

Collecting With Marx

Volume 1 Issue 2 December, 1994



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AD DEADLINES:	FOR ISSUE
NOVEMBER 5 -----	DECEMBER
JANUARY 5 -----	FEBRUARY
MARCH 5 -----	APRIL
MAY 5 -----	JUNE
JULY 5 -----	AUGUST
SEPTEMBER 5 -----	OCTOBER

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LOUIS MARX
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NEW YORK 10, N. Y.

Happy Holidays to each and every one of you! As we are in the midst of the holiday season it's truly thrilling to be a MARX collector. Memories from my childhood dominate my thinking this time year and much of my spare time is spent in my train room.

I can't help reminiscing of my first train set in 1963. The local Sears store was decked out for Christmas and anything and everything that a kid could want was available. Santa Claus was set up in "Toyland" and lines to visit with him were all the way around the room on a given Saturday afternoon before Christmas. By the way my first set was a 490 with four very common cars, but it was my first set and it was the best set you could have on that particular Christmas day. (See front cover)

Since our first newsletter we've been to the big TCA train meet at York, PA and visited with many toy train enthusiasts from around the world. We have had many suggestions and compliments. We'll be growing leaps and bounds in 1995 so if you know a collector that would enjoy our newsletter please tell them about it!

I hope you enjoy this issue of "Collecting With Marx". It's full of articles and information that will enhance your collecting and bring you closer to the hobby we all enjoy. Read and enjoy it and be ready to ask questions, answer questions and add to what is here.

I want to say in closing that I feel, especially at this time of year, very fortunate to be in a country where we are free to do the things we enjoy. I also feel very fortunate to have the collecting friends I have met through the years. Don't forget where it all comes from and in the words of the Reverend Robert C. Whitacre "This book is for those who appreciate that they are the custodians of a wonderful moment of history".

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Marx Clauser

I would like to add here that it is very important at this point that you continue to tell your friends and acquaintances to try a subscription to "COLLECTING WITH MARX". Also thanks to all who sent in cartoons, articles, advice, names, photos and set numbers. It is very evident that now is the time for our newsletter, and you are going to make happen!

There are rumors of a new MARX price guide and I would like to here from you what needs to happen in it! Send me your concerns as to what you would like to see happen from descriptions to prices. Also if you have a piece or pieces that should be in the guide submit them. I personally would like to see more on English MARX.



We have had many requests for a question and answer column. Please send in any questions you may have about Marx toys or trains.

