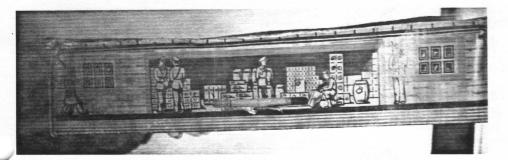


ISSUE 17

JUNE 1997







COLLECTING WITH MARX

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AD DEADLINES:

FOR ISSUE

| NOVEMBER 5 | DECEMBER |
|-------------|----------|
| | DECEMBER |
| JANUARY 5 | |
| MARCH 5 | |
| MAY 5 | JUNE |
| JULY 5 | AUGUST |
| SEPTEMBER 5 | OCTOBER |

COLLECTING WITH MARX P.O. BOX 614 SPRINGFIELD, MO. 65801-0614 417-833-3840 6-10 P.M. CST or leave message FAX # 417-833-3840 Copyright 1997

Here's Lauren Micah with her Bunny Express Train.





Louis Marx is now two. How time flies!

I caught myself, the other day, thinking about how few MARX trains I've been able to add to my collection lately. I was thinking so hard about it that I almost had myself in a state of feeling sorry for myself over it. In talking to people I know, about this very subject, they agree that it is a little dry out there as far as being able to buy quality tough-to-find trains. Then I think about all of the many trains I have added to my collection over the past year. It's a bunch and most of it is very hard to locate.

I was talking to Steve Anderson about a meet he attends and there were items left on tables at the end of the day that I looked for for years. Example: Blue four wheel side dump, 6" tin sets for \$25.00. He found on 897 OD engine and 3 cars for \$200.00 and he saw a Fruit Growers reefer car they sold for \$75.00. It's out there and it seems to be very spiratic. One meet may turn up many things and another may be dry.

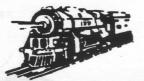
Well folks it's finally here. All of my trains and toys are packed and stored. I am in the middle of building a place to live and a place where I can display my collection. It will probably be Winter 1998 before I see them again. If you ever had an idea to submit to the magazine the next few issues would be a great time to do it. I am working more than full time, I have two small children, I am contracting a new home, trying to be a husband to my wife and putting this magazine together. I really would appreciate your help!

If anyone needs a cab for a 350 Joyline engine please contact me I have an extra.

Don't forget to use the fax machine and/or write something down and send it in. If I don't get back to you when you call its not because I don't want to it's that I just can't find time. Please don't be upset just consider what's happening here. I'll be back because this is one of my favorite things to do. The people I meet and talk to about MARX trains are some of the greatest people around. A good friend Carl Cecchine in Denver always makes the comment that this group of people is special.

I'm really looking forward to a trip to York to see all my friends in the fall. There's an outside chance I won't make it but I'm going to try. I always find a few things but most of all I enjoy the MARX meeting and I enjoy the trip with all the autumn foliage.

I've been getting several reports of good finds and our readers are always interested in hearing about these things. Don't forget that classified "FOR SALE" ads are free. If you have items for sale please give our readers first shot at them. Keep in touch and happy collecting.



MY MARX COLLECTION: A TRAIN AND TOY VIDEO



Improved!

TAKE A STEP BACK IN TIME WITH A MUSICAL JOURNEY THRU MY MARX TRAIN AND TOY COLLECTION. SET TO VINTAGE 1940'S BIG MARX TRAIN AND TOY COLLECTION. SET TO VINTAGE 1940'S BIG TRAINS AND 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.



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So much to see!

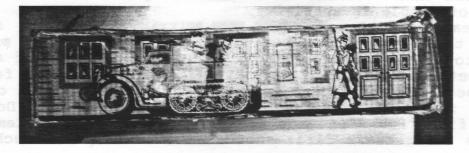
They've done it again this issue! Lane and Irene Foster have won the right to be on the cover of Collecting With MARX. This time we are featuring set #5928. Yes it's another lithoed box, however instead of green and red this box is done in black and red. It's a "U.S. ARMY DEPOT-5928" and by the litho shown it's more of a military freight station than a depot. There are several military men on each side of the station standing guard and working in the freight. The box is complete with a loading platform and pitched roof.

