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SUGGESTION

How about an answer-line column where you answer questions regarding railroading? I am a one-year member and joined to get good buys and ideas about track lay-outs, engines to buy, kinds of switches, accessories, etc. I would be interested in being able to ask questions such as: Did or does Lionel have track switches that work off the transformer for "027" track so that you don't have to have 'juice' to the track in order for the switches to work?

Why can't I find a whistling coal car that works well enough without having to stop the train and put full power to the track in order to get a decent whistle?

How do you get the trestles to work well when they seem to always short-out the engine when it begins to climb?

Anyhow, it might prove valuable to some rookies like me to have someone to ask specific questions to.

ERNIE GILPIN

Responses to Ernie's questions will be most welcome!!

CENTINELA VALLEY R.R.

Back in the 1940's, 1950's and perhaps even into the 1930's, Lee Ridgeman and his friends put together a rather magnificent "0" gauge semi-scale layout complete with scenery and a story to tie it all together.

The trains were often remakes from toy trains and some were scratch built from parts of many broken toy trains. Does anyone know the history of the Centinela Valley Rail Road or have pictures of it?

PICTURES

Merv Lew, Ernie Renn and Roy Bell have been snapping some neat photographs at our meets so we hope to have some good ones to show you in the next SW LTD.

How about seeing some good pictures of your layout? Black and white glossy pictures reproduce the best in this publication.

CAL-STEWART

The northern meet on April 2-4 was great and many southern Californians turned out to help make it a success. Over 500 registered.



DON LADENBERGER (wearing his TCA pin) WINS \$20 BET THAT HE COULDN'T DRINK A WHOLE BOTTLE OF KETCHUP. HE DID!

HARTFORD 4U IN 1982

STELLA SPEAKS

Well, let me tell you I came very close to dropping my membership in TTOS this year and the main reason I didn't was because of this newsletter. After all, more and more the Arcadia meet is one big hassle. So many people! It's hard to move around. This wouldn't be so bad but have YOU noticed what has happened to train collectors lately? Many are down right rude! Some of the people at our club today would never have been allowed in years ago. I got to wonderin' what kind of article I would like to see in this newsletter and I came up with a short list of DO's and DON'T's. Please feel free to expand this list:

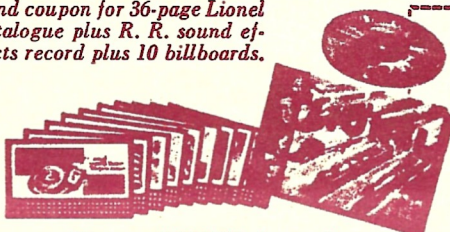
1. Don't be in such a hurry to get to the meeting that you come covered with dirt and smell like a sewer. Give everyone a break. Clean up!
2. DO NOT TOUCH OR PICK UP TRAINS that do not belong to you without the owners permission, especially if you've ignored #1 above.
3. Don't crowd around a new arrival asking prices before he is even unpacked, especially if I'm there first.
4. Don't haggle for a train while it is already in the hands of a possible buyer. It may be me.
5. DO say hello to someone you see all the time but cannot recall their name.
6. DO wear your nametag or club badge.
7. DO offer to scrunch up some of your spread out trains when tables run out and others are looking for a small area to set up their items.
8. DO sit on the smokers side of the room if you must feed your bad habits.
9. DO contribute something to this great little newsletter.
10. DON'T ask me where the above nine came from.

GRIPES!!!

Nothing like a new column devoted to gripes. Express a few gripes openly and get the reaction of fellow members. After all, getting a few gripes off your chest will make you happier and we all want to be happy. I have a gripe. I bet you already figured that out. Seems a while back, this division decided to get tough and check membership cards at the door. Good idea. I came through and spent a minute or so digging through my wallet to find both my National and Local cards. My gripe is that the member immediately behind me was not made to do the same and I believe it was because he is about as well known to train collecting as Ronald Reagan is to politics. Now I won't mention who this well known member was or even who was at the front door checking cards but I do feel that when a policy is stated, it should be carried out for all members. Letting the well known members through is really Mickey Mouse!

Mike Stella, #1248

Send coupon for 36-page Lionel catalogue plus R. R. sound effects record plus 10 billboards.



*Plays on all 78 RPM phonographs except some spindle or automatic changers. • |

LIONEL TRAINS, P. O. Box 349.

Madison Square Station, New York, N. Y.

Please send me special Lionel Train catalogue offer, postage prepaid. I enclose 25¢ to cover postage and packing.

