



Canadian Flyer

Volume 15, Issue 4

April 2017

Operating and collecting toy trains

CTTA 2015-2016

OFFICERS:

President -- Mark Horne

604 560-4028

mlhorne@shaw.ca

Vice Pres -- Gary Zabenskie

604 463-1006

gzaiben@telus.net

Secretary -- Charles Reif

604 731-3674

creif@shaw.ca

Treasurer -- Neil Mackenzie

604 263-4429

nsmac@telus.net

MEMBERS AT LARGE:

James Cook -- 604 948-1443

jhcook@telus.net

John Warlimont -- 604 864-2175

jewarl@yahoo.ca

Tom Modica -- 360 738-3842

ogfhr@gmail.com

Peter Tofield -- 604 793-4814

tolfieldpeter@gmail.com

Island Members:

Ken Bowman -- 250 592-6194

k.bowman@shaw.ca

Robin Dodson -- 250 758-8970

robin_dodson@shaw.ca

PAST PRESIDENT:

David Cook -- 604 970-5598

thetinman76@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Gentlemen,

March was a good meeting with about 65 members and guests in attendance. Again thanks to Peter, Ed and the kitchen crew for a great lunch; your efforts are really appreciated by everyone.

At the request of Gunther, his entire train collection has been donated to the Canadian Toy Train Association. This most generous donation will really help the club and benefit the membership. Some of the trains will be added to the club layouts' equipment and the balance will be sold for treasury.

At the April meeting I will be starting to bring Gunther's train collection and offering them for sale. I will be selling Gunther's collection this meeting and everything will be sold from the tables starting just after 10:30. Unsold items will then be placed in the auction.

Thank you for supporting your club treasury and club car projects, they really help the bottom line of your club and you get a unique Canadian car. Our current Atlas die cast hopper in Pacific Great Eastern colours is almost sold out – I have 5 hoppers left. Thanks so much. If you wish to order the PGE hopper please notify me ASAP. The cost of this car is \$ 85.00 CDN – a great deal!

See you at the end of the month.

Mark

2017 CANADIAN CLUB MEETS

All meets at Charles Rummel Community Centre, 3630 Lozells Ave.
Burnaby B.C. [doors at 11am, meeting 12:30]

UPCOMING MEET DATES:

April 30

May 28

June 25





MARCH
DOOR
PRIZE
WINNERS

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IN MEMORY OF GUNTHER SAGE, CTTA
WHO HAS GENEROUSLY LEFT HIS TRAINS TO THE CANADIAN TOY TRAIN ASSOCIATION

GUNTHER'S CELEBRATION OF LIFE WILL BE HELD AT 1PM ON SATURDAY APRIL 22
AT THE BEST WESTERN COUNTRY INN, 43971 INDUSTRIAL WAY, CHILLIWACK



Frank Schmidt does "show and tell"
about an American Flyer set box.
see the story online on pages 5&6



Jim Sutherland finds more billboards —
but not this time by the late John Smyly !

On the back of one it says:
"Model Railroad Accessories" "Malton, Ont. Canada"
WHO KNOWS MORE?

WHODUNNIT — PART 2

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 22-23, Calgary
SUPERTRAIN 2017

Info: www.supertrain.ca

May 28, Victoria Info: Ted Alexis (250) 595-4070
VICTORIA MODEL SHOW 2017
West Shore Curling Rink 10am-4pm

June 7-10, Spokane, WA NMRA PNR Convention
www.pnr5d.org/index_spokaneexpress2017.htm

July 24-29 Tacoma, WA LCCA Convention
info: lionelcollectors.org

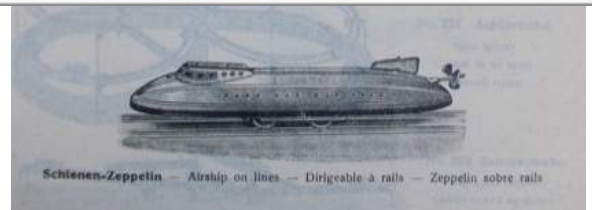
don't forget to check the website for updates
www.canadiantoytrains.org

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EDITOR'S CORNER:

THANKS TO PETER AND KYLE FOR MEET PICTURES,
JIM SUTHERLAND FOR THE CANADIAN
BILLBOARD MYSTERY, FRANK SCHMIDT FOR HIS
"SHOW AND TELL" ARTICLE, AND JOHN CONSTIBLE
FOR THE FAB PROJECT PIX.

WHERE ARE THOSE KITBASH PHOTOS!!?



A WORKSHOP IN RESTORATION ~ WITH A NEW TWIST BY JOHN CONSTIBLE



WHERE IS THIS PROJECT GOING?

SEE PAGE 5 ONLINE

but here's a hint.....





BEAUTIFUL, JOHN.

