

THE SIDE TRACK

SPRING

NEWS

from the Toy Train Operating Society
Sacramento Valley Division

2004

President's Message

by Jeff Silvera

Hello all. Well, the February luncheon was a success! I'm very happy about the way it went. We had 110 lunches ordered and there were exactly four left-over pieces of lasagna. I want to thank all of you who helped with this event: **Pete White** for the cakes (which were very good), **Phil Fravesi** for picking up the soft drinks (which were very cold), and **Jack Hornor** for arranging the presentation afterward about the CSRM and the Thomas Sefton Collection given by **Bruce Stiny**. The perfect ending to an excellent afternoon! The presentation was very interesting. What a collection, and very amazing the work that went in to bringing it up from San Diego. You can also read a nice article (Sacramento Bee, Metro, February, 28th) about the collection and museum.

I would like to thank all who contributed to the December toy and food drive for the Sacramento Children's Home. It was very much appreciated by the folks at the Home. You help to make some kid's Christmas special!



Some of the items donated for the Children's Home

The club will be setting up our layout for the upcoming April 4th Placerville Train Show. We always need members to help get it set up, run trains, and with the teardown. If interested, please contact **Norman La-Clair** at 457-7143 or me, **Jeff Silvera**, at 481-4694

As always, keep those trains running right on time...

Membership News and Notes

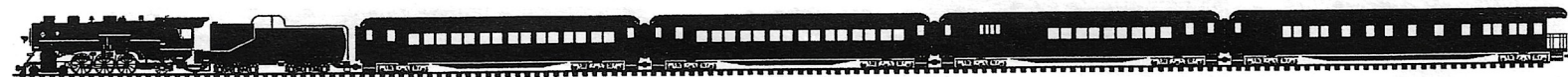
by George Ann Hornor

I'm happy to report we continue to grow. This quarter, we welcomed **Tom Devlin** from Livermore, **Geary Musselman** from Sacramento, **Dennis Weiss** from Galt, and **Ron Wong** from Rocklin. And we welcome back an old friend, **Dennis King**.

Renewal notices were recently sent to those of you who hadn't yet paid your Division dues. You may pay at the next two meetings or by mail. Please remember that your membership will be in arrears after the April meeting, and there will be a \$5 penalty for reinstatement. Also, please make certain you are current with your national dues.

After the April meeting, I will remove the names of those who failed to renew, and compile our annual membership directory. It has been our practice to list each member's home address in the directory. However, with the heightened awareness of potential identity theft, perhaps there are some who would rather your home address be kept confidential. If you like, please let me know and I'll just list your name, phone number and e-mail address. For the last couple of years, I have been very careful to shred the left-over lists of members as well as any form with confidential information.

Thanks to all of you who paid at the first two meetings. It saves time for me and for **Mike Boyd**, our treasurer.



Show and Tell

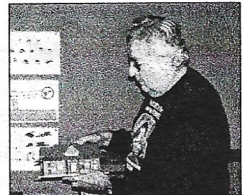
By Richard Zanotti

The themes of our December meet were: "One-Hit Wonders" (Things that were only produced once) and "Finds at the Scottish Rite and York Meets". **Chuck Stone** stunned us with his Brimtoy Circus Set. Coincidentally, that same set was featured on the cover of the October issue of the TCA QUARTERLY. What a find! **Mike McKeenan** brought in a Wide Gauge American Flyer locomotive and tender that might have been a prototype of the Flyer Wide Gauge line. Another great find! **Pete White** showed us a picture of his early Buddy L pylon and airplane set. I hear he has since upgraded it. **John Lowenthal** brought in a cardboard covered wagon passenger train, a very rare item. He also had a station made from the box that Mazda light bulbs came in. **Jerry Azzaro** presented a remote train control that was voice activated. He also had a nicely lithoed station whose manufacturer is a mystery, and a box of "Mainliner" rubber ties. Jerry also had a pristine conductor playset in the original box, produced by Hassenfeld Bros. **Jack Hornor** shared a building that might have housed a transformer at one time. Even though it was similar to a Lionel Winner series transformer building, the markings were different. I brought in a very rare Karl Bub central station from about 1930. Marklin and Bing made very similar stations. I had an American Flyer station made in Germany before World War I. I brought a couple of interesting one gauge pieces including a Marklin electric configuration locomotive and a Bing eight wheeled coal car with four side unloading doors. I displayed some items that I picked up at the Dollar store that would be of interest to train collectors. They included: people, buildings, and trains.

