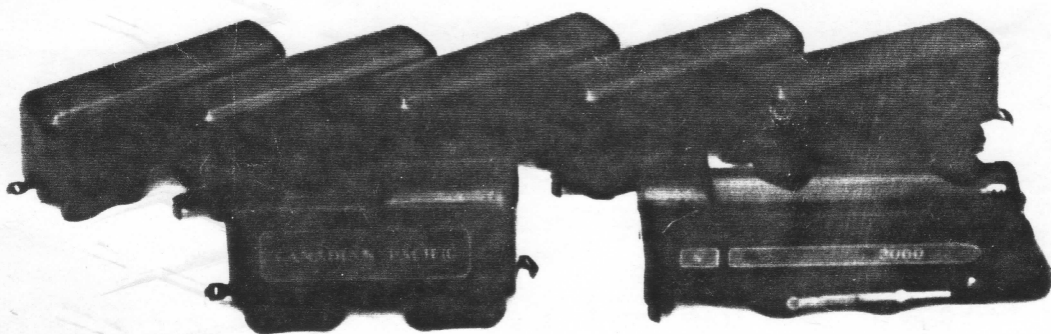


COLLECTING WITH MARX

Issue 11

JUNE 1996



ON THE COVER... Two of my favorite sets. At the top is a 4 wheel windup CP set listed in this issue under sets, and my 8 wheel set listed in Bob Whitacre's set book.

COLLECTING WITH MARX

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Here is Louis Marx riding his MARX "Lightning Express" from the late 30's early 40's. And a photo of him pulling his MARX pull toy. The engine/tender is blue, the gondola is yellow and the caboose is red.

Hello everybody! It's been a very exciting past two months for this MARX collector. I have landed what may be one of the most hard-to-find and most desirable, regular production MARX sets known to MARXdom. No I wasn't looking for it. Word of mouth brought it to my doorstep. I wish I could say I made a great buy on it but I can't. It was quite pricey. The set is number 1473W listed in this issue and photographed on the cover of this issue. It is one of my favorite sets and looks absolutely great on my shelf. The engine is probably the most uncommon of all, a CP reversible windup.

I also came up with a four wheel plastic set with a baking powder 400 engine and a Burlington trailer with the sign board lithoed right on the side. This set is also listed in this issues uncatalogued sets section.

I can't say that I have been in a collecting frenzy, however, because things have been rather slow at shows and my local hobby shop. Some collectors across the country are reporting very little action and others are reporting multiple purchases.

Larry VanHorn has reported three very beautiful and exciting sets. I would like to encourage all of you to report what you are finding so that we can make a permanent record for future collectors to enjoy.

Jim and Debby Flynn of MARX Trains have announced the Southern Pacific engine and tender to be released as a pair exclusively through TTOS for the annual convention. I personally am excited and looking forward to ordering mine as I have both pair of cars previously released throught TTOS. This will be a very attractive 6 piece set and a very nice effort on the part of "new" MARX Trains. This set I believe will become one of the more desirable sets from new MARX Trains because I believe the first two cars may have been "sleepers." No pun intended!

Larry Chernow reports good response to the video advertised in the last issue. I would like to encourage you to buy one. Many people around the country have purchased it.

Also, please don't hesitate to send your free for sale ad of 35 words or less. This is a free subscriber only ad that you may send for every issue on or before the 10th of the month before due issue. If you wish to advertise on a larger scale follow the guidelines inside front cover and don't forget your check.

For the most part I get nothing but compliments on "Collecting With MARX" but frankly put I can't please everybody all the time. I want your input both verbally and on paper. Some people like some-things and not others. If we were all alike we wouldn't have any fun so with your input I will do this thing the best I know how.

Thanks to those of you who continually support "Collecting With MARX" with ads, letters, articles, cartoons (Fred) and on the phone. You are all very encouraging and I thank you. It's all for the MARX community!

It was good to see Bob Thomas of Ohio (trying to invade my territory) in Kansas City on the 19th of May at the Mid America train meet.

Happy Collecting Everybody!

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THE MARX "COMMODORE VANDERBILT"

by Jim Bennett

Louis Marx should have made a fortune from the sale of his O-27 "Commodore Vanderbilt" steam locomotive, manufactured by his Louis Marx & Co. from 1934 through 1950. The engine's stamped steel shell required six different forming operations, and although the "Commodore" was never offered in other than a 0-4-0 wheel arrangement (certain models of the MarX "Canadian Pacific" locomotive were available in a 2-4-2 wheel arrangement), the "Commodore" came in a variety of colors, trim, with and without hand-rails, two different "fronts", lighted and un-lighted, and sometimes without side rods on the 4-wheel motor unit (either "mechanical" or "electric") which was attached to the shell with just two screws.

MarX's model, produced by the hundreds-of-thousands, beginning in the depression days of the '30's and lasting well into the fabulous '50's, was perhaps the most well known "toy" locomotive ever to appear in a catalog or appear on a dime-store counter. Included in "boxed" MarX sets, it pulled a variety of cars, from the early "six-inch" lithographed freight and passenger cars with their "Joy-Line" couplers, to the later variety with more colorful lithography and their tab-and-slot or plastic couplers. The "Commodore Vanderbilt" **could** (and probably **did**) pull anything the MarX factory produced and boxed!

The MarX model was based on New York Central's J-1E 4-6-4 "Hudson" locomotive No. 5344 (built by the American Locomotive Company in 1931) which had been pulled from regular service by the railroad to emerge from the West Albany Shops in December 1934, as America's first streamlined steam locomotive, fitted with a "shroud" and named to honor "Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt", the New York Central System's fabled president of the eighteen-hundreds. NYC's concept of "streamlining" was to completely cover the engine so that the outside world would have no idea there was a steam locomotive underneath. Quoting from author Al Staufer's "STEAM POWER OF THE NEW YORK CENTRAL SYSTEM--VOL. 1" -- "*The toy makers had a field day with this particular streamlining and reproduced it by the hundreds of thousands*". Lionel's die-cast version of the "Commodore Vanderbilt" was produced in O-Gauge as a 2-4-2 locomotive, also as a lower-cost "Winner Lines" 0-4-0 locomotive. Certainly Louis MarX could rightly claim his share of this record to immortalize the prototype NYC No. 5344-!

MarX's "Commodore Vanderbilt" was identified as numbers (232) "windup" and (597) "electric". Two types of shroud fronts were used, the earlier one was rounded; the later was more flat; (some were "chrome-plated") both used a separate headlite ring, although a hood-visor was sometimes used. A metal "Commodore Vanderbilt" name-

plate was usually affixed to the sides with a "NYC" oval name-plate fastened to the front. However, some engines appeared with "Commodore Vanderbilt" rubber-stamped on the locomotive's sides, and some appeared with no marking whatsoever! "Red" plastic inserts (for the headlight lamp to show through) were used in smokestacks on "electric" locomotives; "mechanical" locomotives sometimes featured a "sparkler" mechanism with open smokestack to create a "thrilling & realistic, yet safe operation".

Early "Commodore Vanderbilts" came with a "swing-peg coupler" to match the "Joy-Line" couplers of the early six-inch cars, but this was soon changed to the standard tab and slot coupler with the later cars. The locomotives came in a variety of color schemes. Black was predominant, followed by Gray, Red, Green, Silver and (during World War II days) Army OD (Olive). Coupled to any of MarX's many and varied tenders, the "Commodore Vanderbilt" was always at home and capable of doing its job!

