders:

It's not too late to make reservations for the TTOS National Convention, July 31st through August 5th, 2001 at Vancouver B.C., eh? Also, it's not too early to begin making plans for the TTOS SVD-sponsored River City Toy Train Meet on October 6th. Contact Stan Batynski or Carl Locher to reserve tables or to make arrangements to bring a layout or display. Volunteers are always needed to set up and tear down at the meet. Fliers and table applications are now available.



Lee Deter's O Gauge Layout - November's Layout Tour



Text by Stan Batynski

Lee Deter invited members to tour his layout on November 4th. Lee's home is located in the Pocket area of South Sacramento.

The layout is still under construction and is a 12' x 15' Lionel O-gauge layout. It is very well constructed with neat benchwork. The track plan is well developed and consists of two levels. The approaches to the upper level are semi-concealed and not so obvious as many upper level approaches are. It goes around the outside of three sides of the layout similar to the first level of a helix.

The layout occupies a spare bedroom and is tucked against two walls with a center access. There is a lift bridge gate with a truss bridge to provide access to the center of the layout.

Call for Articles

Everyone in TTOS has a story to tell, and the **Side Track** is the place to tell it! We welcome contributions of any train-related stories from members.

We would like to hear how you became interested in trains (toy and otherwise). What is your childhood recollection of toy trains? When did you become a collector? When did you realize that you were hooked?

Send articles and stories to:

Jerry Azzaro
291 Bella Vista Way
San Francisco 94127
fax 415/334-7061
e-mail jerry_azzaro@juno.com

Bob Effa's 3-Rail Empire - our March Visit

Bob Effa likes to collect and operate post-war and modern Lionel trains. He has built and detailed a fine 8 x 12 ft. layout, and SVD members were invited to view it on March 3rd following our regular meeting.

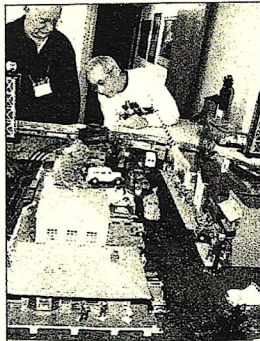
Bob's layout is built high off the floor with access on three sides,

so it is easy to see and appreciate his scenic details and operating accessories. Two concentric ovals provide for continuous operation, and two re-

verse loops and several sidings offer endless switching challenges. The trains operate flawlessly, thanks to (among other things) Bob's generous application of feeder wires to prevent stalling.



Visitors admire Bob's control panel



The view down "Main Street"

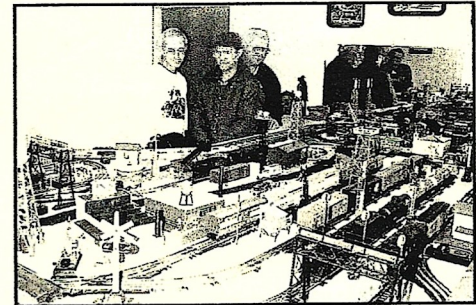
This was another in our "layout visit"

Upcoming layout visits:

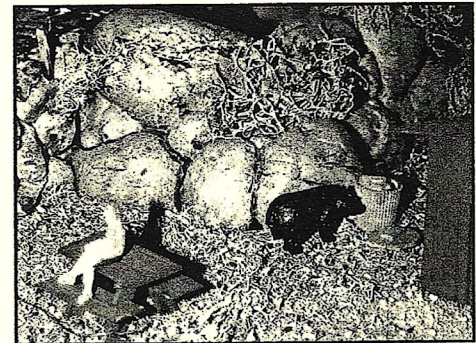
June - John Freitas, Carmichael
July - To be announced
August - To be announced
September - Bill Cloughey, Sacramento
October - no tour - Scottish Rite meet
November - Carl and Kathy Locher, Placerville

Contact **Jack Ahearn** for details or to arrange a visit to your layout.

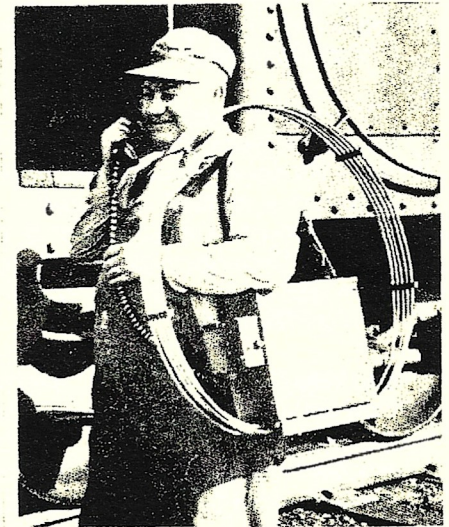
program, and we thank Bob for opening his home to us.



