



Atlantic Division Express

Where the TCA began



WINTER 2012

Happy Holidays



The front cover features the prize winning Winter scene produced by: Jim Field TCA # 01-52989. Congratulations Jim.

The Christmas picture shown below was submitted by Max W. Bieberbach 89-29329 as part of our Christmas Photo Series.



The picture shows Max's brother and himself in 1938. On the right platform are Lionel cars 653 light green coal carrier, 1680 silver Sunoco tank car and 652 yellow low sided barrel car. On the left an 1680 Pullman and tender pulled by a 259E engine. Everything is still in use today. The platform was made of Homasote on 1x4 frames constructed as four 4'x4' sections to facilitate easy assembly and storage. The 0-27 tracks were permanently attached. You may notice that the platform was only 24" high to allow us children to comfortably operate controls.

Thank you Max

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Here we are going into what I consider to be the beginning of a new Train Season. With the Holidays coming up trains are always a necessity. I just finished reading Carol McGinnis' TCA President's message in the TCA Quarterly where she talks about growing up in the Redman household with various train layouts at Christmas. That brought to mind the layouts in the Lubonski home. "Santa" brought me my first train set in 1950 or '51. It was Lionel set # 1469WS with a 2035 loco. I still have it and the rest of my original trains and accessories thanks to my father's forethought of packing everything away in their original boxes when it was apparent that they were not being used any longer when I got older. They still run as well as they did then.

Back then trains were as important as the Christmas tree. It wouldn't have been Christmas without them. We put up a 4'x 8' layout in the dining room of my parent's house. A few years back as we were preparing that house for sale I couldn't imagine how it fit but somehow it did and showed that the trains were that important at the time to give up that much space for them. That layout grew in size to a point where it went up full time in our basement.

But things are different now with all of the devices that are available such as computers and electronic games. Kids are not introduced to trains as we were. That is why it is important for us to keep the trains alive and we need to keep our organization, the TCA, on the right track to educate others about the real value of collecting and operating trains.

I don't mean this as a sales pitch but Carol also mentions how easy it is

to make a special donation to the TCA along with sending in your annual dues. I've heard comments such as "I pay my dues why do they want more money". Well, in order to keep things running as they are it takes a little more than our dues will cover. So, if you can consider a small donation. Every little bit helps. Thanks to those that have contributed. Let's keep our hobby alive through introducing and educating newcomers. Thanks!

Happy Holidays, Bob Lubonski – President - Atlantic Division, TCA



2014 TCA CONVENTION UPDATE

The 2014 National Convention is about eighteen months away. The chair people are working hard to provide the best National Convention that the TCA has ever had. The Atlantic Division is now selling Convention shirts, Ed Alexander Barns, and soon our TastyKake Cars. Items sold will help with the expense of putting on this great Convention.

Glenn Stinson has been working hard to develop a line of Lionel TastyKake cars. The first two box cars will be out later this fall. One car will have a Chocolate Cupcake. The second car will have a vintage TastyKake logo and an old time delivery truck. The Atlantic Division hopes to continue this line of cars well after the convention.



The Ed Alexander Barns are now in stock. The barns are limited edition and are going fast. They sell for only \$125.00. An Order Form is located on our web site. Barns will be sold at our November meet. Be sure to get your barn soon. For those that pre-ordered, the barns have been shipped.

Atlantic Division Member Dean Dixon made a great purchase on ebay in September. He purchased a metal roadside sign advertising the Alexander Train Museum Barn. The sign was erected by the Bucks County Historic Commission. It has some minor damage and will be repaired back to its original condition. We plan to make some miniature replicas of the sign to go along with the barns we are selling.

The convention shirts are also available for purchase. An Order Form for the shirts is on our web site and they will be sold at the November meet. Be sure to request your shirt size.

We have made a few minor changes our convention schedule. The Taste of Philly party has been changed to Wednesday so we can have Thursday for trading pits set up and The Dinner Cruise will be on Thursday Evening. We might be adding a trip the Train Collector Museum and

We are now working with a Tour operator to finalize our trips. Most of the trip locations have been visited and reviewed. The final schedule will be made soon.

The Convention Board is in desperate need for a Kids Club Chair Person. We have a division membership of over 1,000. We need just one person to step up and give us a helping hand. This is an easy position and little work is needed. Please, if you are interested, please contact us.

