

# CAL-STEWART 2012 at Ontario Convention Center



## THE SOUTHWESTERN LIMITED

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LARRY PEARSON, PRESIDENT

CALVIN SMITH, EDITOR

HERBERT ALFRED MAYER, PHOTOGRAPHER

- p1 Ontario Airport
- p2 President's Message
- p3 In Memory  
Dick Mayer
- p3 UP #844 Problems
- p4 March 2012 Meet
- p5 April 2012 Meet
- p6-7 Tribute to  
John Daniel
- p6 Cal-Stewart  
Hotel Now Taking  
Reservations
- p8 Comments Re  
Cal-Stewart Move
- p10-11 Fabulous Finds

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*Save the Dates: 40<sup>th</sup> Cal-Stewart November 2, 3, & 4, 2012*

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**LARRY PEARSON**, President  
Southwestern Division,  
2010-2013  
1108 West Palm Ave.,  
Burbank, CA 91506  
(818) 848-2653



*Please be advised that the following article is comprised solely of my own thoughts, opinions, and experiences, and does not necessarily convey the beliefs and thoughts of the T.T.O.S. Southwestern Division, and its Members and Officers, or the editor and publisher of The Southwestern Limited.*

May is fast approaching and I hope the bite of April taxes left you with some discretionary funds for May 6th. Our Southwestern members who traveled to the TCA Eastern Division Spring York Meet in PA will be showing off their fabulous buys that are for sale, so this should be an exciting Meet. Dave Mabee will talk nonstop about his first York Meet experience. York has a way of draining your bank account in 2 days. Dave and others may have more trains to sell than normal to keep their bank accounts in the positive range.

Also, keep in mind that May 26th at the Scottish Rite Temple in Sacramento, TCA sponsors its May Meet. The Sacramento collectors are in Train Country and are more avid train enthusiasts. The May Meet is always fun and draws from the Bay, Napa and Reno areas. California Area Meets are good sources of great finds and while there be sure to say hello to Chuck Stone, Chuck Brasher and Clyde Easterly. They all moved to Grass Valley years ago and always have a great selection of trains, and you just may snag an item before it arrives at Cal Stewart 2012.

Speaking of Cal Stewart 2012, if you haven't realized we have moved to Ontario Convention Center during November 2-4 for our 40th Cal-Stewart Celebration, then please read this and note the advantages. Newly decorated Radison Rooms \$69/nite vs \$125, same level unloading and set up (no elevators to wait for), just a slightly smaller hall but we have our foot in the door to increase to 75,000 sq ft, and Ontario Airport, a Southwest HUB, is a skip away with shuttles that take you everywhere so you save car rental costs, just to name a few perks you will enjoy.

Hugs to all and run your trains often,  
Larry Pearson, President

## **Reminder:**

**June 10th is an Open House Meet  
Mike Marple will be there with parts  
Order your parts now and Mike will  
bring them to the June 10th Meet**

**Call Mike at (805) 736-6747**

**Tuesday thru Thursday 11am to 3 pm**



**It's Almost Time!!!  
Watch your mail for the  
SWD Membership  
Renewal Form**

*You May Also Renew  
at the June 10th Meet  
to avoid lines on July 1st.*



**Save the Date  
Saturday, August 4, 2012  
for the  
SWD Member Appreciation  
Picnic at the  
Live Steamers in  
Griffith Park**

*Details will be sent with  
Membership Renewal Forms*

# In Memory



## Dick Mayer

Fine Toy Train Maker

1923 – 2012

In tribute and recognition of his contributions to the toy train hobby, Dick Mayer and his trains and accessories will be featured in display at Cal-Stewart 2012.

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From *Main Line* April, 2012, Volume 21 No. 4  
Grand Canyon Model Railroaders:

### UP # 844 PROBLEMS

by Peter Atonna

Many of us delighted in chasing Union Pacific's beautiful steamer #844 last fall when she made her Centennial trip through Arizona. Some of you may have heard that she suffered a major incident that caused her to be pulled from service during a recent trip in Texas.

Due to an accidental running of the attendant diesel while the #844 brakes were still locked, she was pushed on the rails causing flat spots on her drivers. Here is a video taken on the spot, showing her

runby and an attempt to grind out the flat spots.

