

THE SIDE TRACK

SUMMER NEWS from the Toy Train Operating Society **Sacramento Valley Division** 2008

President's Message

by Geary Musselman

Hello everyone, so far we have had a great six months of activities this year and looking forward to six months more of great fun for all, weather permitting and if gas prices rising don't do us in.

Before we know it, August will be here and that means the 2008 TTOS National Convention will be held, August 11th through the 17th at the Sacramento Convention Center. Several of our members have already donated their time and services to this event plus open house layout tours. Also, the center will be opened to the public only on Sunday. More information will be in the next issue of the TTOS Bulletin. There is some information already available on the TTOS website, www.ttos.org. Also there's more info in this Side Track about the upcoming convention.

The local TCA chapter has just had their train show at the Scottish Rite Center. As always it was nice to renew old acquaintances with vendors and friends at these events. I want to say thanks to president **Lisa Stanton** of the Sacramento Sierra Chapter of TCA and its members for inviting the Sacramento Valley Division of TTOS and our layout to your show. THANKS AGAIN, LISA!

Membership News

by Barbara Rohrs

The 2008 Sacramento Valley Division TTOS Membership Directory is ready -- please pick up a copy at a monthly meeting. Because of postage costs, we would like to mail very few. If you can't make it to a meeting and would like a directory, it will be available for emailing also. Just email me at tjbrr@hotmail.com and I will send you a directory electronically and you can print out your own directory. If absolutely necessary, mailing will be arranged.

If you have not paid your 2008 dues yet, the grace period is over so when mailing in your dues, you will need to include the \$10 late fee. Dues are \$15 for individuals & \$20 for a family membership plus the late fee. Make your check out to SVD TTOS & send to: 3950 Mack Road - 57, Sacramento, CA 95823.

Please remember that you need to have your national dues current to remain a member of good standing. Please check with the National office if you are uncertain of your renewal date. If you need a form to send in your National dues, please see me at a meeting or go to www.ttos.org to pay online.

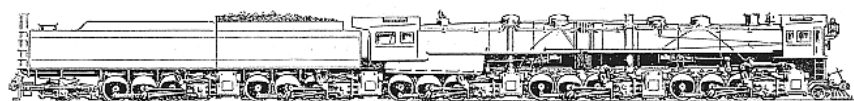
Have a great summer!

Barbara Rohrs
Membership Chair

SVD e-Mail Address List

by George Ann Hornor

Those of you new to the Division or new to e-mail should be sure you're included on our e-mail distribution list. I send messages a week or two before our meetings reminding everyone of the meeting, the show-and-tell subject, and details about the home layout visit. And sometimes I hear of special events or hot deals on trains that I just have to talk about. People change service providers or set up new e-mail accounts, so I keep a list on a clipboard at the membership table so that you can keep your address current. Also, so that my bulk messages don't get dumped as Spam, please be sure to add gahornor@softcom.net to your allowed list.



HOM€ LAYOUT TOURS

by Jack Hornor, Chairman

MARCH 1—DAVE AND MARCY THOMSEN

How many trains can you get in your home and still have room to live there? **Dave and Marcy Thomsen** showed us you can have a museum's worth of operating toy trains, John Deere tractors, and other memorabilia while still having room to live and entertain. We had a large group, but we



Dave's fabulous display of John Deere tractors

all fit comfortably in their spacious mobile home. Of course, no lawn means more time for trains, and Dave's been busy! We're sure he misses that large garage we called Madison Hardware West, but he has equaled or surpassed that with the closed-in porch he built along side the mobile home. Besides admiring his trains and other imaginative projects on display, we enjoyed watching the operating layout. Who else can operate O, S, HO and N on the same layout at the same time and have it work so well? Let's face it. The man is skilled. The pizza was a real treat, too. Thank you again, **Dave and Marcy**.



