



# Atlantic Division EXPRESS

WHERE THE TCA BEGAN



SUMMER 2011

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

While thinking about the AD "Pre-1970s" train meet (Saturday, June 4, 2011) hosted by Ted Maurer and Bob Robinson, I started to wonder what types of collectors there are and how the meet would appeal to them.

A short list of collector types: Historic, Classic, Nostalgic, Manufacturer, and Condition are five type of collections that quickly come to mind.

My list of definitions:

**Historic:** A collection that is aimed at old items say 90 to 100 years or older. This can be further sub-typed by wood, metal, floor toys, manufacturer, cast iron, tin, etc.

**Classic:** A collection that is aimed at items for a selected year range. A classic "Standard" gauge collection would be 1920 to 1940. A classic "O" gauge collection could be pre-war or post-war. A classic "HO" gauge collection might be pre-1950.

**Nostalgic:** A collection driven by some fond memory. Trains you had as a child, trains owned by a parent, grand-parent, some other fond relative or good family friend.

**Manufacturer:** A collection of items by one manufacturer. This collection may include non train items; such as toys, building sets (Erector, Struktiron), chemistry sets, house- hold appliances, military items, etc.

**Condition:** A collection in which being in the best condition is the primary criterion for being in the collection.

The "Pre-1970s" meet should appeal to collectors of all types of collecting interest, excluding modern (post 1970) trains. The selection and condition will be determined by the sellers and the items they offer. Plan on attending for a great show. Questions or Information for this meet can be gotten from: Alan Craig 856-784-0038, Bob Lubonski 856-608-9265, or Dick Heineman 215-332-5028.

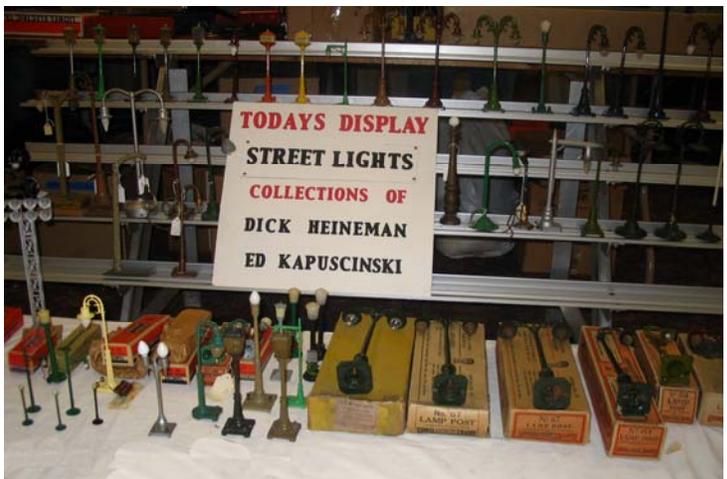
This is the time of year that the AD Nominating committee is looking for candidates for AD officers. The positions being elected are President, Vice- President, 4 Directors, and 2 Alternates to the National Board of Directors Annual Meeting. The last AD mailing contained more details. Please contact Mike Ramsey @ 610-324-6770 if you are interested.

Just a note about needing volunteers for the 2014 TCA National Convention . Please contact Terry or Joe if you can volunteer to help.

## THE MARCH MEET By Clem Clement

Sunday, March 13, 2011, I had the pleasure of attending another fun Atlantic Division train meet in the Plumbers Hall. Good times seeing old friends and making new ones and much fun for sure. After the WB&A Chapter of Eastern Division's meet on Saturday, I drove to New Jersey, staying with Lynn & Frank Heiss. Saturday evening we toured the countryside and ended up in downtown Pitman for dinner at Guillermo's. Great food in a very nice setting. Love their fried eggplant with a meal. Soooo good to travel thru the towns that I misspent my youth in. This is always a thrill for me as I am a Jersey boy at heart having grownup in Woodbury and also lived in Medford. In Woodbury Daddy ran the Local YMCA for 43 years. He was like a second Dad to so many of the Woodbury boys. Daddy helped move Camp Ockanickon from the Fort Dix area to Medford in 1926. Mother was the first water front Director when the girls got to camp at Ocky (Before Matolly was built.) I have seven summers there, first as a camper then up the ranks to village chief as well as on Ray Bunting's maintenance team. Ray was like a second father to me after Daddy passed.