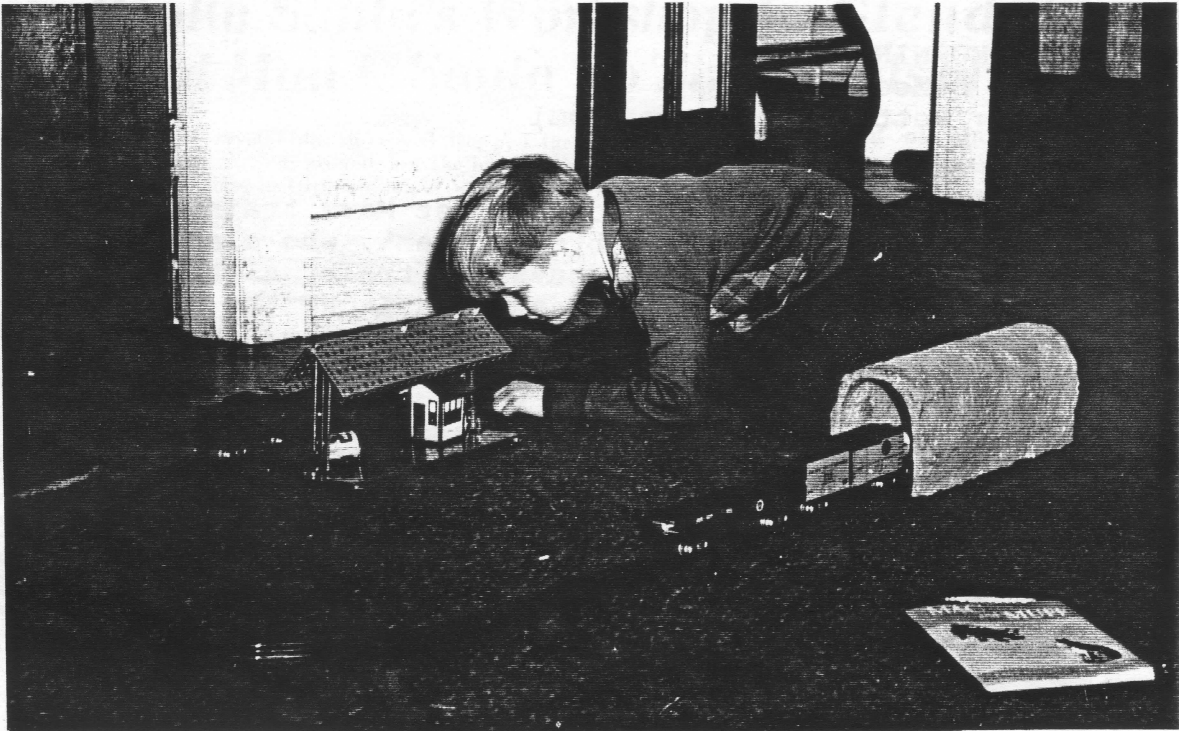
MY FIRST TWO MARX TRAIN SETS

By: FRED B. FILLERS

With Christmas coming on I was thinking about my first, actually second, Marx train set. I say second because my first, set came from Santa Claus when I was about three or four years old in about 1941 or 1942. It was a windup Commodore Vanderbilt set with tank car, gondola, and some other car which I cannot remember, and caboose. When I was about five years old, while my mom was hanging out clothes, I took my dad's hammer and completely flattened engine, tender, cars and track. I do not remember my punishment, but I do remember some good coming from it. About this time my dad broke his leg in three places and I can still see him pushing the straightened out main spring from the flattened engine down inside his full leg cast to relieve the itching he had because of the cast and hot, muggy summer weather we sometimes have here in Arkansas. This impulsive act of vandalism does not truly reflect my lifelong love of trains.

I received my second Marx set Christmas 1944. My forgiving parents felt by this time I had learned my lesson and had now matured enough at age six to be a responsible owner of a real, honest to goodness, electric train. The only trouble was that in 1944 there were no electric trains. All the train makers were now producing war materials with World War II in full swing. Even Santa Claus, with all his connections, was plumb out of trains. In desperation, and with Christmas getting near, my parents contacted all their friends with older kids to see if any of them had a used train set that their kids didn't play with anymore. Eureka! A friend of my mothers had a fine, boxed Marx Canadian Pacific set that her older son had lost interest in, now being at the age to prefer girls. Well, just in time for Christmas, they picked it up, and Christmas morning, just as Santa would have done if he had had one, they had it running around the Christmas tree just like in photos we have all seen. No photos of this one though, as film was also in short supply in 1944. That scene, even though fifty years ago, is still fresh in my mind. Heading the train was a shiny 3000 black, red and copper Canadian Pacific engine, tender and long train of cars, as the previous owner had added extra cars to the basic set. There was a large circle which was made up of regular Marx track and two lengths of flexi-track that had also been added to the set. Fifty years later I can still hear the sound of those tin cars rattling across the flexi-track with all its joints. I can still see the train running around the Christmas tree with its many colored lights. The room lights were out and the headlight of the engine was shining around the room. Shear magic!

Well, I learned my lesson well, and took very good care of this, my second train set, and ran it many miles until late 1949 when we moved to California. When we arrived and settled into our new house my train was not there. My parents were forced to get rid of a lot of things before we moved and unbeknown to me my train had stayed in Arkansas. Well, I started saving my lawn mowing money and, in late 1950, I bought myself a Lionel Scout train set-but that's another story and can never match my memories of my first and second set of Marx trains.



