

# THE SIDE TRACK

## NEWS

from the Toy Train Operating Society  
Sacramento Valley Division

Winter

2018

*I stopped believing in Santa Claus when I was six. Mother took me to see him in a department store, and he asked for my autograph. - Shirley Temple*

Jerry Azzaro, editor

### President's Message

by Curt Darling, SVD President



Hello,  
This will be my last  
President's message.  
I've had a lot of fun  
as your president  
and I've learned a  
lot. This was good  
experience for me on

my résumé. I've made a lot of friends over the years. Thanks for letting me be your President. I would like to give a special shout-out to **Jerry Azzaro, Jack Ahearn, and Ed Strisar**, for all of the hard work they have done for the club. Jack Ahearn is still looking for a photographer!

The Holiday Inn has been paid \$5,280 for the 2019 year. Finally, after two years, our club will be meeting on the first Saturday of the month all year unless we request a change (in January it will be the 2nd Saturday). I negotiated a two year contract. This locks us in at the same price for 2019 and 2020.

Our River City meet is behind us. We sold 140 tables, our total income was \$3,545.00. We had paid admission totaling \$990.00, down from last year. I think everyone had a great time despite the lower admissions. Thank you **John DeHaan** for all of the hard work that you put into this event. The Layout crew got a lot of compliments on our Layout. I understand all of the

electronics are up in running - this means Proto 1, 2 and 3, all of the TMCC functions, and conventional mode.

Several clubs and members of our club had a meeting with the California State Railroad Museum in September. I want to thank all of the people who participated in this meeting - **Jack Ahearn, Rose Craighead, Bill Bender, Phil Fravesi, John Leins and Ed Strisar**. The decision we had was about the parking issues and the best time of the year to hold this event. They are considering the week before Thanksgiving. That way it won't conflict with Polar Express and would keep with the Christmas theme. I will keep you posted on the outcome.

I think the club will have some exciting events in the near future. **Randy Giroux** from National and I had a discussion about the possibility of having a big west coast meet, maybe at Cal-Expo or McClellan Park. This would replace our River City meet.

On a somber note, long time friend and club member **Betty Musselman** has passed away at the age of 98 on September 12th. She will be greatly missed by all the club members. This part of being your club's President and having to announce the death of a member of our club, has not been easy.

One more note, we are selling off our club cars \$25.00 each or five cars for \$100. Also we still have license plate frames if you're interested. Contact **John DeHaan**.

Let's have some fun!!!



# River City Meet a Success

By John DeHaan, Event Chairman

Lots of vendors, lots of floor action, good food, great weather, free parking, Mike Marple there with parts galore – what else could you want? A really good time was had by all.

We had over 130 Ttables sold with more than 50 vendors. There were 216 paid (adult) admissions. We had a couple of last minute cancellations (family and health emergencies) but we sold all the “vacated” tables at the door so we had a **FULL** house.

There were five fun small operating layouts in addition to our own BIG layout in the lobby. We had two great door prizes for kids – a battery-powered Polar Express set (Lionel limited edition, sealed in its box) was awarded to our 3-6 year old winner and a complete Lionel freight set (ca. 1980's) was presented to the 7-12 year old winner. Every child admitted got his/her choice of a Lionel O gauge freight car.

It's not known why the door admissions were down from last year. We had ads in Classic Toy Trains and Model Railroader and a half page spread in the TTOS (National) Bulletin, all well in advance. Your suggestions for improving our “exposure” next year (digital media? Newspapers?) will be welcome.

The SR hall cost \$1,975, with the kitchen an extra \$400. Our caterer, **Julli Dalli of Edible Express**, needed the kitchen to prepare the pulled pork sandwiches and the fresh-baked chocolate chip cookies, so she reimbursed \$100 of that extra cost. Advertising (CTT and MR) cost \$105, flyers: \$30. John D. donated the kids' door prizes, and the vendors' coffee and donuts, and **Joaquin Murphy** donated the freight car kids' gifts. Total income: \$3,545, total costs: \$2,520. Profit: \$1,025.

This would not have been possible without great support from SVD members who volunteered for various critical jobs:

Hall set-up (Friday PM) **Jeff Silvera** and **Ed Strisar**

Registration: **Barbara Rohrs** and **Joaquin Murphy**

Security: **David Burke** and **Spencer Bole** (I had numerous compliments on their handling of sidewalk unloading and parking.)

Front Door admissions: **Jack Ahearn**, **Jack Hornor**, **Richard Zanotti**, and **George Loughner**

Operating layouts: **Bob Remley**, **Pete White**, **Ed Strisar**, **John Leins**, **Dave Thomsen**, and **Brian Farnsworth and son**

TTOS SVD Layout: **Seth Parry**, **Mike Boyd**, **Don Gueffroy**, **Elias Amaral**, **Jeff Silvera**, and **others** who I missed as they raced to set up and operate. The layout looked great!

