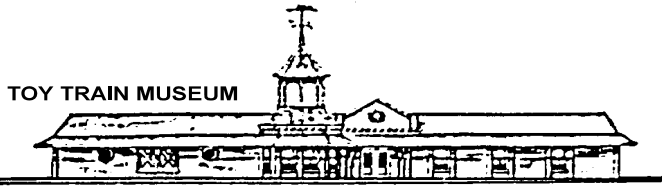


# THE LAYOUT



TOY TRAIN MUSEUM



ENJOY A VISIT TO YOUR MUSEUM

THE SOUTHERN DIVISION  
TRAIN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

Summer 2014

VOLUME 48 NUMBER 3



**Above: Lego Train Layout at Last Year's Venice Meet**

## Inside This Issue:

- Venice Meet Story
- Open House at Venice Depot
- Southern Division Souvenir Cars

Ask your doctor if  
*The Layout* is right  
for you!

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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.

**The Deadline for the next issue of *The Layout* is September 15, 2014**

**Check out the Southern Division Website: [www.tcasoutherndivision.org](http://www.tcasoutherndivision.org)  
Webmaster: Jake Jacob**

## President's Message



Brad Woodward

I had a TERRIFIC TIME at the 60th TCA National Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and met a lot of Train Collectors from all over the USA. I had a lot of fun, fellowship, tours, and trains. Next year the convention will be held in New York City. Let's get a large group of Southern Division members to go to The Big Apple.

I attended two full days of board meetings. The National Board is working hard to get us back on track. The museum and business office has had too many loose ends. We are correcting them.

One of our plans that the Executive Committee is investigating is the possibility of forming a Reciprocal Admissions Program with other train related museums and organizations that would entitle the TCA membership to special admission privileges and discounts at other participating organizations.

I suggested that TCA seek Corporate Sponsorship for the Museum to help with TCA cost. Treasurer Bob Mintz presented the financial report, as required by Pennsylvania not-for-profit rules. Copies were available to anyone who wished a hard copy. This information is also available on the TCA members only section of the website. When asked whether or not TCA would survive, Treasurer Mintz responded that we have a budget which will keep us in the black for the next 3-4 years. "Bob Mintz has been the guy who has gotten TCA back on track." Thanks Bob--Brad Woodward

### Report on Future Conventions

2015 – Stu Rankin invited everyone to New York City for the 2015 Convention at the Doubletree Hotel in Somerset, New Jersey, at a room rate of \$125, with unlimited free parking. The Tour Chairman, Rich Lavoe, reported on all the tours, from train rides to trips to West Point, a Broadway Show, the iconic Hillside Lionel Factory, Grand Central Terminal, a Dinner Cruise, and much, much more.

2016 – Pat Halpin reported that the Lone Star Convention will be held at the Downtown Hyatt, in Houston, Texas, with a room rate of \$107. Plan on train rides, a dinner cruise, and much more. "Y'all come."

2017 - Sam Merando reported that the Ft. Pitt Convention will be held at the Wyndham at the Point in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, at a room rate of \$135.

2018 – Joe Fanara reported that the NETCA Convention will be held at the Crowne Place in Warwick, Rhode Island, with a room rate of \$119 per night. NETCA is working on fund-raiser cars and Convention cars, with photos at Lionel awaiting their approval. Trips are varied, from the Newport Mansions, to a submarine base, to railroad trips.

2019 – Chris Allen reported that the Desert Division/Rio Grande Chapter Convention will be held in Albuquerque, which is on the East side of the Continental Divide at an altitude of 5300 feet. The weather should be very nice in this area, with lots of railroad connections. Committees are in place, with fund-raisers beginning this fall.

### Sad Tidings

**Harold Griffith has passed away.** He and his wife Estelle were both Southern Division and TCA members and Estelle was secretary of the SD for many years. He will be missed. Our condolences to his family.

# Venice Meet Story, Saturday, September 6, 2014

**Location:** Ramada Venice Resort, 425 US 41 Bypass North, Venice, FL 34285 (941) 308-7700

**Meet Host:** Tim Evert, SD# 2154, 7060 Laurretta Street, Englewood, FL 34224, (941) 475-5278  
tjeng@comcast.net

**Set Up:** Set up is from 7:00 am - 9:00 am Saturday. (Friday afternoon or evening set up is highly likely, but has not yet been confirmed by the hotel. This is the same situation as we had last year. More information on this will be made available just before the meet date.)