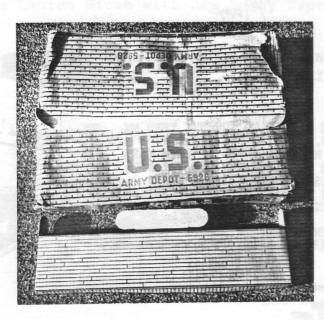
This is a set box you don't see every day and you know this one is very unusual because Lane and Irene like to collect only very nice toys and trains. In very nice condition. By the photos sent this one is very acceptable but definitely has been around. Once again not many of these survived the World War II era so this box is a proud addition to anybody's collection.

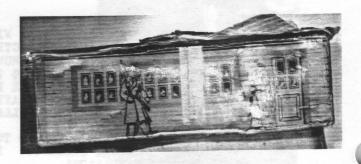
The contents of this set are in tact and while not rare maybe they are becoming quite scarce. You ask "what's the difference between rare and scarce?" The difference to me is a rare item is one only found in a very few collections such as this box. A scarce piece is one in several collections and maybe is not as attainable today as it once was. Anyway this set consists of an 897 electric engine, 0-4-0 with reverse and bell, 500 tender, 572AA anti-aircraft gun lithographed with wooden shells and FB122 on shell box, 557M Radio car with no holes or aerials, 561M searchlight car operating with red handle, 572 tank lithographed on OD flat with silver turret and red guns, and lastly a 709 transformer. Track includes 16 pieces plus crossover.

I want to thank Lane and Irene for sharing this "rare" combination of pre-World War II MARX trains with the readers of Collecting With MARX,

I appreciate those of you who contribute things to the magazine. I'm here to learn just like you are!







Just would like to tell you how much I enjoy Collecting With MARX. I am new to the world of MARX train collecting so I get much from each issue. Recently at a train show in Des Moines. I picked up a couple of ordinary 556 cabooses in excellent condition to replace some I had that were not so good. When I got home I noticed one of them has a small black cross or x lithoed on each end of the roof. I have 30 or so other 556's but none have these lines. Maybe it's common but I would like to know. Here is how it looks. It has this on both ends. -- Robert Teeple.

Robert -- This is another one I have to throw out the the experts that read our magazine. It's one I haven't seen.

Dear Marx,

I thought by now you would have received several answers as to what the plus (+) mark was on the roof of the 556 caboose. It is a register mark for the litho plates used to line up the sheets as different colors are lithoed in turn. I have or have had at least three cabooses with the same mark.

In April I had the opportunity to attend York. It is always fun to see people you have talked to or written to but haven't met and to see friends that you otherwise don't have an opportunity to see very often. As with most meets I was able to pick up an item or two to fill in or up-grade my collection. I did pick up a like new #44834 RI diesel set with the red and yellow tractor loads for the flat car.

I recently picked up a #384299 B&O 4-wheel box car that has wheel sets that are the same as was used in the 8-wheel 6" cars. While they could have easily been substituted for the original wheels and axles they are contemporary with the car and look like originals. Just wondering if anyone else has found anything similar. The car is brown with yellow lettering but has brown and white doors. Nothing too startling, just some interesting observations.

Hopefully I'll get another list together in the reasonably near future and get an ad to you as well. Just takes time and organization!

Thanks,

Karl L. Wandry

For your convenience and ease we have purchased a FAX machine. **Please use it!** It will save you time and money. If you have a question or something to submit send it. Anything! Just call 417-833-3840. When machine picks up wait for instructions. Hopefully it will make it easier for you to contribute.

READERS WRITE.....

Enclose is a photo you may use if you choose of two MARX floor trains that I have found. The large CLANG-CLANG Locomotive was made in Hong Kong. It is battery powered and noisey and made to drive parents crazy. The pilot or cow catcher detaches to fit into the box so may be easily lost. The smaller WESTERN Locomotive was made in Japan, has a MARX trademark but is not Linemar. It has a separate hand held battery box with controls and is tethered to the locomotive by its electrical cord. It has a red lighted dome on the boiler and makes a ringing bell sound. I was fortunate enough to find both of these locomotives in their original boxes.

