

the NOR-CAL EXPRESS

The Newsletter of the Northern California Division of the Train Collectors Association

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Warren Heid, #HR-60-433, has just been presented with his Nor-Cal 50-Year "Certificate of Appreciation," on December 11, by President Rod Cornell. Warren was an early member of the Nor-Cal Division (formed in 1956).



These Nor-Cal members received Certificates of Appreciation at the December 11 Meet. Front row (L to R): Jim Groth (25 years), Bill Widman (25), James Manos (30), Warren Heid (50!!), Robert Powell (20), Henry DeGuc (40), Second row: Richard Hofmeister (35), Paul Guaraglia (35), Eugene Daly (25), Don Strong (20), Richard Southon (25), Don Rosa (20), Richard White (40), Back row: Larry Lobb (25), Mike Zolna (25), Max Mizuhara (20).



President Rod Cornell is shown presenting Past President Bob Nichelini with a brass plaque expressing the Division's appreciation to Bob for the three years he served as President of Nor-Cal.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Rod Cornell, TCA #82-18662

"The presents are scattered and broken, I fear.
St Nicholas won't come again for a year."

Yes, the holidays are behind us and I hope you all found a time of peace and warmth with family, friends and loved ones. And of course I'm sure you spent at least some time playing with trains!

Now with Spring approaching we are charging full throttle like a runaway locomotive toward our National Convention in Sacramento this June. Mark Boyd and the Convention Committee as well as your Board have been working toward making our Convention one of the best ever. We still need docents to help guide people in the right direction during various tours and other events so if you have not yet volunteered, please do so. Your help is greatly needed and appreciated. Please contact Mark or me.

Your Board is already at work planning the 2012 Cal-Stewart meet. You will be glad to know we will be returning to the familiar 2-day format in March that we have used in the past. Stay tuned for updates. (continued on Page 2)



FUTURE MEETS

March 12, April 9, June 11, July 9, August 13, September 10, October 8, November 12, December 10, 2011—all at the Lafayette Memorial Veterans Hall, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette May 28- Scottish Rite Temple, 6151 "H" Street, Sacramento
Business Meeting: 9 AM Trading: 10-11:30 AM

President's Message (continued from page 1)

As a reminder here are the dates of the next two monthly meets at The Veterans Hall in Lafayette: Saturday 12MAR and Saturday 09APR. Please mark your calendars.

SACRAMENTO NATIONAL CONVENTION

by Mark Boyd 77-10940

The TCA Convention is nearly upon us. Nor-Cal Division is the host for the 2011 National Convention at the Hyatt Regency in Sacramento. The Sacramento Convention Center is downtown across from the Hyatt and will be where the trading occurs. Set-up begins on Thursday with the operating displays moving in first, then the table vendors in the afternoon. Trading will open Friday morning, continue Saturday until 2pm,

then reopen again on Sunday for the Cal Stewart Meet on Sunday. The cost of tables is \$45 and that includes Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. There is no extra charge for the Cal Stewart tables. It is one continuous meet. The Cal Stewart is simply the third day of trading. Some people may not want to stay through Sunday, so they can check off "2 days" instead of "3 days" of trading on their Convention Registration. That way we can re-assign their table to someone that wants to have a table on just Sunday. TTOS only members may want to have a table if there are any to assign. One more bonus built into the plan is that if you purchase two or more tables, you won't have to pay the \$30 registration fee.

Some people have asked me how to register. The registration packet with all the information and registration forms can be found in your January TCA *National Headquarters News*. It is on pages 53 through 60. You can't miss it! It is in the center section marked with a gold border. The March issue of the *National Headquarters News* will also have the information.