**Meet Times:** The meet opens to TCA members only at 9:00 am, (There will be a short business meeting sometime between 9:00 and 10:00 am) and is open to the public from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

**Admission:** Admission is \$5.00. Children 12 and under are free when accompanied by an adult. In an attempt to invite more children into the hobby, we are offering this incentive to adults: One free admission for an adult that brings along one child 12 or under.

**Features:** We will have an outdoor portable G scale layout in the parking area, an O scale layout from Real Rail of Sarasota, and Train Drag races for O and S gauge, with a scale length 1/4 mile track (OK guys. let's see who really is the fastest, at your own risk!). Denton Hines will be hosting a train repair clinic

**Hotel:** The Ramada Inn is offering a room rate of \$79 per night. There are several other motels nearby if you desire.

**Food:** Food and refreshments are available in the hall. The Wave restaurant inside the hotel will have a Lunch Special available for us.. There are many other restaurants nearby, some within walking distance, if you desire

**Tables:** SD members \$20 each. Non-SD TCA members \$30 each. There are 105 tables available; they are 8 foot tables. Please register early to avoid missing out. Depending on how many total vendor tables are sold, display tables are likely to be in very short supply. You must be 18 years old or older to obtain a table (bring your ID)!

**Volunteers:** Volunteers are needed to help out in many ways, particularly in working the admission tables. We will need table set-up help sometime on Friday, depending on what time the hotel will let us in. If you can help out in any of these areas, please contact Tim Evert. Thank you very much in advance!

**Open House:** There will be an open house at the Venice Depot on Friday, September 5th. See details on opposite page.

## Directions to the Meet/Hotel, and to The Open House at Venice Depot

**Directions coming from North of Venice FL:** Take Interstate 75 southbound to Exit number 200 (Highway 681). Proceed 3.5 miles until Highway 681 ends at US 41. Go south on US 41 for 2.7 miles until the point where US 41 splits into Business 41 and Bypass 41. Follow Bypass 41 left, then proceed for .5 mile and then turn right into the Ramada Inn parking lot (just before the Burger King).

**Directions coming from South of Venice FL:** Take Interstate 75 northbound to Exit number 193 (Jacaranda Blvd.). At the end of the exit ramp turn left onto Jacaranda Blvd. Follow Jacaranda Blvd. south for .8 mile to Venice Avenue. Turn right onto Venice Avenue, (There is a round-about; no stop light at this intersection.) Proceed West on Venice Avenue for 3.1 miles to US 41 Bypass. Turn right onto US 41 Bypass (move into the left lane soon after you turn) and go .4 mile (just beyond the Albee Farm Road stoplight) and turn Left on to Substation Road (just before the Burger King). Proceed 500 feet on Substation Road and turn right into the Ramada Inn parking lot.

### Directions from the Ramada Inn to the Venice Depot, 303 East Venice Ave, Venice, FL :

Exit the parking lot onto US41 Bypass South. Make a right at the second light onto Venice Avenue. Proceed west on Venice Ave for about 1/4 mile and take the last turnoff before the bridge. There is a sign for the depot. Continue west at grade level under the bridge for about 1 block. Make a right into the train depot parking lot. If you drive into the inter-coastal waterway, you went too far!

## Venice Depot Open House/Show and Tell, Friday, September 5, 6:30-8:30 pm

The Venice Train Depot/Station has a long history dating back to 1927. The Depot is located east of downtown at 303 East Venice Avenue. It replaced the original 1911 train stop and siding located nearby.

Designed by the architectural firm of Walker and Gillette, the Depot is historically and architecturally significant. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Depot's architecture embodies the Mediterranean Revival style planned for the city of Venice. When opened on March 27, 1927, the Depot was heralded as the finest station on the Seaboard Air Line Railway.



Venice Depot



**Photo Above:** Matthew and dad Al Michellini with the only known example of an English Marx Coronation Vestibule Set

**Photo Below:** Mark Stephens shows his rare 1950 Lionel O27 track display.



The station saw military use during World War II since Venice was home to an Army Air Base. The airport still exists a few miles south of the train station. The station was the prime entry point for the 22,000 service men who trained at the air base.

From 1960-1992 Venice was home to the Ringling Brothers, Barnum and Bailey Circus. The circus train would arrive each January for 2 -3 months while the performers prepared for the new season. Animals were unloaded from the train and paraded through town to the Venice Arena located next to the airport.