A panoramic view of Bob's layout. The mirror on the far wall adds depth



A camper relaxes, unaware of the bear raiding the garbage can behind her



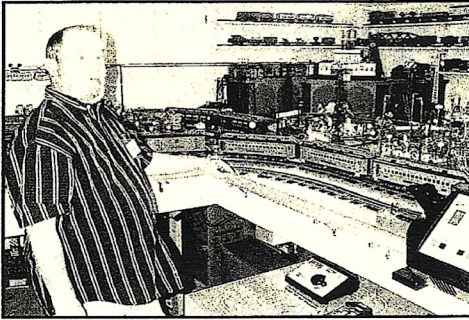
"Carryphone" Aids Trainmen

ENGINEERS and trainmen can keep in constant touch with their own crews or talk with the crews of other trains with the "Carryphone", a portable telephone announced by the Pennsylvania Railroad. The device uses railroad tracks or wires as its communication channels, but transmits and receives messages through the air by induction, using a large metal loop.



Trains at the "White House" - our April Layout Visit

Pete and Nancy White opened the doors of their Fair Oaks home to SVD members following our April 7 meet. Members who took part in this layout visit were treated to Pete's combined Standard and O Gauge layout which fills an entire room (and the closet!), as well as the Whites' collection of vintage toys and lead soldiers on display throughout the "White House".



Pete's layout fills the room around him

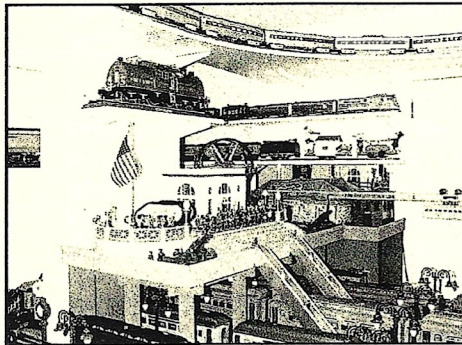
Pete's layout features parallel loops of standard gauge, with two side-by-side loops of 'O' gauge in the center. Pete runs original restored and MTH reproduction trains. A "Toonerville Trolley", Thomas the Tank Engine, and a reproduction Auto Race set add charm. Pete and Nancy's grandson has his own layout on the floor, under Granddad's layout.

There's a tendency for visitors to "lean

into" the Layout to get a better look. In anticipation of this, Pete has thoughtfully added polished wood handrails along the edges. Another great idea!



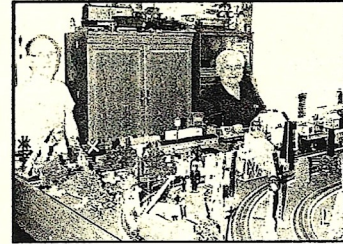
Big power for big trains. Pete uses state-of-the-art equipment



A two-level passenger terminal where all trains meet

The Layout That Jack (and George Ann) Built - our treat for May

The monthly layout tour moved to the Galt home of Jack and George Ann Hornor following our May 5th meeting. Layout turistas were treated to a layout operating on three levels. Jack and George Ann like to collect and operate postwar and modern 3-rail O gauge, with a keen eye toward the play value of these trains and accessories. The layout occupies nearly all of what would normally be the living room of their home. Jack's background in nuclear physics shows

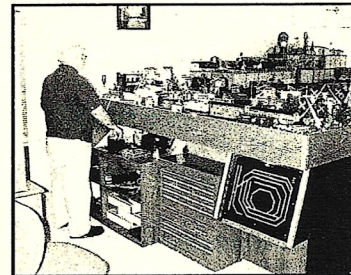


Jack Hornor grins at one of Jack Ahearn's many jokes

though in his precise wiring, wireless remote control, and in the operating Lionel nuclear reactor featured in one area of the layout.

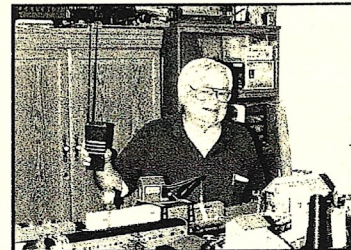
Jack's workbench is also in the living room, but it is cleverly built into a hutch that looks like any piece of fine furniture when closed.

Jack and George Ann designed their layout with the aid of a computer program that provided perspective views of the layout from any angle.



Jack at "mission control". Neatness and attention to detail abound

That's quite an improvement over the plastic track planner kits offered by Lionel and Flyer in the 1950s.



Jack shows off his remote control transmitter. The workbench hutch is behind him

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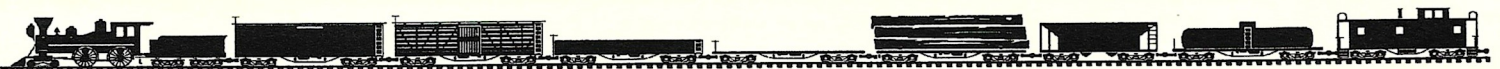
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Down the track

May 26: Nor-Cal TCA Sac-Sierra Toy Train Meet, Scottish Rite Center, Sacramento

June 2: TTOS-SVD, Sierra II Center

June 9: Nor-Cal TCA, Iron Horse School, San Ramon

July 7: TTOS-SVD, Sierra II Center

July 14: Nor-Cal TCA, Iron Horse School, San Ramon

August 4: TTOS-SVD, Sierra II Center

July 31 - August 5: TTOS National Convention, Vancouver, BC, Canada

August 11: Nor-Cal TCA, Iron Horse School, San Ramon

September 1: TTOS-SVD, Sierra II Center

October 6: River City Toy Train Meet, Scottish Rite Center, Sacramento



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