It seems to be confusing for some people to not have a separate registration process for the Cal Stewart Meet like we usually do. If you think about it, you will realize we don't need the usual registration process. The meet is open to the public for \$10 each adult and kids are free if accompanied and payable at the door. There will not be a special Cal-Stewart badge to enter, just a hand stamp for the public. Nor-Cal members that don't go to the Convention can get into the Cal Stewart Meet simply by showing their Nor-Cal membership card. Convention people will also get in without charge with their Convention badge. So how are we paying our bills? Through the \$10 public admission charge! We will be spending money to advertise Sunday in the print media, television coverage, and radio to generate attendance. My goal is 5,000 in attendance. I am currently working on getting the big manufacturers to attend. MTH and Lionel are not willing to spend \$10,000 to come to the west coast with their big displays unless we assure them we are advertising and inviting the public to attend.

So that is the game plan to this point in time. I sure hope Nor-Cal members support the efforts of those of us who have already put in hundreds of hours to organize this event. I have personally driven my Hummer to Sacramento more than two dozen times to secure bus contracts, convention center contracts, hotel contracts, dinner cruise contracts, work details with the California State Railroad Museum, etc. I would like to thank my helpers and teammates that I have been working with so far: Registration Randy Anderson, Tours John April, Treasurer Bob Spivock, Promotion Cliff Jarrard, Operating Layouts Don Gholson and Bob Burke, Silent Auction Tom Gibson and Paul LeBrett, Security Bob Nichelini, Banquet Mike DeLaPena, printed program chair Dina Zanotti, self-guided home layout tours George Ann Hornor, Kid's Club Pete White, and the Nor-Cal Division Board of Directors who will be hosting Thursday Night at the CSR. Coordinator Mike McKinney, Cal Stewart Meet Chair Mike Andrews and Cliff Jarrard, steam train coordinator Richard White, Rick Renfro, Pete Goodier, and Division President Rod Cornell. If I have forgotten someone, please let me know now before the Convention.

Collection For Sale:

Fritz Naef, #98-47272, has his entire O-gauge collection of trains for sale. This includes "hundreds of cars, engines, buildings, people," too many to list, prewar, postwar, etc. All to be sold for one price. You can contact Fritz for details (see the TCA Directory for address and phone number).

Important Notice! If you have opted for the electronic version of the newsletter ONLY, it is essential that you have furnished our Secretary with your CURRENT email address.

Page 2

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Raymond Ghio

Bob Harder

John McLean

Lee Neely

Barry Toomajian

Stockton

Windsor

San Francisco

Livermore

Lafayette

TRAINS OF THE COLORADO ROCKIES, July 16 thru July 24, 2011. Rossmoor Excursions & our Railroad club are cosponsoring a COLLETTE VACATIONS tour of the Colorado Rockies, nine days of exquisite scenery including four days of wonderful historic tourist train rides. Start with a ride on an engineering marvel of 1884, the Georgetown Loop Railroad which features several horseshoe curves and make a lunch stop in the picturesque Alpine village of Vail. Our tour includes the world famous 1881 Durango and Silverton Narrow Gauge RR headed by a steam-powered locomotive thru the beautiful San Juan Mountains. Ride the Royal Gorge Railroad's 24 miles of track which runs beneath the worlds highest suspension bridge that spans the Gorge some 1,053 ft. above us. End with a ride to the top of Pike's Peak on the world's highest Cog Railway (approx. 14,110 ft.) above sea level. This tour includes roundtrip Air from OAK, hotels, 12 meals, great sight-seeing and with a minimum of ten, it will be fully escorted from Rossmoor by Ralf Parton, President of the RR Club and Nor-Cal member. For further info call Ralf at 256-7078 or drop in at the Excursion Desk. Per Person \$2,399 Single supplement \$600

This shows most of the major events of the convention. For a complete listing, including more information on Registration times and locations, set-up times, shuttle bus times, etc., consult the list included with your convention registration.