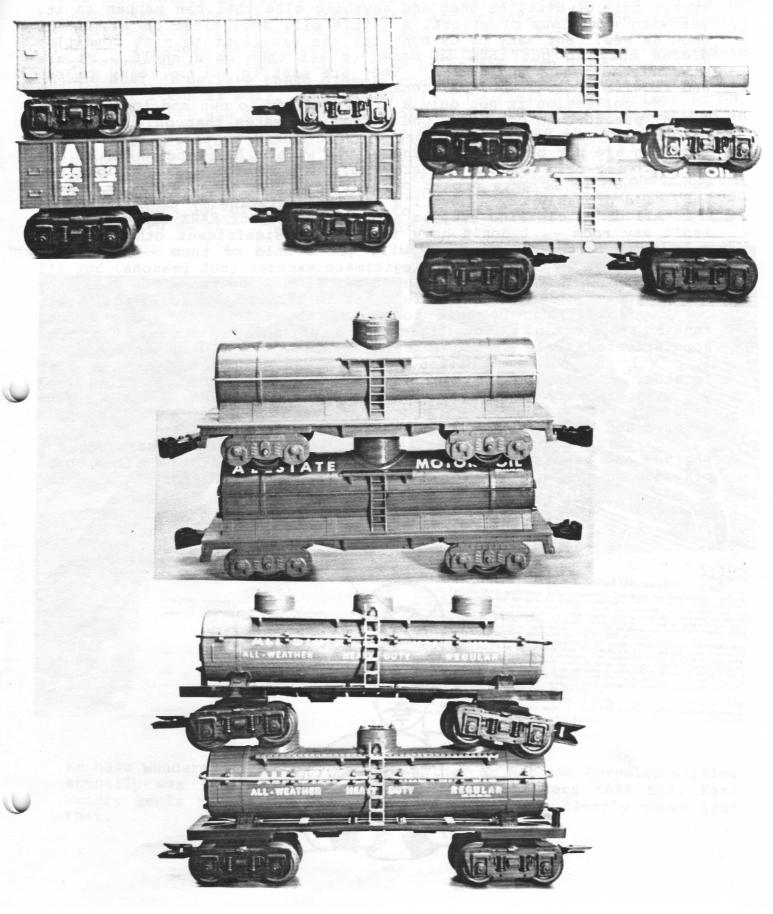
It would be interesting if you ran your rarity survey again at some point in the future. Maybe with a larger readership the response may change and overall results affected. I know for myself that I since have found a number of the items after you ran the survey. Unfortunately I also sold or traded a number of them before I learned that they were hard to obtain. Why do we get old so soon and smart so late? Happy Collecting.--Bryan H. Robbins.



Missed you at the recent York show. Some nice items came out at the Thursday night meeting: A boxed 4-piece Army Floor Train, a Soldiers of Fortune boxed set with rare prone blue uniformed soldier, several archives pieces, and an unusual British Silver Link (LNER) FREIGHT set. Only some of my photos turned out, but I'll send you copies when I get a chance.

I had a relatively good buying trip, also. Among other things, I acquired a 4 wheel black side dump car, a Penn Central AA with unpainted grilles, a Soldiers of Fortune nurse (from Bob Rosenberg), and a #400 electric bulb puffer engine in original set box (with rest of the set) including the accessory catalogue and the envelope with the baking soda! But our best finds came a week later at a local flea market: A red 198 battery engine, blue plastic tender and 2 yellow plastic Marlines coaches for \$30.00, and a 3/16" Pennsy cattle car for \$4.00! Bargains are still out there, but I seem to have to work harder to find them.

I hope all is going well with you and your crew. Channy is almost 9 months old now, and she loves her 6" plastic MARX Disney figures! (I figured it wasn't too early to start her on the path to true enlightenment -- the collecting of MARX toys!) Glad to see CWM still doing well. After we settle down post-move, I have a few article ideas I'll have to put to work. Take Care! Allan Miller. Stan Troski sends these four pictures of Allstate plastic cars. The pictures that I have in front os me are in color and show the obvious color difference between the two cars. The top car of each pair is a pale green in all four cases and the bottom car is medium blue that you see mostly. Now the discussion I hear is this. Did MARX intend to have green Allstate cars or were these cars the end of a color run or was it bad color mix etc. What's your opinion?