Unfortunately it was enough only to get her running, and she was taken off the train and has returned to Cheyenne for a permanent regrinding of the loco's tires. Look about six minutes into the video and you can see them grinding the wheels!

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=j9ukJHWUuhQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=j9ukJHWUuhQ).

We had a more fortunate run while in Arizona and if you would like to see my video of the trip, go to: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=WZ7MjrN8Ucc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WZ7MjrN8Ucc)

# March 2012 Meet

Photos by Herbert Alfred Mayer



The March Open House Meet featured this table with a vintage pre-war Lionel Train.



Also on display, a vintage American Flyer Standard Gauge.

## And . . . We Had Layouts!!!



Layouts are always popular with members and guests at our monthly meets. They encourage visitors, as well as members, to run trains in their homes.

# April 2012 Meet

Photos by Herbert Alfred Mayer



A full, busy Trading Hall at the April 2012 Meet!! Good Sellers, Good Buyers! One Southwestern member sold out in 15 minutes. Another sold most items on his two tables.



The April Meet saluted the 100th Anniversary of Girl Scouts and the 100th Anniversary of the Boy Scouts' Eagle Award. Girl Scout Leader Beverly de Lucia framed the badges and brought the beautiful display of Scout artifacts.



Above and below, two of the interesting tables of vintage trains and related items at the April 2012 meet.



J Keely, SP President, chats with David Nisen at David's Layout at the April Meet. Layouts were in the Lobby



Fred Ruby explaining items on the SWD Layout to his guests.

# Tribute to John Daniel

by David Otth



Where do you start a piece reflecting on and remembering John Daniel, a multi-talented 20th Century self-made magician, designer, collector, and dynamic promoter. We lost John last year, but I hope this tribute will bring fond memories of his personality, wit, and creative efforts to create an outstanding Southwestern train club and our ever popular Cal-Stewart, now celebrating its 40th year. This long

standing West Coast meet owes its original design and scope to John's creative skills and engaging personality.

We obtain a glimpse of John's abilities by knowing John worked for Lee & Daniel Steel Fabricators, his Dad's business.

Besides learning business skills, John started in the welding department and obtained a wealth of construction knowledge at an early age. He also synthesized these construction skills into his hobby which was magic. John once explained to me that there was a time before television when live theater, Vaudeville, and magic shows ruled the entertainment world. John was introduced to magic through Cub Scouts when he was nine. A magician had been brought in to teach his Cub Pack a trick for an upcoming talent show, and, at the end of the lesson, John performed the trick and received applause. The adulation was addictive, and, from that moment, his life's passion and work was set on magic.

John Daniel had developed a full half-hour magic routine by age 12. He got his first paying job as a magician right in South Pasadena at the clubhouse of the Arroyo Seco golf