The convention committee meets once a month. The committee meets on the first Thursday of the Month. We will need a number of volunteers to help for the week of the convention. We have a list started for helping during the Convention week. If you are interested in helping before or during the convention, please contact us.

Convention Co Chairs

Joseph Fisher, fisher70@verizon.net 215-659-3925

Terry L. Trickel, northernfinds@yahoo.com, 484-924-9177

TRAVELING LAYOUT

The Traveling layout has a new sign thanks to the efforts of Bob Lubon-ski, Russ Kiel, Steve Stephens and others. (See photo in story on The September Meet). We hope many of you were able to see the layout at our September meet. We are now scheduling the layout for the Holiday season. Rules for the layout request as follow:

1. If you request the layout, you must be willing help. You will be the contact person for the location.
2. Check to see if the date of your event is open.
3. Location should have easy access. The layout has wheels and can be pushed into position.
4. If there are steps or stairs, be sure to have some young muscles to help carry.
5. Electric outlet is required.

We have added one of our prototype models of the Alexander Barn to the layout. We plan to test out a light to shine on our new sign. Future improvements will be adding more scenery and mounting the buildings. We are also looking for a chairperson for the Traveling Layout. You will need a Van to transport the layout. We have plenty of helpers, but no leader. Please contact any of our Board Members if you can help. HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Terry I. Trickel northernfinds@yahoo.com

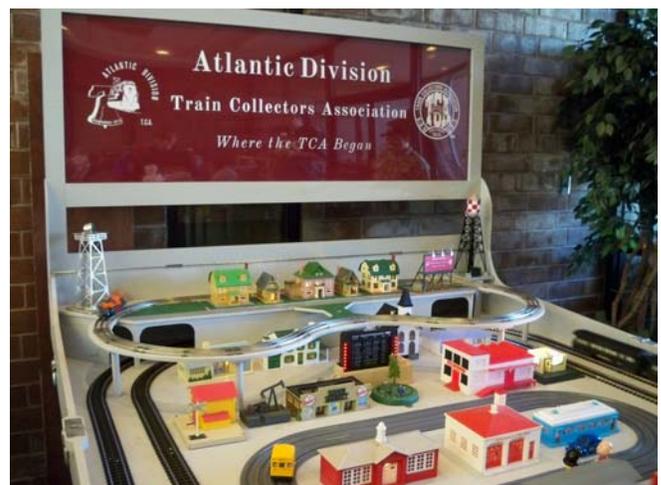
THE SEPTEMBER MEET

The Meet was well attended and everyone was having some fun. Unfortunately by my observation it seemed that we had fewer young future members than in the past.

As usual Ed Kapuscinski and Dick Heineman put on a nice display of Flat Cars.



The Travelling Layout looked great with its Brand New Sign.



The games for the Kids were well received. However, we are looking for some new volunteers to help with this effort.

The Races

DRAG RACE

1st place Grace Gudknecht



HILL CLIMB



It is no surprise to once again see a Gudknecht girl winning the prizes (She also won in the Drag Race ,See below). First we had Lauren who started winning in 2006. By 2008 she was joined by her sister Grace. This year apparently Lauren retired and we have Grace all by herself. However, the pink locomotive that started this winning streak, although now also retired made an appearance this year

Once Again Grace wins 1st Place

2nd place Dylan Fletcher



2nd Place Winner Alexis Mancino

O Gauge X-Train Training

By Bob Wittendorf

Guys has the gauge number of your waist been creeping up past the O-31 of your youth and into the higher numbers, say O-36, O-42 or higher? Then this piece of writing is for you. It is about walking while running your trains. I call this *Train Cross Training* and it is done with the help of the latest remote control gad-

ets like MTH's DCS or Lionel's TMCC.

We have all heard that exercise, particularly walking, is the best low cost remedy that you can do to avoid many metabolic diseases that will stymie the quality of your life. But who has the spare time? I offer here a solution, combine one activity that we love—playing with trains--and another that is difficult to find time to do—exercising. It's a way to have fun and get healthy at the same time. Here's how to make it happen.

