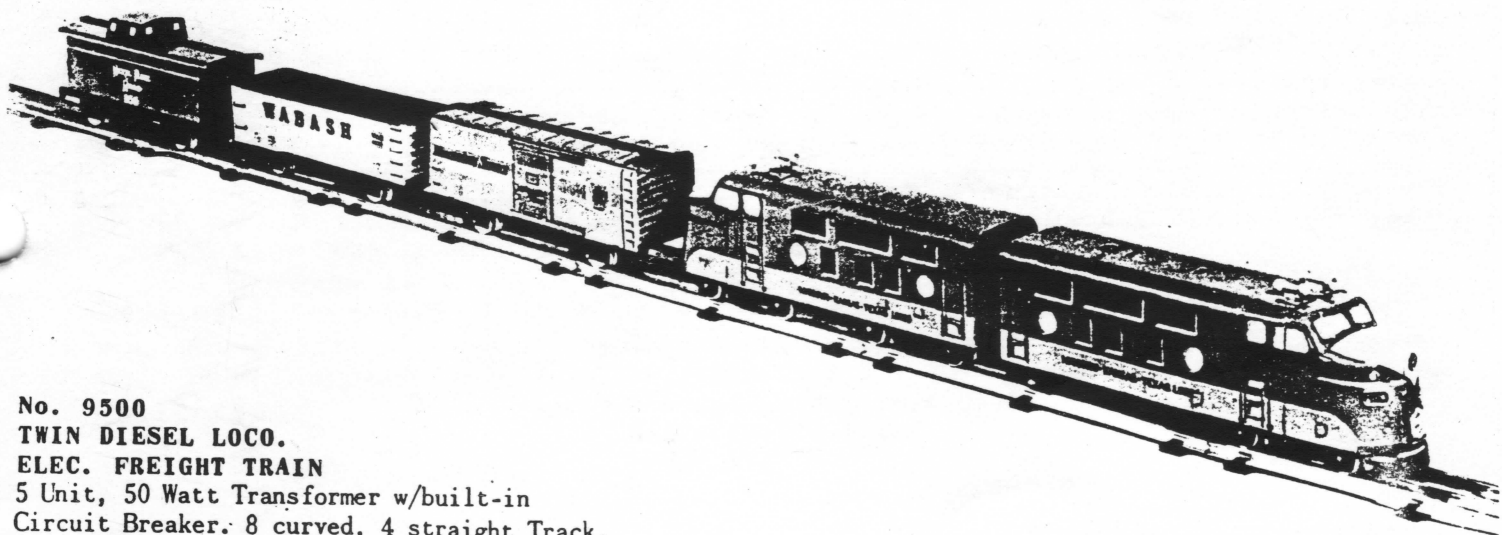


COLLECTING WITH MARX

ISSUE 18

AUGUST 1997



No. 9500

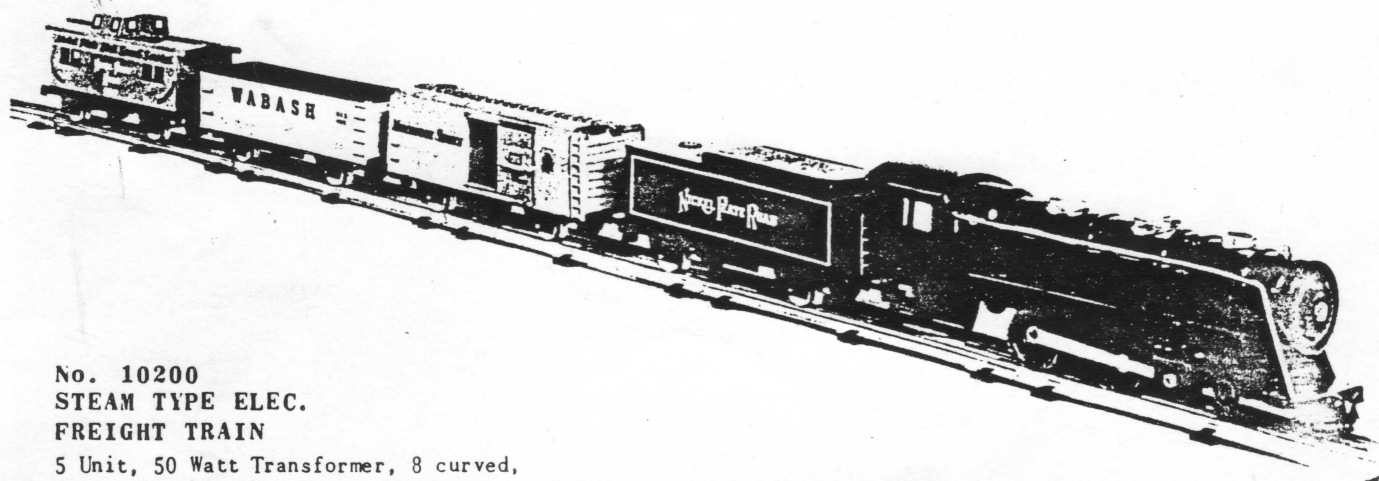
TWIN DIESEL LOCO.