Today, whenever and wherever MarX Locomotives and Trains are mentioned the "Commodore Vanderbilt" comes to mind. Collectors seize upon its durable stamped steel shell at every opportunity to see what can be done to restore this ageless engine and give it "new life" either upon the shelf or on the layout.

Commodore Vanderbilt Remote Controlled Electric Train Set



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The summer season is upon us and the long winter nights are gone. Now the golf course beckons, the grass needs mowing, the kids want to go to the amusement park or a million and one other things interfere with our favorite pastime - collecting or playing with trains.

The summer season gives us an opportunity to do many things connected to our hobby that are not available during the winter.

First, we are traveling on vacation or business and have an opportunity to visit fellow collectors and hobbyists. Just remember to call ahead and make arrangements to visit. It is amazing how much one can learn just by seeing other collections and meeting face to face with telephone friends. I doubt that any of us have a comprehensive knowledge of the MARX train inventory and variations.

Seems, we can search for the elusive item that has escaped us for so long. On your weekend trips or vacations take along a list of the items you need and your price guide. Some places to look are: 1. antique shops. Often these are over priced but the better shops that advertise toys, trains, dolls, etc., may have that one item you need. On the really rare items, what sounds like a high price to the dealer may be a real bargain to you. 2. Antique Malls. These offer the advantage of many dealers looking for items to make a quick profit. It gives you many more eyes and heads searching for trains. Be sure to look on the floor, in boxes, behind other items. Trains seem to get hidden in the clutter of the flea market stall. 3. Combination craft, antique, decorator malls. Again - an unlikely place but one of the best buys my wife has made came from a craft shop. 4. Train shops. Most of us overlook these as a source of MARX because they traditionally did not bother with MARX. Today, they deal in MARX trains but many of them do not study MARX as they do the other lines. There are many mis-identified and mis-priced MARX on the shelves of the shops. Take a look - you may find a rare surprise. 5. Garage sales. Once a real treasure trove, there are still items to be found. 6. Auctions. You may get lucky. You may be the only person there that knows what the train is, what it is worth or the only one that wants it. A lot of good buys are made at estate auctions that only list toys, etc. 7. Finally there are the train shows that go on thru the summer, but attendance drops because everyone is out doing other things. When sales are down the dealers are more likely to negotiate a bargain price.

CARMARX wishes you good hunting and hopes you find the buy of a lifetime, or the price you really need. Let "Collecting With MARX" hear about your finds. -- James Norton.



THE MAGICAL MECHANICAL SMOKING 400 ENGINE

By: Harry & Lori Coons

It was a typical day -- rainy-foggy-smoky -- as Dr. Marxson, watched out his window, at a man across the street -- looking up at the street lamp sign -- which read "Main St." he slowly crossed over to the side where -- Dr. Marxson's -- flat was -- soon -- a knock on the door -- Marxson opened the door -- the man he had watched across the street -- stepped into his study -- my problem is! -- Marxson cut him off -- allow me! --He said -- the man was holding a locomotive in his hand -- I see -- you have a mechanical -- smoking -- 400 there -- amazing! -- Dr. How did you know? By the white powder on your hands and sleeves!

"Odd - unusual - different"?! Type of smoke unit -- to say the least! Then why -- simplicity/cost? -- No wires! No pills! No oil! -- Oh well guess we'll never know why, was the electrical unit under development, but a long way off? -- Bet nobody else -- built one quite like this one -- that uses "baking powder".

A mechanical smoke unit -- great idea -- for a wind-up train -- in 1952 -- and at sears to boot! Followed by Allied toy dist, in 1953 -- they also cataloged -- mechanical engine with smoke for only \$3.00. -- But the mystery is -- who sold -- and what year? -- The mechanical smoke/electric motor version? -- Was it -- Allied toy -- Wards -- Grants -- Spiegels -- Kresges -- Penneys -- Murphys -- Woolworths -- Western Auto -- Just who then?

Going through available paper catalogs and bugging good friends -- The years 1959-60 --come out as to when! But -- Who? -- well! -- This is still the mystery!

I've been told it also comes in -- mechanical 490 and 401 version -- I haven't personally seen them -- so keep scanning the tables and junk boxes -- They're out there -- Keep looking!

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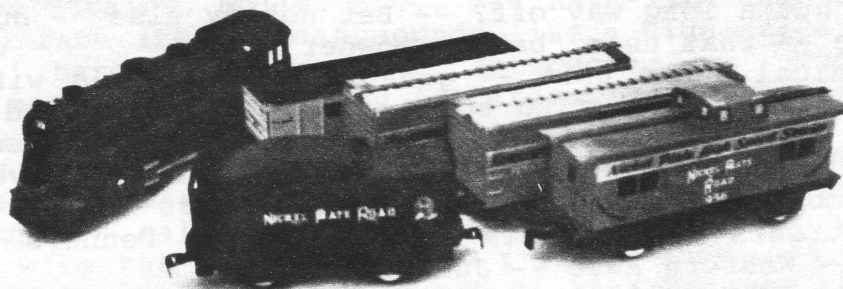


MARX SETS CONTINUED....

This time we have reported some very exciting and interesting sets. Larry VanHorn sends pictures of three set he is most proud of.

Larry I don't believe that these sets are promotional or special production. However, I do believe that they are very desirable. Especially the one you call "your pride and joy". Until now unreported, this two set, very large, Happi-time set is not one that you see at your local show or shop on a regular basis. I believe it is regular production but obviously not many have survived. I like the set #14950 because of the very unusual tab and slot couplers on the eight wheel plastic cars.

I love Irene Foster's set which includes numerous accessories. Photographed here is a sampling of what some of these sets look like. Enjoy!



Set number 9912 W. Hiteshew collection.

CHAPTER III

2524 Steam Freight Set 1

Locomotive: 401 black battery.

Tender: 3551 UP.

Tank Car: 19847 Sinclair black.

Caboose: 3824 UP Yel & brown.

Track: #501 027 2 rail metal straight track two, 502 curved track eight.

(Robbins collection)

4012 Same as reported before with a different boxcar.

Boxcar: 4491 BAR State of Maine.

(D. Ogan collection)

4612 Steam Freight Set 2

Locomotive: 400 black.

Tender: 1951 black, NYC.

Boxcar: State of Maine.

Gondola: 91257 brown.

Caboose: 20102 NYC.

IS-70. IS-282.

(I. Foster Collection)

CHAPTER IV

15000 Steam Freight Set 3

Locomotive: 3000 2-4-2 gray boiler.

Tender: 461 blue sideboards yellow letters.

Gondola: 552 green.

Hopper: 554 NP blue

Tank Car: 553 bullet ends.

Caboose: 556 NYC.

Cars have one way auto couplers, and black frames. Set also includes 410 searchlight, 2 ele. swithes, 1605 uncoupler, 5 button control panel, and track. #729 transformer.

(B. Burgio collection)

CHAPTER V

9912 Steam Freight Set 5

Locomotive: 999, rivet top and bottom of pilot.

Tender: 6" Nickel Plate Road.

Boxcar: Mer. Service. Sliding doors. (2).

