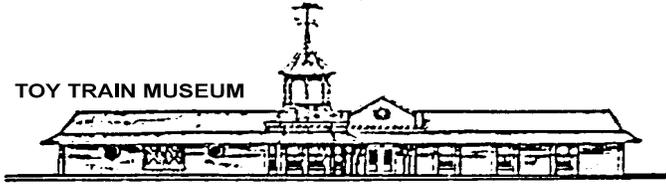


THE LAYOUT



TOY TRAIN MUSEUM



ENJOY A VISIT TO YOUR MUSEUM

THE SOUTHERN DIVISION TRAIN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

Winter 2013

VOLUME 47 NUMBER 1



Photo Above: Preparing to Depart on The Orange Blossom Cannonball

In this Issue:

- Riding the Orange Blossom Cannonball
- Train Robbery!
- Photos of the Maitland Meet
- Photos of Clark and Ilene's Open House
- Southern Division Awards

Photo Right: Ruthless outlaws make Marshal John Conway's day. Story inside!



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Address Changes

Please inform the Southern Division Secretary Dienzel Dennis (see contact info on this page) of all address changes. Please do not send address changes to the editor of *The Layout* as that will only delay processing (It's close to the full moon, which is a busy time of the month for the editor of *The Layout*).



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Coming Up! TRAIN SHOW—Gold Coast Railroad Museum National Train Day, Saturday - May 11, 2013

We are going to have our first-ever train meet in Miami, next May. Note that this date is only one week before the Jacksonville show. It is being held then because it is National Train Day, plus it is a good opportunity to serve our far-south members. The meet hosts are Bob Mintz and Jim Herron, and over-all coordinator is Richard Tashjian. Table Reservation Forms will be sent along with the Jacksonville Meet Notice. For questions or details, contact Richard at ritash@bellsouth.net or 954-581-5778. Look for more information in the next issue of *The Layout*.

Get Well Soon:

JANE BOYCE - TCA NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR. OUR BEST IN YOUR RECOVERY.
BILL KOTEK - TCA NATIONAL TREASURER. WISHING YOU WELL IN YOUR RECOVERY.

President's Message



Not to belittle previous events, but I think the Southern Division weekend in Maitland was the best event we've had since I've been president. The Steam Train Ride, the Open House Friday night, the meet, and the President's Banquet Saturday night, all combined to make a great train meet and convivial party weekend. Especially fun was The Great Train Robbery, staged during the Train Ride. (See The Great Train Robbery Story, by one of the survivors, elsewhere in this issue.)

More great times are coming up, starting with the Tampa Bay (Largo) meet this January. The exciting event (for me, at least) is the new train store, just opening in Largo. Read all about it in the "Friday Night Open House at New Train Store" article. Also, read about the new Miami meet we have scheduled.

Election time is here, it's time to vote. Ballots for the new candidates for SD officers are stuffed in with this issue of *The Layout*. Please fill in your ballot and mail it in per instructions included. Which brings to mind that I will be out of office. Our bylaws state that a president can serve no more than two terms, and I have done so. The candidate for President is running unopposed. There are three candidates for Vice President (I wonder why nobody wants to be President) and I think any of them would be an outstanding Vice President. Read about all of them and make your choice.

It has been a long time, but sometimes it seems like only a short time. During my term we (myself and your board of directors) have tried our best to do whatever we could to advance the causes of the Southern Division. I am particularly proud that our membership has grown during this time. (See article in this issue of *The Layout* on this). We have increased the number of volunteers to help in various aspects of the division. Read the article about the volunteers, and how many it takes to successfully run an event.

For those of you who do not participate, but only sell your trains and go home, you are missing some great times and fellowships. You should think about helping out. You may find a rewarding feeling in self-satisfaction, and actually meet more members and become friends with some of us.

In closing, I will repeat the words I wrote one year ago, which are still appropriate:

"We need more folks and kids to enjoy our camaraderie, to join in our social events, for us to have a more social environment at our meets, not a commercial one".