We then rolled Sunday morning from Jersey for the Plumbers Hall.



*The March Meet Display*

Since the theme for the meet was lamp posts, I brought 12, mostly homemaders. I did have Bing chain lamp and a commercial

unknown as well. Since the meet was held in the Plumber Hall, I brought a homely lamp made of water pipe. It didn't leak so I guess it fit right into the scheme of things. I spent a few bucks as well investing my kids' inheritance in old tin. I certainly was heart broken later on to learn that our friend and compatriot Ron Speece passed. He was a dear friend and a great help to me when I was serving Eastern Division at York.



Photo 1

Photo 1 shows the homey little lamp made from pipe. The wire goes into a transformer then to the wall. The pen alongside gives you an idea of its size.

Photo 2 shows the lamp in its true setting, lighting Clem's Antique Car Parts Store. The famous STOMPER watches as "Lou Redman" leaning against the lamp, watching the sundial waits for Clem's place to open up. (MTH made the store and named it for me...I'm very honored!) Lou just stepped off the Toonerville Trolley.

After the very successful meet, Frank led several of us down to



Photo 2

the River to Maggie's Place for a super Philly cheese steak. What a nice idea to eat, relax and chat about life in general. As Sunday was the Phila St Paddy's day parade, the place began to fill with chilly paraders returning and wanting to warm up. As I had four hours of hard driving south on the super slab back to ole Virginia, I bid farewell before the rollicking gained momentum and drove the super slab home safely.

See ya next time at the Plumber's hall. Please save me a \$50 Blue Comet.

### ATLANTIC DIVISION TRAVELING LAYOUT IMPROVEMENT REPORT

By Terry Trickel

The Atlantic Division Traveling Layout improvements were made. Members can now operate the newer MTH and modern Lionel trains without fear of blowing the circuit boards. We add-

ed a MTH transformer and a few more accessories. Bob Lubonski led the Atlantic Division wiring team at his place of Business and transformed the spaghetti of wires to a professional wiring job. We had a few problems first time out at the Greenberg Show. Once we had the wiring diagrams the trains ran without a hitch. We still need to complete the wiring and reverse the MTH transformer wires to blow the horn instead of ringing the bell. We completed this at our Meet in March.



We traveled to the Rails and Rods Show that was held on April 10th. Paul Fenn hosted this event and it was a fund raising event for the McDonald's House. Over 100 cars and many Train Layouts were on display. The Saturday before the Show we had

to do some more wiring and hook up some more buildings. When packing up at the Plumber's Hall, one of our helpers disconnected the wires from the transformer, and I forgot the wiring diagram. Steve Stevens and Bob Lubonski were able to hook them up again. After setting the layout up we were ready to go. The show was well attended. When we add some additional accessories, we still need to fine tune the wiring to make it easy for set up. Bob has ordered additional connectors to be installed in time of our June 4 meet at The Ridge Fire House.

Malcolm Kates has informed the Atlantic Division, that we were requested to display our layout or to provide some sort of layout display for the First weekend of December. Final details are to follow. To schedule the Layout for your event, please let us know and we will try to fill all request. We are still looking for a Chairman for the Traveling Layout. You can contact any board member if you would like to help.



2014 CONVEN-

FOR SPACE

TION FIGHTS

The convention had a minor bump in the road. As expected the Valley Forge Convention Center has taken over some of our convention space for their Casino. We have anticipated some sort of move to make way for the Casino. Dannie Martin our National Convention Chairman with the Atlantic Division 2014 Convention Committee members are now reviewing the space and seeking alternative spaces in the Valley Forge Convention Center. We hope to have a final decision of what space we can recoup. As of this report there is still no sign of casino construction.

Meanwhile, our Convention plans continue. We have 10 different confirmed tours. Some of the tours will be duplicated and there still might be a few more add later. We have three seminars planned. We are seeking some more interesting subjects to entertain our guests. Any one that has a gift for gab or something to share to our fellow Train Collector, please step up.

We have three Layouts for our members too visit and as part of our tour package. We need more layouts. If you have a collection or a layout to show off, please let us know.

We must put our orders in for our convention cars soon. We are looking for more suggestions for the Banquet car and suggestions for the Kids Club.