One of the main philosophies of Louis MARX was to provide a reliable toy, to be played with, at a reasonable price. One of my favorite quotations is "Buy Lionel for show--buy MARX for go". All of us have marveled at the fact that a MARX engine can lay for years, get rusty, full of dirt, be bent and anything else that can happen to it, yet with a minimum of effort, a little oil, some clean up it runs as good as new. But many of us hunt for the excellent to mint condition pieces only to put them in boxes or set them on a shelf. We are missing the real fun of MARX. They are east to set up, easy to run and require a minimum of maintenance.

My collection is not only a pride and joy to own and look at, but a real pleasure to operate. One survey estimates that only about ten percent of toy train collectors operate their trains. All of mine that run are put on the track and played with. A friend asked me one day as we were watching an early Joyline locomotive and freight set run-- "What if it gets broken or bent or quits running?" My answer was, "I'd probably cry -- but I'd keep on operating my trains".

All of us can find excuses not to operate our MARX trains. There isn't any room -- I don't have time -- my significant other doesn't want the clutter -- the kids will get a hold of them -- etc, etc. Granted, some of these may be legitimate excuses (not reasons) but all of us can snap together a circle of track, hook up two wires and enjoy these little jewels as they were meant to be. If you are a real train buff, you will not be able to resist the fascination of a smooth running toy train. Toy trains have an advantage over the more sophisticated scale or model trains. Scale or ratio doesn't matter, it's all in your imagination. After you progress from the snap together oval in the living room floor to the 4'x8' sheet of plywood you will probably be hooked on watching the trains run, signals flast, gates operate, etc. MARX accessories are used on most toy train layouts and are as reliable as the trains.

<u>Carmarx Recommends</u>: Get those trains out of the boxes, off the shelves and have some fun. After all, Louis MARX designed them to be played with and in his memory. Have fun! --By Jim Norton.

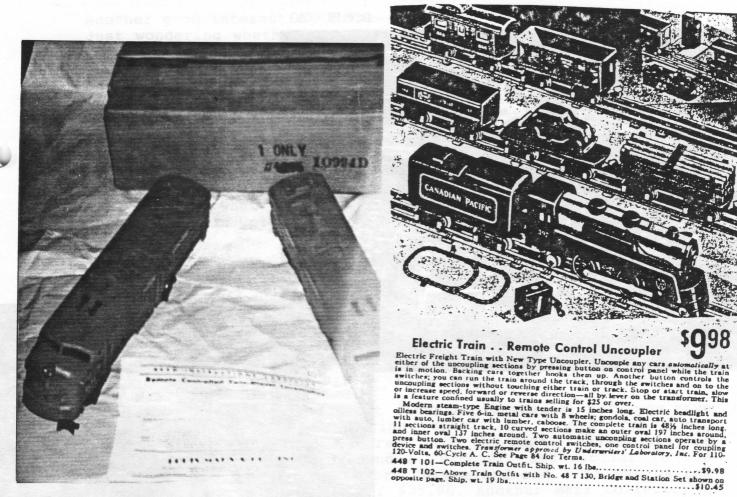


CARMARX

I have a box containing a pair of E-7 AA diesels. The box is marked "1 ONLY #1095 (which is crossed out with a marker pen) and then stamped 10994D". In the box is the 4000 Penn Central diesels, green or turquoise, as described in Greenberg Vol. II. There are no stripes or trim.

In the summer of 1976, during the celebration of America's great bi-centennial, my family and I were in Gettysburg, PA. as a part of our church denomination's observance and celebration. The opportunity was there to visit Girard, PA. and the MARX factory outlet, and I did. I recall being greeted warmly by the receptionist. I asked to purchase several items; one of them being the 4000 Penn Central AA in the box. I believe these diesels cost me \$15.00. I recall purchasing 2 other items as well. One was the 1434 Overhead Signal Bridge in OB, and the other was either the SP 39520 flat with no reels (described in the last issue of CWM), or a WP 643 caboose, again in OB.