The theme of our January meet was "Stations and other buildings". **Bill Wilson** presented some very detailed Downtowndeco.com kits. **Jerry Azzaro** displayed some Minicraft and American Flyer stations. Skyline and Hallmark stations were shown by **Jean Hathaway**. **Jack Hornor** had an unusual whistling station and a curious round transformer made by General Electric. **John Lowenthal** had some cardboard stations made by Concord, Bilt-Rite, and Toytown. **Mark Boyd** shared a beautiful wayside station made by Ira Keeler.

Chuck Stone shared a rare Ives Station made between 1910 and 1912. It was in beautiful condition. **John DeHaan** presented some stations made by Ives, Hornby, Bing, American Flyer, Hafner, and Brimtoy. John felt that his pre- WWI German made Flyer station was made by KBM [Fandor]. He stressed the great lithography on his German stations. He really liked the way that the lithography showed the shadows on his Bing freight station. I displayed an American Flyer wayside station made only between 1925 and 1928 with an inverted roof. I also had a Kibri signal bridge with a switch tower.

We did not have Show & Tell at our February meet due to the very tight schedule we had that day. The themes of our March meet are, "Trains and toy trains in the movies", and a "Continuation of stations and other buildings". As always, you do not have to follow the theme. You can bring in what you want. After all, it is YOUR Show & Tell.



Layout Tours

by Jack Hornor

Instead of a home layout tour, following the February meeting, we were treated to a special slide presentation by Bruce Stiny. Bruce is curator for the "Thomas Sefton Collection of Toy Trains" exhibit at the California State Railroad Museum. His presentation, which was originally prepared for other museum curators and changed slightly for the benefit of toy train operators, gave us a behind the scenes look at the collection and the process of transporting it from the Sefton home in the San Diego area to the Museum. The presentation began with slides taken of workers packing the priceless objects and loading them for the trip to Sacramento. According to Bruce, the camera couldn't do justice to the collection of toys and trains in Mr. Sefton's display rooms. Maybe not, but the pictures were awesome to us. The story and pictures continue in the tightly-secured storage facility as Bruce and our own Jack Ahearn began to unpack the 1600 boxes, including 100 boxes of rare track. Bruce ended the presentation by showing artists' depictions of the planned exhibit which is scheduled to open this summer. Because the collection is so large, only a portion can be displayed at one time, so the items will be rotated. We'll have plenty of time to delight in seeing new items as the exhibit is updated. Thank you, Bruce, for an entertaining hour.

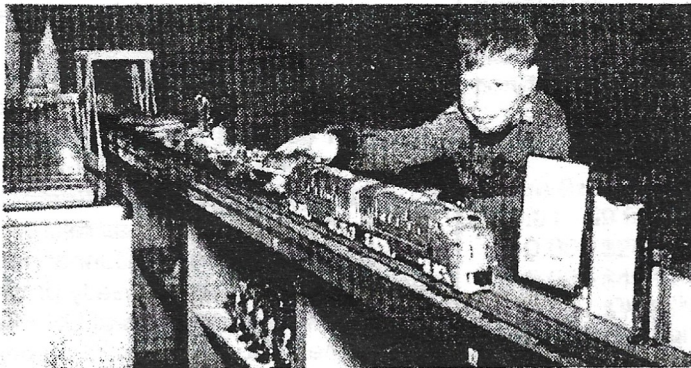
HOME LAYOUT TOURS

In March, we will be visiting Karl and Janette Schmidt. Karl does beautiful restoration work, and his standard gauge layout and collection showcase many of his restored pieces. As usual, maps will be available at the meeting.