The first item you need you probably already have, that is a room layout with about a six foot by six foot extra space that faces the layout; or this could be your excuse to build that layout—*remember it's for your long-term health.* Next, you need either the DCS or TMCC system—it's shopping time. Then you need one or more engines equipped with the sensors to pick-up the wireless signal. Lastly, you need a 'no frills' treadmill with variable speed control, a place for holding the remote, a speed indicator, and a mileage counter--side-mounted grab bars are a plus. You can probably find one at Goodwill, Salvation Army, yard sales or even from your children's discarded ones. This treadmill should provide nothing more than just walking.

To start, couple together as many freight or passenger cars as you want to look at while they circle your layout being pulled by your favorite engine. Next, turn ON the hand-held system and make it ready to start-up the train. Put the controller in the place on the treadmill where you can easily access it. Then set the treadmill speed to one mile/hour and start walking. Slowly increase the speed another 1/2 mile/hour until you feel steady on your feet and are able to walk without teetering to one side or the other. Now, grab the controller and 'start your engines'.

Increase the speed of both yourself and the consist to a comfortable rate. **Warning, do not exceed 3 mph on your treadmill,** but anything goes for the train's scale speed. Play the horn or whistle as many times as you need to depending on your crossings, yards, etc. (real or imagined), play the train sounds until you have memorized all the speaking segments. In short, enjoy the trip that your train is travelling and you are too. Before you realize it, both you and the train will have travelled 2 miles and 20 scale miles respectively. Shut down the treadmill and continue to play with the trains for as long as you have time. Do this as often as you can—it's for your health if any objects.

Wow! What a great work-out for all concerned. I wonder would your doctor give you a prescription for more trains and is this deductible from the Income Tax.

THE STOMPER

Clem Clement, a frequent table holder at our Meets brought his famous locomotives to the Meet. Shown below is the famous STOMPER that has been featured in many stories in the TTML.



STOMPER was born out of Thunder back in the days of yore (Remember yore: Pre York and chrome hubcaps). Sadly the explosive energy released at STOMPER's birth wiped out any and all memories or artifacts of Thunder

Clem claims that STOMPER came to live with the late Dick Trickel, famous airplane pilot, friend of many and caster of soft metal parts for many of our tired trains. Dick did not create STOMPER. After his passing his son Eric Trickel felt that Clem needed to be STOMPER's next Keeper. He is so honored to do that.

In addition, Clem brought another locomotive that has been said to be



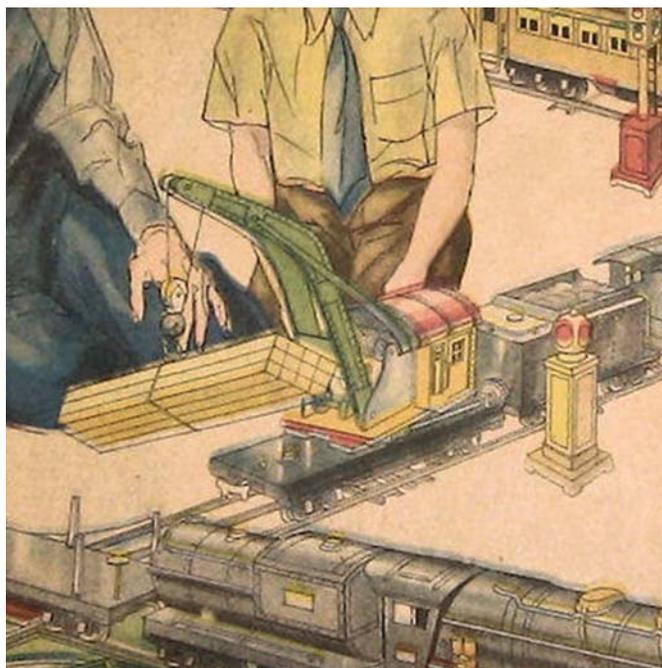
STOMPER'S challenger. This locomotive is shown bellow and is called the JUNKS. (The Juxtapositional Unstabilizing Nuclear Kart System) made a special appearance at the meet. There was some angst about the huge Electro Magnetic Pulse (EMP) from the locos, even though they were not fired up. Dr. Z snapped some photos as they were still and not blinding the cameras with spurious emissions. Look for further news about the upcoming blood challenge by JUNKS.