As I reflect on that opportunity now and with all that has happened in the MARX train collecting field, OH! MY! If only I would have known, and of course had a little more money to purchase direct from the factory some of those so rare and choice items! The PC 4000 AA has been out of the box only to look at, so I guess it would be classified as mint now. --Duane Ford.



We have wondered in the past about whether or not the Chrysler Airflow actually was included in any of the six inch sets MARX had, Karl Wandry sends this example from a catalogue which clearly shows just that.

DEAR MARX,

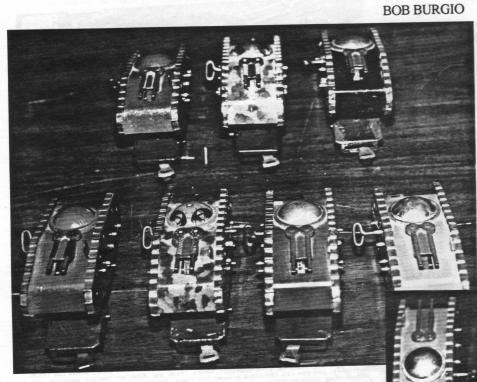
ENCLOSED ARE TWO PHOTOGRAPHS THAT I TOOK AT THE RECENT MARX MEETING IN YORK. THE TANKS BELONG TO BOB ROSENBERG. YOU WROTE IN **COLLECTING WITH MARX** THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO HEAR ABOUT SOME ITEMS THAT WERE SHOWN.

I HAVE ANOTHER TANK VARIATION IN THAT MY TANK WITH THE MEN IN THE DOME HAS A YELLOW DECK.

MANY INTERESTING ITEMS WERE SHOWN. I SHOWED MY SILVER AIRPLANE ON A BLACK FLAT AND MY 34 - PIECE CAPE CANAVERAL SET NO. 140 (CARDBOARD).

SEE YOU AT YORK IN OCTOBER.

SINCERELY,



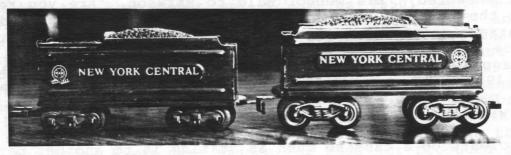
Great Collecting With MARX again. Always learn something from the articles.

Guess I'm stuck on tenders. Picture enclosed of plastic coal pile tenders. One with the 3/16 trucks, other with high trucks.

Seems when you try to find these tenders, they just aren't there. The plastic top tenders are not very easy to locate anyway, but the 3/16 had eluded me for a long time.

Finally bought a small collection or rather group of items a few years ago and this was in that group.

Haven't seen only 1 or 2 for sale since. Happy Hunting.--John Torgerson.



Another good interesting issue--thanks.

Just wondering whether you have seen the article on British MARX this month in CTT? If so, would be interested in any comments/additions from yourself or other CWM readers. Fax and e-mail addresses above--would apreciate faxes only during UK daytime hours.--Ian Paterson. Fax/Tel: 01257-791507.

e-mail: http://www.ianpaterson@compuserve.com

Ian-- Yes, Ian all I can say is WOW! You did a fantastic job on the article in CTT. Fantastic reading and the pictures of items not seen before! Ian, I would like to see someone put together a comprehensive addition to Robert Whitacre's book. A chapter all about English MARX trains to add to what we already have with color photos. You are doing the MARX Train Collecting community a great service and I thank you!

I attended the TCA York show on Friday, April 18. I did not find any great bargains. I did purchase a 396 loco with copper boiler in decent shape for \$55.00 and a large truck trailer made by LineMar which says "Giant Food serving Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia - Better Foods for Better Living". Tractor trailers of this type are known to have come in the Trucking Terminal Playset. This is a harder-to-find playset and newer version of the Freight Terminal Playset. It will blend in nicely with the other Freight Terminal vehicles.

