

# METCA NEWSLETTER

## JANUARY 1965

### METCA Fall Meet Overwhelming success.

LIVINGSTON -- Saturday, November 14, 1964 turned out to be one of the finest days of Indian Summer weather, and this contributed to the tremendous success of the Fall METCA Meet held at the American Legion Hall in Livingston, N.J.

Doors were scheduled to open at 9:00 a.m., but by 8:30 there was such a large crowd present that Pres. Joe Ranker decided to open the doors early. Altogether, 149 members and guests registered for this one day meet, the largest attendance for any METCA meet to date. The growth of METCA and the increasing interest in toy trains on a national basis has been phenomenal. METCA has grown to the point where larger meeting halls will be needed in the near future. Suggestions are welcome, and our new President, George Pins, may be contacted in this regard.

Numerous fine and unusual items were present at the meet, and it was a day of 400's. This fairly scarce and highly desirable Lionel engine was present in quantity, 7 or 8 altogether, all black, and in various conditions from mint to good. One was a passenger set with 418, 419, 490 cars; the others were freight sets, or engine and tender alone. Several sets changed hands, both for cash and in trade, and a number of collectors went home with welcome additions to their collections. Also present in unusual numbers was the Lionel #42 engine with 18, 19, 190 cars: about half a dozen of these were for sale or trade.

Other pieces worth noting included green State cars in excellent condition (Pat Scuorzo), Maerklin 1-gauge passenger set (Red Chapman), an Ives 3239 engine (Pete Maurer), sets of Blue Comet cars (Frank Leslie and Bob Lakemacher), and a wide variety of other goodies such as Ives 3243's, both with passenger cars and with freights, a mint 380E with 428, 429, 430 cars, and a late Voltamp engine (almost a Boucher).

The finest set present was a Dorfan 3930 engine with four freight cars. In like new

condition throughout, including the original box, this set was acquired by Bob Hess of Black Diamond Farm, Flemington, N.J. We understand Bob has quite an outstanding collection of railroadiana, something every collector will want to see at some time. Bob also has plans for a live steam operation and we'll include more details in a future issue.

### NEW OFFICERS ELECTED

During the business meeting, new officers and directors were elected and the following is the list of officers and directors:

President: George Pins  
Vice President: Irv Chandler  
Sec'y-Treasurer: Margaret Ranker

#### Board of Directors:

George Johnson  
Warren Schuck  
Joe Ranker  
George Miller

The new officers begin their terms January 1, 1965, and all are one year terms except for the Directors, which vary.

Members are reminded that the \$5.00 national dues were payable before January 1, 1965.

METCA members were able to pay division dues at the meeting; members who did not do so should send the \$1.00 to Mrs. Margaret Ranker.

### NEW MEMBERS

James Rowen	174 Nick Scrinko	183
Herbert A. Mayer	175 John M. Rice	184
Andrew A. Garfik	176 Henry Wallner	185
Martin Maloy	177 Sy Levitt	186
W. Jon Sieck, Jr.	178 Abe Levitt	187
W. Allen Carroll, Jr.	179 Joseph Pope	188
John Davanzo	180 Ed Wichmann	189
Howard Tice	181 Raymond LeCates, Jr.	190
David Lange	182 Robert Muschlitz	191

### PICTORIAL GUIDE LISTED

Ramsey  
"Lionel's Standard Gauge Era" 36 pgs.,  
8 x 11, soft bound:  
Model Craftsman Publishing Co.,  
Ramsey, N.J. \$2.00

A pictorial guide to Lionel Standard Gauge, this volume was recently published

by the publisher of "Railroad Model Craftsman". Essentially a compilation of the monthly series that appeared in RMC during the past year, it is a worthwhile contribution to the literature relating to toy trains. More published information is sorely needed and it is hoped that RMC may have future plans for similar volumes on other manufacturers. Such material is particularly valuable to the newer collector, though it is hoped that any such future books would be edited a bit more thoroughly than this one; a superficial examination disclosed a few errors of facts. But all in all it fills a void and should be a valuable reference for the new collector.

## A REMINDER TO ALL

A reminder to all: When visiting another collector or at a meet, **HANDLE WITH CARE, IF YOU HANDLE AT ALL.** A number of complaints have been lodged regarding careless handling of others trains by visiting collectors. Treat the other fellow's stuff better than your own.

Be sure to bring your current membership card to all meetings. We may begin a drawing for door prizes and use membership numbers in the drawing. If your number is drawn, you'll need the card to claim the prize.

## FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

**FEBRUARY 14 -**

METCA - Amer. Legion Hall,  
Livingston, N. J.

**MARCH 20 -**

Baltimore - Contact Al Roth  
for details.

**APRIL 30, MAY 1 & 2 -**

Eastern - Hershey Community  
Building, Hershey, Pa.

## FEATURE COLLECTOR

Our featured collector is John Davanzo of Babylon, Long Island. My thanks to John (and his wife, I suspect) for the fine photos and rundown on his collection. As John says "...