After the station closed and rail traffic ended, the station fell into disrepair. In 2002-03 the station was completely restored at a cost of \$2.4 million. A restored caboose from the Seaboard Air Line Railway is also located on the site. We will hopefully have a brief tour of the station provided by a Docent from the Venice Historical Society.

The Southern Division has arranged to rent the depot (air conditioned room inside) for our second annual Venice Meet Show and Tell. It will be similar in format

to the York, PA Show and Tell events. Everyone attending will be invited to bring their most unique, prized, unknown or unusual piece from their collection. The member will have 2 minutes to describe the item. Other members may ask questions or provide answers. You are not required to bring anything and you may just sit back and enjoy the presentations. There will be light snacks (chips, dip, etc) and soft drinks for attendees. We will conclude the event in time for attendees to have dinner in one of the nearby restaurants.



**Photo Above:** Dienzel Dennis showing a left-handed baseball glove from his collection of Airex items made while Airex was owned by Lionel in the 1950's

# SOUTHERN DIVISION SOUVENIR TRAIN HISTORY - Part 1

By Bill Trappen

In 2016 we will commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Southern Division. As the old saying goes: time flies when you're having fun! For each of the last 2 significant anniversaries, the 30<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup>, the Division has offered a Souvenir Car or Cars to members. Plus back in the day we offered a souvenir car or another item nearly every year from 1975 through 1993. So far a total of 16 cars and 1 set of F-3 A-B-A cabs have been made for the Division and sold to members. Do you have them all? I have all but one.

We hope to be able to offer a car or cars again in 2016 to help celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup>, or golden, anniversary. That's only 2 years from now. To stimulate some early interest in a possible souvenir car for our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, this is the first in a series of articles discussing the history of the Southern Division Souvenir train cars and engine cabs. This series will continue in each issue of The Layout between now and the time that a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary car would be announced with a discussion and photos of 2 or 3 of the past cars in chronological order.

Because we have had nearly 300\* new members join since the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary cars were made in 2006, these articles should be especially informative to those newer members who may not be familiar with any of the cars. Furthermore, several of the cars, and especially the F-3 cabs, have very interesting background stories. So stay tuned!

But before I discuss the first car in the series, I want to talk about the most recent offering, the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cars, note plural, meaning that there was more than one different car issued for the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2006. There was an O gauge car and also a Standard Gauge car, the first time we made a car in any gauge other than O gauge. They were both made in relatively low quantities and are hard-to-find.

The O gauge car is a model of a 50-foot double-door plug-door box car and was made for us by MTH Electric Trains. This is the first car made for us by MTH. The reason we went with MTH was that Lionel had a minimum order quantity of 300 cars but MTH only required 128 which is how many MTH produced for us. This car is quite similar to the MTH Railking box car made in the green and white Southern Railway paint scheme and first cataloged in 2005. The cataloged Southern Railway box car was MTH stock #30-74205 and here is a link to its description and photo on the MTH website: <http://www.mthtrains.com/content/30-74205>



**Photo Above:** The original MTH Railking 50' Southern Boxcar



**Photo Above:** The 2006 Southern Division Anniversary Car

## Continued from previous page

Using the MTH Southern Railway box car as a guide, fellow member Richard Tashjian and I made appropriate changes to the lettering to commemorate our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary as well as adding the TCA logo and changing the SR logo to the SD logo. I'm so glad that the Southern Railway copied our logo (or was it the other way



**Photo Above:** One of the four Standard Gauge boxcars produced by MTH Trains for the Southern Division 40th Anniversary.

around?) as that makes it so much easier to change it for our Southern Division cars! Our redesigned car is MTH stock #30-74403. But you won't find a photo of it on the MTH website so below is a photo of our very attractive car sitting on top of its original box. Note the similarities to and differences from the cataloged Southern Railway car.

An interesting sidelight of this story is that the first production run of these cars was shipped to me and upon opening the first shipping carton I could see through the window box that the TCA logo on the car was not correct. Upon checking a few more they were all that way so they had to be sent back and re-decorated! I was devastated thinking that there was no way we could get the cars redone in time to hand out at our last 2006 meet in November, the meet at which we were celebrating the anniversary. But upon contacting MTH, much to their credit, they immediately sent me pre-paid return shipping labels and within just a few short weeks I received the shipment with all the cars correctly decorated in plenty of time and at no extra cost to the Division. Man was I relieved! I assume the bodies of the incorrectly decorated cars were destroyed by MTH.