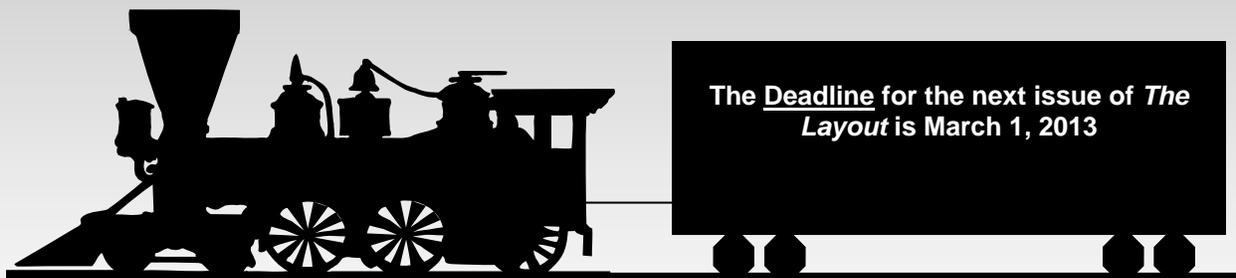
Thank you. It has been a privilege for me to serve as your President.

A SOUTHERN DIVISION MILESTONE

In my position as Secretary of the Southern Division, one of my duties is to report to the board at our business meetings the updated list of membership. At our November Maitland meet I stated that we were only six members short of 500 as we currently have 494 active participants. I am happy to report that early the next morning during the Maitland train meet, we signed up six new SD members to put us over the top. A few more joined during the day and-- we just keep growing. At a time when most national train clubs and many of the division are losing members, our enrollment continues to grow. We must be doing something right! During my six years as Secretary, this is the first time we have climbed over the 500 mark. Let's keep it going. **HAVE YOU SENT IN YOUR DUES FOR 2013?** If not, please do so right away so we can remain the best division in all of TCA. Also, please send me any change of address, telephone, email, etc.



TCA-SD... THE BEST \$10 YOU COULD EVER SPEND. Regards, Dienzel Dennis, SD Secretary.



**Check out the Southern Division Website: www.tcasoutherndivision.org
Webmaster: Jake Jacob**

The Meet Story - 1st Quarter 2013 – Tampa Bay Area
The MINNREG Building, Largo FL, Saturday, January 26th, 2013
EARLY SETUP TIME ON FRIDAY 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The TCA Southern Division's first meet of 2013 will be held Saturday January 26th at the MinnReg Building, 6340 126th Avenue North, Largo Florida, 33773. **Tableholder setup will be Friday afternoon from 3 PM to 6 PM and Saturday morning from 7 AM to 9 AM.** During setup time, the building will be open to tableholders and helpers only. On Friday we must be out of the building no later than 6 pm. Tables cost \$20 each for TCA Southern Division members. Non-Southern Division TCA member tables cost \$30 each. The meet will be open to TCA members only at 9 am and the public starting at 10 am until 4 pm. Plenty of free parking is available. Food is available at reasonable prices.

Meet Host – The Meet Host is Charles Anyan. For questions, etc., call at (727) 345-0288, or canyan1@tampabay.rr.com. During set up times, call my cell phone at (727) 459-8681.

Membership Meeting - We will hold a membership meeting at 9:30 a.m. to introduce the new officers, discuss items of interest and business, and significant items from the Board of Director's meeting.

2013 Southern Division Dues Renewal - The Treasurer, Mike Powell, will be present to accept your 2013 dues (\$10) if you have not paid them yet.

Operating Layout - We will have at least two working layouts, including a LEGO layout

Open House – at the new train store ! AA Model Train Repair (and sales), Friday January 25th There will be an open house at a new train store. (See Train Store Open House article on Opposite Page for Information and Directions)

Directions to the Meet and Hotel

Directions to Meet - From U.S. Highway 19 South-bound, take the 66th Street exit (State Route 693). Continue south to the stop light on 126th Ave. Turn left (east). Go to the first stop sign. The MinnReg Bldg is on the right.

From U.S. Highway 19 north-bound, take the Bryan Dairy Rd. exit. Cross Bryan Dairy Rd. and continue north on the frontage road to 126th Ave. Turn left. Go to the first stop sign after the underpass. The MinnReg Bldg is just ahead on the left.

I-275 South-bound, take the Ulmerton Road exit (Hwy 688). Drive west to 66th St and turn left. Follow directions as above.