Visitors admire Dave's layout and workshop

MAY 3—PHIL AND EMMA FRAVESI



Phil's freight yard is packed with action accessories

Where in the world today could you find a 34 x 18 postwar Lionel layout like the ones we used to see in the big department stores in the 50's? Well, we all know that the **Fravesi** home would be a good place to start looking. Phil added a room exclusively for trains (although he claims it was to cut down on the amount of grass he had to mow). The bridges, the turntable, the roundhouse, the operating accessories, the circus, the stations, the Plasticville — one could go on and on about making a time trip back to the 50's, but all you have to do is visit Phil's layout. Always the great hosts, Phil and Emma provided hot dogs with all of the trimmings in their beautiful back patio. Phil spent several hours explaining to new and old members alike things like how to make walk-through bridges that actually work and which accessories run well and which are more difficult to keep operating. Everything runs conventionally (no new electronics). That's the way it was in the 50's and that's the way he likes it now. This is one layout you don't want to miss, so if you haven't seen it, put it on your must-do list for next time. Thank you **Phil and Emma** for a wonderful Saturday afternoon.



Overall view of Phil's layout

There are only two more home layout tours this year. I didn't plan one in July because of the holiday weekend, and the National Convention will be here in August. We're invited to **Bob Effa's** in September for a look at his great layout in a bedroom. **Bob and Beth** are both great with crafts, so you'll get lots of ideas here. Our River City meet is in October. We're invited back to the **White House** in November. It's always a treat to visit **Pete and Nancy**.

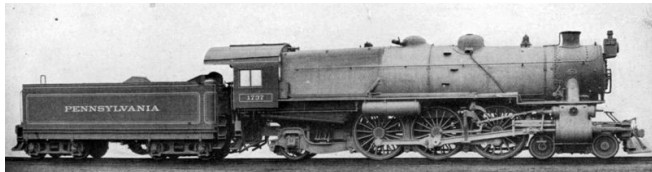
The Layout tours are working well and we have had very good participation. The people who go have really enjoyed the layouts and the visiting. So I'm inviting those who have not taken advantage of the layout tours to please join the fun.



SP's 'Cab-Forward' to be California State Official Locomotive...? By Jack Ahearn

Why not? We have a State Tree, Flower, Bird and Song... 'Eureka' let's not forget our Golden State's Bear! A far-fetched idea? Not really.

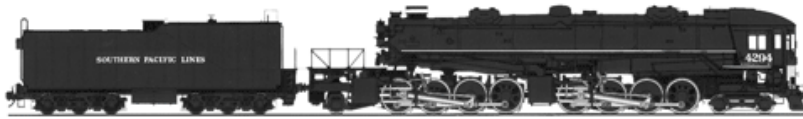
Whiz-Quiz: What state does have an Official State Locomotive? Check it out yourself, or visit www.visitpa.com/visitpa/facts.pa For those not cybernetically spaced out; the clue is in the website address. (Note; patience, lots of pix, page slow to load).



PRR K-4 locomotive (early version)

Yes....Pennsylvania! In fact, the Keystone State has not only one, but two State Locomotives. The 'K-4' is designated as the State's Official Steam Locomotive while the famed 'GG-1' highballs the honors for being the Official State Electric Engine!

Currently, I'm not aware of other states having such honors going to railroad locomotives. However, I believe such recognitions should not be an oddity. Rather, in keeping with the significance of America's railroad history and its gargantuan impact on our Nation....all 50 States should give serious thought to such an idea. I suggest such a project would be best initiated through the National and/or, individual State Railway Historical



Societies. They have the credibility, clout and the knowledge to nominate their States 'Iron Rail' candidates.

For starters, along with California recognizing the uniqueness' of our state's 'Cab-Forward', obvious honorees for New York would include the 'Hudson' or the 'Dreyfus'.

Certainly, Nevada's cherished 'Virginia & Truckee' could offer up any of their early colorful and daring American 4-4-0 Wood Burners. As for the rest, put on



PRR GG-1 Electric Locomotive

your thinking caps and relate back to your home-states. This could be a fun exercise, even amongst us minor railroad magnates!



Jack Hornor's nomination: the SP "Daylight"

A valued suggestion from **Jack Hornor** would tie California with Pennsylvania's double honors. Along with the Cab-Forward, Jack would add the colorful 'Daylight'!