I'm sure there were some great finds and bargains; but, you have to be in the right place at the right time. Oh, I did grab a bag containing - 8 legionaires and 3 Arabs from the Capt. Gallant playset for \$15.00. A friend of mine found a turnover tank similar to the army train load but with odd collors, green and red. It was marked "Made in England," He stole it for \$35.00. Another Marx Collector I talked to briefly claimed to have bought a KC Southern engine and caboose (6" or 7"?) for \$70.00. A bargain for either size. Anyway you didn't miss much. I think a lot of the action is happening at preTCA meetson Wednesday. Nevertheless, I'll keep looking. God Bless --Dan Feustermaker.

Dan -- Sounds like a few items were found at the show and at the general meets as a whole. I would love to get my hands on that English tank. I think with me what I missed as much as anything is just getting away, seeing the scenery and a weeks worth of trains.

MYSTERY OF THE WHISTLING LOCOMOTIVE By: Dr. Marxson

T'was a cold and rainey night when Dr. Marxson returned to his flat at 221B Main St. Upon entering the room his mentor staring out the window said without turning around, "No luck in solving your mystery?" No, I replyed well then maybe we should start a new! Said he to Marxson "But where?" Look, look across the street "What do you see?", he replyed. I returned "Glendale Station!" yes, the station. Did you question the engine drivers? No well then you question still remains unanswered! His mentor said to Marxson, "Are you ready Dr.? well then the game's a foot sir". As they turned and walked out the door. Marxson responded with, "First There is the black Mercury Wards 1949, Blue Mercury 1948, Black and red Commodore Vanderbilt 1942-43, Chicago, Mailorder catalogue, Black 994 Sears 1950, Black 898 Spiegel 1950. How many different types of whistling windup engines did MARX make? Are there others or are the last two just a dreem within a wishbook?

"Nothing clears up a case so much as stating it to another person." ---Sherlock Holmes.

THE TOY TRAIN ANGEL

Have you ever had a feeling that just maybe there was a patron saint of toy trains and that you were in the company of such an angel? On a recent weekend, I attended a swap meet just a few miles from home. After looking at a lot of low grade and common items, I decided to take one last look to be sure I didnt overlook anything. Lo and behold, I spotted almost hidden on a shelf the following: An Orange Erie 4582 flat, a green MP 54099 Stock Car, and the Tuscan Double-door Seaboard Boxcar. As if this wasn't enough, the next day found me at amantique and collectible show at the local fairgrounds where I spied what looked like some Marx plastic. Closer inspection revealed a set I had only heretofore read about. It was the #700 Schilling Co. Plastic Set, dated 1948. This was the set which prompted Marx to introduce its Canadian Plastic Set #8544. The beautiful Schilling set was in pristine condition with original box.All the challenges and frustrations of finding these much sought after pieces was suddenly rewarded in the space of a day and one afternoon. The real topper to all this joy was an expenditure of less than One Hundred dollars. Hundreds of people had passed by these goodies without giving them a second thought. So you now see why I think perhaps the Toy Train Angel went along after all.

I was wondering if someone could estimate the value of the Schilling set. Also could I get a source to obtain the original factory green or gray tractors for the Orange Erie flat? Thanks again for your newsletter.

> Sincerely, Glenn Johnston 11237 Kansas Ave Youngtown, Az. 85363 602-933-1662

We had lost electric power for 5 days because of a severe ice storm/blizzard April 3rd. Makes us appreciate modern conviences. Received CWM after the power resumed. It was a day brightner.

In that issue Lou Lauderbaugh asked about an electrical pickup for a #101 JoyLine engine. If he has the fiber board on the motor for the pickup, and if it has two holes (roller takes 1 hole), I do have a couple of repro slider shoes. I also make a replacement roof for the JoyLine boxcar. PLease have him contact me. He is not in TCA or TTOS lists.

This issue also gave information on Plastimarx. The metal engines and Aguila Express Switcher are mine, but the Plastic listing is not, probably Stan Troskey. By the way my Jan 1994 Model Power catalog list the Blue Comet set \$25.00 as #650, Santa's Christmas Train \$32.50 as #652, and Safety At The Crossing as #651 and TBA (To Be Announced). This is probably the proposed 999 set that did not materalize. A regional catalog company called Fingerhut sold the Santa Train in a small brown cardboard box. Unsold stock was later sold thru Jacobs Trading Stores, along with unsold MARX items from the Sears Wish Catalog. One way to tell the after plastimarx production, is the black painted sideframes and silver wheels on the battery powered switchers. I also think that Heco, En Mexico on the sticker found in the Model Power cars stands for made (or produced in Mexic**e**, not a location. --Gary Anderson.