The Christmas Grass Is Always Greener
by Lee Reynolds
87-26547

In 1947, when I was six, a good friend close to my own age lived just up the street. We both got trains that Christmas, and I opened mine on Christmas Eve. I got a Marx scale set, and I was delighted with it because the engine and all the cars were metal--and beautifully colored metal at that. Moreover, the train made a satisfactory jingling sound as it rolled and swayed its way around the track.

On Christmas afternoon, my buddy dropped by. He was heartsick. He had received an extremely nice O gauge train of a different, highly-recognized brand, but its heavy cars were made of dull, lifeless plastic. In his eyes, they hardly compared to my colorful metal ones. Moreover, my Marx engine sped around the track all day without getting tired while his much larger and heavier engine pulled the track up when it entered a curve and flopped over upon its side on the rug.

The clincher for us both was my beautiful yellow PFE refrigerator car. Neither one of us could stop looking at its bright color and fine detail.

My friend hesitated, shuffled his feet, cleared his throat, then blurted out, "If you'll swap train sets with me, I'll let you ride my bicycle for a week."

I didn't yet have a bicycle. A bicycle in 1947 was serious business--it was a major freedom machine to a boy and an item much desired. I didn't want his train set, nice as it was, but I did think a bit about that bike.

"No, thanks," I finally replied. "I'll keep my train set, but come over when you can and you can play with it all you want to."

That's how we worked it out. He played at my house with my Marx set and wound up letting me ride his bike as well.

It was a good Christmas for us both, but even today I think Louis Marx would be gratified to discover that two boys who knew nothing about brand names instinctively preferred his less expensive but highly appealing scale set over one made by his justifiably famous competition.

Construction Camp

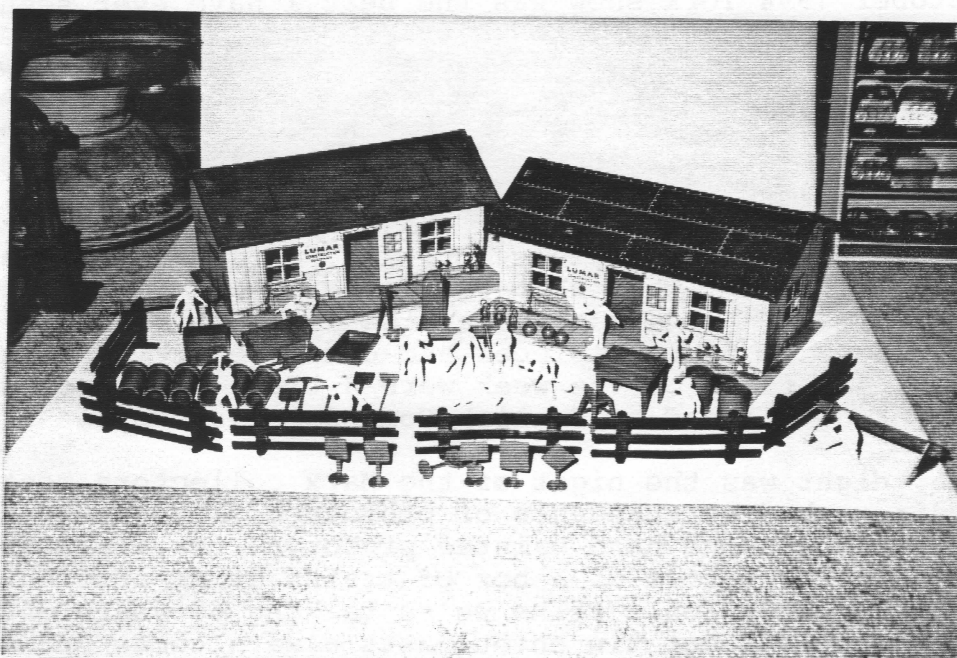
The year was 1954 and the full-color Sears, Roebuck & Co. Christmas catalogue was out. Every kid that had access to this catalogue had the toys of his or her choice circled and highlighted in hopes Santa would be watching. You see one way to let people know what children wanted was to go through the Sears, Roebuck & Co. Christmas catalogue.