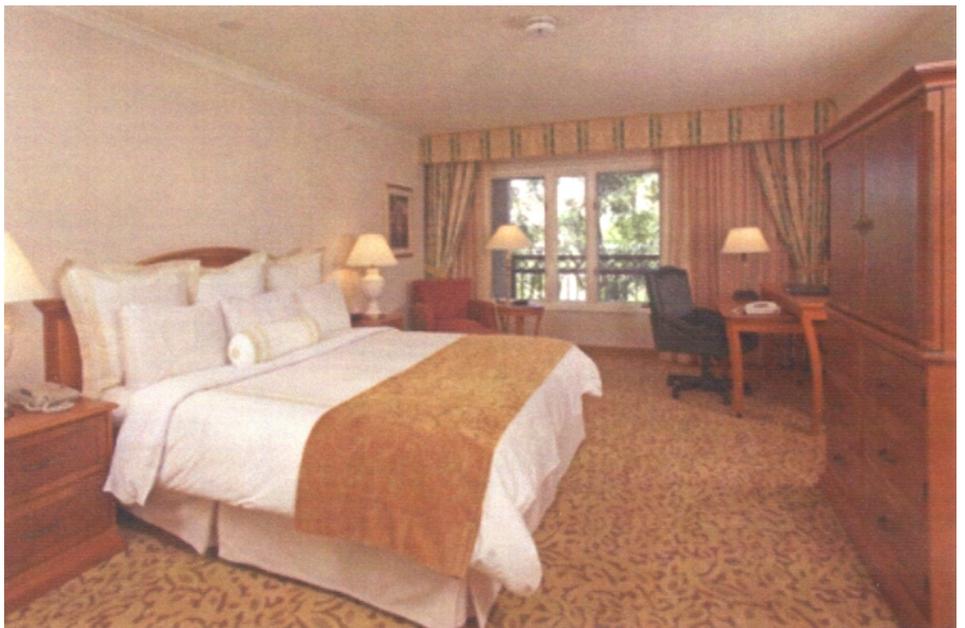


Continued on page 11

## The Cal-Stewart Hotel Is Taking Reservations Now!!

**The Radisson Hotel Ontario Airport** is conveniently located less than one mile from Ontario International Airport and is directly across from the Ontario Convention Center. Room Rates are \$69.00 per night (single or double occupancy). You can make a reservation at the Radisson's Central Booking Number: (800) 333-3333. Our Promotional Code is "CLSTMT". You can also book On-Line at [www.radisson.com](http://www.radisson.com). Choose the city (Ontario), state (California), etc and don't forget to enter the Promo Code: CLSTMT. The Deadline for our rate guarantee is October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012, UNLESS the hotel fills up sooner. The room rate is valid from the Wednesday before to the Tuesday after Cal-Stewart.

Guest rooms feature pillow-top mattresses, as well as down blankets and down comforters. In-room amenities include, 37 in. flat screen TVs, hair dryers, complimentary high-speed Internet access and spacious work desks. On-site dining includes California cuisine and daily breakfast buffet at Pacific Grille as well as Starbucks® coffee, snacks and sandwiches at Pacific Express Deli. D Street features a casual setting with TVs, billiards and a jukebox. Room service is available. (information from website)



**King Room at Radisson Hotel Ontario Airport** (picture from website)

## Tribute to John Daniel (continued from page 10)

course. The event was for the Building Contractor's Association; his father, in steel business and president of that organization, had arranged it. Young John was a huge success that night, and even wrote a joke expressly for that crowd: "My mom and dad are in the iron and steel business – my mom irons, and my dad steals!" The crowd roared, and after that fateful night, the precocious young magician immediately began getting calls to perform...[and] was known as "Pasadena's Boy Magician".

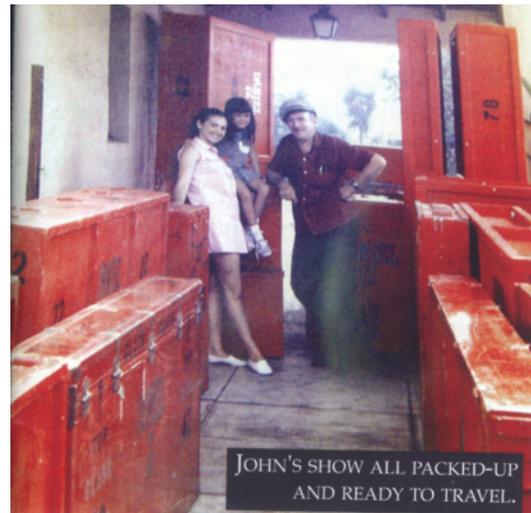
What started as a hobby, combined with his skills developed in his Dad's business, quickly progressed to working in a factory that manufactured some illusions and tricks for Houdini as well as many other magicians. Now one begins to understand how easy it was for John to invent his own illusions and over time develop magic shows into huge productions keyed to themes of all kinds for families to enjoy. These were very popular and led the whole community of talented magicians across the country to follow this type of venue. Eventually these shows evolved into large productions with massive illusions, chorus girls, and coordinating orchestral music. Also, an associated Las Vegas level marketing skill was honed under John's guidance that elevated his shows to national prominence. He was interfacing with top stars like Bob Hope, Steve Allen, Olson & Johnson, and Orson Welles, to name some, and TV shows like Truth or Consequences, Operation Entertainment, Dean Martin Show, Johnny Carson Show, and Jackie Gleason Show. He was involved in the movie "Around the World" with Orson Welles, Mickey Rooney, Arte Johnson, Senta Berger and Peter Bogdonovich. In 1969, John won the prestigious "Best Stage Performer" Award from the Academy of Magical Arts which, in April 2010, presented him with the "Lifetime Achievement" Award. Public



Television recently aired a special called "Women In Boxes", which is the story of female magic assistants. John and Cathy were one of the featured couples.