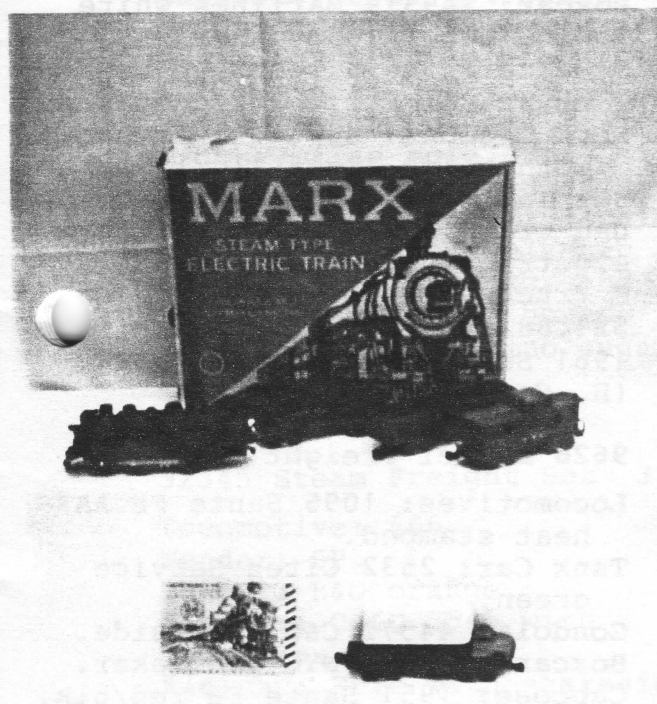
Gondola: Wabash.

Caboose: 956 Nickel Plate Road. Box brown with red print.

(W. Hiteshew collection)



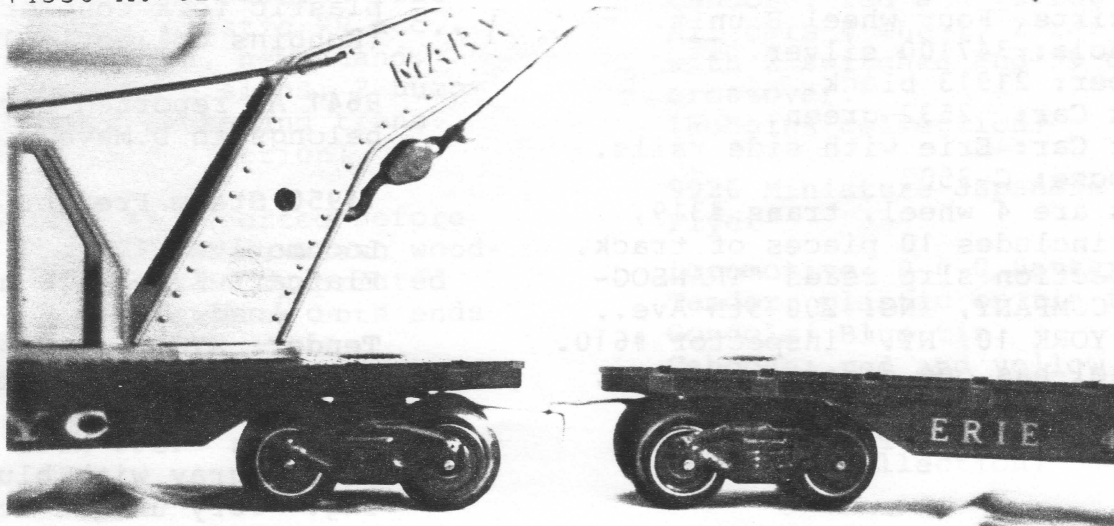
Unnumbered Combo set from L. VanHorn collection.



Set number 14350 M. Claussen collection.



Set number 14950 L. VanHorn collection.



CHAPTER VI

25334 Steam Freight Set 2

Locomotive: 999 .
Tender: 951 NYC.
Crane Car: 3550 NYC gray plastic.
Flat Car: 33773 B&M lumber load.
Gondola: 254000 B&O gray.
Caboose: 20102 NYC.
All cars have PKC, 1229 trans.
Eight curved, 4 straight track
and one uncoupler sign.
(G. Phillips collection)

CHAPTER VII

4310 Steam Freight Set 2

Locomotive: 490 black, white
stripe. Double reduction,
light and chug-chug sound.
Tender: 1951 NYC w/white stripe.
Boxcar: 467110 B&O red.
Gondola: 715100 NYC blue.
Caboose: NYC pacemaker orange.
Set includes 10 sections of
track, 50 wt. 1209 trans, 6
telephone poles and 34 piece
cardboard village. All cars
PKC.
(H. Coons collection)

4522 Steam Freight Set 1

Locomotive: 400.
Tender: NYC black.
Cattle Car. 13975 brown.
Gondola: 347100 gray.
Caboose: NYC red.
Set has knuckle couplers,
track, #319 trans, and box
is woodgrain w/brown lettering.
(T. Valis collection)

8550 Diesel Freight Set 3

Locomotive: Monon A with black
skirts. Four wheel B unit.
Gondola: 347100 silver.
Hopper: 21913 black.
Tank Car: 2532 green.
Flat Car: Erie with side rails.
Caboose: C-350.
Cars are 4 wheel, trans #319,
Set includes 10 pieces of track.
Inspection slip reads "TRANSOG-
RAM COMPANY, INC. 200 5th Ave.,
NEW YORK 10, NY." inspector #610.
Diesel has one direction motor.
Set was distributed by Wards.
(G. Phillips collection)

14350 Steam Freight Set 3

Locomotive: 400 with baking
powder ball.
Tender: NYC
Gondola: 347100 gray.
Flat Car: Erie with burlington
trailer lithoed on trailer,
red cab.
Caboose: NYC tuscan.
Set includes track and trans
in a box that is cream with red
print and black steam engine.
(M. Claussen collection)

CHAPTER VIII

9621 Diesel Freight Set 2

Locomotive: 1998 UP switcher
with traction tires.
Boxcar: 249319 Marlines white
with man in door.
Stockcar: 54099 red with cow.
Flatcar: electric log dump Erie
Work Caboose: 4586 UP, tuscan
with black light.
Set includes 12 pieces of road
bed track, uncoupler, platform,
electric dump, trans #1239, and
F trucks. Price sticker read
\$21.88 from sears is shown in
1961 Sears catalog at \$19.88.
(H. Coons collection)

9626 Diesel Freight Set 1

Locomotives: 1095 Sante Fe AA
heat stamped.
Tank Car: 2532 Cites Service
green.
Gondola: 44572 C&O high side.
Boxcar: 174580 NYC pacemaker.
Caboose: 1951 Sante Fe red/blk.
Trans #1249, 15 pieces of track
and uncouple here sign all cars
on high steel type D trucks and
plastic fork couplers.
(Robbins collection)

9641 As reported earlier set
belongs to D.Meyers collection.

14950 Steam Freight Set 3

Locomotive: 400 .
Flatcar: Erie 4528 no clips
no load.
Tender: NYC.
Crane Car: NYC black pastic
base cray crane.
Caboose: 4546 NYC.
Box is gray with blue letter-
ing. Very unique set with

stamped steel side frames
and tab and slot couplers.
(L. VanHorn collection)

26259 Steam Freight Set 1

Locomotive: 999.
Tender: Santa Fe.
Boxcar: 147815 Rock Is.
Tank Car: 284 UTLX.
Caboose: Santa Fe. 4427.
Set possibly sold by Wards.
Reported by H. Coons.