Clean-up: (Saturday PM): **Jeff Silvera**, **Elayne Gueffroy** and **Adam**.

Sorry if I missed anyone who helped. **You were appreciated.** (I was just a little harried to note everyone!)

The staff at Scottish Rite was great to work with this year. We have rolled our cleaning deposit over to next year's rental already. Next year's date will be September 28, 2019 so put it on your calendar NOW!

# River City Meet Photos

Thanks to Barbara Rohrs, Jack Ahearn, John DeHaan and Seth Parry for the great shots



## Children's raffle winners:



Three year old **Channing** was the lucky winner of a new Lionel train set in the under six category. Soon to be seven year old **Noah** won a new Lionel train set for the six-to-twelve group. Both kids, although ten minutes apart and in different locations when told, had the same one word response to their winnings: "WOW!"



# September & October Show and Tell

Coordinated by Ric Wilson

Photos and text by Jack Ahearn

*For September, the theme was “Rare, Medium or Well Done”*



**Bryan Stanton** shows a fitting tribute to our late member Dean Busick memorialized by a Lionel searchlight car. The car, which was modified by Dean, reflects his artistic creativity and association with Sac. State University and its Department of Theatre and Dance. Appropriate to his knowledge of stage lighting and set design, Dean added scale stage hands, electricians and dancers to the searchlights on the flat car. He also added two technicians handling a lighting control panel. The car was purchased by Bryan at the auction

of Dean's collection conducted by B and C Estate Sales, Inc. Enlarge the photo of Bryan holding the car and you'll see the school's inscription on the searchlight base.

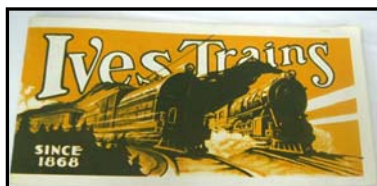


**Mike Schafer** shows us a rare flat car load. The large container carries either a fuselage or wing section of a Boeing 747. It apparently is being transported between Boeing assembly plants.



**Carl Curtis** is ready to bite into a classic hot dog on a roll served on an Oscar Mayer Wienermobile - in two scales!

**Joaquin Murphy** brings us these two ninety year old Ives sets which are illustrated in the 1928 Ives catalogue. He proudly poses with one of the two pictured Ives cabooses



September continued next page





**Ric Wilson** brings us a 1950's imaginary imitation of a tin toy California Zephyr Observation car. He also brought us Hank Williams recording with imagined lyrics about the California Zephyr. Ric was careful to note that the song contained incorrect information a.k.a. Poetic License.

**Bryan Stanton's** beautiful Lionel 1911 Standard gauge #1911 N.Y.N.H. & Hartford Electric engine is in very good condition considering its over 100 years of service!



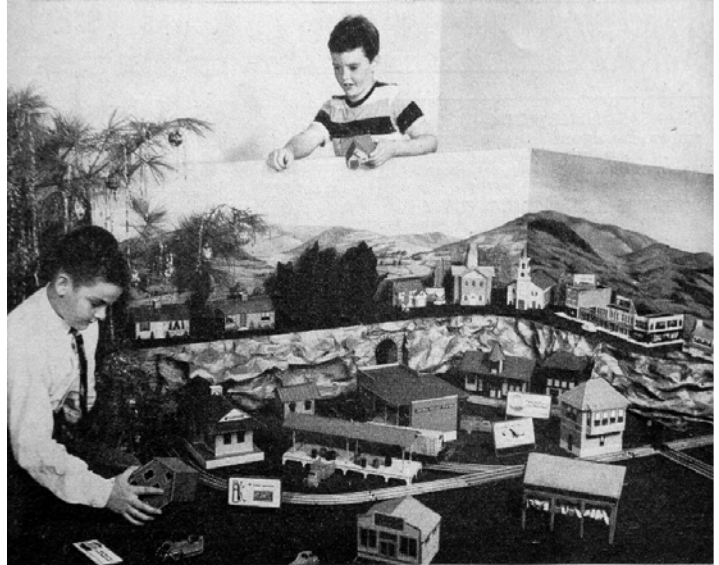
**Bryan's** Lionel paper weight cast in 1925 has that year's catalogued #402 Electric Engine mounted on a base with the familiar inscription: "Standard of the World - Lionel Electric Toy Trains - Supreme Since 1900."



**Show and Tell**  
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## A BETTER LAYOUT THIS CHRISTMAS with **SKYLINE** MODEL TRAIN ACCESSORIES



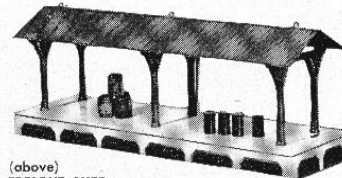
You can make that model village in your train layout the best ever this Christmas by making it a complete Skyline Village. And now in addition to the largest selling group of fibre structures Skyline has added . . .