All of this experience came to Southwestern when John Daniel began to offer suggestions on growing membership and the quality of our meets. In those days Southwestern had all day meets, much like our Sunday shows, that were on Saturday. Remember, in those days we met at our Duarte location Friday nights, so an all day meet was acceptable. Over time and as our members increased, John approached Don Stewart, a TCA collector from the Bay Area, to start a high class train meet that was shared by TCA and Southwestern. In a sad note, Don was killed in an auto accident prior to the first meet and John decided to name the joint club venue Cal-Stewart. The first LA area meet was at the Huntington Hotel ballroom, now known as the Langton in Pasadena. Cal-Stewart quickly moved, due to popularity of our joint meet agreement and resulting attendance, to the Pasadena Convention Center.

Popularity of our meets and membership growth during the major interest period for collecting toy trains blossomed under John Daniel. It's no wonder he was the impetus and held President positions for Southwestern and National. John also implemented the Saturday night banquet during Cal-Stewart with table prizes donated by manufacturers – the present standard approach used by Southwestern. So our 40-year success owes alot to John and Cathy Daniel, who by the way, was the Bulletin Editor under John's National Presidency.



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For more information visit  
[www.toytrainoperatingsociety.org](http://www.toytrainoperatingsociety.org)

Welcome  
to  
Mark Azzez, Sal Spagnolo, Fernando Munoz  
*Welcome Back to Southwestern Division!!!*

# Cal-Stewart Moves to Ontario



1. “Great location for Cal-Stewart. Ontario Mills is a couple of miles away. When the guys are playing with trains, send the ladies for Olympic-class shopping!”

Ed Samsen, President AGTTA, San Diego



2. “A lot easier for loading and unloading. Cheaper parking and hotel. More money for trains. Very convenient for people who fly in.”

David Nissen, SWD Data Manager & Member



3. “I think it is a terrific move for all future Cal-Stewart Meets.”

Dave Mabee, SWD Member

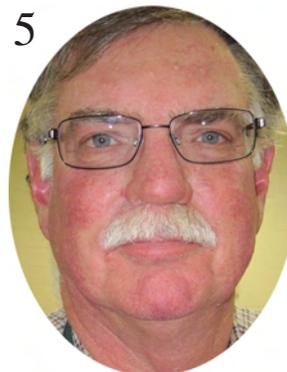
4. “The financial aspects for the club make any personal negative mute.”

Fred Ruby, SWD Member



5. “A lot easier for dealers to go in and out. Train watchers delight — UP tracks are right there!”

Mike Marple, Mike’s Trains & Hobbies



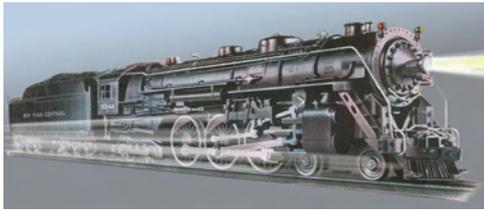
6. “Very convenient. Excellent loading and unloading. Easy Parking. Real good rates at the hotel.”

Mike Roman, SWD Member & Monthly Sellr

7. “I think it is a good step forward for a very convenient location. Easy in and out for dealers, sellers, and layouts.”

Wayne Sheriff, Member SWD & TCA Western





**SOMETHING NEW  
IS CHUGGING  
YOUR WAY!**

**Visit the Toy Train Heritage, Inc.\* Display  
at the Southwestern Open House Meet  
on June 10, 2012**

**THEN**

**Attend the Open House on June 10 at  
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\*\*RSVP for Dinner: Call Dave Otth 626-351-0022**

**We're only 3 minutes from the Southwestern Meet  
Directions given at the Meet**

**\* A 501 c3 dedicated to  
Kids-at-Risk, the Community & Collectors**

# Attend This Exhibit at the Huntington Library in San Marino!

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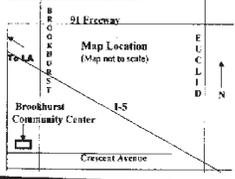
Meet Dates 2012	
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Mar. 25	Apr. 22
May 27**	June 24 & Snack Bar
July 22	Aug. 26
Sept. 23	Oct. 28*
Nov. 25	Dec. 16**

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## Advertise in the Southwestern Limited!!