My collecting started in 1956 with the search for a 400E Steamer to run around the Christmas tree with the 408E set my dad bought in 1927. The set is 3rd from the bottom in shot #3. Well anyway, when I found out what the stores wanted for the 400E, I started to hunt one up myself and the first set I found was a 390 Blue Comet. From that purchase on, I was "Hooked".

Like every collector, each item represents a story in itself. I'll bet I'm not the only collector who will forget what he had for breakfast but will recall who he got the X X Loco from 10 years ago and what he paid, etc! etc!

The 2" Carette Live Steam Set came from an old man who had it as a boy and kept telling me that he wouldn't sell it to me because it wasn't electric and I was an electric train collector.

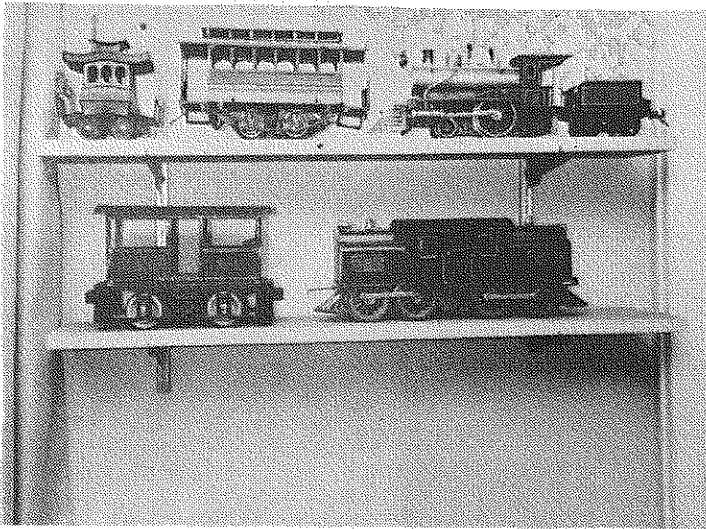
The 2" Knapp Trolley came from the original owner and it was passed up by an antique dealer for a small Ives Clockwork Loco instead. I was pretty lucky to latch on to that one.

Perhaps the deal which every collector hopes and prays for, happened to me this spring.

I got a lead on some old trains which were in storage for years and years. The owner passed away, and the trains were taken out of storage and given to a friend of the late owner. After much "snooping", I located the new owner and convinced him that I was a "harmless" collector and just wanted to see them. After a few disappointing calls cancelling our meeting, we finally made it. On my hands and knees in this attic, I opened one of the storage crates and out comes a Blue 2500 Boucher Loco. After I regained my composure, I put together 14 sets of trains plus enough accessories to run them. Most of the accessories were foreign and pre 1925. Some were pre W. W. #1.

The better items were as follows:  
2500 Boucher Blue Comet Set

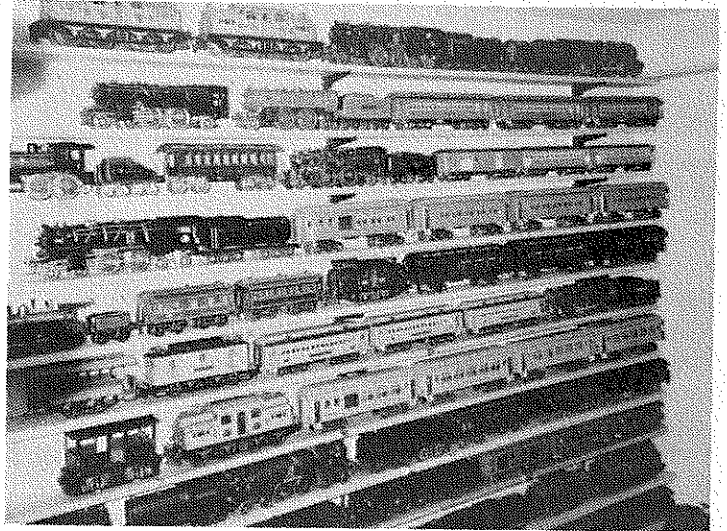
SEE PICTURES →  
(STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)



1

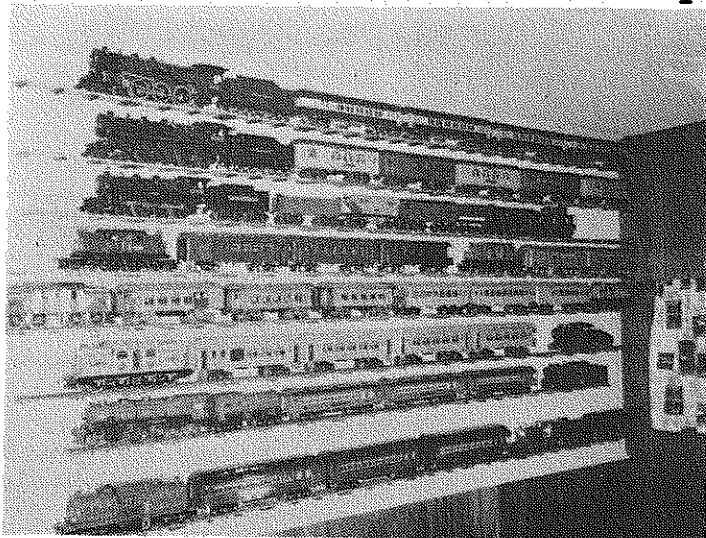
1 - Top shelf, left to right, Toonerville Trolley, 2" Knapp Trolley car, 2" Carette Live Steamer; 2-7/8 B&O No.5 & F.A.O.S. No.61.

