

T.T.O.S. CANADIAN DIVISION BULLETIN

Volume 1 Issue 4

July 2003



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This is the first time as far as I can remember that we have published a newsletter after the last meeting of the physical year. The reason for doing so was that there was just too much news and so many good photos within our club to let it go until September.

I would like to thank the entire membership for their support this past year, it was a new experience for me and I hope I have shown I was capable of the task. In the coming year there are a lot of new ideas that have to be explored. Our Division's 30th anniversary is next year and your ideas and thoughts on how to mark the occasion are more than welcome.

Gillian and Allan deserve a round of applause for their efforts with our food service. The strawberries and ice cream were a real treat at our last meeting.



David G. Cook, President
www.railroadnut.com

to vote on at the September meet.

Please do not forget that along with the vote for the name of the newsletter, the election for the Division Executive will take place at the September meeting.

Charles Reif, Neil Whitehead and I (that's 3 people that I know of) will all be attending the National Convention in Denver this year and I hope a few more of our members will decide to make the trip. A good Canadian showing in Denver would be great. I will make sure that there are lots of photos for the September issue of our new and un-named news letter.

I have all the entries and a short list will be ready for the membership

If anyone knows of a member or they themselves want to serve on the executive, please contact Neil Whitehead, Frank Schmidt or Ken Warner, our nominating committee for information.

Again, Thanks to all of our members for their support, have a terrific summer and we will see you all in September.

Sincerely
David G. Cook, President

TTOS CANADIAN DIVISION EXECUTIVE

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Auction Admin

James Cook
MAL Island
Ken Bowman
250 592 6194

NEXT MEETING

- Sunday, September 28, 2003
- Doors Open at Noon
Table Top Displays & Sales
- Light Refreshments Available
- Meeting Starts at 1: pm
- See map & directions inside

Railways Run Through It



February 8–August 22, 2003

at the Surrey Museum
6022–176 Street
(next to Cloverdale Fairgrounds)

Discover Surrey's railway history! This exhibit has been researched by members of our Community Exhibition Team, each expert in their field of railway heritage. The story of railways in Surrey is illustrated with artifacts, models, train sounds, maps, video, art, and a walk-in model of a B.C. Electric Railway shelter. Lots of hands-on activities for the whole family!

For information or to schedule a group tour, call 604-502-6456

Hours: Tuesdays to Saturdays
9:00am to 4:00pm

Admission by donation



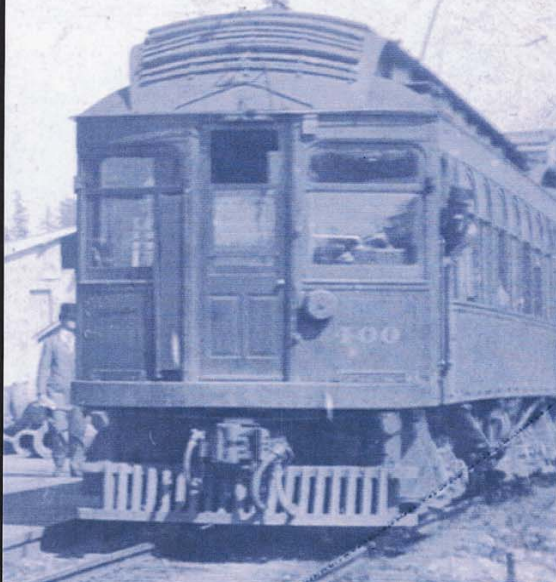
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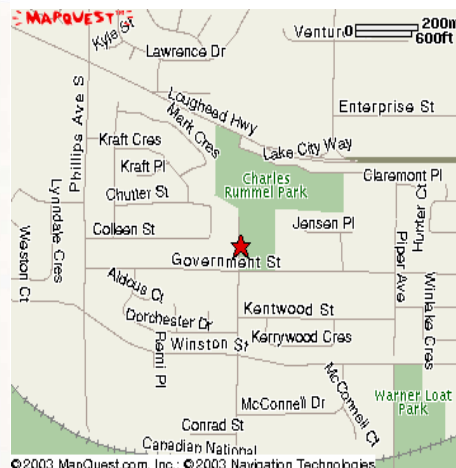
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Surrey Museum

6022-176 Street
Surrey, BC V3S 4E8
tel 604-502-6456
fax 604-502-6457
www.prc.city.surrey.bc.ca



B.C. Electric car, Cloverdale, 1911



Some people have asked for directions to our meeting hall. It's easy to find but if you get lost enroute call David Cook's cell phone 604 970 5598 for directions.