I-275 North-bound, take the Roosevelt Blvd exit (Hwy 686). Don't miss this turn or you will wind up in Tampa. Keep left and go west/north to where Roosevelt merges into Ulmerton road. Follow directions as above

Directions to Hotel – Follow directions to get on Ulmerton Rd. Then go to 35th St. & turn right

Meet Hotel

Meet Hotel – Hotels close to the meet are sold out due to a softball tournament in town that weekend. Although further away, the Meet Hotel for this meet is the Marriott Springhill Suites, 3485 Ulmerton Road, Clearwater, FL (727) 571-1600. www.marriott.com. It is a very nice motel, and is right on Ulmerton Road, making it easy to get to the meet. To get to the meet, **just turn right on Ulmerton and go to 66th St.** and follow directions as above. The rate for TCA is \$85. Ask for the TCA to get this rate.

Friday Night Open House at New Train Store Grand Opening for TCA Southern Division Only By Charles Anyan

On **Friday night, January 25th**, the night before the Largo meet, there will be an open house at the new train store in Largo, open only for Southern Division members. **The store will close for normal business at 6pm, and then open for us from 6 till 9pm.** Refreshments will be provided by SD. I previewed the shop last month, and found plenty of "good stuff" available, mostly Lionel post-war, plus post-war parts. I bought some parts from there, all original items. David, the owner/manager, TCA and Southern Division member, has flyers for our Largo meet, and he stuffs one in the customer's bag for every customer that he serves. He has already reserved two tables for the Largo meet, so if you can't attend the open house, you can meet him the next day at our meet. I asked David to write us a story about the store and our visit. It is below.



AA Model Train Repair (and sales)

There is a new Train Store in the Tampa Bay area, specifically, Largo. It is the **AA Model Train Repair**. They are located at 8340 Ulmerton Road, Suite 222, Largo, FL 33771. Their number is 727-698-7496, and you can find them on the internet at www.aamodeltrainrepair.com. You are going to love visiting this approximately 1,000 square foot train shop with trains and accessories from wall to wall in the showroom and office, repair and parts inventory in the back. At a later date they plan to expand their 300 feet of upstairs into additional store space with a running layout. **This is a shop with an old time feel with great selection,** in house

repair and service and reasonable prices built on a love of the industry, as well as a technologically advanced internet business serving model train owners nationwide.



AA Model Train Repair welcomes those of you in the local Tampa Bay Area. They encourage you to stop by for a cup of coffee while you search the shop for the item that will make your collection even more special. If you aren't in the local area you can find them on the web and have your order conveniently drop shipped to your doorstep locally or nationally. This is a train collector and business owner who takes pride in his business. **AA Model Train Repair buys, sells, trades, consigns and takes pride in**

their repairs and service. The shop currently features *Lionel post war, modern, G gauge, Bachman-Williams MTH, and MPC trains*. They have applied to be an **authorized dealer for Lionel** and plan to expand into **HO and N gauge**. They look forward to keeping you and your family and the next generation of train lovers on the track and running smoothly!



Meet Your Candidates, by Charles Anyan

These are the candidates for offices for the Southern Division, as listed on the ballot. I asked each candidate to send me a biography of themselves so members could read about them and get to know them better. These are the full articles that each person provided, which had to be shortened to fit on the ballot. Please read the full story, as presented by each person.



Brad Woodward

I joined TCA in 1971 . . . My Southern Division is #100. My collection is all "O" gauge, Lionel, K-line, Marx, Rail King, Williams and RMT trains. My train room is 20x20, I display around 300 plus trains. I run 5 trains on my layout. My layout has a *family tree of home*, my home, my parent's home, my Grandparent's home and my Great Grandparent's home. I retired last year after 50 years in Newspaper Production. I now have more time to be involved in TCA Southern Division. I have hosted over 18 years (2 a year) of TTOS Toy Trains shows in Florida. I grew up in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, I now live in Ft. Pierce, FL. My wife is Louise, we have a total of 6 children and 10 Grandkids.



Steven Johnson

Over the course of about 15 years I served as Mayor (2 years) and council member (5 years) in Miami Shores, Chamber of Commerce President (1 year), Treasurer (about 10 years) and Board Member (about 15 years), Rotary Club President (1 year) and Treasurer (about 10 years) as well as serving on the Boards of a local performing arts theater and charter school. All that on top of running a small local CPA firm with about 10-12 employees and with my wife (of 31 years now) raising a family with three children.

My interests lie primarily in collecting post-war Lionel O gauge. I have a relatively extensive collection and am working on building an operating layout. I have been collecting trains since I was about 10 years old (I'm 51 now) and I am self-employed as a CPA specializing in tax and estate planning for high net worth individuals and families. I am licensed as an attorney in Florida, but I practice as a CPA.

