



THE SIDE TRACK

FALL

NEWS

from the Toy Train Operating Society
Sacramento Valley Division

2006

President's Message

by Jeff Silvera

I have just returned from the Costa Mesa TTOS 2006 National Convention, the 40th Anniversary of our club. I was only there for Thursday and Friday events, and all went well. At the Grand Reception I had the opportunity to pick up an American Flyer A. C. Gilbert coach (the one that I had forgotten to order when it was first offered). The trading activity seemed to be good, as there were two rooms full of trains for sale. The hotel was very nice. All in all, I would say it was a successful convention. Everyone should now be looking forward to the possibility of the 2008 National Convention coming to Sacramento, as there has been talk of it... more details to come.

We have our election of division officers coming up in November, so I'm looking forward a new regime taking over. We need new blood and direction in our club, so please think about getting involved. With the River City Meet coming up in October we will be busy preparing for this. The River City Meet is one of my favorite events, and I'm looking forward to having a great time. So please get yourself a table, or help out in another way. If you would like to help we have some jobs that will need to be filled. Please contact me if interested.

2006 TTOS

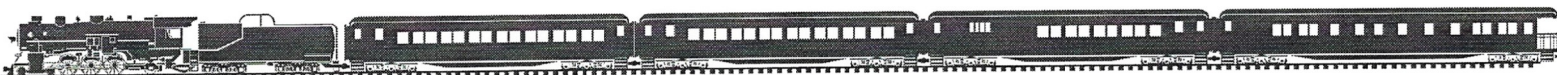
Convention Report

by George Ann Hornor

Several Sacramento Valley Division members attended the Costa Mesa convention during the third week of August. In spite of the fact that the convention was moved up a year, the Southern Pacific Division did an excellent job of preparation and came up with activities to please everyone. Free gifts are always popular, and along with a California billboard insert and souvenir replica of a Santa Ana and Newport Railway Company Pass, each registrant was given an attractive tote bag commemorating TTOS's 40th anniversary. The tours were well received, and the banquet was very nice. Those of us on the Knott's Berry Farm tour were treated to a private tour of the narrow gauge locomotives and rolling stock that Walter Knott acquired after the Denver and Rio Grande stopped narrow gauge operations. Everything, including a Galloping Goose, is beautifully restored and in operating condition. I appreciated the fact that the SP Division made sure that wheelchairs could be accommodated. The electric lift to the gondola was as good as any "E Ticket" ride.

Although the attendance was down somewhat, there were lots of trains to buy. The star of the show may have been the Ives Standard Gauge National Limited, made only in 1930, and in the original boxes--including the set box. It wasn't for sale, though. The proud owner had recently purchased it back East after looking for it for more than 30 years, and he brought it in for the other standard gauge collectors to see. **Chuck Brasher** can tell you more about it, including the price. Wow.

Next year, it's on to Altoona and Horseshoe Curve.



Show and Tell

By Richard Zanotti

Bill Wilson suggested that we have KITS AND KIT BASHING as a theme for our May Show & Tell. Unfortunately, Bill was not able to participate due to an automobile accident.

Gene Hathaway presented several items. They were: a crane boom car made from a Lionel work caboose, a very long cattle car made by combining two smaller cattle cars, a WWI cannon car made by attaching a Lionel #10 cannon car to a flat car, a double stack container car, and an aircraft parts car.

Bill Bender showed some of his projects. They included: a Southern Pacific water car like the ones at the Roseville yards that are used to fight fires, a Southern Pacific operating rotary snow plow, a Santa Fe box car with a flashing rear light, a Santa Fe #3465 Hudson locomotive with 84 inch drive wheels. Bill had to build a matching tender from scratch.

Frank Jablonski shared a turbo-locomotive that he rebuilt, installing a QSI electronic E unit and a LGB smoke unit. **Karl Schmidt** showed a Kibri station that he restored. He had to do research in order to find out what the station originally looked like. He had to build a roof from scratch. He did such a good job that it is hard to tell that the roof was made of wood instead of metal.

John Liens had a HO Maryland and Chelsea Railroad #14 combination car that was made from scratch.

Clyde Easterly brought in a pre-kit-bashing one gauge Ives #3239 locomotive that had been modified in ancient times and was in pieces. **Wallace Ripley** said that he thinks that he can restore it and get it running. I will let you know what happens.