2009 CONVENTION CAR

By Tim Taormina

I have received a number of ideas for the 2009 Sacramento Valley Division Convention Car including the themes of John Deere, Jelly Belly, Blue Diamond, Disney, Gold Rush, Gallo Wine and Transcontinental Railroad/Golden Spike. Suggestions for cars have included a ballast tamper, speeder, wine vat car, reefer (PFE), REA/RPO car, and flat car carrying various items related to some of these themes. I will present these ideas at the June 7 meeting for discussion and possible decision. Since the process to create a car necessarily involves a number of levels of approval and considerable coordination, we want to get started early to prevent the inevitable "unexpected" glitches from derailing our efforts to provide income for our organization.

SIDE TRACK NOW IN FULL COLOR!

Although the cost of printing this newsletter with color images would be prohibitive, you can see a color version at our website. Just go to www.ttos-sv.org, click "publications", then click the link to see the current Side Track in all its colorful glory.

It's a "fat" file, so if you have a dialup connection you'll probably want to go run your trains while it loads.

-JA



THIS REPORT APPEARS ONLY IN THE PRINTED VERSION OF THE SIDE TRACK

Report on TTOS National Board Meeting By Richard Zanotti

The National TTOS Board of Directors met at Pedro's Restaurant and Cantina in Santa Clara on March 14, 2008. In general, it was a good meeting with some people being concerned, but not upset on one issue (I will get to that later on in this report.).

Executive Director **Randy Giroux** Informed us that the office is being modernized. Both software and hardware are being upgraded. The computers are being upgraded to Windows XP. The office will try have somebody there between the hours 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM, to answer the phone on weekdays. They will also try to reply to all the phone messages that are left. Randy informed us that TTOS has gained 128 new members since August of 2007. We now have 4957 active members.

Randy wants to issue a new membership directory. The last one was issued in 1999. The directory would cost about \$2.31 per unit. Randy feels the directory should be self-supporting.

Randy would also like to establish a membership committee, and reestablish a standards committee. It was also reported that the plans for the August convention were proceeding on schedule.

National TTOS is also in the process of contacting individual members of the Grand Canyon Division with the intention of getting that division to rejoin National TTOS.

The area of concern referred to earlier was the fact that TTOS has recently changed insurance carriers and benefited from a considerable saving in insurance premiums. Unfortunately, the policy only covered division at their regular monthly meeting places. Any other division activities would only be covered with the writing of an insurance rider at that division's expense.

The delegates from the different divisions expressed their concerns. One delegate felt that if National wasn't going to cover our events with insurance, what was the good of having National? Other questions were asked that couldn't be answered. National agreed to go back to the new insurance carrier and get answers.

A few weeks later Geary received a letter from National stating that we would have to get a special insurance rider, costing \$750, for any activity taking place anywhere other than our usual monthly meeting place. I made a copy of this letter and wrote on the bottom of it, "This will be a problem for us as our River City Meet only nets between \$300 and \$1300. Would we also have to get a rider if we go on a club outing to a place like the Western Railway Museum?" I then sent it to Randy.

Within two weeks Randy called me. He checked with the insurance carrier, and they would cover our River City Meet and our outings without any additional cost to us.



Show and Tell

By Bill Wilson, Chairman

The past two Show and Tell sessions have gone well with lots of participation. March was Marx day with participation by **George Ann Hornor, Pete White, Stan Salzman, Jeff Silvera, John Leins** and **Jack Ahearn**. Lots of interesting stuff. May was on Railroad Collectibles. **Jack Hornor** hosted in my absence and said it went well with many interesting items. Jack did not keep a list of those bringing items but thanks anyway to all who did. Jack, you will not get fired from hosting S&T.

For the June 7 get together we will have "Handcars--Pre-war and Post-war era". July 5 is a good time to show "Patriotic Trains". Anything that has to do with engines and cars that are designed to be historic and symbolic of America. States, Presidents, etc. August is too far out for my mind to grasp, so more on that later.

As usual, I would like your ideas so send me a note or email on things you would like to see at Show and Tell time.

VALLEY SPRINGS EVENT

Story and photos by Paul Wells

A great time was had at Valley Springs Train Times. There were lots of people in that small town for the dedication of the depot sign, I'm not sure how many.