Meeting
Sunday, September 28, 2003

Doors Open Noon
Meeting Starts 13:00

Charles Rummel
Community Centre
3630 Lozzells Ave.,
Burnaby, BC Canada

NOTICE OF ELECTION... TTOS Canadian Division

As mandated by our TTOS society rules, the Board of Directors for the Canadian Division of the Toy Train Operating Society gives notice that:

The Election of Officers for 2003/2004 will take place at our annual general meeting on:
Sunday, September 28, 2003

Any member who wishes to stand for election to the board, or nominate someone to stand for election should contact our nominating committee, **Neil Whitehead** 604 594 2532. or **Ken Warner** 604 434 5037

TOY TRAIN HISTORY

by Charles Reif

Is it "Prewar" or "Postwar"?

With North American toy trains, that distinction has become a natural dividing line. This divide may be generational (I'm a postwar child, raised on 1950's Lionel trains), but it's also supported by the fact that the War was (particularly in North America) a design and manufacturing watershed.



Author Charles Reif — photo taken by David Cook at the Fort Langley Train Days

Very generally speaking, "Prewar" brings to mind colourful Standard Gauge and O Gauge tinsplate (by many makers), the streamlined passenger trains, and Lionel's brief affair with wide-radius near-scale modeling. "Postwar" recalls the rise of plastic and the knuckle coupler, the arrival of Flyer two-rail S Gauge, and the proliferation of diesels and operating accessories.

Yes, there were still steam engines, and metal casting. And tinsplate items were still made by Lionel for a few years, and by Marx into the 50's. Yet the "look" of trains had changed. And the rising popularity of HO lay in the background, eventually to help push the old train companies out of business. In Britain and on the Continent, the wartime break in toy train production, oddly enough, caused less drastic changes (*at least for those manufacturers who survived*).

A number of prewar O Gauge metal trains by Hornby, Bassett-Lowke, Marklin, or Jep in France, were almost identically produced for a time

after the war, though never in as broad a range as before.

Some even developed new O Gauge product. And the old European companies would be more successful in adapting to the demand for smaller gauges.

"Prewar" or "Postwar". But what of "Wartime" trains?

Was there a distinctive product made during World War II? Many of us have heard of Lionel's paper train, intended to

fill the gap when other materials had been diverted to war industries. And Lionel's wasn't the only paper train offered during the war (as avid readers of the TCA Quarterly's "Who done it?" columns might know).

Some have also read of Lionel's proposed "Victory train" (a specially-painted Flying Yankee) that was apparently never produced.

And the growing popularity of military trains (and toys generally) in the late 30's, especially in those countries where militarism was on the rise, may have lasted until the toy-makers' factories them-

selves were diverted to the war effort.

In France, there were also "Occupied trains", as Clive Lamming describes in his opus "Le Jouet de Paris", a massive "art book" on the toymaker Jep.

During the German Occupation, at least one French prewar steam train set was re-lithographed and re-lettered in German.

I recently acquired a piece which I thought to be of the same vintage, though clearly of German manufacture. It's a lithographed tinsplate destination board, composed of a curved roof on a central beam supported by two pillars on a grey base, with destination signs which slide out on either side of the beam. Destinations in black print are Hamburg, Paris, and Stuttgart, with Berlin, Nurnberg, and Wien (Vienna) in red.

**"Prewar" or "Postwar".
But what of "Wartime"
trains? Was there a distinctive
product made during World War II?**

Between the columns is a metal notice board, with schedules on one side, and on the other a map. There is no maker's mark visible.

It was the map that caught fellow-collector **Robin Dodson's** eye. A quick look revealed that the

Continued page 4 >>>



Charles lithographed tinsplate destination board but is it "pre-war"?

TOY TRAIN HISTORY *continued... from page 3*

Deutsches Reich" (Germany) seemed to occupy an unusually large part of Central Europe. I took my find home for later study.

Was this a "Wartime" accessory?