In April, we'll travel to Loomis and visit two layouts. Bob Rhodes' layout is under construction, so this will be a good opportunity for those with plans to build layouts of their own. Loomis is also the home of Eister Mountain, and Francis and Becky will be our hosts. It's hard to describe Eister Mountain, but Rose Craighead and I stood up in it together!

After the May meeting, there will be three layouts open in Placerville. Roy Kilday, Tom MacConnell and Carl and Kathy Locher will be our hosts. We've visited these layouts previously, but they are all good places to visit again.

We'll pass in June because I will be out of town. We'll skip July because of the holiday, and also August because of the TTOS national convention. When we resume our tours in September, you're invited to our layout in Galt. I'll be demonstrating TMCC and other new electronic toys. The last tour of the year will be to Paul Wells' layout in Auburn.



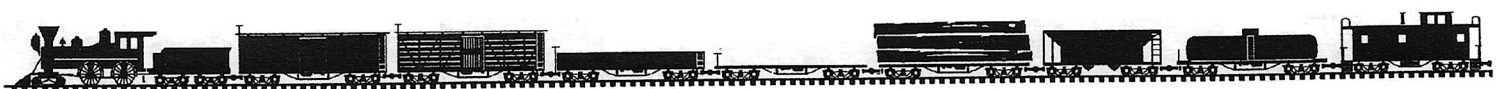
JUNE, 1951

Hamburger Roundhouse

YOUNGSTER reaches for a hamburger delivered to him from the kitchen by model railroad flyer. This griddle-to-customer service is part of the railroad motif used by a Chicago restaurant called the Snackville Junction, 10800 S. Western Ave. Sounds okay, but what will the Lighthouse do with the tips?

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Trivia Tidbit (thanks to Stan Batynski): A Model Railroader reader survey from 1950 showed that the average reader was just 29 years old with an annual household income of \$4,100...quite a bit more than the national average at the time of \$2,600!





3rd annual Gold County Train Show and Sale

Sunday, April 4th, 2004

Hours: 10am - 4pm

Location: El Dorado County Fairgrounds,
100 Placerville Drive, Placerville, CA

Tables are available: \$15.00 for an 8 foot table.
Operating layout displays wanted.

For information contact Tom MacConnell 530-626-
3640, macconnell@directcon.net

If anyone is interested in helping with the show:
Advertising, setting up, staffing the info table or the en-
try table, please contact me. Thank you. Tom

NATIONAL TTOS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The National TTOS BOD meeting will be held dur-
ing the Cal-Stewart Santa Clara Meet on Friday
March 26, 2004 at 1 pm in the Westin Hotel. The
new national officers will be inducted into office.

- Stan Batynski

Train Meet Metrics

By Joe Lechner

Metric units that are based on a person's name are lower-case words, but their abbreviations / symbols are capitalized.

It isn't always the name of a person; sometimes it's the name of a place. A very common unit of measurement on this list is the york (symbol: Y). Unlike other metric units, the york can be used to measure several different quantities, for example:

Time interval (as in, "several yorks ago"): the amount of elapsed time between two Eastern Division meets; approximately 180 days. A convenient shorter interval is the deciyork (symbol: dY) = 18 days.

Collector meet size: the number of tables available at an Eastern Division meet; approximately 3,000. Smaller train meets are measured in centiyorks (symbol: cY) = 30 tables. NOTE: official definition of the centiyork is likely to be revised due to the relativistic effect of orange hall.

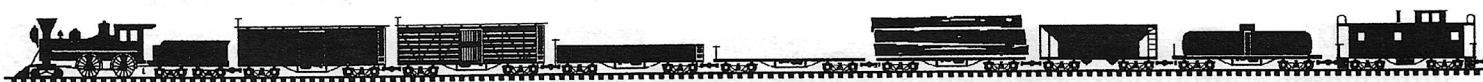
Population: the number of persons attending an Eastern Division meet; approximately 16,000. A convenient derived unit for measuring small clubs is the milliyork (symbol: mY) = 16 members.