Between 400 and 500 people came through Phil and Liz's Karate studio to see our layout. They were the most gracious hosts. They had Starbucks for all of us. **Dave Thomsen** was there with one of his layouts as well. Thanks to: **Ed Strisar, Curt & James Darling, Jack Hornor, Pam Richmond, Mike Boyd, Jeff Silvera, Andy De Smet, Brian Farnsworth, Carl Curtis, Dean**

Busick, and Cory Franz. Dave Thomsen even helped with our layout. Oh yes, I was there too.

We handed out flyers for the Scottish Rite meets to everyone who came through. Some of the locals even brought in their trains to check them out on the test track, and ask questions about their trains. **Sal Manna**, who coordinated everything, was impressed with how everything looked when he saw the layouts. We have been invited back next year. I hope more of you will come next time.



FUN AT THE WESTERN RAILWAY MUSEUM

by Pam Richmond—photos by Paul Wells



More than 100 members and guests came together on April 5th for the SVD picnic event at Rio Vista Junction. Our group filled all 39 reservations for two runs of the 1914 Salt Lake and Utah Railroad parlor observation car #751 on the "Scenic Limited".

Special thanks to **Tim Taormina** and **Richard and Dina Zanotti** for their help with the reservations and ticketing.



HERE COMES THE 2008 TTOS CONVENTION

by George Ann Hornor

The countdown is on for the convention ... by now you surely must have your packet with the schedule and registration forms. I do hope you're planning to attend because conventions are fun, even when they're in your own hometown. If you're dragging your feet, remember that your registration form must be in the National Office by June 15 to qualify for the regular price of \$45. After that, the price goes to \$60.

Some of the tours will fill up quickly, and some may have to be dropped if there aren't enough registrants to break even. The cut-off date is July 16, so again, decide soon. Of course your money will be refunded if you pay for a tour that is cancelled.

I know this will be the first national convention for some of you. The '95 convention here in Sacramento was our first, and I know it can be a bit overwhelming. So here are some of my personal recommendations. First, register early for the convention and, at a minimum, sign up for the welcome party on Thursday night. Since we'll have the entire Railroad Museum to ourselves, complete with train rides, this is the time and place to kick back and enjoy. Next, go to the general membership meeting on Saturday morning. Here's where you can ask questions and make recommendations to the National officers. Banquets are nice, too, and the auction items are amazing. The silent auction usually offers some really rare items, and the bidding at both auctions can get very lively! Oh, yes - buy raffle tickets! There are going to be some outstanding prizes

and somebody has to win, you could be that lucky person.

Please help promote the public meet on Sunday. National is going to advertise in the Bee, and we're going to try to have coverage by the local TV stations. The convention center was very expensive to rent, and the proceeds from the public show are needed to help pay our way. I'll have flyers at the June and July meets, and we need help distributing them to toy and train stores, etc. If you need more, let me know, and I'll get them to you.

Because the CSRM is so well known, I'm sure we'll have a lot of first-time visitors to Sacramento. They will have spent a lot to get here, so let's help them have a good time. I'm planning a one page handout to have at the registration desk listing good places to go in the downtown area. If you have a favorite restaurant, place to shop, place to take kids, or any place you'd like to know about if you were visiting, please let me know. (209 744-0626 or gahornor@softcom.net). Is the Guv's smoking tent still up? I don't think you'll see that in very many places.

Finally, if you're wondering how I got so involved ... I'm not sure, but it must be because I like a party and I like trains. So, a party with trains was just too tempting to stay away.

George Ann

PAINTING AND RESTORATION WORK BY DAVE

Anyone who has attended our SVD meets or the many Scottish Rite events has had the chance to see and admire the fine modeling work done by our member **Dave Thomsen**. After many requests, Dave has decided to "go pro" and offer his skills to others.

Dave specializes in restoration and painting. Contact him at any of our meetings, or by phone at 530-668-9637.



Meeting Notes

by John DeHaan, SVD Secretary

March 1, 2008:

President **Geary Musselman** announced the deaths of two of our dearest members: **Clarence Hanks** and **Frances Eister**. A moment of silence was observed in their memory. We welcomed three new members: **Kevin Gill**, and **Tom and Jim McGill** and a guest, **Glenn Espensen**, all the way from Denmark! (Guest of **Tony Basile**). The special TTOS WP box cars donated by TTOS were auctioned off and **Geary and Betty Musselman** were the high bidders.