I think it would be fun and interesting to serve the Southern Division in the capacity of Vice President. I think my experiences have given me a unique perspective and enhanced my ability to run and plan meetings, play the part of a diplomat among people with differing points of view, and generally provide a service to the organization. On top of all that it is a chance to give back to a hobby I love and provides a good excuse to attend more train meets!



Harry F Long

I first got started with Lionel trains when I was about seven years old. I was inspired by my grandfather who had a basement full of Lionel trains. My first train set was given to me by my parents back in the fifties. It was then that my love for this fantastic hobby began. As a 30 year Navy Vet my trains have traveled with me far and wide. Nicely packed and crated, until three years ago when my wife Ceil encouraged me to unpack them and set them up in our spare bed room. Shortly thereafter I went to my first TCA meet at Maitland and became a member. The rest is history.

I've now been a member of TCA for two years. If elected I hope to create new interests for present and future members. My Southern Division membership number is 2561. My TCA number is 11-65896.



Jeffrey Sawyer

I previously resided in Pennsylvania where my father, Frank and I collected toy trains from the time I was a small child. My Father joined the TCA in Pennsylvania and I joined the TCA Eastern Division in 1983. As a member of the Eastern Division, I assisted with multiple planning and set up of both TCA and non-TCA train meets.

In 1992, I moved from Pennsylvania to Florida and opened my business, Sawyer Auto Body in 1995. I had the privilege of meeting my wife, Debra of 10 years in 2002 in Jacksonville. I joined the TCA Southern Division in 2010 and have had the pleasure of hosting the 2011 and 2012 Jacksonville train meets.

Debra & I have 4 beautiful granddaughters, Emily, Abby, Becca and Michelle. Michelle was born premature with complications so Emily, Abby and Becca lived with us for about 4 months. At that time I had the opportunity to introduce my granddaughters to toy trains. I was and still am amazed to see these lovely ladies with the trains. When they come to our home for visits and the holidays, they play who gets to be the conductor/engineer. They get creative and straddle the tracks to make a bridge. It truly is a blessing.

As I have been involved in train collecting through the years, it seems that young people today do not have the same interest and zeal that I had. I am concerned for the future of the hobby. The youth of today have a multitude of distractions and do not seem to be as interested. I saw the enthusiasm my granddaughters had when we set up the trains and it renewed my hope that we could turn the hobby around.

I would enjoy the opportunity to participate and offer suggestions to bring interest back to the hobby of train collecting. I have always had a passion for trains and would like to ensure that the hobby continues for future generations. For this reason, I am running for the office of Vice President of the Southern Division and would ask for your vote.

**TCA SOUTHERN DIVISION BOARD OF DIRECTORS BUSINESS MEETING
NOVEMBER 16, 2012, MAITLAND, FL**

President Anyan called the meeting to order at 5:11 p. m. Secretary Dennis called the roll with the following members present. President Anyan, VP Herron, Sec. Dennis, Treasurer Powell, Communication Director Linda Harris, and Directors S. Harris and Travitsky. Also in attendance were members Brad Woodard, Steve Johnson, Al Galli, Robert Mintz, Harry Long, and Richard Tashjian. A few other SD members came in and out as they were setting up the tables for tomorrow's train meet in the adjoining hall.

The President reported on the status of tomorrow's meet. Every thing is set to go with all the tables sold. Displays and Layouts are confirmed. Linda Harris, along with other officers reported on the advertisement for the meet. The open house and banquet are all in place. It looks like a great week-end is in store for all who attend. The "Orange Blossom Express train ride earlier in the day was a huge success. The contracts have been signed for the Jan. 26 Largo meet and also for the Stuart meet on March 23.

A report was given on the Awards Committee and also the Banquet at Sam Sneads. Al Galli reported on the status of the Children's Museum set to open on Dec. 17. Operation Life Saver will set up a booth at the meet along with a Lego Layout. We discussed a new member who is willing to help with our web site and also hold an open house for the club.

Mike Powell gave the treasurers report on our current status and proposed budget for next year. The report was accepted as given. If any member has a question they should contact Mike personally. Secretary Dienzel Dennis reported that we currently have 494 for active members. We hope to sign up at least 6 new members at the meet tomorrow to take us over 500 active members. All members should keep the Secretary up dated on all email address changes, as well as changes in phone numbers and home addresses. The secretaries report was accepted as presented.