32250 Steam Freight Set 1

Locomotive: 1666 2-4-0
Tender: NYC 961 slope.
Auto Carrier: SP maroon
with gray.
Tank Car: 2532 Cities Ser.
Caboose: 18326 NYC black white
and green.
Set includes #729 trans, #1320
bridge, #0442 derrick loader,
061 telephone poles, 2 street
lights, flag pole, road sign
with yellow frame, Glendale
station #3881 gray and yellow.
Set also includes plastic
figures platform acc. and
9 cardboard sample boxes
(razor blades, domino sugar
etc.).
(I. Foster collection)

52345 Steam Freight Set 3

Locomotive: 666.
Tender: SP.
Boxcar: B&O orange.
Flatcar: CB&Q 5545 with
gerder.
Flatcar: Erie with stakesides.
Gondola: Penn gray.
Caboose: SP red.
Set includes telephone poles,
2 street lamps, station plat-
form, 3 gray plastic RR acc.,
green billboard, newsstand,
2 uncouple here signs, 2 bump-
ers, liquid smoke and trans.
(L. VanHorn collection)

52352 Same as reported before
only with G trucks. Brown wood-
grain box originally printed
52324 overstamped on both ends
52352.
(Robbins collection)

CHAPTER XI

1473W Steam Passenger set 5

Locomotive: CP reversible wind-
up with maroon and gold side
plates gray boiler.
Tender: Maroon and gold with
smooth top.
Coaches: 246 Montreal, 248 Que-
bec, 252 Calgary, and 253 Ham-
ilton.
Set includes 2 rail track, metal
whistle and brown box with blue
lettering which reads Canadian
Pacific reversible mechanical
train. All cars 4 wheel.
(M. Claussen collection)

Unnumbered Combination Set 4

Locomotive: Santa Fe AA.
Coaches: Santa Fe half dome,
SF no dome, and SF observation.
Locomotive: 333.
Tender: NYC cast.
Boxcar: Rock Is red.
Tank Car: UTLX gray.
Hopper: Lehigh Valley black
and orange.
Caboose: 4427 SF red.
Set includes 2 electric switches
and control panel, 2 uncouple
here signs, 027 and 034 track,
2 ½ pieces of track all in a
large blue and white Happi-Time
double deck set box.
(L. VanHorn collection)

CHAPTER XII

**6209 Miniature Japanese "2 in 1
train set 2**

Locomotive: 0-6-0 battery plastic.
Tender: plastic on tin frame.
Gondola: blue tin.
Caboose: red and yellow tin.
All cars 4 wheel, 2 rail track
with 2 switches and 90 degree
crossover.
(Robbins collection)

**9926 Miniature Japanese "Western
Flyer" 2**

Locomotive: 0-6-0 Battery plastic.
Tender: plastic on tin frame.
Gondola: Blue tin.
Caboose: red and yellow tin.
All cars 4 wheel, 2 rail track
with 2 switches.
(Robbins Collection)

READERS WRITE....

I missed you at the just-passed York meet-hope all is well with you and you didn't miss due to health reasons. Found a few nice items there - an 8 wheel cannon car, #611 trestle extensions in OD, and a Popeye & Olive Oil handcar (minus the figures) at the giveaway price of \$35.00, but all and all what was there was either common as dirt or priced like the crown jewels. Took your list "test" on rare Marx. Hope all this info helps & turns into some nice articles! Keep up the good work! --Allan Miller.

Allan, It's getting harder and harder to get to all of the meets I would like to. I like that #611 trestle extension in OD. Nice find!

I enjoy your magazine & look forward to each issue. Perhaps it is me being at the wrong place at the wrong time but it appears that in general the "Marx pond" has dried up in my area. Not much luck at the local train shows. However, I did have the good fortune to finally purchase a friend's train collection. I had been going back & forth for 2½ years and finally came to terms. I was pleasantly surprised to find there were several Marx accessories in with all the other "Lionel" items. (I collect both). There were boxed items such as a non illuminated Oak Park & Girard stations, rotating beacon, boxed tunnel & a non boxed Grand Central Station.

I also picked up a set of 4 illuminated Santa Fe passenger cars at a flea market that go nicely with the new issue of the CP that I finally got from Sears. Keep up the good work. --George Kerle.

George -- I was just talking with another MARX collector about availability of MARX. Yes sometimes it does seem to be drying up. Keep looking!

Thanks for the advice to "keep looking", published in the last issue, and for the information on the light blue Seaboard gondola. As I explained, we went on vacation and took some time to look in the local antique shops. I found the light blue gondola and thought it had been on your list, which I had read just before leaving on vacation. The price seemed high to me and there was a Marx dump truck at an extremely good price, so I opted for the truck. After talking to you, we made a few phone calls and purchased the set.

Also interesting was that I pointed out to the owner that the set had an extra car in it that obviously did not belong. I was surprised when the set arrived, as the extra car had been replaced by a green Sinclair tanker. Both cars are great additions.

I checked your lists of uncommon cars and do not have any of the cars other than the Seaboard gondola. However, I have a few suggestions for future articles. I compared the dump truck I bought with the other one my wife bought for me and noted several differences. The axles and wheels are completely different, although one has the wheels on the outside, so I suspect that they have been replaced. Also the lines on the front grill of one are much thinner than the other's grill. Can someone describe what the original wheels, axles and front grills are suppose to look like?

The other suggestion is a continuation of the article about tenders in the April 1995 issue. Are there common tenders with unusual variations? For example I have a 4 wheel NYC wedge tender with T&S couplers and the extra ladder on the back. This may not be so unusual, as I understand that they assembled the cars with the parts they had on hand. However, the Marlines logo is only on one side. Did this occur often? --Dan Schmatz.

Dan-- Always glad to help a fellow collector ad a very uncommon piece to his collection, even if I don't have it in mine. Suggestions for future issues well taken. Thanks!

I'm a new subscriber and I must say I couldn't have subscribed at a better time! I read my first issue from cover to cover and found it tremendously enjoyable. I've been into MARX electric trains since I was about 3 years old, (I'm 35 now) and I'm still collecting and operating the old antique MARX trains. Thanks to "Collecting With MARX" I have finally located a MARX train set which I have been hunting for years. A MARX Big Rail set with a gray #1666 steam engine and gray sound of power tender. I've wanted one of those ever since I learned of their existence, but never found one til now. The #1666 is my favorite MARX steamer because that's the engine that came with my first ever electric train set some 30 years ago. The addition of the gray engine will give me 5 of the 1666 steamers, all different in some way of course. I want every variation of MARX ever produced. I presently have 3 2-4-2's, 1 0-4-0, and a 2-4-0. I also have one of the older die cast #666 engines. So far I have 10 MARX steamers, 5 of the #1666, 2 die cast #999's, one #490 (set) one new MARX tinplate Canadian Pacific, and a #401 windup 0-4-0 which I put on electric motor in and of course the die cast #666. I collect plastic 8 wheel rolling stock with auto couplers and type F and type G trucks. I have 2 big tracks, one to run the type F trains on and one for the type G. With an oval in the center for the 4 wheel #490 set. Well, I guess that covers it for now. Thanks for helping me locate that rare gray #1666 with sound of power tender, it made my day when I saw that ad. Can't wait to get my next issue! I'm sure it'll be a good one too. -Gary Davis.

Gary--We're glad to have you on board! Please let us know what you find in the future.

I really enjoy it as it is very educational to me since I've only been collecting for two years now.

