FALL NEWS

from the Toy Train Operating Society Sacramento Valley Division

2007

President's Message

by Geary Musselman

Hi, Everyone. 2007 is winding down - where has the time gone? As the old saying goes, "Time flies when you're having fun."

For those who were not ay the last meeting, we have renewed our contract with Sierra II center for the year 2008.

Our meetings will continue to be held on the first Saturday of each month with the exception of April and October. Sierra II had already reserved the first Saturday in April for another function. We need to decide at the next meeting as a club to what we're going to do in April. Please, if you have any ideas, contact me so that I can make a list of options for us as a club to decide on at the next meeting on Saturday December 1st. Plus as you all know we had our T.T.O.S. River City Toy Train meet at the Scottish Rite Center on the first Saturday of the month in October. . . I'm proud of all of you for your support and help. Our membership is growing we need to keep it healthy and strong.

Keep inviting guests, especially those with an interest in toy trains - hopefully they will join and want to participate in our wonderful club.

I look forward to seeing each and every one of you this next year in 2008. . . and I wish a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR to all.

Membership News

by Barbara Rohrs

IT IS THAT TIME AGAIN -- MEMBER-SHIP RENEWAL!

I will be collecting Sacramento Valley divisional dues, beginning at the January meeting. Dues for 2008 will be remain the same: \$15 per individual; \$20 per family (spouse & children under the age of 18). Please try to come with exact change or you can write a check to SVDTTOS. If you have changed any personal information such as address, phone, email, etc., please let me know also. If you wish to mail in your dues, please send your payment and any other changes in your personal information such email, address, etc. to:

Barbara Rohrs 3950 Mack Road - 57 Sacramento, CA 95823

Remember that your national TTOS dues have to be renewed also for 2008. To be a division member, you need to also be a national member in good standing. If you have any questions, please contact me at (916) 395-3925.

I wish you and those you love a wonderful holiday season & a Happy New Year.

Barbara Rohrs, Membership Chair

HOME LAYOUT TOURS

by Jack Hornor

September 1: Dean and Bonnie Busick



"Hey, Phil! You gotta' have this!" Jim Groth shouted when he saw Dean's new Lionel CAB-1

TMCC operating crane car and tender with sounds. This and many other state-of-the-art trains and accessories were crowd-pleasers during our visit to the Busicks'. As we learned during our last visit, Dean's layout is built around an original 5' x 9', Super O, Lionel dealer display, No. D-291. Dean is the second owner and has restored the layout back to the original condition, including the original accessories. Surrounding this is his 16' x 18' modern, multi-loop, layout with Ross track and switches which he operates with TMCC and conventional controls. He's added several MTH operating accessories such as Mel's Diner and the car wash. Dean is currently installing a new transfer table and making other changes that he wants to



show us on our next visit.

One item that catches the observant eye is the Wells Fargo and Company Express building. The almost-scale toy bank is a replica of the building in historic Columbia, and

it's been in Bonnie's family for years. And it so happens that Dean and Bonnie first met in Columbia while he was doing summer theater.

Bonnie and Dean were once again gracious hosts. Bonnie's buffet was outstanding and we thank them both very much.

November 3: Mike and Beverly DeLa Pena

All I can say is, WOW! **Mike and Beverly De La Pena's** 21' x 18' layout, housed in a separate 30' x 30' train room, is outstanding. Contrary to an article in the latest Classic Toy Trains, Mike runs DCS, TMCC and conventional trains on the same loop at the same time. The outside track diameter reaches 96 inches. The layout is fully landscaped and has many operating accessories such as Mel's Diner, a skating rink, the Union 76 gas station, a great operating turntable, and a new acquisition -- a very realistic coaling tower. As impressive as this beautiful layout is, talking trains and running trains were what made the visit so enjoyable. And speaking of running trains, at one point Dave Ashman, who was standing on the side of the layout opposite the operator, suddenly announced, "Houston, we have a problem." As you can see by the photo, when a passenger train runs into the rear of the coal train, it's never





that gets dumped over. This was, of course, operator error because we all know that none of the manufacturer's equipment ever fails – and if you believe that, I have a bridge to sell you.

The hospitality, snacks and camaraderie were all so great that no one wanted to leave. Mike's favorite college football team had a televised game that afternoon, and I think Mike missed watching some of it while playing host to us.

Sorry, Mike, but we all think it was worth it. Thanks again.



Photos of Dean's layout by Barbara Rohrs

Photos of Mike's layout by Jack Hornor









River City Meet, Pasadena Board of Directors Meeting

By Jeff Silvera, past SVD president

I would like to give a big "Thank You" to all who helped with the River City Toy Train Meet this past October. I don't have all the numbers, but by the looks of the activity in the hall it was very successful. There is a lot of work involved leading up to that meet - thanks to those of you behind the scenes



who made it successful. We had a great door prize donated from **Ken and Jan Spotorno** of **Railroad Junction and Hobbies in Lodi CA** - a Lionel 6-31977 New York Central Flyer



train set. The look on that little boy's face and his father's smile were certainly worth a million. I don't have a head count but I thought we did pretty well at the door. I believe

next year we can do even better, any thoughts are appreciated.

On November 2nd I was asked by our president **Geary Mussel**man to attend the National TTOS directors meeting in Pasadena. My feeling is that it went pretty well. We had no major votes on any issues. We discussed the way the National elections will be counted and tallied by a neutral party. The Bulletin will now have a pull-out section of the Order Board in the middle starting in January. There are some issues with the Grand Canvon Division. Also Randy Giroux has taken on a full time job at the National TTOS office as the Executive Director. Randy brings a complete knowledge of TTOS and the needs of the position. The duties and responsibilities were outlined in the job opening posted on the website. But a few of the duties include chairman of all conventions and souvenir cars, maintenance of all the office records and recommendations for improvement, promoting TTOS to improve membership, improving communications between divisions and the national office and Executive Board, carrying out the policies of the Board of Directors, bylaws and the policy and procedures. I think he will be very busy with this new job.