Among the 9 playsets offered in 1954 was the Marx Construction Camp playset and judging from the number of sets that survived, it was a very popular set. The first set offered was the one with all plastic machinery. It included a low boy trailer with a combination dozer, a grader, a truck and trailer and all kinds of road blocks, construction workers, tools, furniture and accessories. The camp office building was included in each set and it is unique to this set. They were made with two different colored roofs one black and one red. Both had the stove pipe chimney and were yellow in color outside.

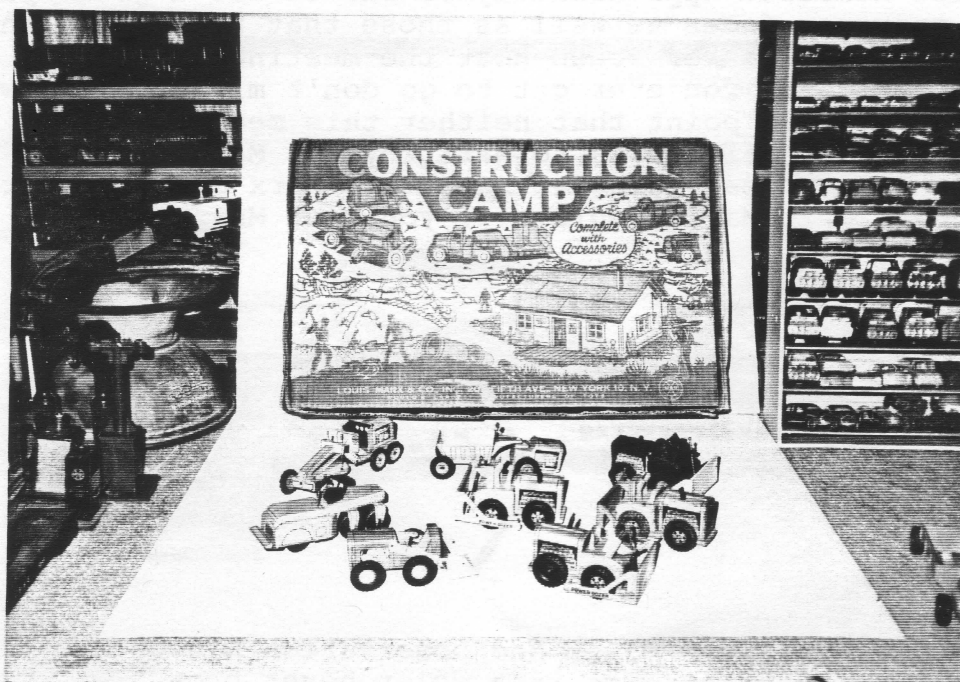
In 1955 the set was changed to include some Linemar tin lithographed machinery. Bull dozer, backhoe and a steam roller were included with many of the plastic pieces. These tin lithographed pieces were very nice and weren't as easy to tear up. They have become quite collectible today and one could expect to pay from \$10.00 to \$200.00 for them in various condition.

This set was featured in the Sears, Roebuck & Co. catalogue for 4 years and brought many hours of play to those fortunate enough to have one. The set today (depending on which one you own) has sold recently for as much as \$470.00. This is one set that is still out there!





Two variations of Lumar Construction Company building. (left red roof-right black roof). (Below) Tin lithographed vehicles imported for use in the combination sets and dime-store shelves. Colorful lithoed box.