My latest find this past week was a yellow airplane for the 6" flat car. Cost was only \$35.00 at an antique shop in Connecticut. I've had the empty flat car for about a year. Goes to show you time and patience pays off. I will bring it to York meet to show on Thursday night at the Firehouse. --Ray Cox.

Ray-- Sorry I wasn't there to see the plane. Another color I don't have in my collection. I think the flat for that airplane is just about as tough to find as the airplane. Keep up the hunt and let us know what you come up with.



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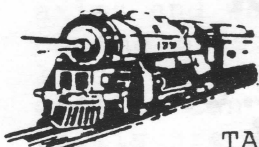
THE 666

First issued in 1955 this heavy, cast iron engine can pull a train at least a mile long. This engine has appeared on the catalogue pages of such companies as J.C. Penney, Montgomery Ward, Sears, Grants just to name a few. This work-horse of-an-engine has appeared with almost every combination of plastic cars you could imagine and the jury is still out on whether or not it was issued with tin cars. Sets reported appearing with tin cars include 3/16 scale sets, seven inch knuckle cars, and even some post war six inch cars. How many sets are out there that appear to be original and not a pieced together box?

Variations of this 666 "Iron Horse" include smoke and nonsmoke, white stripe and plain black, gray and black, white on the 666 only, white on the stripe only, and in the last six to eight months we even confirmed a side smoke which many believed to be only a 1666 engine tucked under a 666 shell. There is a rumor also of an early 666 with a key wind motor. If you have one of these please send a picture! It is reported in 2-4-2, 0-4-2, 2-4-0, and 0-4-0. Also a very desirable olive drab variation was produced to pull plastic military sets. One set that comes to mind contains the Army tender and caboose as well as the drop-center missile launcher and the flat with the gray plastic tank.

This timeless 666 beauty was the power in front of my second set. It contained a Southern Pacific wedge tender, brown, Sante Fe stock car, maroon Erie flat with logs and a red Southern Pacific caboose at the end. Included in the set were a dozen high-tension power poles. These are twelve of probably about 30 of the poles I have ever had a chance to buy. They are fairly hard to get today. Along with this set was a Roy Rogers Mineral City with all of the hard plastic and cowboys etc. This was a hand-me-down lot from the older neighbor boys but it was in fantastic condition. I'd take this kind of hand-me-down regularly.

To the best of my figuring this engine covered a span of about 25 years. It was mass produced and sold with thousands and thousands of sets. You still find them just about anywhere you see or have ever seen a train. Any given show will produce several of these great pulling engines. The fact that they are cast iron has unknowlegable dealers and auctioneers everywhere believing that they should be worth hundreds of dollars. Not! Some dealers are still glad to part with this engine for as little as \$5.00. The best thing about this engine other than its's pulling power is that there are so many of them out there. If you want an engine that pulls a set on a layout you can still purchase a good looking engine for a very reasonable price!



MY MARX COLLECTION: A TRAIN AND TOY VIDEO



TAKE A STEP BACK IN TIME WITH A MUSICAL JOURNEY THRU MY MARX TRAIN AND TOY COLLECTION. SET TO VINTAGE 1940's BIG BAND MUSIC, THIS VIDEO SHOWS MANY EXAMPLES OF BOTH MARX TRAINS AND TOYS INCLUDING THE JOY LINE, 6" TIN, 7" TIN, STREAMLINERS, SCALE, SOME PLASTIC, AND BRITISH MARX. ALSO FEATURED IS AN OPERATING LAYOUT, HAFNER COLLECTION, AND A MOSTLY MARX TOY COLLECTION.

\$18.95 INCLUDES SHIPPING TO THE CONTINENTAL US.
SEND A CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO: LARRY CHERNOW, 12
NEWMARKET RD., SYOSSET, NY 11791.

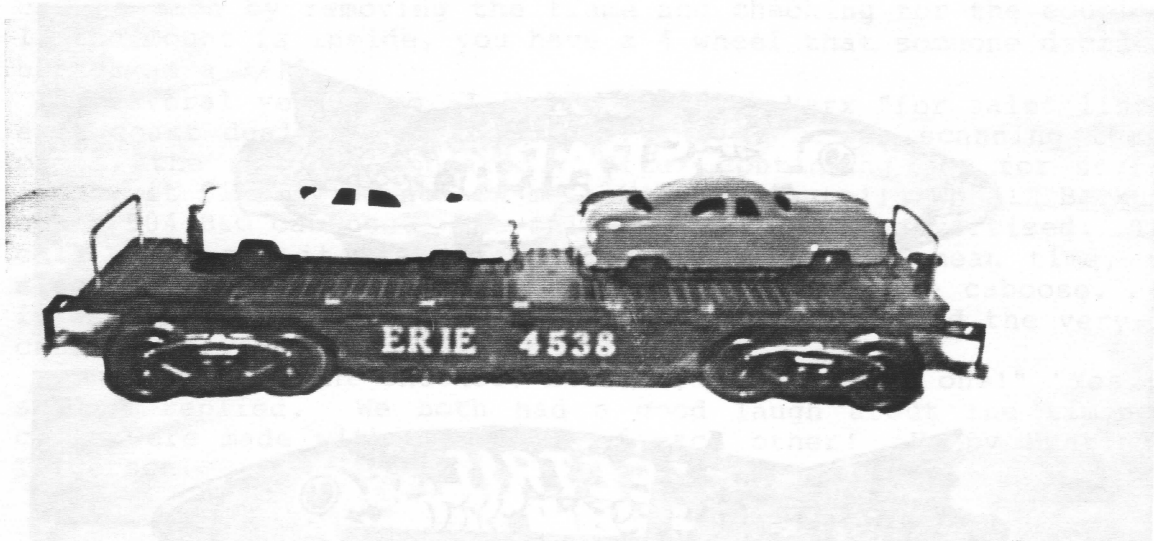
116 minutes

Digital CD
Sound!

