



THE SOUTHWESTERN LIMITED

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Watt's News



Toy Train Operating Society

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August 1982

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NEXT MEETING:

FRIDAY, AUGUST 13th 1982. DOORS OPEN 5:30. MASONIC TEMPLE, 50 DUARTE ROAD, ARCADIA, CA. SHOW CARD - GET BADGE - SUPPORT RAFFLE.

NEXT CONVENTION:

FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19th, 20th & 21st. CAL-STEWART, PASADENA CONVENTION CENTER, PASADENA, CA. SEE ENCLOSED. YOUR CAL-STEWART BROCHURE ENCLOSED.

Dear Members:

Why have I now become part of The Southwestern Limited you ask? Well, it's the postage. My letter, our bulletin AND the Cal-Stewart Brochure would have cost 37¢. My contribution to this envelope seemed the most expendable, so without it, you get all this stuff for 20¢. In brief: My usual letter would have cost the club another \$110.00, and even I say that it's not worth that! Fascinating Fact: You can send four 8 1/2 x 11 sheets for 20¢.

THEFT: I am delighted to report that the trains stolen from The Visalia Toy Store have been recovered and the thieves caught. This good news from none other than our A. B. Clark. I simply cannot tolerate the theft of our toys, and I am simply elated when these people are caught - off to jail with them, and for a very long time.

RAFFLE: Our last raffle was most successful, due in part to the 115 Station and possibly because I sold some of the tickets! Anyway, you want better & better raffle prizes, and better raffle prizes you will get.

BADGE STICKERS: Like Christmas - Coming! Joe Lovi is looking into this, but so far has not found a suitable sticker at a suitable price. Like Job - Patience!

ELECTIONS: If you want to run for office, start thinking about it. I will take nominations from the floor at both the September & October Meetings. There is no meeting in November (due to Cal-Stewart) and we elect our new officers at the December Christmas Party. Those elected will take office on January 1st. I think most, if not all the jobs are open, plus, of course, positions on the board. So, if you want to run or know of a suitable candidate, be at the September Meeting and do something about it!

SIGNALS: Oh, I love signals! Several people came up to me at the last meet to add to what I said about signals in the last SWL. Don't tell me, tell all our members, write a little something for our magazine, give or send it to Hilly. Signals are a colorful and fascinating subject, worth some room in the SWL I am sure. Pictures & photos of weird signals welcome.

BUY RAFFLE TIX - PUT TABLES AWAY - PICK UP YOUR BADGE - HELP US, WE NEED YOU.

Most Sincerely as Always, *Chris Watt* Christopher Watt, President.

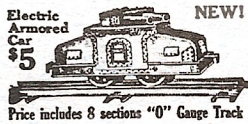
CAL-STEWART CONVENTION, PASADENA, NOVEMBER 19th, 20th & 21st 1982

PHOENIX 4 THREE IN 1983

CAL-STEWART MEET

NOVEMBER 19-21

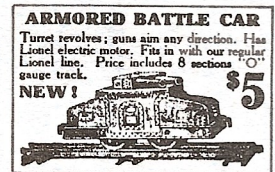
FALL 1982



AN ARMORED TRAIN WAR MOVIE ON THE HORIZON?

by

RAYMOND ROY MARSHALL
Box 702
Glendale, CA 91209



I recently received a phone call, the caller referred to me by my friend Al Summerfield. The caller asked me if I happened to have any old photographs, and even a model, of a Russian World War I armored train. I replied that I did have a large collection of old prints, and that several years ago I had actually constructed a crude, semi-scale Russian armored train from some old magazine prints.

He asked if the model was operating, but I told him that it had only been built as a static display model. Then, he asked if it would look good in photographs. I replied that I thought it might in the proper lighting. We arranged a meeting, and he was quite happy with the model, comparing it to some of the old photographic material that I showed him. I had suspected that his project must have been connected, in some way, to a movie production. I was right.

He is a script writer, and is currently trying to get the rights to a book which describes the actual, historical events surrounding the warfare of armored trains in Russia during World War I. I could immediately see the most incredible opportunity IN THE WORLD for a movie to actually use models, and a full-size mock-up, with "let's pretend" armor plate, to show the world of train buffs, and toy train collectors, a world long-forgotten!!