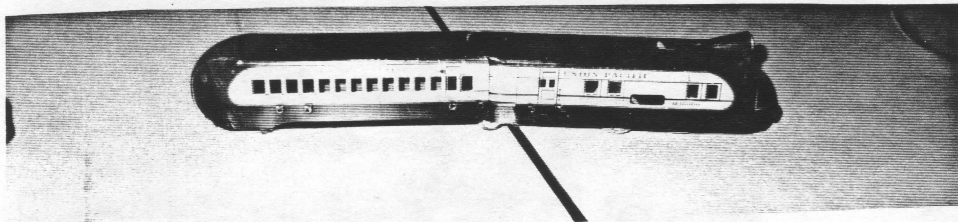
OCTOBER YORK SHOW REPORT

The October 1994 York show was the best I have ever seen in that there was more Marx than I have ever seen anywhere. The two days prior to the TCA meet were a spectacular Indian Summer weatherwise and it seemed like there was Marx on every table. Attendance was very good and people were spending like they did about 5 years ago, possibly a bit more cautiously but people brought money to spend.

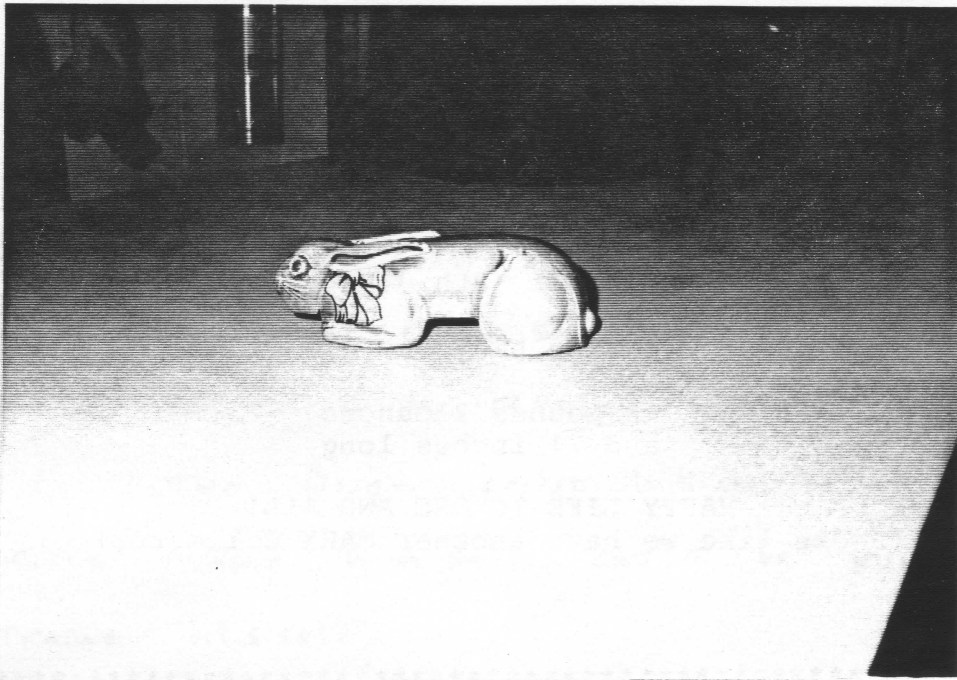
If you are in the market for Marx plastic there were but a few pieces not available at this event. It would be much easier to say what wasn't there than what was. There was a milk tank car, an ordinance boxcar, a Mohawk set, Cape Canaveral and on and on. I personally found several 6" pieces and completed 2 number series I needed. My best finds of the week were a black 6" NYC tender with blue rivet detail and an English Commodore Vanderbilt windup engine.

Thursday night was the night of the Marx collectors meeting and once again we had an abundance of prototype pieces show up. My favorite piece was the hand painted prototype for the Bunny Train. Found in the bottom of a box of trains at an auction, it was in very nice condition. Folks we're talking 60 years of being in junk boxes! One of our tin enthusiasts always comes up with something spectacular. This time Bob Rosenberg brought some trucks. These were large trucks and found side by side at a flea market were two similar Marx trucks one of which was a prototype. Also found was an Army truck with a load of affixed flat tin soldiers in the bed. Also, I'm sure it's his pride and joy, was a fire truck with the very rarely seen flat tin firemen riding on the sides. Folks it's those that never let their guard down that find the good stuff! Also Triplett Riley brought some beautiful prototype pieces that anybody would give their right arm for.