Other derived units have been defined, but their usage is very obscure.

Leftover sections of track that are found by custodians in the Expo Center after a TCA meet are referred to as microyorks.

Uneaten portion of a funnel cake is called a nanoyork. It was recently proposed that fully-resurfaced segments of US Route 30 be named picoyorks. Quantum physicists have claimed that the most probable location for a mint-in-box 700E is attoyork.

Joseph Lechner



TMCC On-Line Tutorial

By Jack Hornor

<http://www.coilcouplers.com>

If, like me, you are interested in Train Master Command Control and would like to learn more, go to the above web page, and click on **Try TMCC**. Here, you can virtually try it out as you work through tutorials.

This is a fun site, whether you are experienced with TMCC or just interested in learning more. It is completely interactive with sounds and pictures, all operated by you as you click on the CAB-1 controller with your mouse. As you continue through the program, it goes into advanced, complex operations, such as multi-engine hookup. It demonstrates methods to allow you to better control, not only multiple trains, but turnouts (switches) and accessories. All remotely, of course. The program explains each operation and how to wire the components into your existing layout.

You will learn that it will not only operate locomotives equipped with TMCC receivers, but any locomotive—prewar, postwar, or modern—by adding a track power controller (TPC) or Power Master unit.

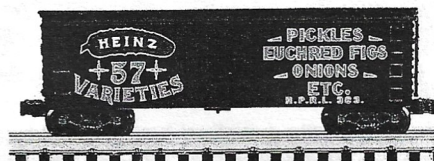
I checked the necessary component prices in several mail-order magazine ads. A CAB-1 should be about \$50, command base - another \$50, and if you wish to operate locomotives without a TMCC receiver, you will need a Power Master, another \$50. That's it. For about \$150 you're in business with TMCC.

Remembering Ted Adams

By Stan Batynski

Those who attend the Sierra II meets may remember seeing Ted Adams sitting quietly in his "office", the last table along the parking lot side wall near the train layout area. Ted and I would meet there almost every month to discuss topics such as TTOS business or the latest battles of UC Davis vs. the City of Davis for land use in Davis. Even though Ted was a Davis resident, as a retired UC Davis professor he definitely was for UC Davis.

From our various conversations, one question remains unanswered: what is a euchred fig? Ted had a K-Line car decorated for Heinz 57 Varieties, with euchred figs listed as one of the products. Euchre is a card game played with 32 cards. But what does one do to a fig to make it a euchred fig? We never were able to find out, even when Ted inquired at the university. Can anyone help with an answer?



EBAY FEES CHANGE

eBay, the predominant internet auction site, announced certain fee changes effective February 2, 2004. The changes most likely to affect sellers of trains and similar items are the insertion fees, summarized here:

<u>Old schedule</u>		<u>New schedule</u>	
Item Starting Price	Fee	Item Starting Price	Fee
\$0.01 - \$9.99	\$0.30	\$0.01 - \$9.99	\$0.30
\$10.00 - \$24.99	\$0.55	\$1.00 - \$9.99	\$0.35
\$25.00 - \$49.99	\$1.10	\$10.00 - \$24.99	\$0.60
\$50.00 - \$199.99	\$2.20	\$25.00 - \$49.99	\$1.20
\$200.00 and up	\$3.30	\$50.00 - \$199.99	\$2.40
		\$200.00 - \$499.99	\$3.60
		\$500 and up	\$4.80

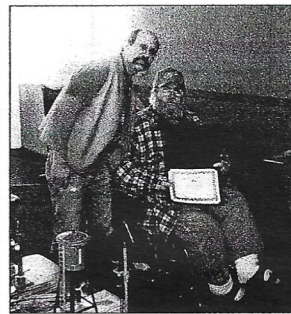
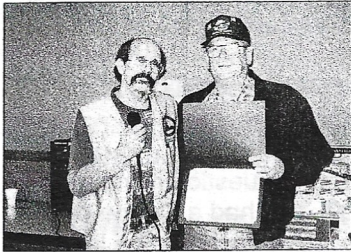
Complete information regarding eBay fees can be found at

