



101 register at Garfield Metca Meet at AL Hall

Meet Joseph Ranker, a TCAer and collector now for some years and a life long railfan and model railroader. Joe's interest in trains dates back to about 1937 when he started having some other kids over to his basement to work on a glorified Lionel O gauge pike. And as it turns out, Joe had a young kid in his Sunday School class named Hal Carstens. A few years later Joe and Hal helped start a model railroad club by name of the Mystic Knights of the Rusty Rail, most of whose members are still interested in trains albeit now scattered over the USA and Iran.

A lifelong O gauger, Joe's giant scale layout still sees some work and Joe has just added a big Max Gray Erie K-5a Pacific to his roster.

Joe's interest in tinplate started some five years ago and his basement is a frequent haven for wandering collectors today. Joe's interests are varied but you'll find a lot of Ives and Flyer, notably transition Ives cars. And there is a good sprinkling of Lionel. Joe also goes for cast iron trains and toys.

The lights are often on Friday nights for the visiting firemen, notably Joe Levy and Doc Robbie, Bob Lakemacher and George Yohe if he is in town, Hal Carstens and Les Morris from "up north" and Warren Schuch, and others. Wife Margaret does a good job up in the kitchen and all those who attended the early METCA meets at nearby St. John Chapel remember the job she did in feeding the hungry hoards of collectors. Joe, Margaret, and young Joie can usually be found at all METCA, NETCA and Eastern Division meets.

Joe is also a founder of METCA and has been on the Board of Directors since the Division was organized.

101 collectors registered for the September 22 meet at Garfield, N. J., American Legion Hall, to make one of the biggest METCA meets yet except for the joint METCA-NETCA meet of Sept. 1962. The crowd found plenty of room to display their items and food was also available. Ted Wichmann, NETCA, won the "standard gauge" Japanese train set donated by Bill Vagell. The door prize, a beautiful black 392 with crackle finish tender was won by Fred Sutmeyer. The auction got under way after the business meeting with Al Roth, of Eastern Division, presiding, helped by Red Chapman, NETCA. What would METCA do without such able help from her two sister divisions?

Al Roth beat host Bill Vagell to the door, arriving at 7AM, Bill had open house after the meet, the meet breaking up somewhat after or around 5PM. The weather was perfect.

The business meeting was short with a number of new members being inducted and welcomed. President John Marron suggested that METCA propose to national TCA that free memberships be given TCAers over the age of 65 who have been members 10 years or more.

TRAIN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION, INC. METROPOLITAN DIVISION	
President.....	John Marron
Secretary-Treasurer.....	Les Morris
Secretary-Newsletter.....	Hal Carstens
Directors: G. Robinson, J. Levy, Warren Schuch, Joe Ranker.	
Address all communications to Les Morris	

METCA MEMBERS ADDING TO THEIR COLLECTIONS !

A poll of METCA members at the Harrison meet revealed that almost all of the members added a number of juicy items to their collections thru the summer. For example, these:

WARREN SCHUCH, a like new Elektro steam loco with 6 freight cars and one passenger car...JOE RANKER: American Flyer Golden State 4-4-2. Also a 3 car blue Ives Passenger Set...JOE STANKOVICH picked up a Blue Comet 400 set (Lionel, natch) & also a beautiful Lionel 390 from George Miller...GEORGE YOHE gave his wife a big kiss for her aid to the cerebral palsy drive. KAYE YOHE was visiting a neighbor across the street on the collection and was presented with an Ives 1694 in real nice shape. How's that for reaping rewards while doing a good turn!...JACK ROSCOE added an American Miniature Railway No. 1 Gauge steam set like the Ives No. 40 and also picked up an Ives 1906 catalog.

FRANK LESLIE, the loco builder plate collector, added a Lionel No. 54 and also an Ives 3239 with 3 cars (No. 1 Gauge)...HAL CARSTENS picked up a nice clean red American Flyer Hamiltonian set of 3 cars and the 4678 loco...CARL PIEPER got away from his color TV long enough to acquire a Lionel 390 Blue Comet set (that's the early one) and a batch of Flyer 4000 series freight cars including a plateless tank car...FRANK LOPAT picked up a blue AF Shasta from Carl Pieper...FRANK LESLIE also picked up a Lionel No.3 Trolley Trailer and an Ives 1118 with 3 cars AND an orange 354E...Up Kingston way, GEORGE MILLER has added a Lionel 101 trolley and an Ives 3257 set in light green... Just back from Europe is BILL KRAMES and he found some early Märklin open end day coaches in No. 1 gauge plus other items in Switzerland. And ask him about that plane ride over the alps in the fog with one motor conked out!...ARTHUR FORTESCUE told us in his rich cockney that he has acquired a 763 Lionel Hudson plus four matching scale freight cars. Art is strictly a modern O gauge man and many collectors are starting to sit up and notice how fast those 6464 freight cars are snapped up..