SWD T.T.O.S. Treasurer Mike Cunningham encourages you to advertise your business in the *Southwestern Limited*. You will reach SWD members as well as others on our mailing list and those who see *Southwestern Limited* at other train meets.

Rates for ads in the 6 annual issues: Business card, \$30.00; Quarter page, \$90.00; Half page, \$180.00; and Full page, \$360.00. Ads appearing in less than 6 issues are pro-rated. We will scan your camera-ready ad or offer typesetting services.

Contact Calvin Smith, editor, at 626-792-6594 or e-mail: [psmith6@earthlink.net](mailto:psmith6@earthlink.net).



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01/12-12/12

# Fabulous Finds

## The Naomi Street Vendor

by David Otth

In the mid 70's it was popular to find several lists of trains for sale from most active collectors who were so-called dealers in the sense they would purchase collections and sell off what they didn't want to keep via long lists of train sale items. *Model Railroader's* ad section in the back of the magazine had several collectors who were dealing trains full time or part time in addition to their main sources of income; ie, regular work. Extra money was there to be made as the growing number of train enthusiasts created the demand and that was the mainstream source of adding to your collection since the early 50s. Yes, there were train clubs, but many people wanted to add trains and would not join clubs for whatever reason. Lists were sometimes massive, for example Al Cox's list was usually 50 pages long and included all kinds of train items, even mint Bosco Decals, for sale. Anyway, you get a sense of the 70s collecting scene with lists as sources for trains.

I, too, had a list, but my big deal came via a fellow engineer from JPL who knew I collected toy trains. Apparently, he had read a local newspaper that included an small ad that listed New Lionel and Gilbert Flyer for sale at this house on Naomi Street in San Gabriel. I responded that no one gets New Boxed Lionel from a private party unless the party never gave it as a gift or was not interested in the least. I asked the engineer what the ad listed and he stated GG1's and Hudsons, just to name a few. I was taken aback, but quickly assumed they were probably LN or potentially less condition.

Don Starkey, a Southwestern member and a fel-

low engineer I worked with at JPL, was up on the 5th floor. So, I took the stairs — two at a time in those days — from the 3rd as our elevator was so slow that we commented that only 1 squirrel was manning the lifts workings. I asked Don to bring his checkbook, grab some cash from the Credit Union, and we left the Space Age duties early that day to check this very unusual story as Mint was a rarity in LA.

Referring to the photos below, you now know what I saw as we entered his Garage Store as he called it, or, as I nicknamed him, the Naomi Street Vendor. Your reaction to the photos was mine exactly (WOW!!), only at the time, Don and I had a stronger emotional response. The owner's background gave the reason

**“... his inventory of Lionel and Flyer trains was ... from about 50 Bekins Storage Containers ...”**

behind this Store Front creation from the past. He explained his inventory of Lionel and Flyer trains was recently unpacked from about 50 Bekins Storage containers like those used when movers pack smaller items such as dishes, hand kitchen appliances, radios and obviously trains in round 4 ft or higher containers. He had been a Walgreens salesman in the Toy Department during the 40s-50s. Plus, their store was large enough to offer a great selection of Christmas toy trains. When he retired about 20 years ago, he had packed all items away he personally purchased at discount, from Walgreens, I imagine. He created a hobby store just like collectors dream of and imagine as typical train stores of that era. I relived my Department Store train sales departments that day as all items except a few were New Boxed. After reviewing his price list in about 10 seconds, Don and I realized he had no idea of current collector prices nor prices that collectors were willing to pay dependent on item rarity. The prices seemed to vary according to his personal likes, not according to collector demand. He failed to consider the uniqueness

(continued on page 6)



Inside The Naomi Street Vendor's Garage. . . . .