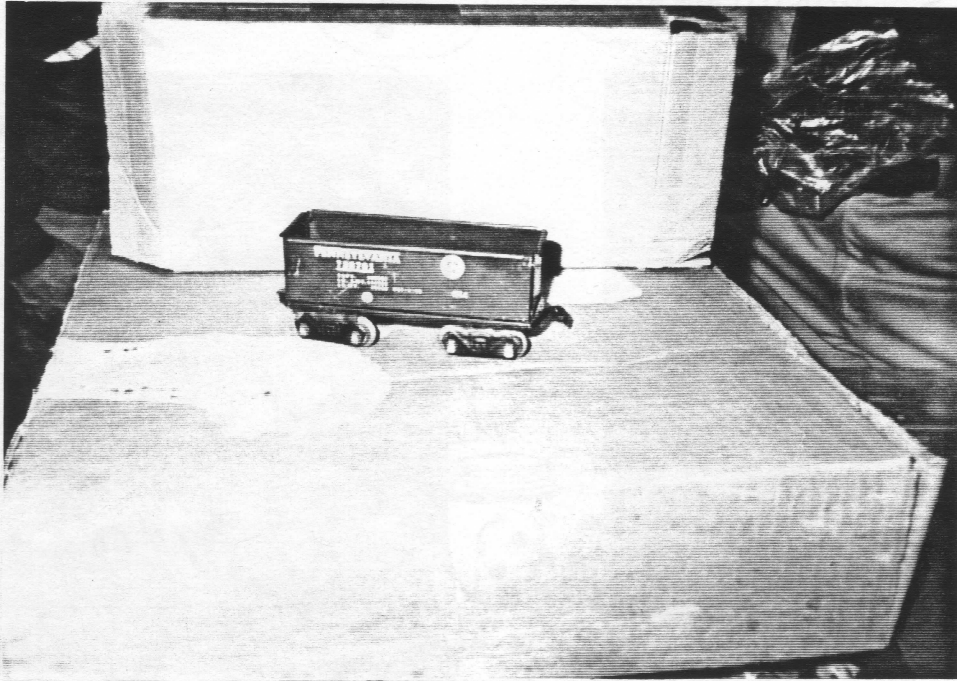
The crowd numbered approximately 75 and it was a great pleasure to see many new faces as well as those that never miss this event. John Fox and Tasker Brush host the meeting every York meet and do a fine job. If you ever get to go don't miss it. We would like to stress at this point that neither this meeting nor this newsletter have any affiliation to Marx Toys or Marx Trains. This newsletter is the closest thing we have to a Marx club. Our readers are the hard core Marx people. If you want Marx read Collecting With Marx!



A black and silver power and observation M10000. This prototype pair are in a color never produced but would have been very attractive.



The Bunny Express prototype. Found in a junk box, this prototype was in excellent condition (above). (Below) One of the 6" high side brown gondolas that are very much in demand today.



CONGRATULATIONS AND HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

TO

LARRY AND JENNIFER CHERNOW

upon the birth of

STEVEN WILLIAM CHERNOW

on

November 18th, 1994

a fine baby boy at

10 pounds 2 ounces
and 21 inches long

HAPPY LIFE TO ONE AND ALL!

(Looks like we have another MARX Collector)

THE TIN PLATE COLLECTOR



Be sure to send your uncatalogued MARX set numbers to "COLLECTING WITH MARX! Tell your friends about "COLLECTING WITH MARX"!"

Dear editer -

I seen Mr Flynns artical on MARX
"inside out" so Looked inside some of mine.
THE gray coal car I just got at Flee
Market looked good one to Try first
cause condition Not so Good. So I open
it up. I think Mr. FLYNN right.

