

THE SIDE TRACK

FALL

NEWS

from the Toy Train Operating Society
Sacramento Valley Division

2002

President's Message

by Jeff Silvera

Viva Las Vegas!!! I want to thank **Barbara Jones, Tami Jo Nix** and all from TTOS National for all the hours and hard work they devoted. You made the convention a special one with lots of memories. Thank You!!! We will be looking forward to Denver in 2003.

November is election time again. **Lee Deter** has volunteered to serve as Nominating Chairperson. We have offices to fill for a strong board. A good strong board helps to keep our club running smooth and straight down the track. If you would like to be nominated for an office, please contact **Lee** at (916) 391-9956.

The Train Season is upon us, as the holidays roll around again. We have the Harvest Festival in Placerville, September 14&15. Our very own River City Meet at the Scottish Rite Center, October 5th (10 a.m. to 3 p.m.) for which we will need volunteers at the front desk, security and the layout. We also have the Thank-giving show at the Railroad Museum and a GATS show in March. To volunteer, contact me at (916) 481-4694.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Friends of TTOS, which totaled \$ 4,600 to National at the convention. The SVD total was \$350.00.

Membership News and Notes

Recently I was browsing one of my favorite train magazines when I read an editorial about sharing the hobby. It made me think about our own weakness in attracting new members (as in zero for the last quarter) to our club and to the hobby. I was reminded that the model railroad hobby can be one of the most enjoyable in the world, and one of the factors that has made it so much fun has been the camaraderie among the hobbyists. Are we beginning to lose that pleasure? I hope not. It's tempting to shop for trains in your pajamas from mail order houses, sure, and to beat out other bids on e-bay, but these are solitary activities. If you're getting this newsletter, then there's something that's keeping you here in TTOS, and my guess is -- it's that camaraderie. So why not share the hobby with others?

Growth is important to any hobby, and each person who joins our club brings some piece of knowledge or experience to be added to our collective understanding and enjoyment of toy trains. (Of course, we hope for strong backs to carry modules, but it's not an absolute prerequisite.) So, how do we find these new members? The simplest and best way to encourage someone to join the fun is to talk about it. We all see prospective members. We see them in hobby shops, at train shows, at train exhibits, and sometimes in our neighborhood. We even see them in our families. You probably have toy trains because of happy childhood memories. Are your own children or grandchildren encouraged to run the trains, or are they warned not to break something? When kids visit your layout, is there something safe and fun for them to operate?

We have a public show coming up in a few weeks, and this will be a great chance to spread the word about toy trains and how much fun they can be. Keep in mind that new members who join in October or later are not charged dues next year.

Oh yes, that magazine I was browsing is AW NUTS (Always Whimsical, Not Usually to Scale), and you can find out more at www.awnuts.com.

Did you get my e-mail? Recently I sent an e-mail message to the list of members currently shown in our records. About a dozen came back from various mail servers as undeliverable. Several of you have obviously changed your service or your e-mail provider, but the most common reason was "account not active."

I'll keep the e-mail list at the membership desk, so please update it as needed. Who knows, maybe someone has found that rare car you've been seeking.

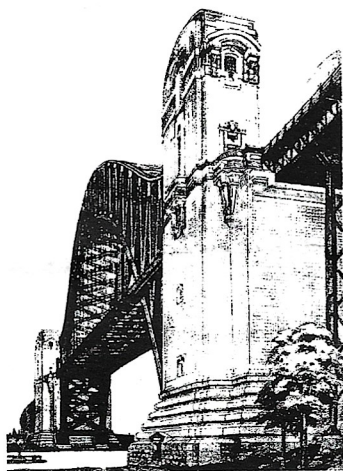
George Ann Hornor, Membership Chair
hornors@mindspring.com



HELLGATE, A HECK OF A BRIDGE

by Jack Ahearn

As I have been telling folks for the longest time, there is just no end to what one can find on the Net. I was Rail-fanning the other eve and being in a very railroadacious mood, I clicked on an old favorite of mine, the Long Island R.R. (N.Y.). Scrolling its myriad menu, my neck hairs suddenly flared up. "Pond Junction" was an area I played and constantly got into trouble as a kid. This, however, is a long story and destined to be told in another publication. What's



probably more interesting to most is the photo tour offered on this site. Just before running through my childhood neighborhood, a connecting line (now called the N.Y.A.) crossed through the famed "Hellgate Bridge". This website has some tremendous photos of the real bridge, including rivet-detailed close-ups from below! Interestingly, aside from the curved, three-mile long deck girder sections approaching the massive concrete towers, Lionel's version is fairly accurate. The major

departure J.L.C.s designers fudged on was the towers' cathedral style openings. Lionel claimed it was their engineering feat to have their (single) mainline run at ground (floor) level. They did copy the arch style openings, but they are just kind of uselessly placed at mid-tower height. On the prototype the openings make sense, they are actually at track level. The lower portion of the span supports the weight of the busy four-track behemoth! Put another way, the tracks run through the center of the bridge, not on the bottom. Why the name? Hellgate crosses over the confluence of Long Island Sound and the East River. (N.Y.) The waters are treacherous! Cost? Greenberg's guide is rapidly catching up with the prototype's cost! Web site?

