



ATLANTIC DIVISION EXPRESS



WINTER 2006 SUPPLEMENT

A TOUCHING STORY

By Charlie Weber

In December of 2005, the Reading Eagle of Reading, PA had a contest for people to send in stories about “treasured holiday adornments of heirlooms”. Ten winners had \$100 donated in the writers name to a local program called the “Y.E.S. Mentor Program”. One of the winners was Randall Schwartz of Kutztown, PA. We are reproducing the article about the winning entry here with the permission of The Reading Eagle.

I think it is one of the finest little stories about what toy trains mean to a lot of us, especially at Christmas time. I don't think my dad sacrificed as much as Mr. Schwartz's dad did to buy my first two train sets; but I do know he scrimped and saved a long time to buy them for me. I hope you enjoy this article as much as I did.



Randall Schwartz and his train

This is SOMETHING that happened in my childhood. My dad and

I would enjoy going to the river fishing After a few trips to the river, my father let me know that our fishing days were numbered because he had taken a job on the other end of town. But dad would still take me for walks to the river.

One day we were passing a furniture store during one of our walks, I saw in the window one of the most beautiful things I had ever seen: a train set with an engine that was shiny black with seven tin cars.

Each week after that, I would coax dad to go for a walk just to see that train. It was that Christmas that I found under the tree a large box containing my beloved train. I think I was the happiest kid in the city of Reading that year.

It wasn't until years later that I found out the true story of the train. My dad couldn't afford it. But he kept going into that furniture store and asking if somehow he could get the train for Christmas.

For the next year, my father, instead of taking a trolley to the other side of town, walked back and forth to work so that on payday he could stop in that furniture store and make another payment on the train.

Each year it became tradition to get the old train set out of its box and let it take a few turns around the track. That tradition still continues today. Although my father hasn't been with me for the last two years, he is remembered for the gift he worked so hard to give. The gift was actually the love of a father for his son.

ELECTION RESULTS

Reported by the Nominating Committee :
Malcolm Kates, Ron Mapps and Joe Lehman

Secretary Ken Allen

Treasurer George Nelson

Board of Directors:

Alan Craig
Ed Kapuscinski
Ed Marra
Terry Trickel

Congratulations to the winners. In addition the Nominating Committee would like to thank all those who agreed to run. You may not have won but you may still be asked to do something.

THE NOVEMBER MEET

The November meet was a great success. We had a large number of table holders. So much so that the lobby was full and our normal educational exhibit space was needed for vendors.

There were 390 attendees including 77 guests and 67 kids. Most of the kids were inducted into the Atlantic Divisions Kids club and received attractive membership certificates.



The crowd in the Lobby

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Crowds in the Main Hall



Eva Pulling the Winning Ticket

The drawing for our Annual Raffle was conducted at the end of the meet. Ms. Eva Allen, daughter of our Secretary drew the winning ticket. Congratulations to the winner who is Harry Brehm of Whiting, NJ.

INTERESTING ITEMS

Herb Brandt brought several interesting pieces to the meet. The first of these was a #0209 set of 0 Gauge barrels in their original box. This set dates from 1933 when barrels were sold separately from the gondo-

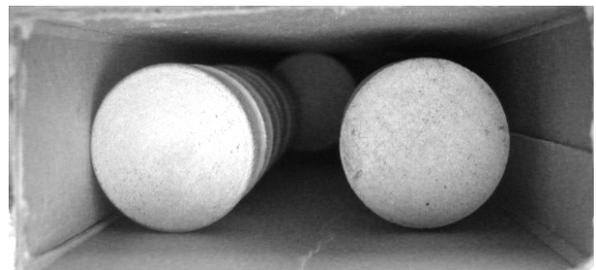
la cars that carried them. Views of the box are shown in the next photos. The condition of the box is excellent for its age and the barrels are in it.



The Top of the Box



The End of the Box



The Contents

The second interesting item is shown in the next picture. The Envelope shown contains the metal advertising signs for the #156 Illuminated Platform. This platform is known to have come both with and without signs on the platform fence. Interestingly, the Rival Dog Food and Baby Ruth Candy signs can also be found on the pre-signed platform. However, this set contains advertisements for Remington Typewriters and Flee's Bubble Gum. The Signed Platform had advertisements for Sunoco Fuel and Lionel Construction Kits. Notice the price 20 cents.