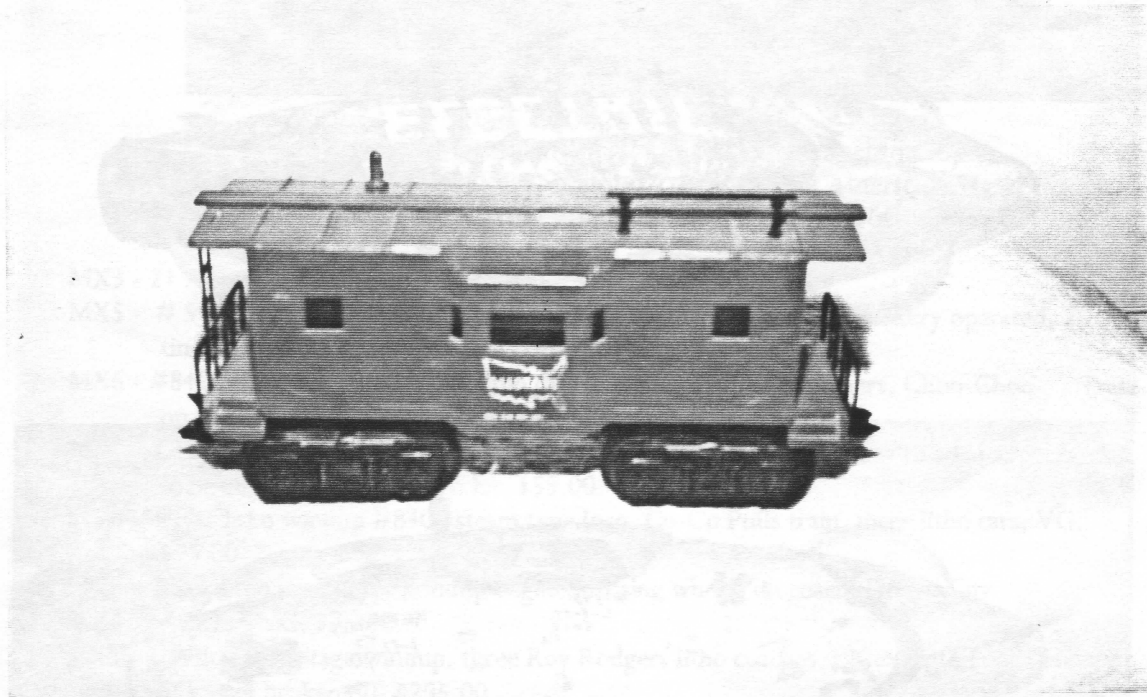
Very Colorful

So much to see

UNCATALOGED CARS *THE ROBBINS' COLLECTION*



ERIE #4538 This car is uncataloged by GREENBURG even though I have sent them pictures of it. Load of two Japanese LINE-MAR friction-powered cars. I do not know if original. I Purchased this set (Maroon NYC 588, This car, Tuscan NYC 4546 cabooses, originally included NYC crane car, all on type "G" trucks with Tab & Slot couplers) from Al Cox in Seattle, WA about 10 years ago.



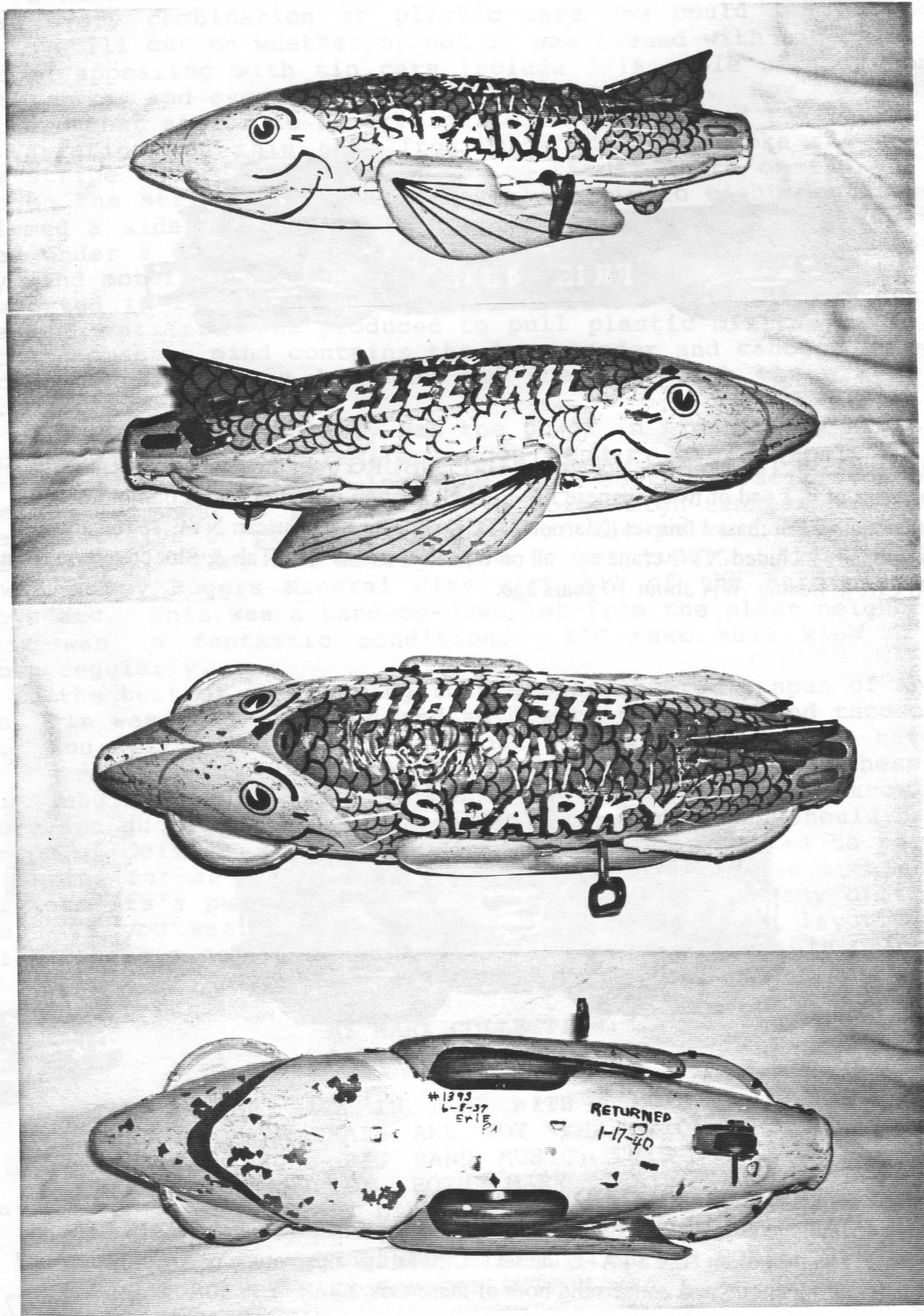
ALLSTATE RED BAYWINDOW CABOOSE

Also uncataloged by GREENBURG. Purchased from Charles Siegle's TRAIN CITY in Erie, PA as part of an ALLSTATE diesel set. Was this a prototype or a production car? Reader comment invited concerning both of these cars.

Marx,

This is "Sparky" the electric fish. R&D #1393 dated 6-8-37 Erie, PA. It was returned 1-17-40 an obvious "NO". I wonder if New York had a tough time deciding!! Only took them 2½ years. Who knows?

I bought him at a train show from a toy vender. He had picked him up at a toy show in Indiana. No further history. Steve Eckel.

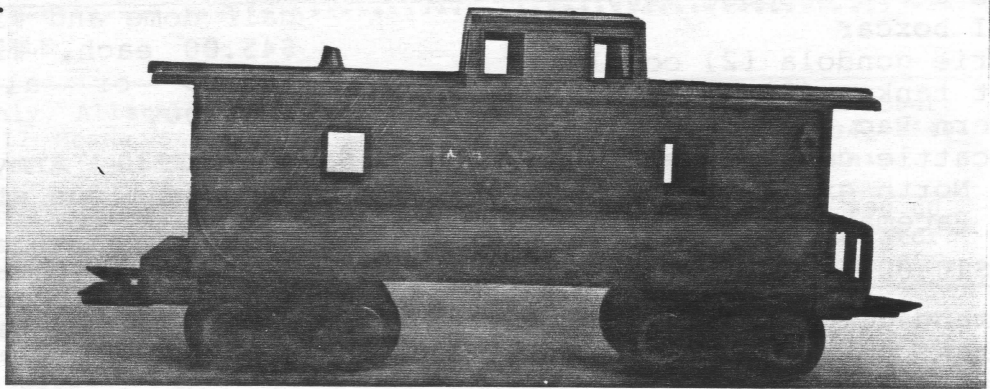


Results of the two "rare" or "scarce" surveys will be in the next issue as we are still getting surveys in!