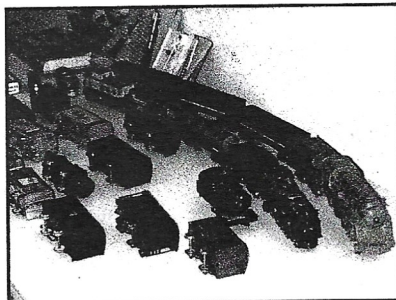
<http://home.att.net/~berliner-ultrasonics/nyar.html>

and that's a Hellgate of an address for a heck of a bridge!

Show and Tell

By Richard Zanotti

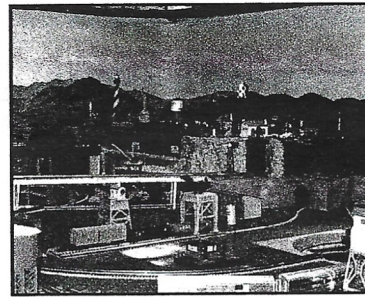
Editor's note: We're giving Richard some time off to recover from his auto accident. We all wish him a speedy recovery.



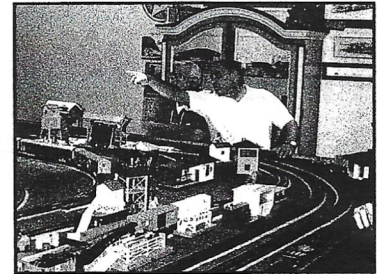
at right: some items on the June Show-and-Tell table

Recent Layout Visits

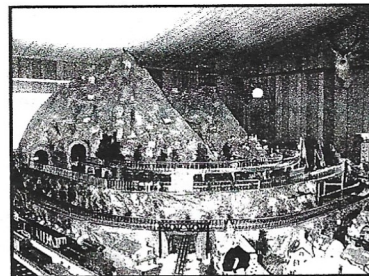
We returned on June 1st to the huge O gauge layout of John Freitas. John has added a mountain division, complete with realistic mountains, tunnels and trestles. John's layout, residing in its own building, is always a treat for the eyes and ears.



the new mountain scenery on John Freitas's pike

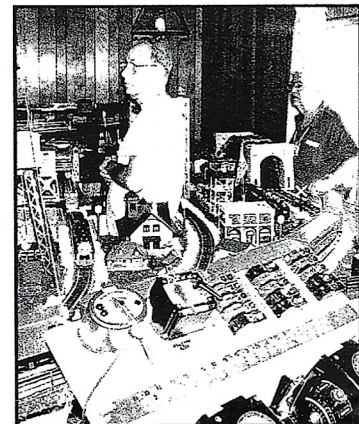


John points out one of the new attractions in them thar hills at the far corner of his huge layout

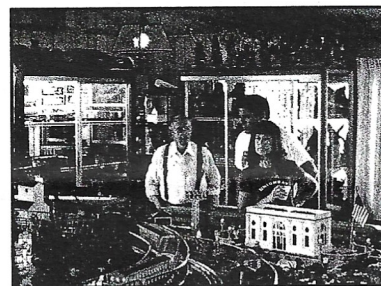


Mount Eister - the fanciful mountain rises to the ceiling - you can go inside and peek out through the tunnel portals!

On July 6th we visited Francis Eister's layout at his Loomis mountaintop home. The focal point of Francis's grand pike is the massive mountain through which pass several tunnels.



Jack Ahearn is likely to pop up anywhere trains are running. Here, he pops up in the middle of Francis Eister's layout.



Francis welcomes visitors to his layout

Special Feature - Ted Adams' Railroad History

Our special insert of Ted Adams's essay continues



SVD Members get National Ink

Jeff Silvera, Norm LaClair and Jack Hornor are featured in the TTOS ad on page 106 of the September issue of *Classic Toy Trains*. The ad on page 10 of the October issue shows Stan Batynski and Norm LaClair, and Jerry Azzaro is quoted.

We have it on good authority that Chuck Brasher's fabulous standard gauge layout will be revisited soon in an upcoming issue.