**Fabulous Finds** (continued from page 7)

of the NEW condition of both the Box and the item. These were strong 10's, or *perfect*, as some would say. This was true for Lionel which comprised most of the inventory and about 1/3 was Gilbert Flyer S gauge. Several engines were factory sealed like 3 of 4 773's in their master separate sale cartons. There were no complete sets, just separate sale train items which included ZW, accessory, engine and car selections. He was way overpriced on the 773's at \$400 each, based on current mid 70 pricing, but way under on his 3 6464-325 B&O Sentinels at \$8 each. At that point after buying some nice Flyer green passenger cars that were opened for the first time by Don, my mind went into operations mode.

So I asked the obvious question: if we bought several items could you offer a discount as he was a seasoned store salesman and knew the meaning of bulk buy-outs after Christmas? I started at 15 % but further discussions led to 25% off if we could sell it all that day. Since I was not a Flyer collector at the time like Starkey, I said to Don let's split the deal and I convinced our Naomi Vendor, now my friend, that I could sell it all this afternoon with one phone call. He was taken aback and allowed me to use his house phone to call Allen Drucker, who lived in Santa Monica at the time and, remember, cell phones were a few years off. In quick summary, I offered all Flyer to Al and explained it was all NEW Boxed, as even the silver PA's were so shiny he could shave in their reflection the following morning. He agreed and I will never forget as I hung up and told our Naomi Friend it may take awhile as Al lived at the beach. Ten minutes later, Allen screeched to a halt in the driveway and stood speechless at what he saw. It was really a moment to remember and an experience that was relived with great appreciation of a Naomi Steet Vendor clock turned back in time.

My next selling list was longer than normal and all items were NEW BOXED. That got the attention nation-wide with my phone ringing constantly; even Jim Sattler flew in from Hawaii. No one at that time could believe it, and every one was shocked at my prices, way above normal. Well, I said, this is New stuff, complete with inspection stickers, condition 10 on both box and item. If you can find it down at Walgreens in Pasadena, be my guest. It took a little longer to close out the deal due to pricing to some extent, but the seasoned collectors had no problem with the cost of factory sealed items or mint trains. Don

**“ . . . Allen [Drucker] screeched to a halt in the driveway and stood speechless at what he saw.”**

and I had great fun in seeing what New really looked like and began to appreciate the collector response to NEW BOXED. Having that collection under our belts educated us to recognize fake New items or those “Cadyized Trains” as we called them at that time. (Cadyized: An Honorable Slang description about a train's condition or appearance when it appeared effectively upgraded to near new by Jon Cady. Jon is still one of our most respected Southwestern restoration experts who's still the master of LN + condition of Postwar and lives in Fresno, CA.)

You may ask, Dave, do you still have any of those items held back at this time? I don't know about Don, but I purchased a house soon after and cashed in around '77. Oh, I do have a ZW but it's not mint anymore, and I sold my sealed 773 at a Cal Stewart in '94 for \$2500. Sorry to say, I should have kept it all, but then again my family has enjoyed our Pasadena house for 35 years. I had to make a choice, and it was the right one at the time. What is interesting, one of my clients was

Terry Hathaway, whose father owned all the oil wells near Telegraph Road off the 5 freeway. Terry had invested in several choice Naomi Street Vendor items at the time. Then about 7 years later in the Reagan 80s, he came by my house and wanted me to sell on consignment those items he bought prior, all still in their #10 boxes. The next Nor-Cal was blessed with some New Boxed Lionel. I experienced the thrill a second time — offering New condition postwar, but was even less interested as Standard Gauge was on my radar twice a year in York, PA.

It was at that time I answered a phone call from Hollis Cotton, a newbie to the collecting circuit. Just ask him about my reaction to his phone inquiry about his prized Lionel 2037 in average excellent condition. You will get a laugh and know the basis of my phone response. Right, Hollis! Last, but not to be forgotten, is a big thanks to Don Starkey who believed in the deal and our ability to manage such a large collection. John Daniel's Grand Junction deal was in the immediate future, so I was privileged to be among the best and most experienced LA collectors and still very thankful they always encouraged me to stay in the hobby to this day.