PAT SCUORZO has a nice 1936 O gauge Red Comet set powered with a 264E...DICK YOUNG has picked up a 4U set in orange...DICK YOUNG also got an Ives 1122 Black Diamond set in O gauge, he being another O gauger

LEN CHANDLER now has a set of Blue Comet cars and also a C&F double truck trolley...BILL KELISHEK picked up a Märklin O gauge clockwork set with 2 passenger cars...FRED MADISON added a Lionel 252 set and a 254...New member Walter Mahans got a 3241 and 3243 Ives and picked up an 8 set at the meet.

JOHN BOATE is really rocking with his 381 and 4 state cars, all green of course. John also did a good turn for our invalided member, BOB CORNELL by getting Bob a much desired grey 385 with cast tender. We hope Bob enjoys it...JIMMY DUNNE also got a Blue Comet by Lionel with the 390 engine, making it the early one. Dunne also got a 381 & State car set and some Ives transition cars and a 40SE in mojava with matching cars. Wowie!...

JERRY VAN DYK picked up a load of Märklin from Germany including a 4-4-2 electric type windup and matching cars...GEORGE MILLER again, this time with an Ives Phoenix hook and ladder truck. And DON LASPALUTO has the Ives fire house and an Ives glass dome passenger shed and the Ives Grand Central station.

TOY TRAIN COLLECTING NOTES

The Toy Trains of Yesteryear series continues in Railroad Model Craftsman. October issue featured the Lionel 10 series freight cars and November covers all the Lionel 200 series freight cars...Lou Redman stopped off at Les Morris" on his way up to NETCA's recent meet...Lou Redman mentioned that national TCA has under consideration a means of authenticating certain of the rare old toy locomotives. Next TCA newsletter may reveal the setup. We're all for it...WEST COAST DIVISION bulletin received and makes good reading right thru. West Coast Division still meeting in members homes is having growing pains...Jim Mc-Kercher has bought a bigger trailer so watch him start a real HO collection!

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...

A wonderful time was had by all at Garfield. It was nice to see so many wives out and I hope to see more as time goes on...At our board meetings and at the regular meetings some have said that attendance would suffer if we had too many meets. On our present schedule of 4 meets per year our attendance is showing general increases. Perhaps someday more meets would be possible. Meanwhile, who wants to volunteer and host the February meet?

We always have a beef or two. Papers and junk were strewn around the Legion Hall and again some members had to patch in and make the place presentable. Please clean up your table area at all meets.

I also think it would be a good idea to have a caravan type meeting this coming summer with all trades from the back or trunk of the car, perhaps with the cars in a circle. At a good location, it would be great for the wives and kids, too.

Now lets find some new meet locations for Feb. and May. Otherwise we have the old standbys of Garfield, Livingston, and Harrison, and perhaps Englewood for a small attendance bad weather meet.

And thanks from all to Bill Vagell and his Mrs. for the find job they did at the Garfield meet.

M E E T S C H E D U L E S

OCT. 11-13. EASTERN. Hershey Community Bldg. Hershey, Pa. Fee \$2.00. Auction, election, bus. meeting, raffle, door prizes. Opens 9AM. Open house at Buckley's Sat and Sun nites.

NOV. 17. METCA. American Legion Hall, Livingston, N. J. Donation \$1.50, non-members after 3rd meet \$3. Trading pits, short business meeting, induction new members. Other activities.

DEC. NEW ENGLAND. Date and location not finalized at this writing. See TCA Newsletter or write Mae Wrona for dates and details.

TOY TRAIN LITERATURE

Newer collectors won't remember the extensive series of toy train articles which appeared in the period 1952-1954, written by Chicago's Case Kowal in TOY TRAINS magazine (no longer published) Case covered a wide variety of makes and equipment, including Ives, Lionel, Flyer, and lesser known lines. The entire series constitutes a valuable reference library for the collector. Copies of Toy Trains are available from certain back issue magazine dealers. The publisher's supply is exhausted.

IS HO COLLECTABLE?

With all major train manufacturers now producing HO ready to run equipment, both domestic and foreign, one wonders when collectors will start picking up HO and which items will be most in demand. Among scale modelers, the hot items these days are the better brass imports from Japan but we keep hearing reports of early HO items being snapped up for collections. Kit built items must be assembled as from the kit with top quality paint jobs. RTR equipment must be in like new condition. HO lends itself to collecting because it requires little space and most items can still be picked up at very low cost.

HO catalogs are also getting better. Athearn's 1962 and 1963 catalogs were real gems, capturing the thrill of Lionel's early 1930 vintage classics. Tyco, Märklin, Trix, Fleischmann, Penn Line, and Lines Brothers are also worthy of owning and there are others.

HO definitely needs its own small, closely spaced shelving as it gets lost mixed in with larger equipment.

WANTED: TCA QUARTERLY Vol. 1, Nos. 2 and 3. These were early mimeo issues. Needed to complete collection. HAL CARSTENS.