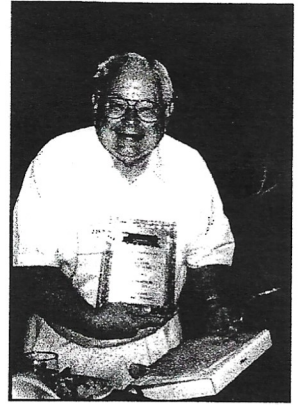
Ward Kimball Operator of the Year Award

By Stan Batynski

As you may know, the famous Walt Disney cartoon animator **Ward Kimball** passed away on July 8. Ward was a longtime TTOS member. The TTOS 2000 convention in Long Beach featured Ward's toy train layout and his Grizzly Flats Railroad "full-size backyard railroad" as one of the tours. In honor of Ward's contributions to TTOS and the hobby, President **Tom Lawler** proposed that the TTOS Operator of the Year Award be renamed as the "Ward Kimball Operator of the Year Award." The Board of Directors voted in favor so that Ward's memory may be kept alive.

You may also know that SVD member **Jack Hornor** was selected as the TTOS Operator of the Month for May 2002. Jack and George Ann Hornor were featured in the May *Bulletin* in an article written by SVD member **Jack Ahearn**. What is the connection? At the convention banquet in Las Vegas, President Tom announced **Jack Hornor** is the 2002 recipient of the "Ward Kimball Operator of the Year Award".

Congratulations to Jack on his accomplishment. **Jack and George Ann** will host the September layout tour. Bring a camera and get your photo taken with the operators of the GASP (Galt, Amador, and Southern Pacific Railroad). Make sure you get their autographs also.



Jack Hornor, "Ward Kimball Operator of the Year"

Photo by Nancy Swan

TTOS Executive Board Meeting Notes

Friday, August 2, 2002

By Stan Batynski - Condensed from notes taken by Carl Allard, Empire and Eastern Division Secretary

Membership and Recruitment Efforts - TTOS now has 6248 members, down from 6543 this time last year. President Tom Lawler suggested providing a subsidy to each division for advertising to build local membership. Tom suggested that each of us needs to actively recruit new members. Several others voiced their opinions along the same lines, such as expanding services and providing materials to new members. There was a discussion of members' suggested modifications for the TTOS website. The web site should to be changed and updated regularly to attract potential new members, and to provide current information for existing members.

In addition, there was discussion of the on-going collaborative advertising campaign between TTOS and *Classic Toy Trains* magazine (CTT). CTT has designed and implemented a new TTOS monthly ad series based on TTOS member's photos and quotes. CTT staff did the layout work and graphics at no charge to TTOS. TTOS is also sponsoring a reduced cost, full-color, full-page ad in the CTT 15th Anniversary November issue.

Also, CTT has cooperated with TTOS as part of CTT's "World's Greatest Hobby" initiative. The result of this will be a fair amount of free publicity for the club. The TTOS website, and a vigorous national advertising campaign in hobby publications have the potential to significantly increase TTOS' membership and improve the club's long-range cash flow situation.

Bulletin Editor Arlen Hurt asked the division presidents and representatives present to encourage their local membership to send articles and photos to him for publication in *The Bulletin*. He also asked those present to submit any photos and news articles about local divisions running trains at children's hospitals, schools, malls, etc. New material is always needed.

The Operator of the year Award was renamed to the "Ward Kimball Operator of the Year" Award in honor of TTOS member Ward Kimball. Jack Hornor of SVD was named this years Operator of the Year.

Treasurer's Report - As of June 30, it appears that 2002 will be a "break-even" year, which will set the stage for a profitable 2003. The 2003 Denver convention should be quite popular and attract many members.

Convention Cars - The 2002 San Pedro, Los Angeles and Salt Lake boxcars have arrived at the shipper in Michigan. Members who ordered the 2002 SP, LA&SL convention cars can expect to receive their orders by the end of August. The 2003 convention cars will be Lionel O-Gauge and American Flyer S-Gauge Denver & Rio Grande tank cars. The cars will be in the striking "Grande Gold and Silver" paint scheme with the "Main Line Through the Rockies" logo. This car will be the first American Flyer tank car in the D&RGW road name.

National Board Meetings - Vice President Steve Latta reported that Board meetings via teleconferencing were almost as expensive as having the entire Board meet physically. The next board meeting will be at the Cal-Stewart Santa Clara Meet in February 2003.



Down the track

September 7: SVD Meet - Sierra II Center, Sacramento

September 14-15: El Dorado County Harvest Fair Train Show, Placerville

October 5: River City Toy Train Meet, Scottish Rite Center, Sacramento

October 18-19: TCA York Meet, York PA

November 2: SVD Meet - Sierra II Center, Sacramento

November 8-10: Cal-Stewart Meet, Pasadena

November 9-10: Roseville International Railfair, Placer County Fairgrounds, Roseville

November 30 - December 1: GATS Pleasanton

December 7: SVD Meet - Sierra II Center, Sacramento

December 21-22: GATS Fresno

December 28-29: GATS San Rafael



TTOS Sacramento Valley Division
Attn: Jerry Azzaro
291 Bella Vista Way
San Francisco, CA 94127-1811