Jim Groth took the opportunity to show his kit-bashed standard gauge American Flyer searchlight car that American Flyer never made. He made it from an assortment of Flyer and Lionel parts. He also displayed and gave away photographs of our visit to **Phil Fravesi's** layout the month before.

I shared a circa 1910, Marklin station with etched glass windows. the only problem was that it did not have a roof. I also had a Karl Bubb station combination made up of a passenger station, a refreshment patio, and a freight station. The only problem was that the freight station did not have a roof. I used a color copy machine to copy the passenger station roof and reduce it so that it would fit the freight station. I also enlarged that same passenger station roof so that it would fit the Marklin station.

Many years ago **Jack Ahearn** suggested to me that I use a color copy machine to replace the missing side of a lithoed Lionel station. It worked. I think we will see a lot more of this in the future.

We did not have Show & Tell at either our June or July meetings. In June we went to the Western Railway Museum at Rio Vista Junction. In July we visited the layouts at Grass Valley.

George Ann Hornor suggested that we repeat CONVENTION AND COMMEMORATIVE CARS as a theme for Show & Tell at our August meet. She shared a TTOS Sacramento convention car that was part of a centerpiece put together by **Don Rosa** for the convention banquet. Don made about forty of these center pieces. George Ann also had some very rare HO convention cars.

Tom Gibson designed the prototype for the TTOS 1984 Sacramento Convention car that was presented by **Jack Hornor**. It had a logo displaying the state capitol.

Chuck Stone shared a TCA Twenty-fifth Silver Anniversary car from the 1979 convention. This car came with a silver medallion. Usually this medallion is missing.

Jim Groth shared an article about **Chuck Brasher** in a TCA QUARTERLY from the early 1970's. The article was written by Chuck's wife, **Sue**.

Bill Wilson presented the book, THE MAN WHO LOVED TRAINS. **Jeff Silvera** told us about the book that he is reading, SACRAMENTO STREETCARS.

I displayed a Karl Bubb track crossing from the 1920's. When the switch on the track is tripped, a clockwork motor: rings a bell, activates the crossing gates, and moves semaphore arms.

I also presented an elaborate crossing made by **Carette**, about 1905. On this crossing a bell rings, the crossing gates go up and down, and the semaphore arms move when you pull a trip. This hundred-year-old piece had just been restored by **Ira Keeler**.

Club Layout News

By Norman LaClair, Layout Chair



Greetings from the TTOS Track Shops. We are going to start a project on the layout by replacing the S gauge track with GarGraves 36" track sections. This will reduce the number of junctions and will help reduce the trains slowing down because of rust on the track pins and track joints. By using GarGraves track, we will be able to set up the curves without them being abrupt and causing the cars and locomotives to derail. By the way, this track has wood ties, making it look more realistic. After a great amount of investigation and looking at the track on our layout, we were really surprised to see the amount of rust on the S gauge track in the joints. Therefore the only solution we have found is to replace this track to help stop the problem of the S gauge trains slowing down and speeding up in various places. We are looking forward to having the repairs made in time for the October 7th Scottish Rite Show.

The remaining public shows this year are the October 7 show at the Scottish Rite Temple and everybody's favorite show, the Railroad Museum show on November 24, 25, and 26 (the Friday, Saturday and Sunday following Thanksgiving).

I have read several articles in "O Gauge Railroading" and "Classic Toy Trains" and the articles stated that the national traveling shows were being closed or sold. I called the national show that comes to the Cow Palace in San Francisco, Pleasanton, Santa Rosa and Sacramento and was told that the Great Train Expo, which is the company that was at Cal Expo last January, will be here again in January 2007 and is not being sold or going out of business. So we will still have a nationwide train show coming to Sacramento, Santa Rosa, San Francisco, and Pleasanton for two day shows.

Let's keep our trains running and support the public shows with our layout.

Best wishes to all for the upcoming holiday season.