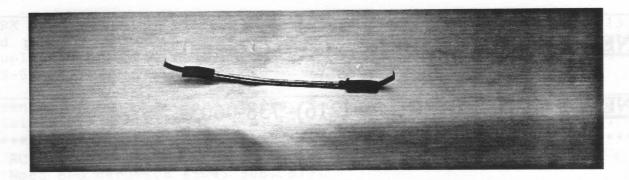
Gary -- Fortunately MARX trains can take us away from the reality of our daily lives. I'm glad that CWM helped you escape.

I've made some calls and am planning on being at York this fall. Penn. in the fall with the color and toy trains. What could be better? OK MARX toy trains. "Collecting With MARX" is good and always getting better. I've learned more about MARX in two years than the eight years collecting and running MARX before your magazine.

Question: 1. How many Hi-rail MARX operators are there?

2. Who has the largest layout in plastic, 3/16, or 6" four wheel?

Meeting another MARX operator/collector at a train show is always fun.. Asking what do you collect? What do you run? Do you have a layout? Accessories? How big? And there is always one thing to look for that you don't have...yet,. Thank you,--Richard Moehr.



Shown here is an accessory piece that I am told by Allan Osterude is MARX. It's about the length of an 027 straight track and fits down into one side as there is fiber board to snap down into it. Each end is a piece of copper and the center is a flat piece of tin. One wire connector is at one end at the fiber board on the under side. Any comments, or questions please feel free.



We're Moving as of March 31st, 1997. PLEASE CONTACT US AT OUR NEW ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER, FOR ALL YOUR MARX PARTS NEEDS.

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Keep those articles coming! use the FAX. CAll and press start at any time and it will take the transmission.

Classified "FOR SALE" ads are always free. Send them in!

FOR SALE

FOR SALE

Set number 9606 Allstate Set. KC Southern A&B units, Service Merchandise boxcar, gondola and 6" KC Southern caboose. Exc condition \$425.00.

Canadian Pacific engine and tender with 4 6" Passenger cars. Not boxed but Excellent \$1250.00.

Allstate ABA replaced steps \$275.00.

Twin tank white over maroon \$125.00.

Orange flat with green tractors \$290.00.

Marx Claussen, PO Box 614, Springfield, MO 65801-0614. 417-833-3840 Call after 6:00pm central time.

From the 2 page, Jim Norton sale list in the last edition of CWM delete the following: B5, B6, D6, F8, H6, I2, K1, K2, K3, L1, L2, L3, L4, L5, M1, M4, O4, P3 & P4. All remaining items are discounted 15%. James A. Norton, 1300 Fifth Ave, Leavenworth, KS 66048. 913-682-2071 any time before 10pm CDT.

I have a very used M10000 set I'm looking for a fair to poor power (electric) unit. Got any? Red (maroon) & silver. Harv Tremper, 5074 Nipher Road, Bath, NY 14810. 607-566-8310 7-9:30 EST.

MARX #397 all black CP style locomotive VG or better, also #21913 LV red plastic 4 wheel hopper with black painted sideframes, knuckle couplers. Bryan H. Robbins, 850 Finley Gulch Rd., Colville WA. 99114. 509-684-3573.

Greenberg's Guide to MARX Trains, Vol. I., 12 volt MARX bulbs. Doug Prisinzano, 24 Heritage Drive, Lancaster, NY 14086. 716-684-8465.

 KC Southern cabooses tin.
Need B&O cabooses #504, 506, 517.
Fruit Growers Express 6" reefers.
Pacemaker Freight 6" boxcars.
State of Maine Boxcar #4493.
English Green Link set.
English Joyline cast iron engine any color.
6" flat for #5 army tank.
All red 6" log car.
Red 994 style engine and tender.
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