A picture is enclosed of my 504 B&O caboose. This caboose is probably the most difficult of this style caboose to obtain. It is heat stamped which puts it in the very first group of plastic cars Marx produced. Which of the 504 caboose's is most rare, the 3/16 scale or the 4 wheel? Who knows! I feel lucky to have this 3/16 piece. Some have been reported converted from 4 wheel. A quick check can be made by removing the frame and checking for the coupler mount. If the mount is inside, you have a 4 wheel that someone decided looked better as a 3/16.

Several years ago, I had sent for a Marx "for sale" list from an east coast dealer. List arrived, and as I was scanning the several pages, the no. 504 appeared. After continuing on for several more items, it finally dawned on me. Wait a minute!! Whoa! Backup! That was a 504 B&O caboose. The only one I ever saw advertised. The phone call made, now it was the waiting game. In the mean time, a friend also received the list. Hetoo called on the same caboose. Learning it was sold, he called to tell me he had just missed the very rare 504 caboose.

After a slight chuckle, he said, "You're the one!" "Yes, I guess so." I replied. We both had a good laugh about the timing. Both calls were made within minutes of each other! Happy Hunting. John Torgerson.



201-579-0028 7-9 P.M. EST

Wanted Dorfan, Fandor, Joyline & Ives Transition
Boucher, Voltamp, AMMRR, Foreign Trains for the American Market
60 Fredonia Road, Newton New Jersey 07860

- MX3 - 21 Passenger set with three SF cars all VG-EX \$145.00
- MX5 - # 5 Black Plastic Civil War type engine, funnel stack gold trim, battery operated, 2 tin litho cars lettered Marville Local, EX, \$65.00
- MX6 - #8400 silver tin litho loco, 3 litho cars depicting circus performers, Choo-Choo Train on roofs, windup, no key, close to EX, \$55.00
- MX7 - Grey plastic windup loco lettered Crazy Express, three litho cars with what appears to be circus motifs, close to Ex, \$55.00
- MX8 - Silver litho windup #8400 steam type loco, Co-Co Puffs train, three litho cars, VG, \$95.00
- MX9 - Black litho steam type windup engine, missing wheels on coach, Dodge City Express, VG, \$75.00
- MX10 - Wild West Stage windup, three Roy Rodgers litho coaches, EX except hoof of one of horses broken off, \$295.00
- MX11 - 1605 accessory controller, \$3.00
- MX12 - 3824 UP caboose VG+ \$7.00
- MX13 - 3824 UP caboose, brown frame, VG+, \$45.00
- MX14 - Scale tank car, Shell, mustard yellow w/red lettering, rusty wheels & axles, dingy tank, but all there, \$12.00
- MX15 - 18326 Penn Central caboose, EX \$10.00
- MX16 - 1920's Marx windup 12" tin litho coal & coke truck, roof of cab gone & the bumper if there was one - works, 200 - 400 in books - \$95.00

FOR SALE

\$5.00 each

UP Caboose 6" (6)
 NYC Caboose 6" red (3)
 NYC Caboose 6" red & gray (3)
 Tenders 6" various (5)
 Plastic Erie Flat
 Pacemaker orange caboose 4 wh
 37956 boxcar, some rust
 Erie blue gondola no ends
 Wabash gondola yellow
 400 black engine needs work
 Southern Pac black tender
 plastic (2)
 ATSF work caboose repair
 corner
 Erie Blk gondola no ends
 B&O red boxcar 4wh plastic
 C.S.O.X. tanker 4wh plastic
 NYC plastic red caboose
 white NYC caboose no stack
 Orange & blk caboose 3900
 red RI boxcar
 blk Erie gondola (2) complete
 Niacet tanker (2)
 Southern Pac caboose 7" (2)
 ATSF cattle car brown
 Great North green boxcar
 Scale Pacemaker boxcar 174580

\$10.00 each

NYC crane deluxe no crank
 NYC crane metal side frame no
 crank
 Rail crossing bar accessory
 898 windup no stack
 898 electric one ear off
 B&O gondola scale
 242 friction floor engine
 pilot gone

WANTED

1. KC Southern cabooses tin.
2. Need B&O cabooses #504, 506, 517.
3. Fruit Grower Express 6" reefers.
4. Pacemaker Freight 6" Boxcars.
5. State of Maine Boxcar #4493.
6. 6" Chicago Northwestern boxcar brown.
7. Empty set boxes.
8. English Blue Cornation set.
9. English Green link set.
10. English Joyline cast iron engine any color.
11. 6" flat for #5 army tank.
12. All red 6" log car.
13. Red 994 style engine & tender.
14. Marx Playsets.

Marx Claussen, P.O. Box 614, Springfield, MO., 65801-0614. Call 417-833-3840.

Merch Service 37961, 63, 72
 NYC caboose 6" red frame
 Santa Fe tank 6" red frame
 NP hopper 6" red frame
 Pacific fruit boxcar white
 Orange Santa Fe boxcar
 Commodore Vandy repaint red
 nice
 Black Vandy electric locked up
 nice look
 Red tractor

\$25.00

Choo choo train zig zag
 Frontier with coaches zig zag

Santa Fe unlighted coaches
 #3152 (2) & #3197.
 \$25.00 each or 3 for \$70.00.

Santa Fe coaches lighted #3152
 half dome and #3197 observation
 \$45.00 each, #3152 full dome
 \$65.00 or all three for
 \$140.00.

USA 2130 Army train work
 caboose minus stack \$120.00.

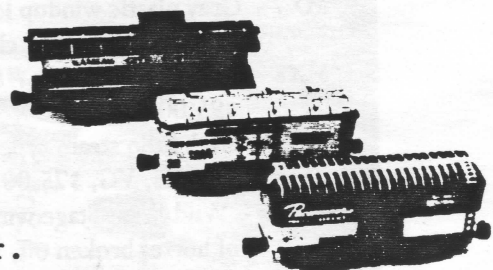
Grab bag parts etc \$20.00 well
 worth it!

Marx plastic barn yellow and
 gray \$20.00.

Red and blue load truck Exc
 condition first \$100.00.

Red Stake bed truck minus one
 axle VG cond \$80.00.

Nativity building \$45.00.



Please send ideas for cartoons to Collecting With Marx so that we can pass them along to Fred Fillers.

WANTED

Desperately need 2 heads for Marx "Merrymakers Band" I am willing to purchase "junk" or poor condition band as long as it has 2 heads. Ken Barnes, 6826 N. 11th 57, Phoenix AZ., 85014. 602-265-0373.

#55 KCS "B" unit 8 wheel. #1998 UP lemon switcher. #3900 UP yellow caboose 4 wheel. #4556 SP lt. orange caboose 4 wheel. #504 B&O blue caboose 4 wheel. NYC maroon 4 wheel flat car w/clip. #3900 UP orange caboose 8 wheel. #18326 Penn Central white caboose 8 wheel. #45 William Crooks caboose. #1666 loco gray w/gray tender. Walgreen & Western Auto trailers or name plates for some. Steve Eckel, 5336 Shoreview Ave. So., Minneapolis, MN., 55417. 612-722-9268.

4" Deluxe Delivery Truck. John Torgerson, 2712 Del Ray Ave., LaCrosse, WI., 54603. 608-783-3785.

999 2-4-2 w/open spoke pilot, yellow & gray #065 water tank, and red & gray #065 water tank. W. Alan Littlejohn, 4960 Marlin Dr., New Port Richey, Florida, 34652. 813-847-0606.