Sincerely, *Norman LaClair*

TTOS National Meeting News

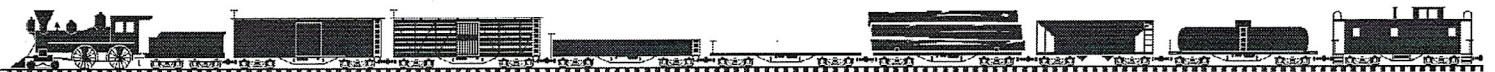
By George Ann Hornor

The TTOS National Executive Committee announced during the August 17 Board of Directors meeting that the 2008 National Convention will be held in Sacramento. At the annual membership meeting on August 19, there was a spirited discussion regarding the ethics of the Committee's decision to select Sacramento without consulting the SVD Board of Directors. The National officers explained that they intend to choose the facilities and make the pre convention arrangements. The SVD will be given the option of joining them in hosting the convention. Those of us who have been involved in other conventions know what a huge burden it places on the members of the hosting division. Although it's tempting just to tell them to go ahead without us, it's not that simple. I think most of us take pride in being recognized as a friendly, hospitable club, and we won't be comfortable boycotting the convention or refusing to help. So now we have an interesting new topic for discussion.

Gino Cultraro 1920-2006—TCA 75-8394, TTOS 1489

By Clyde Easterly

Gino was an avid collector of toys, clocks and especially cameras. I first met Gino when he joined the train clubs and we both lived in the San Fernando Valley area of Los Angeles. At that time he had a collection of toys that included a collection consisting of HO, 0 and Standard gauge, pre and post war trains. Gino retired in 1988 and moved to Paradise California with his wife and their various collections, his wife had her collections. Gino always loved to haunt the antique stores, garage sales and swap meets and when they moved to Paradise he went full time into the buying and selling of his collectable items. When eBay started he was always buying and selling on the auction site as well as street fairs, GATS, and train shows and meets. He was always in a good mood, happy and a had good word for everybody.



Whose turn is it, anyway?

by George Ann Hornor

Over the years, I seem to have evolved into Division Housemother, and as such, I would like to offer a gentle reminder.

Are you enjoying our meetings, and do you want to see them continue? I think most of you do, so please stop and think for a moment about how you could help. For several years, **Jeff Silvera** and **Mike Boyd** have done more than their share, as have I. So it's time someone else took over. I'm lucky in that **Barbara Rohrs** has offered to take over the membership duties. We've worked together before, and she'll be good at it.

To keep a club operating, some basic things need to be done. We need to raise enough money to cover our expenses, and we do that through collecting dues and holding the River City Meet. The Sierra 2 Center and the Scottish Rite Center must be reserved and the rent paid. We need to maintain our association with National TTOS and with other divisions. The Division's Board of Directors have been responsible for doing those things, but perhaps the duties can be shared so the load is a little lighter for the officers. Any of the current or previous officers will be glad to share their knowledge and experiences with you. **Carl Locher** is head of the nominating committee for the upcoming election, and I know he would like to hear from you at 530 626-0421.

In addition to our elected officers, we're lucky to have several willing volunteers who make the meetings fun. **Norman La Clair** and **Paul Wells** have been responsible for keeping the modular layout running, and either of them can explain how you can help them. **Jerry Azzaro** keeps us up to date with The Side Track, and he needs stories. Aren't any of your trains worth writing about? **Richard Zanotti** has revived interest in Show and Tell and he'll appreciate your ideas and your participation. The home layout tours have been well-attended, and **Jack Hornor** would like you to consider hosting a visit. He's interested in layouts of every size and scope, so please talk to him.

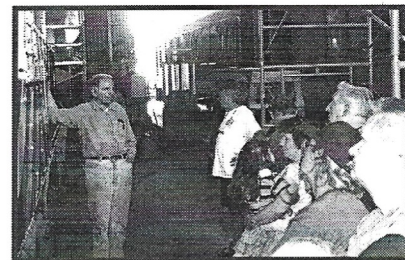
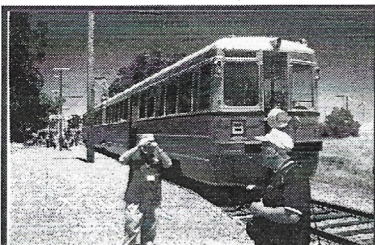
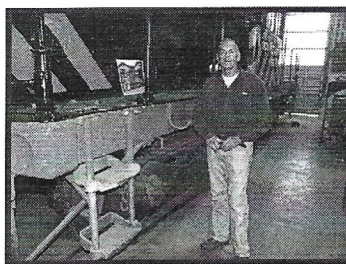
The River City Meet takes a lot of effort. Right now, the president acts as meet chairman, but it would certainly help if someone could come forward and volunteer to coordinate the meet. Meanwhile, **Jeff** is chairman of the upcoming meet, so please ask him what help he needs.