The annual awards will be presented at the General business meeting during the train show. There was no new report from the Bylaws' committee or the Standards Committee. Arnie Travitsky distributed a list of nominees for the upcoming election. It was accepted with the changes that were made. This will be dependent upon whether we have any more nominations at the general business meeting tomorrow. Steve Johnson reported on the train ride and further Special Events. We had 80 members take the train excursion. Linda Harris reported about our web site status and also that she now has our club on "Face book". The table registration form has been updated to better clarify the procedure. The Officers addresses have been removed from the web page and the President will notify the Layout editor to also remove them from the Layout. A question was asked about removing "wanting to buy" from the Layout. It was decided to leave as is. Richard Tashjian presented a handout concerning the extra special meet at the Gold Coast Railroad Museum on National Railroad Day. Bob Mintz and Jim Herron are also working with this project. After a very lengthy discussion, a motion passed to continue to work on this project and that we would advertise through TCA like we do for any other meet. A motion was made and passed that the Southern Division will donate \$500.00 to the TCA general fund if the Eastern Division matches this gift.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p. m., Dienzel Dennis, SD Secretary

**TCA SOUTHERN DIVISION GENERAL MEMBERSHIP BUSINESS MEETING
MAITLAND TRAIN MEET, NOVEMBER 17, 2012, SAT. 9:35 a.m.**

President Anyan presented some general information along with the usual housekeeping items. He then presented our annual Awards. The first presentation was the (10) B & O hopper cars sent from the TCA. They were presented to Steve and Linda Harris, Arnie Travitsky, Jeff Mayer, Al Galli, Jake Jacobs, Dienzel Dennis, Mike Powell, Charlie Anyan, Jeff Sawyer, and Tim Evert. Dienzel Dennis was the recipient of the "Best Display" Senior Division. The president's award went to Mary Anyan. David Zitnik was awarded the plaque for Voluntary Support to the Division. Al Galli was honored with the Good Fellowship Award and Tim Evert picked up the Outstanding Service Award. The Distinguish Service Award was presented to Mike Powell. The president then made a special presentation of two tickets to the "Orange Blossom Special" train ride to Secretary Dennis to take his wife on when she recuperates from her surgery.

Arnie Travitsky, the nominations chairman, presented the slate of candidates for the upcoming election. He ask for nominations from the floor. After everything was completed, here are the nominees who will be on the ballot for 2013. President- Brad Woodard; Vice President-Steve Johnson, Harry Long, and Jeff Sawyer.

Mike Powell and Dienzel Dennis will run for Treasurer and Secretary. Linda Harris will be on the ballot for the position of Communications Director. Everyone is encouraged to vote for the members you want to run your club.

President Anyan discussed the possibility of an extra (5th) train meet in Miami at the Gold Coast Railroad Museum on National Railroad Day. This basically will be for South Florida, and also as a recruiting tool for our club in that part of the state. He got a favorable show of hands for this endeavor. We will continue to pursue this project. The meeting was adjourned and all reward recipients came to the front of the hall for photographs. Floor trading resumed at 9:55 for SD members and then for the general public at 10:00 a. m.

Dienzel Dennis, Southern Division Secretary

Clark & Ilene Vegazo's Open House



Photo Above: Clark Vegazo and Bill Trappen
Photo Below: Ilene Vegazo and Rosemary Trappen



Photo Above: Clarks' Slot Car layout.

Photos Below: Not only does Clark display his trains but also classic cars.



Clark and Ilene's Open House 2012

Each year Clark and Ilene Vegazo host an open house for friends, neighbors, and Southern Division members where they display walls and walls of postwar trains, slot cars, accessories, and boxed sets. Clark displays several of his own vintage cars, and his friends and neighbors join in to form a mini car show.

The Southern Division would like to extend thanks to Clark and Ilene for hosting this wonderful event.



2012 Southern Division Awards 2012

Dienzel Dennis was the recipient of the “Best Display” Senior Division. The president’s award went to Mary Anyan. David Zitnik was awarded the plaque for Voluntary Support to the Division. Al Galli was honored with the Good Fellowship Award and Tim Evert picked up the Outstanding Service Award. The Distinguished Service Award was presented to Mike Powell.

Presidents award – Non-member for someone outside the Division who contributes to the Division.