<http://pages.ebay.com/help/sell/questions/seller-fees.html>



Acknowledging SVD Volunteers

SVD President **Jeff Silvera** presented certificates of appreciation at the February meet to **George Ann Hornor, Jack Hornor, Dave Thomsen, Kathy and Carl Locher, Norman LaClair, Richard Zanotti, Phil Fravesi, Jerry Azzaro and John Shelton.** **Stan Batynski and Jan and Lee Deter** also received recognition but were not present for the photographs. *Photos by Paul Wells*



A TOY TRAIN FANTASY by Jack Ahearn

Here's a great example of what I discovered during such an inspection of one of the Collection's freight cars. I was examining a late version of a cream and maroon, nickel trimmed Lionel standard gauge #213 Cattle car. The most obvious and blatant exception to the otherwise neat appearing car were the blue paint stripes across the roof, one side and bottom. I had read and understood that within Lionel's paint department it wasn't uncommon for them to pick up, a then five-dollar car, and use it for a paint swatch sample. However, while scanning one end of this car I noticed what appeared to be a small smudge or paint craze. Tilting and holding it into a better light, I looked closely at this paint shop 'guinea pig' and guess what I had in my hands! I was looking at what is probably a 'one in the world' piece of Lionel rolling stock. That's a pretty brash statement and one most rational persons wouldn't utter. I'll let you be the judge. Either the employees in the paint shop also worked with decals or they sent this paint sample car over to the decal folks for their experimenting. Anyway, what I was looking at, adhered on a standard gauge car, was a white lettered decal reading "Pennsylvania" and centered under it; "0014" with capacity, load limit and light weight tonnage listed below. There are probably many reasons for this 'find of a lifetime'. The imagination could run rampant with fascinating scenarios. Or it could be as simple (and disappointing) as an employee who, perhaps spilled a bit of coffee on a work desk, noticed the dampened decal, swabbed it up with a finger and merely dabbed it onto the end of a nearby test car. I know the tuscan colored Pennsy box cars to be '0044' and in the Collection we have an '0074'. I'm sure this will be of interest amongst Lionel 'OO' fans. And, Standard gauge fans, how about that difficult to find, 200 series car in the rarer colors. What an odd, mismatched marriage of two great cars. Incidentally, this #213 wasn't 'lucked-out' on, at a train show. It was purchased, by Mr. Sefton, from the Lionel Corporate Collection. He did get around!

-excerpted from Jack's 3-part article about the Thomas W. Sefton Collection, which will appear in the TTOS Bulletin starting with the May 2004 issue. Used with permission.



Club Layout News

Norman LaClair, layout chair



On January 3rd and 4th, the layout was taken to the Cal Expo Fairgrounds to be a participating layout for the G.A.T.S. Show. Sacramento holds the distinction of being the farthest point north in California for the G.A.T.S. organization to sponsor a train show. The layout was once again very well attended by the public. At times on both Saturday and Sunday, people were standing three and four deep watching our toy trains run. Our trains ran all day both days with no problems of any kind in the operation.

Members of T.T.O.S. in attendance to help set up were: **Kevin Anderson, Jack Horner, Craig Benner, Paul Wells, Jeff Silvera, and Norman LaClair.** The set up crew all were able to be available on Friday afternoon to set up. That meant we would not have to rush to set up but at any rate we still had the layout up and running in two hours.

On Saturday the crew started arriving at 8:00 a.m. to run our trains before the public show was opened at 11:00 a.m. From the very start of the show people were watching and asking varied questions about trains and of course the old stand-by comments were heard. "I had a set of trains like that once." And, "Gee, I wonder what my parents did with those trains." Those two comments seem to be the ones we all hear at all train shows.