1. The new 36-page full-color Lionel catalogue.
2. The new 5 1/2" double-faced record* of whistles, bells, railroad sound effects and Diesel horns.
3. 10 full-color miniature billboards.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Our own Steve Latta is the Secretary/Editor of the Newsletter of the San Diego All Gauge Toy Train Association. He recently reported that the Chula Vista Live Steamers, who operate their trains on the second Saturday and Sunday of each month, would like to have guests. They meet at Rohr Park in Chula Vista. Rides are free between noon and 3:30 P.M. Take along a picnic lunch. Steve also reports that there is a Model Railroad Museum in San Diego. San Diego All Gauge President Carl Loya is kind of wondering if we would come down to San Diego in June if they threw an all-day meet and invited us? Give Steve or Carl some feedback on this please. While you're at it, why not invite the San Diego fellows into our fraternity as another TTOS Division?

The San Fernando Valley Toy Train Club will soon be holding elections and voting on whether to affiliate with TTOS, some other club, or to stay independent. If you have an interest in this, better join the SFVTTC at the next meeting, May 21, and cast your vote. They meet at St. Annes Church, 11211 Moorpark St., North Hollywood. Doors open at 6:30 the third Friday of each month. Annual dues are \$20. For information, call Jerry or Lois Butler at (213) 363-8200.

Mike Stella sent in the following letter concerning MTA: "The Model Train Association is alive and well in its 15th year and meets the fourth Friday of every month in Bellflower. Our all-day ROUNDHOUSE will be held on May 29th. Our club magazine is back and is bigger than ever. We are the smallest of the local clubs but continue to have the biggest monthly raffles. New this year is our clinics where members share their trade secrets of building, repairing, running trains, etc. Movies and slide shows are frequent. Our stage is always filled with displays brought by members eager to win a prize for the Best Display. Our auction is FREE to sellers and not bad for buyers either. Membership is limited to 1000 so hurry on down and look us over. Find out from Nancy why we're THE FRIENDLY CLUB."

CAL-STEWART PLANNING

This coming November, we hope to put on the finest layouts and displays of American Flyer trains ever assembled under one roof. To do this, we will need the help of many American Flyer enthusiasts. John Thousand plans to reconstruct Billy Coleman's wide gauge "Colonial City" as shown in the 1928 catalog. Pete De Beers will build an "O" gauge layout from scratch. "HO" and "S" gauge layouts are promised. If you are willing to display your trains, accessories, etc., please contact Hilly Lazarus at (213) 762-3652.

Home Work for Seniors

by Raymond Schuessler

COURIER APRIL 1982-NSLA

Retirees can earn extra dollars right in their own dens, basements, yards, or garages. Thousands are doing so and their skills are no greater than the average retiree. Look here:

A hobby of toy trains carries over well into retirement. Since many pieces wear out, you could set up a small repair shop and do work for train clubs.



CANADIAN DIVISION "QUEBEC NORTH SHORE AND LABRADOR RAILWAY"
STANDARD GAUGE HOPPER CAR by McCoy Manufacturing 1982.



Our TTOS Canadian Division is now offering, on a pre-sale basis, one McCoy Standard Gauge Hopper Car per TTOS member. Deadline for ordering is June 30th, 1982. Advanced orders only as there will not be extras made. The car is \$40 postpaid with your order. Add \$8 more if you want a coal load. Fill out the order blank below and mail it to: Canadian Division TTOS, c/o Mark Horne, 2150 West 20th Ave., Vancouver, B.C., Canada V6L 1G1. McCoy will ship the cars via UPS from his Washington factory to you in the Fall of 1982. Send the money to Mark Horne, not to McCoy.

QUEBEC NORTH SHORE AND LABRADOR RAILWAY HOPPER CAR ORDER FORM

NAME: _____
please print or type

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE _____

TTOS NUMBER _____

SIGNATURE _____

ZIP CODE: _____

*****HOT BOX ADS*****

FOR SALE: I have a small Lionel "HO" display that was built for NBC.. It consists of a Lionel "HO" switcher, white & red #0056 AEC. One side of the hood is lettered WNBC-TV CHANNEL 4 NY and the other side is lettered WNBC-660-N.Y. There is a walnut display board, similar to the 700E display boards, which is 5½" wide and 18" long with "HO" track and a switch on it. On one end of the board is lettered MADE BY THE LIONEL CORPORATION and on each of the long sides is lettered NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMPANY. On the straightaway track is lettered CHANNEL 4 NEW YORK IS NOW WNBC-TV. On the switch track is lettered 660-NEW YORK IS NOW WNBC. It dates from about 1959. Price is \$150. Fred Heimann, TTOS #130, 580 Forest Road, West Haven, CT 06516.

Lionel Trains make a Boy feel like a Man and a Man feel like a Boy