Now the reason I am highlighted this car in this issue is that thanks to the generosity of member Frank Barczak who donated his car back to the Division, we have one of these cars to offer to members who may have missed out on it when it was first issued in 2006. We will announce a plan for auctioning this car off at later date so again please stay tuned to future articles in this series. Remember that only 128 of these cars were made.

And finally no discussion of the 2006 Southern Division cars would be complete without mentioning the rarest Southern Division Souvenir car of them all. If you thought that 128 cars is a low-production quantity, how about only FOUR cars? That's how many of the Standard Gauge SD 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary car were made by MTH. It is a 500-series refrigerator car and each car is individually numbered. Car #SD 2006-1 was given to the TCA's Toy Train Museum in Strasburg, PA. The other 3 were auctioned off to lucky SD bidders. Member Ed Bryant owns car #2006-2 and provided his car to photograph. Here's a photo of his car inside its original packaging. With a total production run of only 4 cars, as far as I know, there is not even an MTH stock number for this car. Needless to say, this is the one SD car that I do not have.

Part 2 of the series will be in the next issue of The Layout and will cover the first car in 1975 and the F-3 cabs made in 1976. See you next issue!

## Upcoming Meets/Train Shows

### Upcoming TCA shows—See the Meet Story in *The Layout*

TCA Southern Division - Venice, Florida, September 6, 2014; Jacksonville, FL, November 22, 2014

### Non-TCA meets, but sponsored by a TCA member

**Regal Railways** – Joe Schramm –for info, contact Joe at [joe@regalrailways.com](mailto:joe@regalrailways.com); 727-441-2159

**August 23, 2014**, Lopez Inc. Hall, Pinellas Park, FL ; **September 20, 2014**, Hernando Fairgrounds, 6436 Broad St, Brooksville, FL 34601; **October 18, 2014**, Elks Hall, Englewood, FL ; **November 1, 2014**, Citrus County Fairgrounds, Inverness, FL; **November 29, 2014**, Knights of Columbus Hall, 401 3rd St. SW, Winter Haven, FL 33880; **December 6, 2014**, Lopez Inc. Hall, Pinellas Park, FL; **January 17, 2015**, Elks Hall, 401 N. Indiana Ave, Englewood, FL.

### Non-TCA Meets

**Golden Spike** - Volusia County Fairgrounds, Deland, FL Contact Charles Miller, rrrshows@aol.com, 703-536-2954, Oct. 4, 2014  
**Schultz Space Coast Trains**, Azan Shrine Temple, Melbourne, FL, Schultzspacecoastrains.com, 321-591-2641, Sept. 6, 2014, December 6, 2014.

### Promotion & Attendance at Train Meets

In order to promote awareness and thus attendance, we will print a schedule of upcoming shows in each quarter's Layout and at our Southern Division website ([www.tcasoutherndivision.org](http://www.tcasoutherndivision.org)). Another way these meets are promoted is by having flyers about upcoming shows available at each show, thus marketing to folks who have already evidenced an interest in trains by attending the show. We are looking for TCA-SD members to assist in that distribution. If you plan to attend any train related meets, shows or other events please contact TCA-SD Vice-President Steve Johnson (email: [sjohnson@fijdcpa.com](mailto:sjohnson@fijdcpa.com) or call: 305-335-1752) and let him know. Steve will get flyers to you to take to the meet and leave out for others. If possible, please give Steve at least a week or more notice to ensure he has time to get the appropriate flyers to you. Thanks for your help!!

## Switch List

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[candklucibello@verizon.net](mailto:candklucibello@verizon.net)

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**For Sale: RCS Controllers** (need rewiring); Gar-graves 2-rail track; Super O #120 Crossover; #36, 37, 48, 32-20; KW, LW, SW, 1032, 1033 Transformers; #19 Bulbs; #167 Whistle Controller; 1866, 1876, 1875W LIL General Cars; TCA Bicentennial Special Set. 12948 Bascule Bridge, 2623 Madison Cars, 3356 Horse Car and Corral; #6247, 6357, 2411, 2454, 2452; 2452X; 6012; 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534 passenger cars, 214 Bridge Boxed, NYC Bridge, American Flyer Bridge, 2032 Box, 3462P Milk Platform, #456 Coal Ramp w/ 3456 Operating Hopper, Lionel Watch, All Reasonably Priced. Call **Paul Dean 352-223-4510** **Also Wanted:** 2530 Large Door baggage car and PW Madison car body.



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