LIONEL COLOR CHANGES -- 1935-1939

By Glenn Stinson

In the 1935 catalog, Lionel started to introduce new color schemes for many of their trains and accessories. In an attempt to revitalize sales, many of the existing pieces that had been shown in Lionel catalogs for ten years or more in sometimes rather drab colors were now shown in bright and bold color schemes. In addition, many pieces were shown with brighter nickel and aluminum trim replacing the old brass trim that dulled rather quickly.

The 810 crane is an interesting example of this period. The 1935 thru 1938 catalogs show the car as a separate sale item in the old color scheme of terra cotta body, maroon roof and peacock boom. Yet in a work train set, the 810 is shown in bright new colors of yellow body, bright red roof, and green boom. It's not until the 1939 catalog that the



that the 810 separate sale image reflects the new colors. While it may have taken Lionel quite a while to fully acknowledge the introduction of the new color schemes, was it a snap decision or was much advance planning done concerning this change? Sales were declining for many reasons and Lionel was desperate to boost sales.

A recent acquisition to my collection was a November 29, 1931 Sunday



comic strip ad in full color. It mostly shows standard gauge trains including a 400E and a brown 408E state set. But dead center of the ad shows one "O" gauge item among all the standard gauge trains, an 810 crane in the yellow, red and green color scheme that won't be cataloged at least another 4 years.

GET A LOAD OF THIS!
by Art Bink

Flat cars are so versatile; there isn't much you can't transport on them, and load possibilities are endless. If you're like me, you can't throw anything out without taking it apart to see what it's made of, see what makes it tick, and look at what possibilities it has for creating items relative to toy trains. For example, the load in Photo #1 is made of old clock parts. People throw clocks in the trash either because they're not working, or because they no longer fit in with their decor. What great sources



Photo 1 Old Clock Parts



Photo 2 Shaver Car

of parts! I love to take apart old electronic stuff because I find it a great source of hardware I can throw in my "tiny hardware" box. Also the shape of components on printed circuit boards gives me lots of ideas as to what kind of "loads" I can turn them into.

I create my loads for HO gauge, but you can find items to make loads for ANY gauge flat car. Have an old electric razor? In Photo #2 you can see 2 flat cars next to a power house. On them are armatures from old shavers.... pretend they're replacement parts for generators in the adja-

cent power house. Clean them in acetone, let 'em dry, and spray 'em gray. Make some wood cradles & you've got a few free loads.



Photo 3 Carburetor Car

You'll never guess what the load is in Photo #3. My old Buick needed a new sensor on the carburetor, and the old one is now on this flat car, covered with aluminum foil from the kitchen. Spray it gray and highlight it with a few other dark shades, and you've got a weathered tarp on it. Stab the foil perimeter all around with a soft pencil point and it'll look like it's nailed down to the wood floor of the flatcar. While your model railroader friends might not know what's under the aluminum tarp, you have to admit it looks "serious" and "industrial"! See the orange plastic



Photo 4 Pill Bottle Car

pill bottle in Photo #4? That's what the cement sewer pipe is made of on the flat car in front of it. To get these plastic vials off the mold, they're tapered. It's easy to cut a ring from the narrow (bottom) end of the bottle, and glue it into the wide end of the bottle to form a "lip", as seen on a lot of sewer pipes. Paint it with cement-colored water-base paint from your local hobby shop.



Photo 5 Boiler Car

The "boiler" in Photo #5 is a bit more complicated, but easy enough. I cut a piece of 1" diameter PVC plastic tubing in half lengthwise for the rounded top of the boiler and glued it to some thick styrene sheet material, sanding the seams. Then I added some loose parts from a junk box

to make it look “busy”. Next I sprayed it “machine shop” green, and “artificially aged” it, adding labels I made on the computer along with a little graffiti. No one’s ever asked me what the little knobs & wheels are on the boiler, so don’t worry about that; how many people really know what a generic boiler looks like anyhow! Besides, these are just toy trains!

This is only a small sampling of the loads I’ve made, and it’s really FUN! Get on the bandwagon! Try your ideas and talent out! You too can get a load on!