One movie that came close, but was of dismally-poor quality, was the movie "Young Winston", the story of young Winston Churchill. One event depicted was his capture, by Boer soldiers, while riding a British patrolling armored train. The so-called "armor" was thin sheet metal, which wobbled while the train was in motion.

(Temporary) Editors note: Don't give up yet. If we ever do get a TTOS museum, perhaps it will have room for a military train section and your models can finally see the light of day. Most of my collection is also boxed up and buried but I hope to loan a lot of it to the TTOS museum someday so that it can be shared with all our members, and even the general public. A lot of our other members, with interesting accumulations, also want to display their trains.

Thick boiler plate would not have wobbled so unrealistically, and a "let's pretend" armor of thick plywood, with sheet metal nailed to the wood, would have done the trick. The nails, in proper patterns, would have resembled the rivets actually used.

I listened to a lot of talk, rather glowing, about "yours truly" being made the technical director on the armored train sequences if and when, but well, I have learned, over the years, not to get my hopes up TOO much.

When he had called me, he was at the end of his rope in trying to find someone with such information, and with an actual model. I told him that it was very likely that I was probably about the only person in the entire Western Hemisphere, who may have ever made such models. (There may be such models in European collections).

I have never revealed this information before, about my collection of military model trains, because I live in a small, cramped apartment, and those models are packed away in other locations, with no facilities for display. I am just unable to wrestle with the problems of trying to display such a collection for the benefit of the club. And, like the TTOS Museum Committee, I have also dreamed of a museum for my collection, a special military model museum.

But, being an individual, without the right plans, I was unable to secure grants to establish the museum. It just wasn't meant to be, in my situation. It's too bad, the club might have really enjoyed what I have modelled over the years. And that's how this story ends---not with a bang, but with a whimper.

LA RUE SHEMP

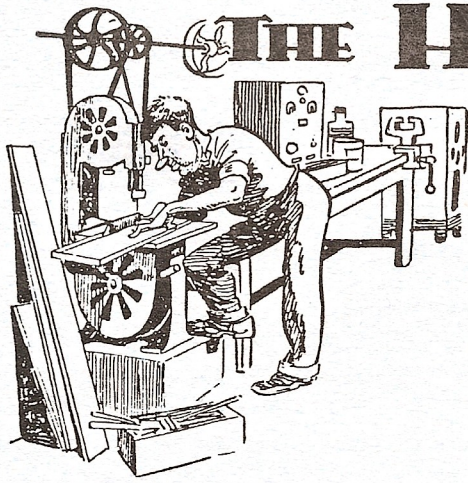
by

Hilly Lazarus

Last November, our old friend, La Rue Shemp celebrated his seventieth birthday and sent me his birthday photograph showing some of his fabulous toy train collection. La Rue lives in Williamsport, PA and has the outstanding collection in the area---also one of the best in this country.

La Rue had a little stroke a while back and decided he wanted to find another home for his collection. He offered it to his home town for a museum but, after much negotiation, the town didn't or couldn't make the sort of arrangement that La Rue had hoped for so it still resides with him. La Rue now thinks he might sell it to private collectors. Is T.S. listening?





THE HOME WORKSHOP

INCORPORATING

RADIO NEWS



DON B. KNOCK

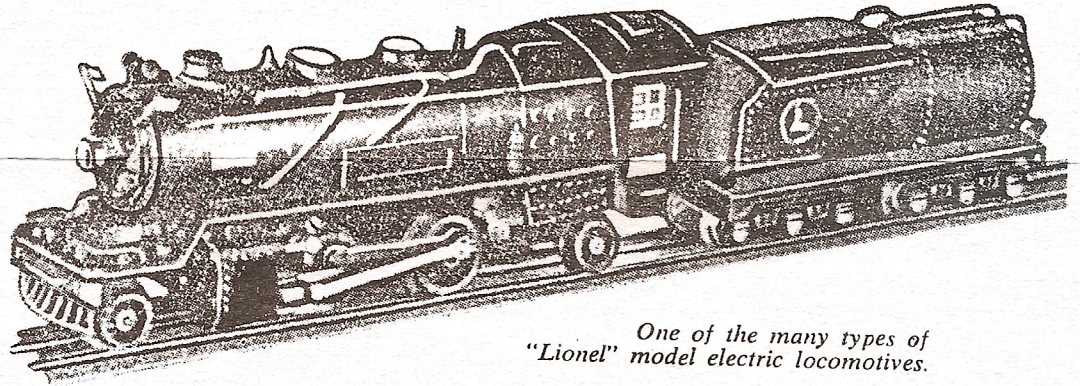
MINIATURE ELECTRIC RAILWAYS.