Special Service award – For special service – reserved for volunteers.

Good Fellowship award – Someone friendly, supports image of TCA.

Outstanding Service award – Some outstanding accomplishment(s) at the Division level.

Distinguished Service award – Some outstanding accomplishment(s) at the National level.



Joe Steele... and the 9110 Hopper Cars (reprinted from the TCA handout distributed with the cars)



Approximately 10,000 9110 B&O Hoppers were made by Lionel in 1971. There are gray and white letter variations. Over his twenty ears as a TCA collector, prior to his death in 2011, he acquired some 350 of those hoppers, his favorite car. They have been presented to the TCA by his family in his memory, to serve individual members as a continuing reminder of the pleasure of collecting and of the friendships enjoyed through the TCA.

Please accept this Hopper Car in the spirit in which Joe collected them and display it with pride. Should you encounter a member whom you feel is deserving of this same recognition, feel free to pass the Hopper on with this same instruction. Through this effort, Joe’s legacy of friendship and his love of TCA will endure.

Photos Above: Joe’s Steel’s hopper cars are awarded to Southern Division Members. Left to Right: Jeff Sawyer, Jeff Mayer, Mike Powell, Dienzel Dennis, Charlie Anyan, Al Galli, and Arnie Travitsky. Other members who received hopper cars but are not in this photo were Steve Harris and Linda Harris, Tim Evert, and Jake Jacobs.

Displays at the Maitland Meet



Photo Above Left: Steve Harris displayed three scare flatcars with original truck loads. Behind the trucks is a Wyandotte Airport. All items are from the 1930's.

Photo Above Right: John Schliecher displayed his Ives O Gauge set from about 1907. Also included in the photo is a paper covered litho wooden Station from the 1800's. It may have been produced by Milton Bradley

Thank You Time, By Charles Anyan

We had a great weekend in Maitland, but it couldn't have happened without the help of many volunteers. Starting at the top, on Friday, the Orange Blossom Cannonball train ride was pulled off without a hitch. Thanks to Steven Johnson, who managed and coordinated the event, with his volunteers: Gary and Lucretia Fischel, , Arnie Travitsky, and especially John DiCrisci, who orchestrated the train robbery, along with his gang of desperadoes. Speaking of gangs, Friday afternoon, while the Board of Directors meeting was occurring, Dick Wilson and his Sarasota gang showed up at the hall to help set up the meet tables. Friday night was the big open house, always a great party, hosted by Ilene and Clark Vegazo.

At the meet the next day, Arnie got our meet signs out on the street, then directed the table assignments, while Judy Tashjian, Louise Woodward, Naomi Jacob, Marianne Napolitano, Debra Sawyer, and Linda Harris worked the meet entrance. Several volunteers worked to set up operating layouts, including Harry Long and Steven Johnson, setting up our SD TCA layout and test track; John DiCrisci, with his layout; John Hoover displayed his European layout, Michael Powell operated our Z gauge layout; and Scott Miller set up and operated a Lego layout during the meet. John Schliecher and Steve Harris set up displays. We also had an advisory booth about Operation Lifesaver, a rail safety program, set up and operated by Jim Martin, of Sunrail Trains. There were also volunteers from the church, who helped with table setup and made sure there were no problems.



Photo Above: Gary and Lucretia Fischel



Photo Above: One of Clark Vegazo's train displays

The President's Banquet after the meet on Saturday had been previously negotiated by Arnie, as to menus and price. It was a great meal, and ended a tremendous weekend for the Southern Division. I'm sure I missed some, including many who took photos of the event and submitted them for publication, and some who worked behind the scenes. If I missed you, I beg your forgiveness.

As you can see, train meets and events don't just happen. It takes many volunteers to make it work. However, the work is satisfying, and to help make any event work is rewarding in self-satisfaction. If you would like to volunteer for any type of work, contact any officer of our division, and I'm sure we can use you.

Photos of the Maitland Meet



Photo Above: The meet hall
Photo Left: John Hoover displayed his European train layout
Bottom Left: John DiCrisci runs trains for the kids
Bottom Center: Many thanks for our help at the front desk
Below Right and at Bottom Right: Scott Miller displayed his amazing Lego layout



The Southern Division Rides the Orange Blossom Cannonball



Over 80 Southern Division members rode the Orange Blossom Cannonball through Florida from Tavares to Lake Jim. According to the brochure handed out on the train, the Orange Blossom Cannonball Locomotive #2, a 2-6-0 Mogul, is the only standard gauge wood burning locomotive currently running in the United States. Built by the Baldwin Locomotive works in 1907, several small railroads and lumber companies used Locomotive #2 before it found its way to the Tavares, Eustis, & Gulf Railroad.