COLLECTING-REVISITED

By Bob Wittendorf

Do you consider yourself a Train Runner or a Train Collector? For me, I considered myself as an acquirer of trains that I would place on my layout and run them until the ‘wheels fell off’— a train runner--certainly they would not just sit on a shelf. Well, I had a skewed definition of collecting. According to Wikipedia’s definition, “The hobby called Collecting includes seeking, locating, acquiring, organizing, cataloging, displaying, storing and maintaining whatever items are of interest to the individual collector.” That seems to sum-up what I’ve done, maybe not too much on the cataloging part.

Collecting has been around for more than 2300 years. The first known collecting began around 305 BC with the Egyptian Ptolemaic dynasty’s collecting books from all over the known world for the Library of Alexandria—this fits all the above criteria. History says though that the ‘maintaining, that is, ‘protecting from fire’ part was not done very well.

For most of us, this idea of finding just the ‘right’ loco, diesel, box electric, freight or passenger car seems to follow some subconscious urge to either (1) get all of the same kind of rolling stock (caboose, boxes, tanks), or (2) get all of the stuff we remembered and longed-for when we were kids, or even (3) duplicate what we saw in our neighborhood go chugging, rattling, shooting by when growing up. By one of those criteria, I should be a fan of the Wabash line in the Chicago and mid-western region. But now that I’ve lived here almost 50 years, I’m now a Reading and Pennsy booster—besides, there isn’t much on the shelves, meet tables and catalogs showing the old Wabash line.

So here is, perhaps, a new collecting strategy or acquiring plan to try; it is for me – *Get all the rolling stock you can find in your favorite road name.* Start to build a collection based on the road name and not on the unique variations – or some might say quality control failures or product design changes. This is a worthy and never ending search for all the rolling stock and engines for your layout—if you can afford them all.

To get started, you need to determine what may be available in train shops, auctions, and meets. A search of the Web sites of MTH, Weaver Models, Atlas, and Lionel for two road names in our area, the Reading and Jersey Central Lines, showed that there is probably available a huge and possibly small supply, respectively. I counted the number of locos, diesels, and electrics, and freight, and passenger items available for each. What became clear from searching their sites is that you can choose any current or previous road name for collecting and this will provide years of going to every train meet, auction, train show and on-line sale just to find all available rolling stock.

Here are my counts for each of these two railroads that I found. From the MTH Web site, there are over 200 items showing the Reading nameplate (or affiliates) and about 75 items from the Jersey Central Lines. The Weaver Model’s Web site shows five new Reading items and almost 80 previous ones in their Ultra and Gold versions with two Jersey Central freight cars and over 35 previously issued freights and locos. The Atlas site lists 18 new Reading but zero Jersey Central but it has the best list of all the Web sites for seeing what rolling stock is available from them in all the individual road names (about 100). The Lionel Web site only lists stock from year 2000 to the present with eight Reading and

five Jersey Central items. You are on your own to find all the ones from 1999 backwards.

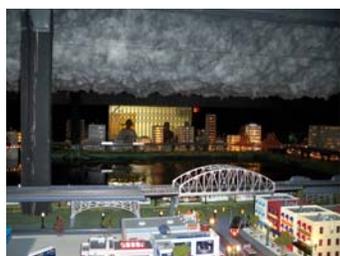
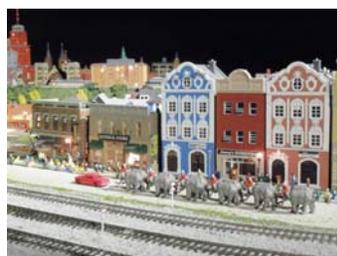
So, if you want to have only your favorite road name on your layout, there is a lot of rolling stock to find out there. And, if you’re interest is for a theme, how about a collection made up of every available beer car, or food car, or tanker car, or whatever--you fill in the rest. And lastly, I know that a ‘real’ consist is made up of a mixed of ‘new’ and ‘old’ rolling stock too, coupled together into one long line without a caboose—but we all know that the caboose is like desert after a meal, a must have. After all it’s your mini-railroading world, make it whatever you want.

Either way, have a great time seeking, locating, acquiring, organizing, displaying, storing, maintaining and even cataloging your finds—the last being an essential task so that you don’t buy any duplicates.