---

**Fabulous Finds Stories Needed** — Send your stories to *Southwestern Limited*. E-mail Phyllis Smith. Asst. Editor pesmith6@earthlink.net OR mail to Bickley Printing Co., 25 So. Fair Oaks Ave., Pasadena, CA 91105. Questions: call 626-792-6594.

## Southwestern Division Toy Train Meets

2012: Jan. 8, Feb. 12, Mar. 4, April 1, May 6, June 10,  
July 1, August 4 (Sat. Picnic), Sept. 9, Oct. 7,  
\*\*Nov. 2-4 Cal-Stewart 2012, Dec. 2.

Monthly Meets at the Arcadia Masonic Center  
50 W. Duarte Rd., Arcadia 91007

Sellers Setup & Members 10 a.m. — Tables \$5.00  
Public 11 a.m. — \$5.00 adm. Children under 16 free with pd adult

\*\*Cal-Stewart Nov. 2-4, 2012 at the  
Ontario Convention Center

## Arcadia Monthly Meets!!!! Tables are ONLY



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## TRAIN COLLECTIONS PURCHASED

Having been a member of TTOS since 1970, many of you know me and the reputation of the store I ran for 32 years, along with the high profile auctions I've held since 1980. Should you decide to sell your collection of trains and/or toys, please think of me. I will buy your entire collection for cash and you will receive a fair price for each and every piece. Or, if you prefer, I will sell your collection for you in one of my special event auctions, at a cost of only 10% to you.

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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE II FOR MAY/JUNE, 2012**

**LARRY PEARSON**, President, T.T.O.S. Southwestern Division, 2012-2013  
1108 West Palm Ave., Burbank, CA 91506, (818) 848-2653

Please be advised that the following article is comprised solely of my own thoughts, opinions, and experiences, and does not necessarily convey the beliefs and thoughts of the T.T.O.S. Southwestern Division (SWD), and its Members and Officers, or the editor and publisher of *The Southwestern Limited*.

### **THE APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup> OPEN HOUSE MEET – 95 TABLES!**

It has been over one year since the T.T.O.S. Southwestern Division (SWD) Board decided to try to increase our monthly Meet attendance by lowering our table costs from \$10 to \$5 starting with the February, 2011 Meet. In the last few years, the SWD, a California non-profit Corporation, has been showing a year end profit, and the Board decided to “give back” to the Membership by lowering the table fees on a trial basis. The Arcadia Masonic Center, unlike Cal-Stewart, does not charge us for the tables we use, only for the hall rental, so lowering the table fees would only result in a possible reduction in Meet income. But that was not the case. We are selling over twice the number of tables at \$5 than we did at \$10, so our Meet income has actually gone up. One SWD Member who claims to be a “marketing expert” predicted that the \$5 table thing would be doomed to failure in the long run, and that we should raise the table fees to \$15, “they will pay it”. A year ago, the April 3, 2011 Meet had 77 \$5 tables occupied, including 10 for Mike Marple parts. For April 1, 2012, we had 95 \$5 tables occupied, including 10 for Mike Marple parts. In conclusion, the \$5 table experiment has proven to be a tremendous success, proving the “expert” wrong, and we plan to continue with it indefinitely.

To optimize the hall floor plan, we would appreciate it if you would call Hollis Cotton on his cell phone at 1.818.590.0553 to reserve your tables in advance of the Meet, if at all possible. If you do not reserve in advance, do not worry, we always have extra tables on hand for last minute sellers. Our goal is not to turn anyone away.

### **FLYING IN TO CAL-STEWART 2012**

The move of the Fall Cal-Stewart Meet to the Ontario Convention Center (OCC) opens up the Meet to a new kind of attendee: the Fly in Attendee. The OCC is only about one mile away from the LA/Ontario International Airport (OIA). The OIA serves the following eight airlines: AeroMexico, Alaska, Continental, Delta, United/United Express, American, Southwest, and US Airways. In addition, the following car rental agencies are served by OIA: Alamo, Avis, Budget, Dollar, Enterprise, Hertz, National, and Thrifty. But you shouldn't need to rent a car to attend Cal-Stewart. There is a free shuttle bus service from OIA to our host hotel, Radisson Ontario Airport, which is just across the street from the OCC, and Cal-Stewart. We are told that Southwest has a major hub at OIA, and has over 200 flights daily. Southwest now serves the entire country. So no matter where you live in the US, or the world for that matter, you can fly directly in to Cal-Stewart. Also, we anticipate that UPS will soon have a shipping facility at the OCC.