The finger print inside belong To
Lewis Marx him self cause he BUILT
Trains hi's self.

I like Marx TRIANS lots and I
now have lots of TRIANS to.

Bubba Mc Noodle

Lilburn, Ga



Marx grey coal car



Finger print inside coal car

BUY-SELL-TRADE

WANTED

6" C&NW Boxcar #51998 orange; 6" State of Maine Boxcar #4500; 7" PRR Boxcars, solid doors #37952 and #37955; Monon BRIGHT red 4 wheel caboose; Monon TUSCAN red 8 wheel caboose. Dick MacNary 4727 Alpine Drive, Lilburn, GA. 30247. 404-972-5894.

6" Boxcars: BL&E-Brown with Yellow lettering, Red with Yellow Lettering, SSW-Orange; Sears Trailer load; Joy Line Cast Iron Electric; Commodore Vanderbilt: Green, Silver; 551 NYC Tenders: Silver, Gray, Black with Blue Rivets & Letters. Larry Chernow 12 Newmarket Rd, Syosset NY. 11791. 516-496-8422.

Affordable Bunny Train. M10,000's: Maroon Observation/M10,005 Coupling, Maroon w/u Engine, Green Engine, Electric Brown/yellow set, Olive/yellow coach and Buffet. ANY English or Canadian. Gary Anderson, Box 143, Stephen, MN. 56757. 218-478-2711

Roof and Boiler Front for a Joyline #350 Engine. Good or Better. Robert W. Thomas, 549 Elizabeth St., Fremont, Ohio. 43420. 419-332-4033.

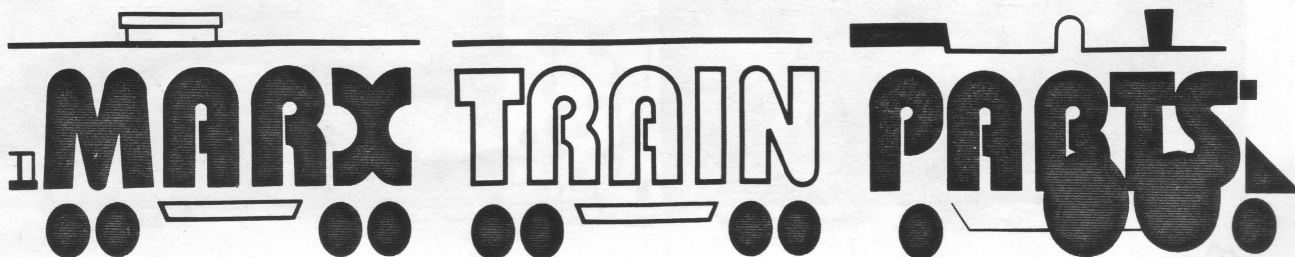
6" Wheel Car; 6" Blue observation; Red C.P. Engine and Tender. G.A. (Oly) Olson, 8254 N.E. 143 Rd Pl, Bothell, WA. 98011. 206-8238090.

Scale flat car #2700 without the stakes. Al Woodward, 6440 31st St NW, Washington, DC. 20015-2342.

FOR SALE

Marx Accessories, Sets, and Trains from recent purchases. Some H.O. and some very clean scale. Approx ten pages due Jan 4th, 1995. Send LSSAE with 52¢ postage. Diesel Horns 2/for \$1.00. John Fox, 14502 Homan Ave, Midlothian, IL. 60445. After 6pm 708-396-0833.

Very Nice Joyline: Venice Gondola, Contractor Dump Car #354, Everful Tank Car #353, Hobo Rest #355, Eagle Eye Cab. All on Black Frames, 95.00 each. Hobo Rest and Eagle Eye Cab. Blue Frames. \$150.00 Each. Mary Jane Carver, 305 Buford Avenue, Gettysburg, PA. 17325.