The "Lionel" Outfits

Almost ever since Stephenson's "Rocket" took the rails in the North of England, model-railway engineering has held a keen fascination for boys with an ingraining of mechanics in their make-up. It is not surprising that this branch of engineering should attract, particularly in later years, for the massive, speedy locomotive with its rhythmic beauty of glittering steel is something to fire the enthusiasm of both young and old, apart from the thousand and one mechanical and electrical intricacies that go to make up the modern railroad.

Great strides have been made in the design of model railways in recent years, and, whilst steam-driven models have their rightful attraction for many, electrically-controlled systems are most popular.

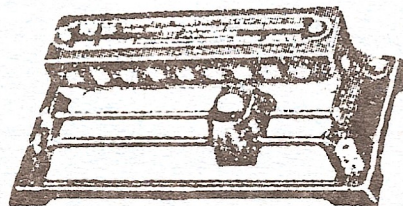
Outstanding in this respect are the "Lionel" models, produced in U.S.A. and now distributed in Australia by Amplion (Australasia), Ltd., of Sydney. Examination of a layout of one of these systems convinces at short notice that here is something more than a mere toy; it is an advanced piece of cleverly-engineered mechanism. Operation of these Lionel trains is either from the A.C. 240-volt mains through a stepdown transformer, or direct from a six- or 12-volt accumulator. Thus it will be deduced that the motors in the locomotive mechanisms are of the universal type and can be used anywhere, irrespective of power supply. Apart from the fine appearance of a complete "Lionel" railway, the part which undoubtedly appeals to most is the method of control. Everything is remotely controlled by an electrical press-button box. Trains are started and reversed at will, block-working signals go to "danger" immediately a train enters a certain section, stations automatically halt trains for what would be sufficient time to drop and pick up passengers, warning bells ring at road crossings, gates open automatically as a train approaches, a section "boss" pops out of his shack and flags a train on, and a remarkably realistic siren blows on the locomotive as desired. Then there is, to further simulate reality, an integral mechanism in the locomotive giving forth the "chugging" sound of a steam exhaust. All these things are available in "Lionel" without touching anything other than the control box.



One of the many types of "Lionel" model electric locomotives.

The writer recalls there are swift-running streamlined models similar to the latest U.S.A. aluminium high-speed Diesel-electric trains, freight trains and rail "buggies," with two figures energetically pumping the handles.

The electrical and the mechanical engineer will find, on examination of the internals of these models, that they are something more than mere toys, being instructive. The difference is that a father buying a clockwork model railway for his son would take the usual paternal interest in seeing that son doesn't overwind the motor, but with the "Lionel" electric models he is quite likely to "carry on" after son has retired. The price of quite a comprehensive "O" gauge "Lionel" system is within reach of most pockets, ranging from £2 15s. up. As an example of its reliability, Price's Radio Service, Angel-place, Sydney, installed a window display a few weeks ago. The



The control box with adjustable speed rheostat.

little freight train has been running continuously, with automatic halting signal, for the best part of two months. In that time it is estimated that the distance covered around the window tracking is well over 250 miles. Illustrated are a fine example of a "Lionel" electrically-operated locomotive and a control box.

D. B. K.

Submitted by Dick Cockcroft of Wellington, New Zealand. This article appeared in the Sydney, Australia "Bulletin" around 1936.