The Convention Committee is working on our fund raising efforts. We will plan to have a Valley Forge Railroad Station and Ed Alexander's Barn made by Jerry Loman of Sunset Trains and Toys. We are working on a 1915 Liberty Bell Car, both in O and S gauge. We hope to have samples and items for sale with the Atlantic Division approval this fall.

Don't forget, we can always use a helping hand. Please let us know if you can help out. Have a nice summer and keep the interest in collecting trains alive.

Joe Fisher 215-659-3925 Terry Trickel 610-924-9177

### HOW MANY CABOOSES DO I HAVE?

By Joe Lehman

I moved to the Chicago area in 1966. My wife and I attended local auctions and I bought trains when I could afford them. In 1969 Bill Sanchez, Park Ridge, Ill, told me about the TCA, I joined. My TCA# is 69-2553. I collected anything and everything I could afford.

In 1973 I moved back to the Philadelphia area and really got sticker shock. Prices here in the East were really high compared to the corn fields of Illinois. My first visit to York was really shocking. Couldn't afford much at all. Then I remembered a visit I had to Eric Buckley's home in Lititz, Pa in 1969. Lou Redman was there that night. Wonderful collection. One wall was covered with cabooses. Unbelievable. The collection really caught my eye. My next visit to York allowed me to buy several cabooses for a small amount of money. Atlantic Division meets gave me the opportunity to buy lots of inexpensive cabooses. A.D. members were curious about my strange building collection and they started to point out cabooses I did not have. The collection started to get a life of its own.

Today my caboose collection is probably the "WORLD'S LARGEST CABOOSE COLLECTION". Some facts about the collection. It consists of:

- 11 DIFFERENT BING CABOOSES
- 13 DIFFERENT AMT CABOOSES
- 16 DIFFERENT GLASS CABOOSES
- 20 DIFFERENT HAFNER CABOOSES
- 26 DIFFERENT IVES CABOOSES
- 27 DIFFERENT FACTORY ERROR CABOOSES

- 29 DIFFERENT ATLAS CABOOSES
- 34 DIFFERENT KUSAN CABOOSES
- 34 DIFFERENT CAST IRON CABOOSES
- 51 DIFFERENT WOOD CABOOSES
- 60 DIFFERENT PORT HOLE CABOOSES
- 72 DIFFERENT MTH CABOOSES
- 80 DIFFERENT EXTENDED VISION CABOOSES
- 98 DIFFERENT CLUB CABOOSES
- 112 DIFFERENT WORK CABOOSES
- 125 DIFFERENT BAY WINDOW CABOOSES
- 128 DIFFERENT AMERICAN FLYER CABOOSES:
- 171 DIFFERENT HO CABOOSES
- 168 DIFFERENT CABOOSE KITS
- 176 DIFFERENT K-LINE CABOOSES
- 235 DIFFERENT MARX CABOOSES
- 356 DIFFERENT CABOOSE MANUFACTURERS
- 727 DIFFERENT LIONEL CABOOSES
- 2182 TOTAL NUMBER OF DIFFERENT CABOOSES



Some photos of Joe's Collection along with Joe, his son Mike and granddaughter Lily

## ARE YOU PAYING TOO MUCH FOR YOUR TOY TRAINS?

by Art Bink

I always suspected that toy train prices are LESS today (compared to your salary) than they were in times gone by. After doing some research, I find that this is correct. If the train you have today was also made in the past, compare the catalog prices (past and present) with the annual wages (past and present) in the DECADE AVERAGE AMERICAN WAGES chart which shows what the average person earned in every 10 year period from 1900 to 2009 (this in itself is interesting!).

Let's take for example the Ives NATIONAL LIMITED passenger set #1079R (\$70) shown on the top of pages 12 & 13 of the 1930 Ives catalog. We'll compare this set to the same Ives NATIONAL LIMITED passenger set #10-1311-1 (\$1499.95) shown at the bottom of page 12 of the 2008 MTH TINPLATE TRADITIONS catalog. These are identical red/blue 4-car passenger sets, each headed up by a red #1134 steam engine; they were produced 78 years apart.

### AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE /DECADE CHART\*

<b>DECADE ENDING</b>	<b>AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE</b>
<b>1909</b>	<b>546.00</b>
<b>1919</b>	<b>791.40</b>
<b>1929</b>	<b>1,420.00</b>
<b>1939</b>	<b>1,322.10</b>
<b>1949</b>	<b>2,346.00</b>
<b>1959</b>	<b>4,252.10</b>
<b>1969</b>	<b>6,569.00</b>
<b>1979</b>	<b>11,414.40</b>
<b>1989</b>	<b>23,211.30</b>
<b>1999</b>	<b>30,536.40</b>
<b>2009</b>	<b>45,784.20</b>

Now the fun begins! By looking at the wage chart we see that your average salary in the decade ending in 2009 of \$45,784.90 is 32.24 times higher than the average of \$1420.00 in the decade ending in 1929. But your 2008 train set cost only 21.42 times the price of your 1930 train set, making today's NATIONAL LIMITED set a bargain by comparison!

Said another way, if the price of your \$70 train set of 1930 went up 32.24 times (like your salary did), your NATIONAL LIMITED set would be \$2256.80 today (or \$756.85 higher than this set really cataloged for in 2008).

Said still another way, in 1930 your \$70 train set was 4.92% of your annual salary, but in 2008 your train set was only 1.53% of your annual salary, a bargain if there ever was one!

Try this comparison with your own trains, provided you have a train that was also produced in years past! Now, go buy some trains!

#### \*Sources:

1. <http://www.econlib.org/library/Enc1/WWagesandConditions.html>
2. <http://www.davemanuel.com/median-household-income.php>
3. U.S. Census Bureau

## NON-AFFILIATED TRAIN MEETS

By Bob Huppman

In the interest of promoting the toy train hobby, we will publish toy train meet notices for other clubs and organizations in our area that open their meets to the public. Listings must reach us before our deadline and fit the space available. **Closing dates are:** Dec. 10th for the Spring Issue, May 1st for the Summer Issue, Jul 1st for the Fall Issue and Oct 10th for the Winter Issue.

Notices must be in this format: **1.** Location (City, state and address), **2.** Sponsoring organization, and name of event, **3.** Date(s), **4.** Time, **5.** Admission fees, **6.** Name address and phone number of person to contact for information, and **7.** Name, address and phone number of person submitting information.

Send your information to Bob Huppman 4942 James Place Brookhaven, PA 19015, or email to [huppr@verizon.net](mailto:huppr@verizon.net). We will not accept verbal submissions.

**Name:** Original Gilbertsville Toy Train Shows:

**Location:** Gilbertsville Fire House 1456 East Philadelphia Ave. Gilbertsville, PA 19525

**Dates:** Sundays - September 18, 2011 and December 4, 2011

**Admission:** \$3.00, children under 12 free with adult, table & admission \$20

**Contact:** Mark Lehmann (215) 657-2477

**Name:** Essington Toy Train Meets: (Formerly the Nur Temple, Delaware Toy Train Meets)

**Location:** Ramada Inn 76 Industrial Highway Essington, PA 19029

**Dates:** Sundays - August 7, 2011 and November 6, 2011

**Admission:** Advance \$4.00, at door \$5.00, under 12 free with adult, table & admission \$20

**Contact:** Ken Laaken 610-876-2370

**Name:** Hamburg Dutch Train Meet:

**Location:** Hamburg Field House, 127 S. 4<sup>th</sup> St. Hamburg, PA 19526

**Dates:** Sundays - June 5, 2011, July 31, 2011, September 11, 2011

**Admission:** Advance \$3, at door \$5, children free, tables \$17

**Contact:** Ralph Maurer 610-987-3144

**This listing does not constitute a TCA endorsement of the events. Before attending, please contact or write event officials to confirm details of events in which you are interested.**

## ATLANTIC DIVISION EXPRESS

The Atlantic Division Express is published four times a year. The editorial staff actively solicits contributions of materials from TCA members for publications. Materials submitted need not be editorially correct. Once again, if you are able and would be willing to receive the Express electronically, please let the Editorial Office know.

Please submit all manuscripts and photographs to the editorial office @ 1119 Yardley Rd, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034

Chester M. Zmijewski, Editor in Chief, Art Bink and Bob Witendorf, Associate Editors