Plans for the Western Railway Museum tour and upcoming layout tours were announced. TTOS Director **Randy Giroux** gave an update on the August convention in Sacramento: There will be a welcoming party at the California State Railroad Museum, a dinner train event, and an excursion train adventure. Tickets may be limited, so members are encouraged to watch for the registration materials and REGISTER EARLY! Official hotel is the Holiday Inn – Downtown Sacramento. Special room rates. The tentative event schedule at this time is:

Monday, 11 August: Railtown – Jamestown Tour
Tuesday, 12 August: Western Railway Museum (Rio Vista) Dinner train
Wednesday, 13 August: Layout Tours: Chuck Stone and Clyde Easterly (Grass Valley)
Thursday, 14 August: Welcome party at the California State Railroad Museum
Friday, 15 August: home layout tours. Trading pits set up in evening (300 tables + operating layouts)
Saturday, 16 August: Trading pits open all day (members only). Banquet at the Holiday Inn
Sunday, 17 August Trading pits open to public

(editor's note: some schedule changes may have been made, check your registration packet or the TTOS web page)

Volunteers are badly needed. Contact TTOS today. Please support this effort. There was further discussion of the "Division" car to be offered through TTOS to benefit both the SVD and the Chicago (2009) National meets. Contact **Tim Taormina** or **Jack Hornor** with ideas. A design proposal must be submitted in June to get cars done by August 2009. Show and Tell featured Marx trains and accessories. Next meeting: May 3.

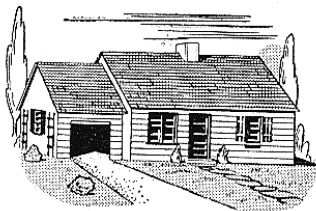
John DeHaan, Secty SVD

The birth of TTOS (a reprint from the TTOS Bulletin, August 1971)

submitted by Geary Musselman

One day in January 1966, Bill Harris and John Bentley met at Bill's shop at 314 South Pasadena Avenue in Pasadena, California and decided to form a small group of local toy train operators and collectors to further the hobby of operating toy trains. The next weekend, three other interested friends Betty and Ed Warner and Roy Lowden, were invited to join them and the Toy Train Operating Society was born. The following five officers were unanimously elected: Bill Harris, president; John Bentley, vice-president; Roy Lowden, secretary; Ed Warner, publicity; Betty Warner, director. A few days prior to this, Bill had watched a group of talented entertainers on the television called the Banjo Society, and because of this group's name, and how impressed he was with the entertainers, Bill called his new group the **Toy Train Operating Society**.

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WE FIRMLY believe that for a long, long time, there will continue to be a demand for steam locomotives. Therefore, while we are building diesel-electrics for the switching field—and while we have the highest hopes for the free-piston gas generator turbine which we are now testing for locomotive use—we will continue to build a complete line of steam locomotives.

We will continue to explore all possible ways of improving such locomotives. We will continue to build them with the traditional fineness of design and manufacturing that is responsible for Lima's worldwide reputation. And we will continue to believe that there is a place for these locomotives—for such modern power as the 2-6-6-6's we are now building as our fifth order for the C&O.



DIVISIONS: Lima, Ohio—Lima Locomotive Works
Division, Lima Shovel and Crane Division, Hamilton,
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shovels; Niles heavy machine tools; Hamilton diesel
and steam engines; Hamilton heavy metal stamping
presses; Hamilton-Krupp automatic can-making
machinery; Special Heavy Machinery; Heavy iron
castings; Weldments.

Down the track

Upcoming events of interest to SVD members

July 5: SVD MEET, Sierra 2 Center

August 2: SVD MEET, Sierra 2 Center

August 11-17: TTOS National Convention, Sacramento

September 6: SVD MEET, Sierra 2 Center

**September 27-28: Founders' Day/Railroad Days, Colfax
(SVD Layout will be in operation)**



TTOS Sacramento Valley Division
291 Bella Vista Way
San Francisco, CA 94127-1811