Marx catalogs - 1953, 1954, 1958, 1965. Yellow and brown 10005 tail car. Harry Coons, 6319 Saybrook Ave., Phila., PA, 19142-2318. 215-724-3960 anytime.

Seeking #3557 Vista Dome or unilluminated #3557 and #3558. Al Woodward 202-362-6051.

FOR SALE

Plastic only, Allstate ABA, WP ABA etc, for list send \$1.00 to Robert Larson, 117 Meade St., Rapid City, SD., 57701-5504. 605-343-8640 evenings. TCA #92-35117. Would like to sell as one complete unit.

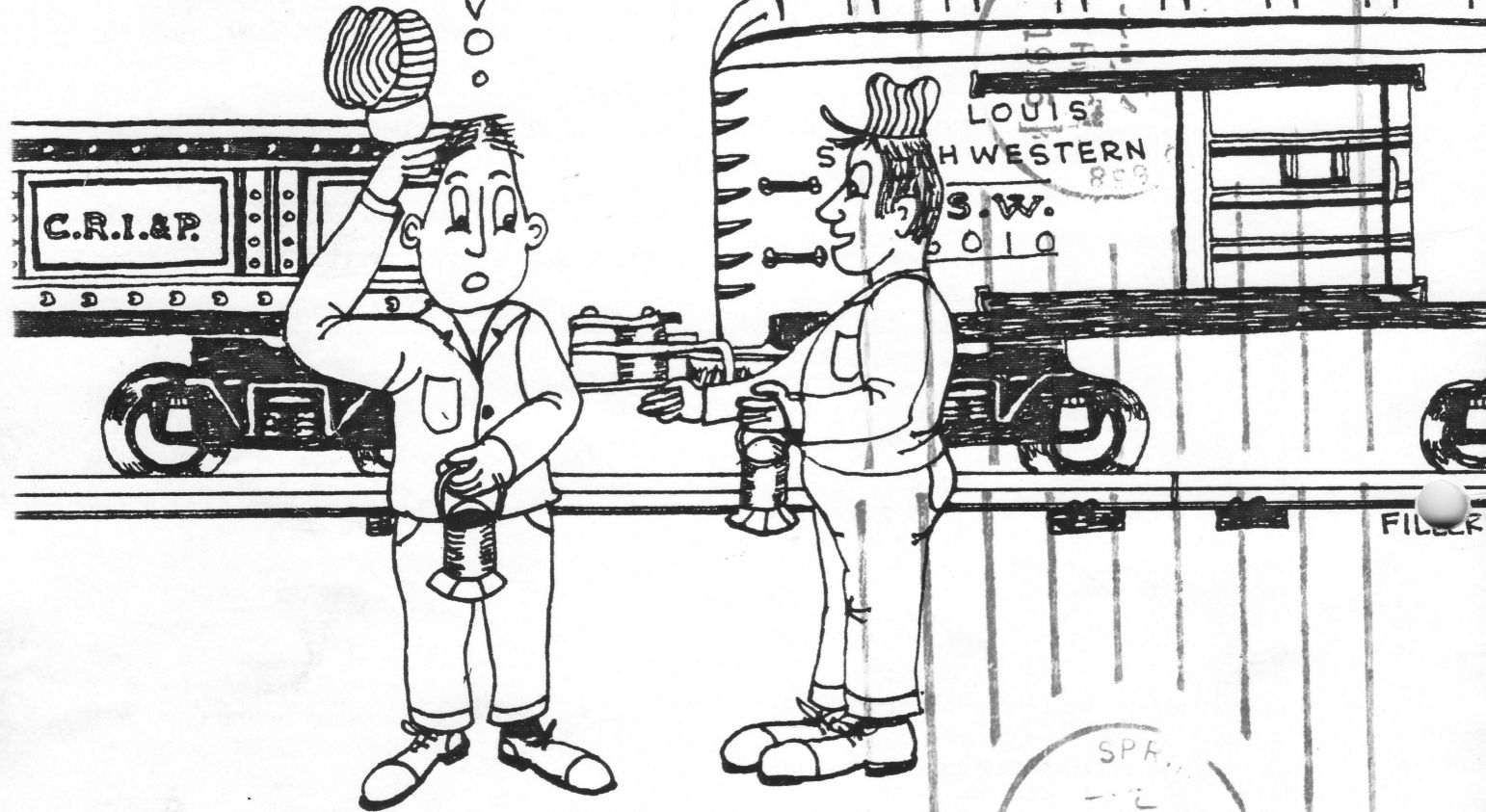
Seaboard 956 caboose, E- \$55.00. Monon 81 "AA" electric, VG+ \$90.00. Rock Island 99/99x AB, VG \$110. C&S 555, man in door refrigerator, silver frame. Has round rust spot on the roof that is less than dime size. Otherwise is VG+ \$125. Army set; 500 loco w/500 tender, 557m radio car (missing square antenna, 561m searchlight car, 572st flat w/clip (no tank), 572aa anti-aircraft car. Gun base is there but barrel is missing. Set has been played with but overall VG. \$325. SASE for list. Jack Reid, 13817 Beverly Park Rd., Lynwood, WA., 98037. 206-742-5615 anytime to 9:00 PM pacific time.

#4360 Cape Canaveral Express, No box; #400 locomotive, #1951 Red tender, #1796 Rocket launcher, #1799 Ordanance Gondola, Rocket Computing Center Caboose, Set \$185.00.
M-10000 Lucky coin \$30.00
1998 UP Switcher, Mustard yellow - no roar, cleaned - lubed, runs well C-8 \$55.00.
3000 CP & tender blue/yellow boards, loco C-6, tender C-5, Pair \$120.00.
1799 Ordanance gondola, 4 wheel blue, 1 chipped truck facade otherwise C-8 \$60.00.
NH 2002 AA diesels C-7 \$125.00 pair.
5590 Crane "F" trucks no searchlight dirty-should grade C-7 \$45.00.
GEX 4583 searchlight "F" trucks works well C-7 except melt mark on one side - not offensive \$55.00.
WECX 4571 searchlight "G" trucks C-7 \$25.00.
Monon 3855 7 inch caboose C-6+ \$40.00.
Wheel car 6 inch 4 wheel non-embossed C-6 \$90.00.
Reproduction & used original parts call or write with needs!
Set #7360 Missouri Pacific set no box, repo vehicle load - vans, 1 truck facade slightly chipped. grades C-7 \$150.00.
0161 Telephone pole set, no B box rugged C-10 \$11.00.
WP ABA gray/yellow C-8 \$400.00.
Steve Eckel, 5336 Shoreview Ave. So., Minneapolis, MN., 55417. 612-722-9268.

Boxed set 298?--897 litho engine (EX), wedge tender, 550 wrecker red platform and boom and guy wires, 552 green/red, 553, 554 red/yellow, 384299 B&O box car, 556, all 4-wheel T&S cars (EX- to VG+), trans-former, \$290.00. Boxed set 526--401 w/u, UP notched tender, 241708 yellow/gray, UP caboose, track (VG), \$50.00. 567 side dump \$20.00. Also two Hafners \$125.00 each. Dan Schmatz 810-588-3361.

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EVEN US OLD TIMERS CAN'T UNCOUPLE
A CAR WITH MARX AUTOMATIC
COUPLERS BY HAND

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FIRST CLASS

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