One of our pressing needs is finding someone to design and maintain our web page on the Internet. We do have a page, but it hasn't been updated in years, and we're missing a good opportunity to attract new members and serve the ones we have.

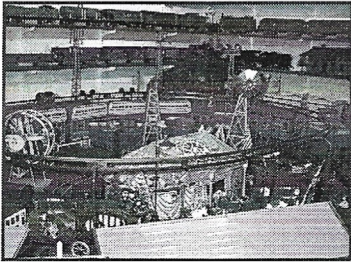
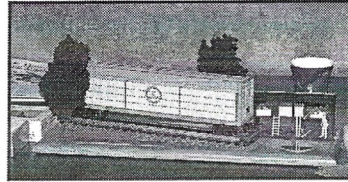
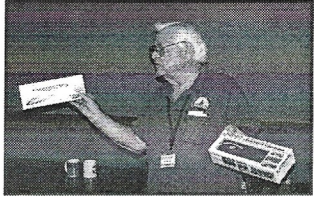
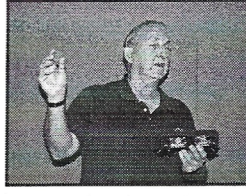
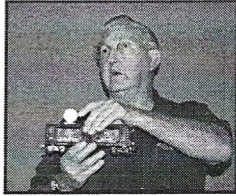
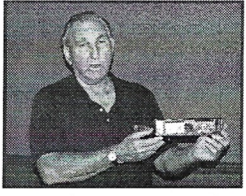
That's it. Now, I'll jump down from my soap box and talk Jack into making changes to our layout.

Photos from our June picnic outing at the Western Railway Museum

(Thanks to Richard Zanotti and Pete White for contributing photos when the editor's battery died)

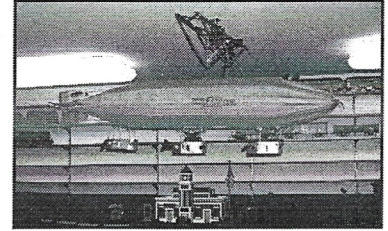


Show and Tell Gallery



HOME LAYOUT TOURS

by Jack Hornor



July's home layout tour was spectacular, of course, as we visited the homes of three world-class collectors and operators. We all appreciated the hospitality as well as the chance to see items some of us had only read about. These long-time friends all operate original trains in tip-top condition ... no replicas here!

Clyde and Erma Easterly's interest in Mickey Mouse and erector sets is reflected throughout their home and especially in Clyde's layout. He has a diverse collection of pre-war standard and O gauge trains and accessories, but his pride and joy may be his rare #1 gauge 3-rail operation. His Erector Dirigible was a big hit, especially when he operated it.

In **Chuck and Sue Brasher's** fantastic standard gauge collection, you'll find nothing made later than 1939. It's amazing to see antique trains, some made a century ago, run as they did when they were new. Many of us have seen their layout featured in *Classic Toy Trains* and the TM Video's *Great Toy Train Layouts of America*.

Chuck Stone is known throughout the toy train community for his extensive Ives collection. Both **Chuck and Jeri** also collect antique dolls and toys, so a visit to their home appeals to all collectors. Chuck also likes Marx, and it's always interesting to see what he brings home from his jaunts to York.

Our hosts were also kind enough to invite the TTOS Golden State Division, and we were happy that several of them were able to attend.

Again, we thank all three families. We're privileged to have you as fellow members and friends.

Immediately following the August meet, we will be visiting **Mike de la Pena's** layout in Shingle Springs, and **Pete and Nancy** have invited us back to the **White House** to end the year.

You may have noticed I'm already recruiting for next year, and I'll probably be talking to you soon.

Down the track

September 2: SVD MEET, Sierra II Center

September 23-24: Great Train Expo, San Jose

October 7: River City Train Meet, Scottish Rite Center

November 4: SVD MEET, Sierra II Center

November 11-12: International Rail Fair Model Railroad Show,
Placer County Fairgrounds, Roseville CA

November 17-19: Cal-Stewart Meet, Pasadena CA

November 25-26: Great Train Expo, Pleasanton CA

December 2: SVD MEET, Sierra II Center

December 2-3: San Joaquin Valley Division Train Meet,
Stanislaus County Fairgrounds, Turlock CA



TTOS Sacramento Valley Division

Attn: Jerry Azzaro

jerry_azzaro@juno.com

291 Bella Vista Way

San Francisco, CA 94127-1811