2 - John says, "just run of the mill stuff," Wow!!



2

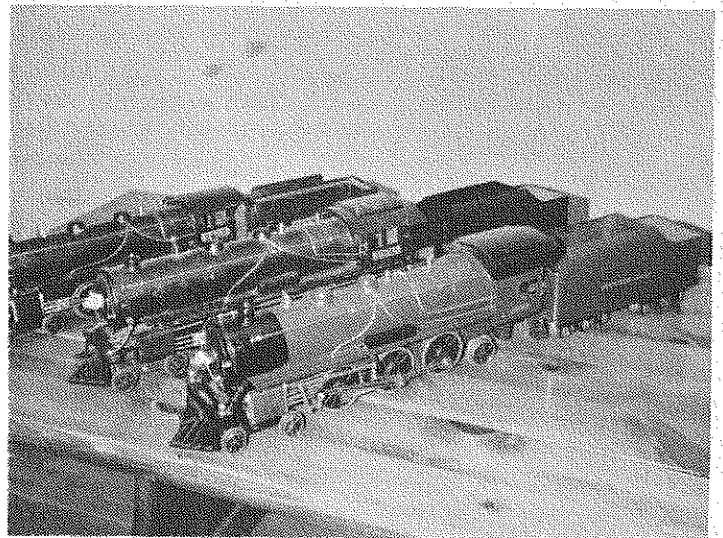
3 - Some of John's best items in descending order: 2500 Boucher Blue Comet Set; Early 2500 Boucher & Voltamp Pass Cars; Boucher 2222 & Voltamp Frt. Cars; Red 3243 Ives Set; Lionel No. 54 & 18, 19, 190 Orange Pass; Lionel 408E Apple Green Set; Lionel 400E Blue Comet; Lionel 381E State Set; Lionel No. 7 & Day Coach No. 29.



3



5



4

4 - Boucher Locos, 2500 Blue & Tender, Old Voltamp Style 2500 & Boucher Tender, Old Voltamp.

5 - John Davanzo holding the 2-7/8 B & O No. 5

(Feature collector' continued from page 2)

- 2500 Boucher & Voltamp Pass Set
- 2222 Boucher & Voltamp Frt Set
- Lionel #54 Pass Set
- Lionel # F.A.O.S. 61 Pass Set
- Lionel #5 Pass Set
- Lionel #402 Pass Set
- Lionel #380 Mohave Frt Set
- Lionel #38 & 180 Series Pass Set
- Lionel #1835 & 309 Pass Set (must have been added)
- Ives 3241 Pass Set
- Ives 3235 "Southern Pacific Special" Loco
- Lionel #251 Gray Pass Set
- Lionel #6 Pass Set

After convincing the owner to sell and convincing my wife that we should buy, I became the 3rd and new owner of this collection. Since acquiring the Voltamp and Boucher Sets, the other items don't seem to have that magic ring any longer and I find myself slowly shying away from the "Golden Age" of trains and leaning towards the era of Voltamp & Boucher with their over-sized, clumsy looking Locos and awkward looking Pass Cars.

### THE ROUNDHOUSE

Starting with this issue, we will include items for sale, swap or wanted. Ads will appear on the basis of first come, first served, and will run in space available at no charge. Send to Bob Lakemacher.

John Davanzo wants anything in Voltamp or Boucher, a 4689 AF Pras. Special, any 9 (other than orange), Lionel 1910, 1911 or 1912 engines, and a #7 tender (tender only, John?). For trade; 408E apple green passenger set, 390E Blue Comet set, 3243 light green passenger set, 763E with scale freights, and a 1904 Ives Catalog.

Marty Maloy wants most anything in Ives, Std. or O gauge.

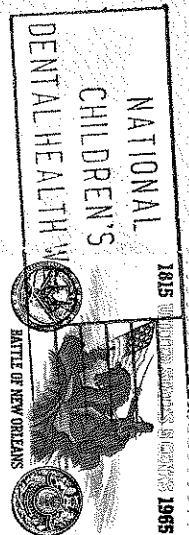
Bob Lakemacher wants anything in AF Std gauge, good condition or better. For trade; 400E, black and gray with copper trim, Blue Comet Cars, 763E, 9U and passenger cars. See y'all at Livingston.

METROPOLITAN DIVISION  
 TRAIN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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FIRST CLASS