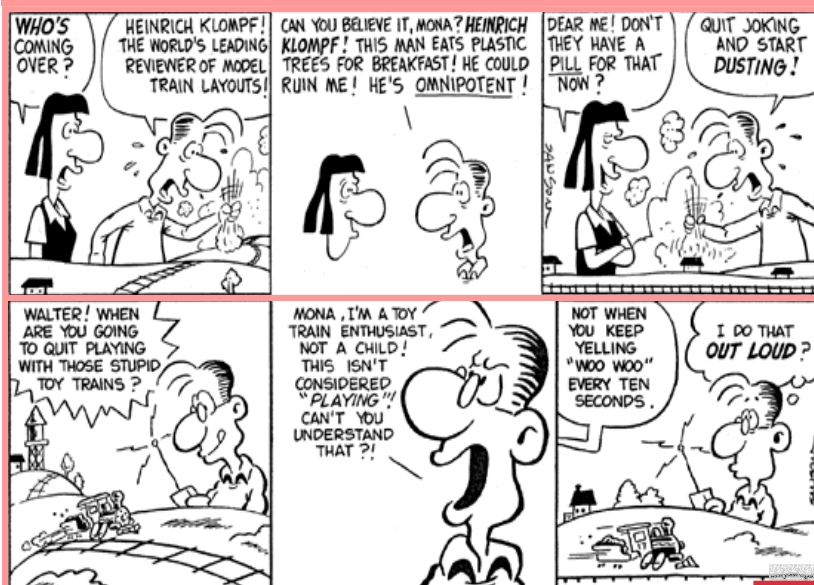
France was still there on the metal map, and not divided as in the Occupation period. Belgium and Holland were still distinct. On the other hand, Austria had been absorbed into the Reich, as had the Czech part of Czechoslovakia, with Slovakia a separate country. So this map must have been made after March 1939 (Hitler's takeover of Czechoslovakia), but before the invasion and partition of France in June of 1940. The key would be Poland.



Armed with the Penguin Atlas of Recent History, I compared my little tin map. There was the post-WWI "Polish Corridor" to the port of Danzig on the Baltic Sea, cutting off historically German "East Prussia" from the rest of Germany. Did this mean that the invasion of Poland, in September 1939, had not yet happened?

But then I noticed that the Poland on my tin map did not extend nearly as far east as shown on the pre-war atlas map, and where it stopped, another country began in red.

These delightful cartoons and many more about toy trains can be found at the following website.... Take a look and enjoy the humour
www.toytrunkrailroad.com



We know that Hitler and Stalin made a pact in 1939, by which the eastern half of Poland was absorbed by the Soviet Union when Germany invaded from the west. Finally I noticed that, while the city of Warsaw was marked on the map, the distinctly coloured territory around it had no name. So there was the answer! Yes, I think this is a "Wartime" train item. It represents Europe between the fall of Poland and the invasion of the Low Countries and France. Another way to put "history" into the history of toy trains. TTOS

DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL?

Member submissions welcome.
Email gaida@abouthomes.com

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FORT LANGLEY TRAIN DAYS



Frank & Pearl Horne... a life-time of playing together !



Interested customer with Patricia Shaw



Everyone loves to watch toy trains in action... Tom Modica & Frank Teoli



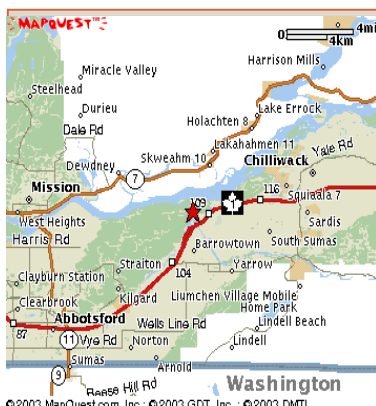
We hope to see more people out at the next opportunity to play with the club's layout in Chilliwack in October....



Back Row L-R Neil Wilson, Frank Teoli, Neil Whitehead, Charles Reif, Frank Schmidt, Fred Nussli & Allan Cruikshank... Front Row Tom Modica & grandson Kenton



COMING EVENTS...



Mount Cheam Lion's Club MODEL RAILWAY & HOBBY SHOW

**Saturday,
October 18, 2003
10 am to 4 pm**

**& Sunday,
October 19, 2003
10 am to 5 pm**

**Heritage Park
44140 Luckakuck Way
Chilliwack, BC**

Admission:

Adults: \$5.00

Seniors / Students \$3.00

Family \$10.00

under 6 FREE when accompanied by an Adult

**Contact: James Hill 604 824 1757
jcdmhill@dowco.com**

June 28 & 29

**Spokane, WA: Great American Train Show
Spokane County Fair & Expo Center,
404 N. Havana, Spokane WA
11 am—5 pm**

Admission \$7. under 13 Free

More Info: www.gats.com

August 20, - August 24, 2003

2003 T.T.O.S. National Convention

Denver, Colorado, USA

TRESTLES N' TRAINS



John Constible

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Abbotsford, BC
V2S 4N9

Phone: (604) 852-4688



Email: john_constible@telus.net

Coming to Victoria — The Island's Largest Annual
MODEL RAILWAY SHOW

**SUNDAY, September 7th, 2003
10 am to 5 pm**

**Victoria Curling Club
1952 Quadra St., Victoria, BC**

Hourly Door Prizes! Area Parking Available

**Operating Model Railroads
Popular Vote Contest
Commercial & Individual Sales & Displays**

Admission

Adults \$5. Family \$11. Seniors/Youth \$4.

Children under 10 free when accompanied by an adult

**Vancouver Island Sub-Division, Seventh Division, Pacific Northwest
Region, National Model Railroad Association (Canada)**

Contact: Alexis 250 595 4070 or David 250 652 1894

Supporters of Times Colonist 1000 Fund and the C-Fox Santa's Anonymous

**November 22 & 23 ANNUAL BUS TRIP
— GREAT AMERICAN TRAIN SHOW —
Western Washington Fairgrounds
9th & Meridian, Puyallup, WA
This annual excursion for TTOS
Canadian Division Members is always a
sell out so be sure to **RESERVE NOW!****

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PHOTO GALLERY



Right: Frank Horne, with Jan Easton & his son.



Below: Gerry Shaw

Left: John Constible with Past President Neil Whitehead, & the K-Line Canadian Pacific B Unit John generously donated to the club and Neil won at auction.



Above: John Constible
Below: Neil Whitehead



Above Robert Mitchell gets a prize from the incentive draw. Neil Wilson with Ken Warner above & below with Keith Boswell



Mark Horne, Martin Howbold & Charles Reif...check out the goodies at every meeting



Above: Jan Easton Below: Allan Cruikshank



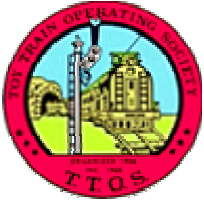
Above: JP Johnson with Robert Mitchell



It's the great attendance incentive draw we all look forward to each year.... And you never know who is going to show up... Former IWA Union Boss, Jack Munro, attended our June 22, 2003 meeting.



All photos by David Cook



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V3K 2N6 Canada
604 931 4056
railroadnut@shaw.ca



BENEVOLENT COMMITTEE NEWS

We received this thank you note to share with the members.

Thank you so much for your kind words and the beautiful flowers from the people from the T.T.O.S. Club.

When Heinz was well he loved being part of the group and of course he loved Trains, most of which will now go to his Sons and Grandsons.

Sincerely Helga Korn



From the Desk of NEIL WHITEHEAD, Past-President TTOS Canadian Division . . .

Thanks to the many members who came out to the Fort Langley Railroad Days on June 14 & 15..

For those of you who didn't make it, check out the pictures taken by **David Cook**, our club president on page 5. We sure had a lot of fun and pleasure operating our trains on the club's large layout.

The addition of 'S' gauge by **Frank Schmidt** and **Frank Teoli** on Sunday, added to the fun and enjoyment by the operators and the visitors. I heard a lot of "Is that American Flyer" from some of the guests and the interest in the layout operation was very high.

A special thanks to the **Franks** for their innovative and very welcome addition to the Modular Layout.

Start making plans now to attend the Chilliwack train show. Come out bring your own trains or just play with the club's trains for a few hours. Check the date and directions on page 6.

Make plans to join us on the annual bus trip to **GATS** in Seattle. Seating is really limited as the bus only holds 40 people so reserve now! There are always good side trips and some very interesting layouts to visit, and the hospitality of our **Seattle Toy Train** enthusiasts is legendary. The visit to **Eastside Trains** is one of my favourite parts of the Bus Trip as it gives me an opportunity to view the newest items available for sale in the Toy Train hobby. You will notice that Eastside Trains is supporting our club by advertising in our newsletter.

Remember that September is our official year end and the start of a new Society year. Election of officers will be held at this meeting and we need volunteers to run for office. Contact myself, Ken Warner or Frank Schmidt if you wish to run for any of the offices of the Canadian Division. I would encourage you to get on the executive. Not only will your involvement help your Society, but you will enjoy, as I have, getting to know fellow TTOS Canadian Division members even better. See you in Denver in August or in September at our annual General Meeting.

Have a wonderful summer!
Neil Whitehead...Past President.