Duke of Wellington



THE BACKBONE OF TTOS

by

Hilly Lazarus



OTTH ON THE LEFT STUFFING A HOT ROLL INTO HIS MOUTH
KIMBALL ON THE RIGHT LOOKING NOT UNLIKE MICKEY MOUSE

National officers come and go with each election but there remains the very important continuity in TTOS due to the massive and long efforts by Ward Kimball and David Oth.

I was going over some old TTOS Bulletins the other night and discovered that Ward had started doing covers for our bulletin way back in August of 1973. Since then, he has produced around 140 pieces of professional quality artwork for TTOS, of which some 100 were for our TTOS Bulletin and the others for Divisions, Cal-Stewart, National Conventions and what-have-you. Nine years is a long time to give and keep on giving, and I can assure you, Ward spends a lot of his own money on OUR projects. Thanks Ward.

Dave has been editor of our bulletin for about seven years now and does an excellent job on a very limited budget and without a great deal of help. He has been known to write articles himself and give someone else the "by-line". Thanks Dave.

August will mark the 200th issue of TTOSB. Let Ward and Dave know we appreciate them. Go up to them at the next meeting and shake hands. They'll get the message that we care and do, indeed, recognize their continuing donations to the toy train literature for posterity.

CAL-STEWGRAM

Bruce Markus, Cal-Stewart Meet Chairman for this year, says that everything is going along OK in preparations for this November. We are hoping for 800 registrants plus their families. Give some thought to some area of responsibility you might like to contribute to--Cal-Stewart can use your help as usual. Give Bruce a call at (213) 983-2033. Also, if you can help out with the American Flyer layouts or displays, call Hilly Lazarus at (213) 762-3652. Plenty of openings still for security, registration desk, auctions, raffles and, of course, the Second Annual John King Memorial Cocktail and Raffle Party, doo-da, doo-da.

The brochures cost us a lot of money this year, so if you get extras because you belong to many clubs, please bring back those extras to the next meeting for re-circulation.

NOTE: Cal-Stewart early-bird registrations are due by September 1, 1982 in the hands of Bruce Lazarus. That is the final date for the discount rate. From then until October 15, the fee is \$12 and the orders for souvenir items must be in by then. After October 15, the fee goes up to \$15, SO BE SMART AND DO IT NOW!!!!

Peter De Beers is planning to build a spectacular new AMERICAN FLYER layout for Cal-Stewart which should be, in his words, "phenomenal". This "O" gauge wonder will have all you could ask for in pre-war delights with main-lines, spurs, accessories and maybe even a De Beers diamond mine. Who knows? If you would like to help, call Pete.



HOT BOX ADS

I HAVE THE FOLLOWING LIKE-NEW AND SOME MINT ITEMS FOR SALE: Spirit of '76 set: \$325; Norfolk & Western Spirit of America set: \$200; Penn. Little Joe: \$75; Preamble F-3: \$60; Uncle Sam Car: \$70; two Johnny Cash Cars: \$35 each or both for \$60; Liberty Special Set: \$110; Spirit of '76 engine: \$60; Northern Pacific Bay Window: \$25; Norfolk & Western TCA Museum Car #9771: \$50; Southern Pacific ABA Alco set: \$100. Some prices are negotiable. Marty Ryzak #448, 923 Glenvista Dr., Glendale, CA 91206. (213) 244-3716.

WANTED: American Flyer pre-war accessories, especially stations. Also any 5 1/2" inch cars with lithography such as #1107, 1108 etc. Also, Yankee Flyer, Dominion Flyer, Overland Flyer, Dixie Flyer, British Flyer, etc. Please help. I get so darn busy at the meetings that I hardly have time to go shopping. Thanks. Hilly Lazarus, (213) 762-3652.

SW DIVISION DIRECTORY

We are just about ready to go to the printer and now must determine how to pay for our directory. We are going to offer some advertising space to members to advertise their personal businesses, train requests, or whatever. In short, we will publish your business card, or an ad the size of a typical 2"x3 1/2" business card, for \$10. Larger ads will be proportionately more. If you want to support the club in this way, send your card or ad to Hilly Lazarus, 14547 Titus St., Suite 207, Panorama City, CA 91402. (213) 762-3652. MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO TTOS SW DIVISION