A SPECIAL TRAIN EXHIBIT

By Chester Zmijewski

A short time ago, my wife (Staff Photographer) and I had a chance to visit a huge train exhibit at the Merchant’s Square Mall in Allentown, Pa. This was a true experience. The following are some pictures of this exhibit. The layout is presented in a darkened room, the only illumination coming from the layout itself. The sky has clouds and stars and a moon illuminating the display. The following are some pictures of the layout.



This is one of the greatest Layouts that I have ever seen. It is well worth a trip to Allentown, PA (Even tough this area is not part of our Division)

This is a description of the layout as presented in the official Press release.

The world's most amazing model train extravaganza "is now opening at the Merchants Square Mall in Allentown, PA. The Merchants Square Model Train Exhibit was built by Joe Kean, who previously built model train displays at Pocono Museums Unlimited in Lehigh, PA and Hooven Mercantile Company Museum in Jim Thorpe, PA.

Kean and his small volunteer crew of dedicated model train enthusiasts spent more than two years building what Mr. Kean calls his masterpiece. "I have saved the greatest train exhibit I've ever built for the last", he said. "Merchants Square Mall has given me enough space to build my entire collection and it will be a permanent fixture of Merchants Square and that makes me very happy. This will be one of the largest model train exhibits in the country and certainly the only model train exhibit with a thunder and lightning storm with rain."

The Merchants Square Model Train Exhibit contains more than 1,000 structures, some handmade from scratch; 30,000 lights illuminating the stars, sky, moon, and buildings; and more than forty model trains rolling continuously on 18,000 feet of track.

The dazzling miniature views include the historic Ebbets Field in Brooklyn; skiers racing down a mountain among twenty operating ski rides, skate ponds and a chalet; a drive-in theater which shows a real movie; a farm complete with outbuildings; a 60-piece operating amusement park with a roller coaster; a railroad yard complete with roundhouse and turntable; and a huge, 24' x 16' lake with real water, over which storm clouds gather, bringing thunder, lightning and rain! For model train aficionados, the exhibit includes "O" gauge scale, "O" gauge semi-scale, and "HO" scale trains; four underground subways; five elevated trains; four pantograph electric trains; and steam and diesel trains. Train logos include Lehigh Valley, Jersey Central, Reading, Lehigh and New England, New York Central, Pennsylvania Railroad, New Haven Railroad, Amtrak, and SEPTA.

Mike Roche, owner of Merchants Square Mall, is delighted with what Joe Kean and his crew have built: "To watch Joe and his volunteers over the past two years has been amazing. Every building, street light and fire engine is to perfect scale. These guys are true artists. The exhibit is incredibly detailed and every time I look at it I see something new. I think it's safe to say that Joe Kean has outdone himself this time!"

The Merchants Square Model Train Exhibit is located on the second floor at 1901 South 12th St. Allentown, PA is open to the public. Exhibit hours are Fridays, 12-9, Saturdays 10-7, and Sundays 10-5. Admission is \$7.00 for adults, \$5.00 for seniors and \$2.00 for kids ages 5-12.

DON'T FORGET TO PLAN FOR THE 2013 TCA CONVENTION

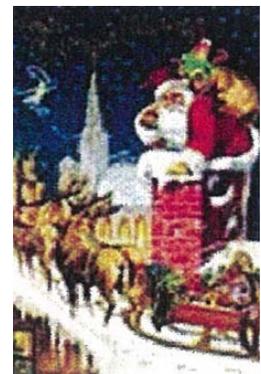
It is being sponsored by the Ozark Division in St. Louis, MO in June. St. Louis is a place where history and imagination collide, and the result is a Midwestern destination filled with one-of-a-kind attractions, restaurants, shops and adventures. The Gateway City is also an economical destination, with more free world-class attractions than any other city outside of Washington, DC.



ATLANTIC DIVISION EXPRESS

The Atlantic Division Express is published four times a year. The editorial staff is actively seeking new articles for publication. Anyone having material that they would like published should submit it to the Editorial Office. The articles need not be grammatically correct. We will put them into the proper format. We need your material and will accept Want Ads and For Sale items from individual members.

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On behalf of the Officers and Board of Directors of the Atlantic Division and The Editorial Staff of The Express, I wish each and everyone of you a Healthy and Happy Holiday Season. May the New Year bring you the train of your dreams.
§ Chester Zee §