Saturday June 25	Registration opens
Sunday June 26	Tour 1 Virginia and Truckee RR steam train Tour 2 Napa Valley Wine Train dinner
Monday June 27	Tour 3 Lake Tahoe and Alpine Tram Tour 4 Napa Valley Wine Train lunch Annual Golf Tournament
Tuesday June 28	Tour 5 Two-Rail O Scale layouts in Mariposa Tour 6 Cruise to San Francisco and Pier 39 Tour 7 Home layouts open for individual visits
Wednesday June 29	Tour 8 Jelly Belly and Western Railroad Museum Tour 9 Grass Valley Home Layouts Home layouts open for individual visits Tour 10 Heringer Wine Tasting Tour 11 Hi-Rail home layout tours by bus
Thursday June 30	Tour 12 Lake Tahoe Stateline and Alpine Tram Tour 13 Jelly Belly and Western Railroad Museum Set up Trading Hall at Convention Center Tour 14 Executive Chef exquisite dining Night at the California State Railroad Museum, includes steam train rides
Friday July 1	Tour 15 Live Steam in Tilden Park Trading Hall at Convention Center open (9Am-5PM) Tour 16 Lake Tahoe Alpine Dinner Cruise
Saturday July 2	Tour 17 Western Railway Museum only Trading Hall at Convention Center open (9AM-2PM) Tour 18 California Auto Museum Tour English RR presentation Hall D at CC (12 noon-1PM) TCA President's Forum in Hall D at CC (1PM) TCA General Membership Mtg. Hall D at CC (2PM) Pre-Banquet No Host Reception at Hyatt (6PM) National Banquet at Hyatt (7PM-10PM)
Sunday July 3	Cal-Stewart Meet Registration opens at CC Tour 19 Yosemite National Park Tour Cal-Stewart Meet OPEN TO THE PUBLIC (9AM-4PM)

ITEMS SEEN AT THE DECEMBER 11 MEET



Gary Espinosa's Bing 1 gauge set., of 1916, with cast-iron electric loco (with tinplate tender), was imported from Germany as World War I raged in Europe. To avoid offending from American sensibilities (although America was not yet involved in the war, there were already strong anti-German feelings here), the manufacturer removed the Bing nameplates from the cab and painted over the tab holes. Gary's loco, inexplicably, has the number '2132' painted there. Bing offered this set in direct competition with the similar appearing Ives #40 loco and #70 series passenger cars; the Bing set was a worthy, and beautiful, competitor. Gary obtained the loco, tender, combine, and one coach at the October York Meet. He had previously obtained the required second coach at the Alameda flea market. See also Toy Train Treasury, Vol. 2, pages 40-41.



Bill Smith owns this amazing Bing boxed set of two trolley cars (trams) shown in the three photos above. The trolleys are clockwork powered, and are in like new condition. The loop of track is to be assembled with a passing siding, and track trips allow the two cars to operate simultaneously, while running in opposite directions. Bill obtained this set many years ago from train shop owner Lee Hieronymous (original owner of the late Lee's Trains in Oakland).



Joaquin Murphy owns this (intact!) 1930 Ives O-gauge #1122 locomotive, in the rarer crimson red.



Joaquin also owns this original condition Lionel uncatalogued 1935 red top/aluminum Flying Yankee set.



These are Chuck Stone's Tootsie cars and trucks.



Chuck Stone brought in this Lionel 1950 Union Pacific 50th Anniversary set, and other prewar sets (behind).



Joaquin Murphy brought in this selection of Lionel postwar cabooses, showing major variations.



Ira Keeler restored this American Flyer #100 station of 1922-23. He fabricated a replacement roof.



These are Chuck Stone's rare prewar Tootsietoys.



[above] Richard Zanotti brought in these Marklin 1 gauge trains [top] 1922-23 passenger set, minus tender. [middle] 0-4-0 loco minus tender [bottom] interior view of one of the passenger cars. Note toilet compartment, which includes a toilet. Ira Keeler restored the locos, including replacing missing stacks, etc.

[at right] Chuck Shaffer brought in this Lionel #233 set, with a nickel trim #262E loco, of 1931.