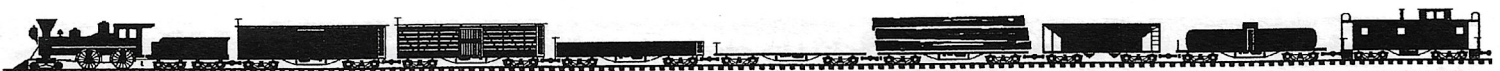
The crew running trains on Saturday were: **Jack Horner, Jeff Silvera, Craig Benner, Kevin Anderson, Tom Mac Connell, Mark Jines, Paul Wells and Norman LaClair.** **John DeHaan and Larry Harding** joined the crew on Sunday. Tom and Norman were at the show at 8:15 a.m. Saturday just to run trains, joined by **Mark Jines** who arrived about 8:30. We had a great time just running trains for our own enjoyment. Jack, Kevin and Jeff had all gone to the meeting at Sierra School and then spent the rest of the day at the show. Craig arrived in the morning before the show opened and brought with him a 400E Locomotive and State set of brown passenger cars along with a set of freight cars made by M.T.H. He told me he was lucky enough to have bought them at the Richard Kughn auction of Kughn's Lionel collection. What a great set of standard gauge trains, even if it was made by M.T.H.

Mark Jines brought his M.T.H. Commodore Vanderbilt locomotive and tender and pulled a nice set of K-Line passenger cars with it. Mark also brought a very nice U.P. switcher along with several other locomotives and cars to run, and, being there to run for two days, he, like the rest of us, brought more trains than we needed. All of the members who came to work with and for the layout brought trains to run. The list of trains brought by all of the layout crew sure makes for a lot of different trains to have available to be run. **Jack and George Ann Horner** spent the entire day Saturday what with going to the Sierra School meet and then to Cal Expo.

I had talked to **Ted Adams** the day prior to setting up at Cal Expo and he told me that he was not feeling well and would have to cancel his participation in the show this time because he thought he had the flu. The weekend after the G.A.T.S. Show we all lost Ted. His passing was a great shock to me personally as Ted was always available to help out with the layout. I am sure everybody will miss Ted a great deal. I know the entire layout crew will very greatly miss him. He always had suggestions and ideas of how we could improve the operation and handling of the layout and I could always count on him to be there when we were planning to get together to have a work day in trying to improve the layout. Ted will be greatly missed for his participation and his help at all times. He was such a great lover of trains that he also was one of the original eight people that built the Woodland layout. He spend a lot of time working on and running trains on that layout as well. Ted brought a lot of knowledge and concern with him in his hobbies. Some people may not know this but Ted also was a modeler of radio control and free flight model airplanes and had a lot of knowledge about both hobbies. He was very knowledgeable about model airplane motors that were the ignition type that used a coil and condenser and hand mixed fuel to run these old motors.

On February 19th, the layout was taken to Placerville with a lot of help from **Tom Mac Connell.** Tom had arranged a day at the Senior Activities Center. **Carl Locher** spent the day helping set up and tear down and running the trains for the enjoyment of a lot of senior citizens who were very appreciative of being able to see the trains running. We had a very nice day in Placerville, thanks to Tom's idea, a very nice thought on Tom's part.

Tom and Norman have been discussing a future week-end picnic day for the club at the Coloma State Park, setting up the layout and firing up a couple of barbeques. We are looking at a day in May. More information will be available at the next meeting at Sierra II Center.



Down the track

March 6: SVD Meet—Sierra II Center

March 13-14: Woodland Modular Club show and sale, Woodland

March 26-28: Spring Cal-Stewart meet, Santa Clara

April 3: SVD Meet—Sierra II Center

April 4: Train Show and Sale, Placerville

May 1: SVD Meet—Sierra II Center

May 15-16: Great Western Train Show, San Rafael, CA

May 29: Toy Train Show-Scottish Rite Center

June 5: SVD Meet—Sierra II Center



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