The brochure also states that the locomotive and coaches have been used in many movies and television shows, including "North and South", "Oh Brother Where Art Thou", "There Will Be Blood", "Appaloosa", "3:10 to Yuma" (2007), and the historically accurate "Abraham Lincoln, Vampire Hunter."



The Southern Division Rides the Orange Blossom Cannonball



Photo Above: Southern Division members reserved a special seat on the train for the Editor of *The Layout*.

Toy Trains on the Train Taken During Train Robbery! By Jeffrey Mayer

Although members of the Southern Division expected a quiet train ride on the Orange Blossom Cannonball, their hopes soon turned to terror when the conductor announced that the notorious outlaw, "Wicked Willie" and his gang had been spotted in the area. Everyone knew that Wicked Willie had robbed his way across Florida, specializing in heinous crimes such as train robbery and illegally videotaping baseball games without the express written consent of Major League Baseball. Southern Division members knew that Wicked Willie liked to steal vintage toy trains, and where could he find a better target than the entire Southern Division riding together on the Orange Blossom Cannonball (some of whom inexplicably carried their toy trains with them on the train).



Photo Above: Train Robbery! Wicked Willie's gang advances on the train. Since it was a train robbery, the gang was looking to rob the Southern Division Members on the train of their trains.



Photos Above/Below: Southern Division President Charlie Anyan bravely begs Wicked Willie and his gang to let him keep his vintage Lionel train.

The unthinkable happened about twenty minutes into

the train ride when the Orange Blossom Cannonball made an unscheduled stop beside an open field. In seconds, masked outlaws boarded the train and announced a robbery! It was Wicked Willie and his gang of train robbers!

Southern Division members soon realized that Wicked Willie and his gang didn't want their cash and jewelry. They wanted their vintage toy trains! Making their way from car to car they first found Southern Division President Charlie Anyan. Charlie bravely begged Wicked Willie for his life and gave up his vintage boxed Lionel 1950 Hudson.

But Charlie had a plan and unbeknownst to Southern Division members he had called Marshal John Conway (AKA Southern Division Member John DiCrisci) to deal with these train robbers. He told John that sending him in alone against Wicked Willie and his gang was likely suicide, but it was a chance that Charlie was willing to take.



Before long Southern Division members saw Marshal Conway sneaking around in the bushes outside the train. Finally, he found a firing position behind a lone barrel which had been left in the open field for no particular reason. As Wicked

Willie and his gang left the train Marshal Conway opened fire with his shotgun. Southern Division members who weren't standing out in the open taking pictures or video ducked for cover. The Editor of *The Layout* was seen hiding behind the women and children. Once the gunfire erupted, those Southern Division members who remembered to bring a change of underwear were happy they came prepared.



Photo Above: Facing off with Wicked Willie and his gang!

Within minutes Wicked Willie's gang members lay dead and only Wicked Willie remained. John put down his shotgun and both men reloaded for a straight-up shootout. Seconds later, Wicked Willie had been shot. John told him to go ahead and "make his day" and the treacherous outlaw tried to pull out his gun. John shot him dead.

Marshal Conway had saved the Southern Division's trains and brought Wicked Willie's gang to justice. Later that day he rode off into the sunset in his Chevrolet knowing that the Southern Division's vintage trains were safe for another day.



Photos Above: Wicked Willie's gang caught in the shootout attempting to argue with Marshal John Conway's shotgun.



Photos Left: Members of Wicked Willie's gang end up dead. Some members talked about displaying the bodies in the meet hall as a warning to others who might try to steal trains from the Southern Division.

Photo below: The Shootout between Wicked Willie and Marshal John Conway (played by Southern Division Member John DiCrisci).



Photo Right: Marshal John Conway, "AKA The Conway Kid" (Played by John DiCrisci, far left). Wicked Willie (Played by William Peel, center) Wicked Willie's Gang: "Shootin' Swede" (Played by Russ Nelson), "Devil Dan" (Played by Dan Wardlaw) "Sam Westley", (Played by Cecil Sammons)



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