### **THE CAL-STEWART WELCOMING PARTY**

For the first time ever, the Cal-Stewart King Welcoming party on Friday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> will be held in the same building as the Cal-Stewart Meet. No more wandering around Pasadena in the dark trying to find the party location. It will be directly across the lobby from the trading hall in Ballroom “C”, which is capable of seating over 400 attendees. Leaving nothing to chance, four members of the SWD Board, Hollis Cotton, Bruce Lazarus, Jerry Moser, and I, had a tasting of the food we requested prepared by executive chef Marco Garcia on Tuesday, April 17th. The verdict: it will be even better than what we have been getting at the Pasadena

Masonic Center. The buffet menu will be Pan Seared Pesto Chicken Breast, Santa Maria BBQ Tri Tip, seasonal vegetables, including asparagus, mashed potatoes, chocolate cake, cheese cake and coffee and water. The cost to registered Cal-Stewart attendees will be the same as for last year, \$20 per person. **Plan to attend!**

On the subject of food, there are over 24 restaurants in the vicinity of the Ontario Convention Center: In-N-Out Burger, Sheraton Ontario Airport Orchid Grill, Rosa's, Denny's, Yoshinoya's, Bombay Restaurant-Cuisine of India, Double Tree Hotel Porter's Steakhouse, Zeke's Eatin' Place, Spires, Jack-In-The-Box, Ayres Suites Courtyard Café, Holiday Inn Landings, Marie Callender's, Panda Inn, T.G.I. Fridays, Hilton Ontario Airport Café Catalina, Outback Steakhouse, Black Angus, El Torito, Tony Roma's, Benihana, and Red Lobster. Also, the Radisson has a \$7 breakfast special for Cal-Stewart guests and a \$16 Prime Rib dinner special on Saturday night.

### **THE BIG TRAIN SHOW, JUNE 2-3, 2012**

The Ontario Convention Center will be hosting the annual edition of **THE BIG TRAIN SHOW** on June 2 & 3, 2012. This Meet features an all-gauge selling train show, operating train layouts, manufacturers & retailer exhibit booths, free clinics, raffles to benefit the American Legion, a Train Ride, Drawing contest, and more. The SWD plans to attend and will have a booth there to promote Cal-Stewart 2012. This will give us a chance to get a feel for the new facility.

### **THE 2012 RALPH JOHNSON MEMORIAL DISPLAY: DICK MAYER – FINE TOY TRAIN MAKER**

The recent passing of John Richard "Dick" Mayer on April 13<sup>th</sup> has caused the 2012 Cal-Stewart Committee to recommend a change in the theme of the 2012 Ralph Johnson Memorial Display from Lionel Standard Gauge to **Dick Mayer – Fine Toy Train Maker**. For those who did not know of him, Dick Mayer was a master tool and die maker who had a shop in Escondido in Southern California and manufactured many tinsplate trains and repair parts, both as reproduction of Ives, American Flyer, and Lionel, and entirely new creations along the lines of the Classic Tinsplate prewar trains. He manufactured many of the early Cal-Stewart fundraising items we sold before we went to K-Line, MTH, and Lionel. His company was called The Richart Company, and his products are marked "TRC" or a stylized version of these letters. He also manufactured the products of Sirus & Varney, and John Daniel. In the last few weeks I have become acquainted with some of his amazing products, and I can assure you that this display will please everyone who sees it.

Look for more information on 2012 Cal-Stewart Ontario in other articles in this and upcoming issues of *The Southwestern Limited*.

**Please support Southwestern by continuing your Membership, recruiting new Members, buying our souvenir cars, and attending our monthly Meets and Cal-Stewart. As always, hugs to all, and run your trains often.**

**Larry Pearson, President**