Robert Grossman 857 E. 237th St. Euclid, Ohio 44123 (216) 261-0531



Collecting With Marx
 P.O. Box 614
 Springfield, MO 65801-0614
 1-417-833-3840

WANTED

Tin flat for #5 tank, Brown 6" St. Louis Southwestern boxcar, Brown highside gondola and several number series cars. Plastic light blue side dump car exc C-9 or better and 588 dummy engine. English Green Link, Blue Coronation and Red set.

FOR SALE

Ordinance boxcar	C-9	400.00	Black Commodore with hood	C-7	30.00
Orange flat green tractors	C-9	250.00	Red and silver 90171 Bessimer	C-8	50.00
L+N gondola brown	C-10	300.00	Same but minus 1 door	C-6	25.00
B+O blue caboose	C-8	250.00	Yellow Bessimer 90171 no doors	C-7	30.00
Missouri Pacific Set	C-10	325.00	UP 3824 brown frame	C-8	30.00
ATSF yellow red gray 1977	C-10	30.00	Same caboose	C-6	15.00
Black 1998	C-10	80.00	2071 coach	C-8	30.00
1829 Minus 1 rod	C-9	45.00	Merchandise service 37963	C-8	15.00
Red Cape Canaveral tender	C-8	75.00	Cable reel car empty reel	C-8	30.00
Sante Fe bay window caboose	C-8	30.00	Stake bed truck no grill or whl	C-7	75.00
Army 2246 flat original lds	C-6	40.00	Milk truck broken grill	C-4	30.00
Erie Black 51170 deluxe	C-10	15.00	Milk truck repaint no grill	C-8	30.00
UP 3900 caboose	C-9	10.00	Montclair lited coach	C-8	45.00
Bessimer tender + caboose	C-6	30.00	554 red 8-wheel frame	C-7	30.00
Red ATSF 4427 caboose	C-10	20.00	554 red 4-wheel frame	C-6	20.00
Erie 4528 red tractors	C-10	30.00	553 red 8-wheel frame	C-7	30.00
Bessimer tender	C-8	15.00	553 red 4-wheel frame	C-5	15.00
PFE 43461 white boxcar	C-9	15.00	556 red 8-wheel frame	C-6	20.00
Gulf orange tank	C-9	20.00	Yellow + blue serv sta minus dr	C-8	40.00
NIAX 256 3/16	C-9	20.00	#0899 accessory set	Mint	45.00
Pacemaker 174580 box	C-9	15.00	Floor train engine + coach	C-7	50.00
Pacemaker 174580 box no riv	C-8	20.00	999 closed spoke engine	C-8	55.00

If you are interestd in MARX race cars or Marx HO trains, send SASE for list. Specify which you are interested in.



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Happy Holidays

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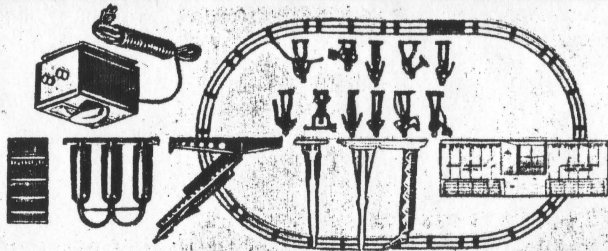
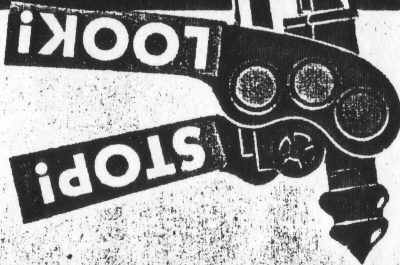


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TYPEWRITERS Sales & Service
CHRISTMAS ITEMS



Now's the time to
...and Lay away a Train Set!

Exciting 6-Unit Cape Canaveral Express
1988
Completely equipped rocket launching center adds hours of fun and enjoyment to the big, powerful 6-unit missile train. Diesel switcher pulls two rocket-firing missile cars, operating searchlight, gondola, tank car and caboose. Big 50-watt transformer included. EC1002



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