### *five...entirely new...* **SKYLINE metal buildings**

FULLY ASSEMBLED • ILLUMINATED  
AUTHENTIC DETAIL • IN BEAUTIFUL COLORS  
ACCURATELY SCALED TO POPULAR GAUGES

For true value . . . for real, sturdy steel construction Skyline offers the last word in assembled, illuminated ready-to-use metal structures.

#### **Here they are:**



(above)  
**FREIGHT SHED**  
complete with six model barrels and oil drums  
only \$2.95 (by mail \$3.25)



(above)  
**OAK PARK HOME**  
a suburban, ranch type home . . .  
looks like real stone and clapboard.  
only \$1.69 (by mail \$1.86)

#### **NOT ILLUSTRATED**

**PASSENGER STATION**—a big structure, ideal for the important spot in your layout.  
\$3.95 (by mail \$4.35)

**INTERLOCKING TOWER**—just what you need at those switches.  
\$2.50 (by mail \$2.75)

**SCARSDALE HOME**—a modern home of simulated brick and frame construction. \$1.69 (by mail \$1.86)

• **Better start your Christmas Skyline Village today. See your favorite dealer or write direct for free folder showing all Skyline Model Train Accessories.**

**SKYLINE MANUFACTURING COMPANY**

1413 Vine Street

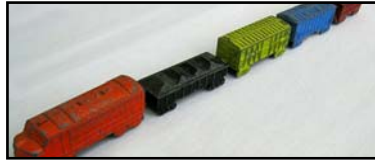
Philadelphia 2, Pa.

# SKYLINE

MODEL TRAIN ACCESSORIES



## *For October, the theme was “Mono Rail”*



**George Loughner** brought us a metal diesel and consist of three colorful freights and a caboose. Suitable for a shelf display; its vintage is the early 1950's.

**Carl Curtis** displays a Strom-becker early steam engine and coach wood kit. This kit dates from the mid-1940's. Carl did a nice job painting the natural wood parts.



Wow, Didn't the kids in an early 1950's kindergarten have fun pulling this train around? **Joaquin Murphy's** all wood train with crew and passengers is in great conditions considering the beating it took from excited five and six year old train crews! Joaquin's daughter **Rachael** helped with the presentation.



**October continued next page**



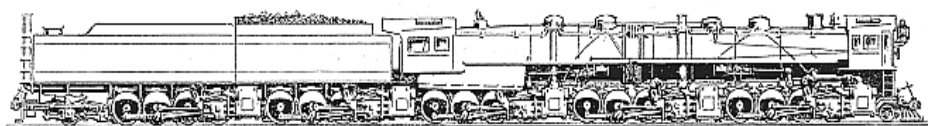


**Lisa Stanton's** early 20<sup>th</sup> century children's learning toys are in original cardboard boxes with beautiful artwork and stylish printing. Lisa holds her York find which she gifted to son Jeremy 17 years ago. The French script on the lid states that a child can learn basic arithmetic using these wood blocks.



**Mike Schafer** shows us a colorful and intoxicating Jim Beam caboose and an eye- and cash-catching diesel locomotive bank. Mike also "scent" us some after shave lotion packaged to drive some ladies "loco" (Avon bottle).

**Ric Wilson** displays a triple treat of a Fisher-Price loco, a wooden Playskool train and a "Midget Railway" set. He's holding an authentic Fisher-Price "Looky Chug-Chug" loco of the L.&CC railroad.



## **Down the track**

Upcoming events of interest to SVD members (SVD events are in **BOLD**)

December 8th-9th: CTTOM Open House, Crockett

January 5-6, 2019: Cal Expo Train Show

**January 12 (2nd Saturday): SVD meeting at**

**Holiday Inn Express, Elk Grove\***

**February 2: SVD meeting at Holiday Inn Express, Elk Grove\***

**March 2: SVD meeting at Holiday Inn Express, Elk Grove\***

**\*Meetings begin at 9:30 AM**

**BRING YOUR SVD and TTOS NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP CARDS**

**Contact us:**

**Club business: Mike Schafer, president - (209) 286-9402 [lineswest@hotmail.com](mailto:lineswest@hotmail.com)**

**Membership questions: Barbara Rohrs - (916) 730-1415 [tjbrr@hotmail.com](mailto:tjbrr@hotmail.com)**

### **TTOS-SVD Mission Statement:**

*Our mission is to bring together persons interested in the hobby of collecting and operating toy trains. The focus of activities shall be on promoting the best interests of the hobby through fellowship, a sense of good will, camaraderie within the membership, and exposing the general public to the hobby, encouraging greater interest in it and increasing membership.*