I WANT TO SEE IT RUNNING!

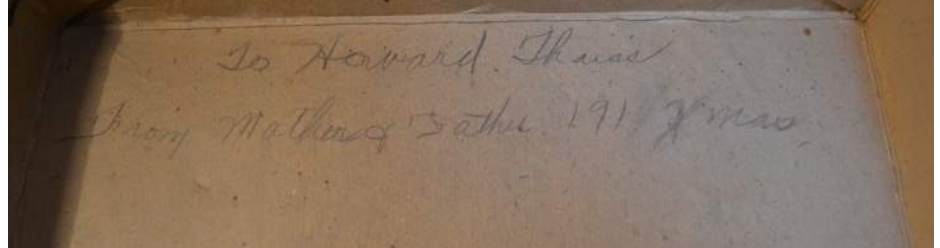
“The Wrong Christmas” By Frank L. Schmidt

I recently received an early American Flyer train set in the original box. Before I purchased this set, there was some discussion among my train collecting associates as to whether or not the train set originally came in this box but the set box was of the correct 1915 – 1917 era so I went ahead and purchased it.

The train set was advertised as being from 1916 and consisted of a single Imperial Limited Line 1107 coach, a no. 1 Type 1 steam locomotive (1) and a 328 tender all in an excellent condition for each. The coach and tender each have the 1916 ‘bent end’ coupler used by American Flyer (AF) from 1913 – 1919 (1). So everything with this train set says 1916 or slightly later.



On a closer examination of the set box, the box lid has the typical AF family picture with 2 children, boy and girl, playing with two train sets on a double circle of track with a switch and siding. Beneath the track in the lower right hand corner in small print is written “Copyright, 1914, By the American Flyer Mfg. Co.” The box has the AF factory address at “2219 to 2239 SO. Halsted St.” but it is what is hand written inside the lid which is most puzzling. In plain pencil are written the words “To Howard Thaiss / From Mather & Father 1914 Xmas” and on the outside are 4 lines of hand printing which are practically blacked out with an old black felt marker pen and illegible. In barely discernable writing is “#??? 1913”. Could this be a factory addition of code number and year? The other 3 lines are too dark to read at all.



So what is necessarily going on with this? A 1914 Christmas present of a 1916 train set with a 1913 code number? Does train history need to be rewritten? Fake News! Let us look at this set box a bit further before we turn the history books upside down.

The AF Company did not move to the SO. Halstend St. address until early to mid 1915 so the note inside and the 1913 outside would not make sense unless the set was bought as a late or post Christmas present. Also, any notation relating to a 1913 code make absolutely no sense as verified set boxes of 1913 have a completely different box lid design which was used from 1910 to 1913. Verified AF set boxes of 1914 have a paper label with the same family picture design and with the then factory address of W. Kinzie St. The set box could always be used after the copyrighted date but highly unlikely to be used before as to give away the 'secret' protected by copyright.

Let us look a bit deeper into this set box as doubts are beginning to emerge about these written statements. The box top lid and bottom section are compatible so it is a mated 1915 – 1917 AF set box.

I have one other train set box and individual boxes that were given as Christmas presents and for each the "To and From" are written or attached to the outside of the box, not the inside. How would one know who this present was for if the notation was written inside the present? Could we assume that AF produced and used this box in 1914 in anticipation of the 1915 move? Not likely when they already had a dedicated 1914 set box with a paper label.

The winged locomotive design on the box sides was filed for trademark protection sometime in early 1915 with the first use of this design reportedly being Feb. 23 1915 as per trademark filing (1). To imagine that it was used in 1914 as the inside lid note suggests does not match the reported facts. The train set is correct for the box, the set box is correct for the year's usage; the inside and outside written notes ARE NOT correct!

The distinct possibility is that the hand written notation was put in many years after 1914 and the year was written incorrectly. This seems plausible as the '4' of 1914 appears to have been erased slightly but no new digit put in its place. This note may have been written by Howard Thais himself at a much later date to remind himself about the wonderful train set given to him and by whom. Obviously, he cherished this train set and those who had given it to him.

How many of us have written a note 'To self' in later life to remind ourselves of an event or where an item was purchased? Did we get it right? Let us hope so as this one was not entirely correct. I now believe it was indeed a present for Christmas 1916, not 'Fake News' but a memory/reminiscence issue and an honest mistake not meant to launch a rewriting of the history books.

Thank you to Mr. Leon Sweet for his valuable insight and contributions.

Reference: (1) Greenberg's Guide to American Flyer Prewar O Gauge by Alan R. Schuweiler.



Recently, on **Mike Munk's** layout....
So what's been happening on yours?



Some of the items from Gunther Sage's collection that will be coming to the Sunday April 30 meeting, table sales approx. 10:30 am.