Remember that we have The 2008 National Convention coming our way this August. I was disappointed with the way Sacramento was selected, because when I was president I had visions and a goal of our division hosting a great convention here in Sacramento. However, the way it unfolded, we weren't involved in the bid for 2008. But I personally think it's time to swallow our pride and step up to do what we can to help make it a very well organized and memorable convention. I would hope that our great members offer to host layout tours. I think that if we all do our part to help with it, Sacramento 2008 can be one of the best conventions ever.

Λ Yule Time Thought by Jack Λhearn

There is a magic land
 Which knows no time.

No seasons, days or passing grains of sand
 Have ever come or gone ...
 In my Toy Train Town

A scale Utopia of my mind

Recalling beautiful memories of

Life=s most joyful times,

All blended into one blissful moment ...

In my Toy Train Town

There are no frowns, troubles or woes.

Unpleasantness is also unknown.

Autos use no gas, as they are never on the go.

People stand still on their way to nowhere ...

In my Toy Train Town

Newsboys have, and always will, peddle

The same daily paper, for ever and ever.

Traffic lights never turn red, and

Police cars never pursue ...

In my Toy Train Town

The trains always run on time.

Clocks are neither slow nor fast.

Train Tickets are free and stations look fine,

And, passengers always, always smile ...

In my Toy Train Town

And now, in this season of season, I ask:

If this miniature Eden, I can create,

In my train room, all year round, why not in the real world

For just this one Day of all days?

I would hope so ... for all of us.

Merry Christmas from my Toy Train Town ... to yours.

Show and Tell By Bill Wilson, Chairman

The Show and Tell subject for December first is "Interesting Train Books for Kids and Grownups". I'm sure that folks will come with some gift ideas for Christmas. For January lets try "Train Loads". These can be kit bashed or just interesting and unusual train loads. I am sure lots of you have developed different train loads for your layouts. For February a good subject suggested is Great Marx Trains.

At the November meet, I received five additions to our Show and Tell list. We still have a few left over from the last list. As of now the following are on the list:

- Russian trains
- Train loads, kit bashed, etc
- Train Artwork

- Hand Cars (prewar)
- Factory errors
- Prewar and earlier very old trains
- Patriotic train themes
- Great Marx trains
- Train seminars
- Railroad collectibles (documents, lanterns books, etc.)

This is your Show and Tell so I will bring the list to the next meets for new additions and comments, up or down. We want this to be an interesting part of our meets.

Club Layout News By Norman LaClair, Layout Chair



The holiday season is upon us, which means that by the time you read this we will once again have had the club layout at the California State Railroad Museum for the three days following Thanksgiving. As we are writing this, there are only four days until we set up the layout there. We had many members sign up to run, so it was not necessary to put out a call for volunteers.

More good news: should you like to bring a train to run on the club layout at two future events, there is still time to sign up with Paul Wells or Norman LaClair to run your trains at the convention center in downtown Sacramento (on Jay St. between 13th—14th). We will have our layout there on January 5th and 6th, also at Cal Expo on February 2nd and 3rd. These are two train shows

open to the public which will be held in Sacramento just a month apart. Please sign up, and come help us set up the layout at 7:00 AM on January 5th and February 2nd. By signing up you will have your choice of when to operate. Sign-up sheets will be available at the December 1 SVD meet.

Our layout was set up and running at the River City Meet on October 7th. **Karl Schmidt** brought and ran a standard gauge passenger set. His train consisted of a 10E loco pulling Dorfan cars. Almost everyone thought that the cars were a special issue by Lionel, and they were surprised to learn that they were in fact by Dorfan. Others who brought and ran trains were **Jack Hornor**, **John DeHaan**, **Rod Walker**, **Geary Musselman**, **Pam Richmond**, **Jim Milligan**, **Brian Farnsworth**, **Ed Strisar**, **Paul Wells**, **Tony Rohrs** and **Norman LaClair**. In addition to the club layout, we had three SVD members who brought in their own layouts. Our regulars **John Leins** and **Dave Thomsen** were joined by **Pete White** who set up and ran his double-helix layout. In addition, **Bob Remley** from Golden State Division brought his fascinating Lionel switching layout. Thanks to all for the time and effort to bring their layouts for everyone to enjoy.

I hope to see most if not all members at the convention center on January 5-6. Come to the show following the Sierra 2 meet. There will be workshops held on both days, although we do not have the topics at this writing. I should have this information by December 15, please contact me after that time if you would like more details: 916-457-7143

Thanks to all . . . I'm sure I don't need to remind you to **GET THOSE TRAINS OUT FOR THE HOLIDAYS.**

Sincerely, Norman LaClair



Down the track

December 1: SVD MEET, Sierra 2 Center

December 1-2: TTOS San Joaquin Valley Division Train Show, Turlock January 5, 2008: SVD MEET, Sierra 2 Center

January 5-6: World's Greatest Hobby on Tour, Sacramento Convention Center**

February 2: SVD MEET, Sierra 2 Center

February 2-3: Great Train Expo, Sacramento Cal-Expo**

January 27: Golden Gate Lionel Railroad Club Annual Train Show, Hayward

March 1: SVD MEET, Sierra 2 Center

March 14-16: Spring Cal-Stewart Meet, Santa Clara Convention Center

April 2008: NO SIERRA 2 MEET—Activity to be announced

**SVD Club Layout will be in operation



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