By David Pfeifer
#97-44624



This is a catalog photo of the Weaver U3146 Maple Donut reefer. The actual car is orange and white, unlike this illustration. photo courtesy of Weaver Models



This is Jim Havey's finished car.



This is John April's car

8.5" x 11" sheets) to reproduce a York Railway* herald that I found online, and the Maple Donuts logo that I had earlier photographed. After sizing the images on the computer, I printed them on an HP photo quality printer. The 3 mil film is self-sticking and has enough give to adapt over simulated wood and rivets (but it's better to have a smooth surface, of course). The image is on the outer surface of the film. I added car numbers, dimensional date, etc. using dry transfers from Clover House, and applied a dull coat spray protective finish over all. The logos and dry transfers are not distorted by the dull coat spray.

These two cars have different car numbers and dimensional data. Jim's car has "YORK PA" added under the YR logo. However, John has now requested that his car have this added!

*The York Railway (YRC) is a 42-mile short line freight railroad between York and Hanover, PA (formerly Pennsylvania RR).

Two years ago while at the York Meet, Jim Havey, John April and I went on a tour of the Weaver Manufacturing Company put together by OGR about every other year. Jim was asking about a Maple Donut car when someone else overheard him and bought what turned out to be the last one!

Later we made a stop at Maple Donuts (coffee only!) and I took a picture of Jim and John along with an image of the maple leaf logo on the wall ("Any Time is Maple Donuts Time").

Determined to create my own Maple Donut car, I recently contacted Weaver Models and determined that they would custom paint two cars in the white/orange paint scheme of the originals, but they could not provide any of the original lettering and logos. I contracted for two cars to be painted. Then, following some Google search engine work, I found a resource that would allow me to produce a quality print color image. I used inkjet clear glossy vinyl 3 mil self adhesive sheets manufactured by Papilio (I purchased ten

ITEMS SEEN AT THE FEBRUARY MEET



Ralf Parton's wife found this solid walnut 4-6-2 for him— it's about 3 feet long!



This is Chuck Stone's Lionel O gauge "Peter Rabbit Chick-mobile of 1935-37, the floor toy version.



Steven Vickers brought in this pristine Thomas postwar O-gauge set.



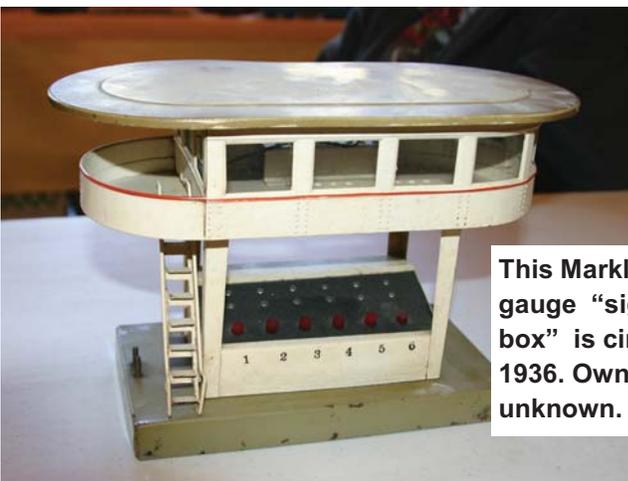
Warren Heid brought in this Hornby O-gauge boxed set- "Milk Cans and Truck" (cart).



Warren Heid owns this diminutive Issamayer O-gauge set.



These are Mark Boyd's #6500 flatcars with airplanes in rare colors: white over red (at left), seen offered for \$1,200 at York, and red over white (at right), \$600 at York.



This Marklin O-gauge "signal box" is circa 1936. Owner unknown.



These three models of Virginia and Truckee caboose #24 were expertly scratch-built by George Marchese using wood coffee stirrers! They're to various scales.



Joaquin Murphy's stamped steel car and trailer.

**TRAIN REPAIRS, PARTS AND SALES
Mike Raymond**

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PS2
DCS



Lionel
TMCC

Lionel and MTH Authorized Service Center, 2575 Knolls
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