ELEC. FREIGHT TRAIN

5 Unit, 50 Watt Transformer w/built-in

Circuit Breaker. 8 curved, 4 straight Track.

Packed 3 Pcs. per Ctn. Weight per carton 27 lbs.



No. 10200

STEAM TYPE ELEC.

FREIGHT TRAIN

5 Unit, 50 Watt Transformer, 8 curved,

4 straight track. Packed 3 pcs. per Carton. Weight per carton 25½ lbs.

COLLECTING WITH MARX

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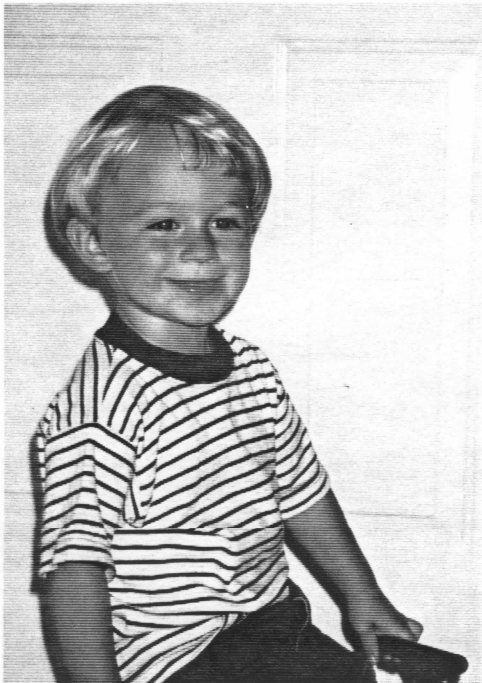
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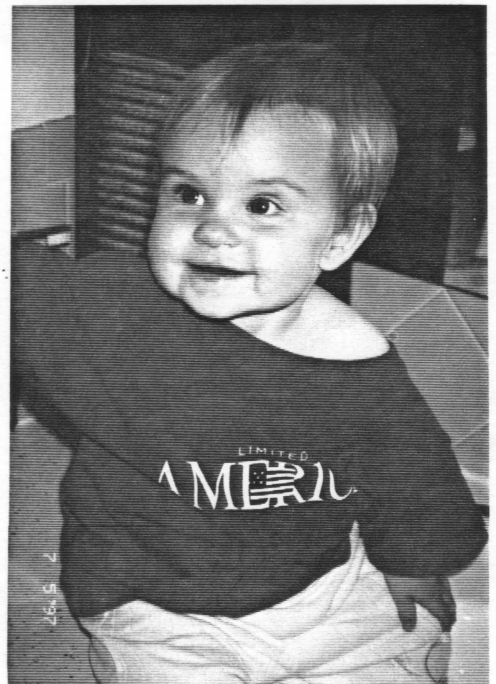
AD DEADLINES: FOR ISSUE
NOVEMBER 5-----DECEMBER
JANUARY 5-----FEBRUARY
MARCH 5-----APRIL
MAY 5-----JUNE
JULY 5-----AUGUST
SEPTEMBER 5-----OCTOBER

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Louis who is really Dads buddy loves to watch the chooch.

Lauren 10 months old is now walking, sort-of.



Time really does fly when you're having fun. It's non-stop action at the Claussen houses these days. There's a list a mile long and we never reach the bottom of the list.

Driving to work the other day I was listening to the news. The great dime store chain Woolworths has finally ceased operations. The store we had in Springfield closed 15 years ago but there were many stores still open. Louis Marx and Co. sold thousands of trains throughout the world at Woolworths locations. Just another sign of changing times.

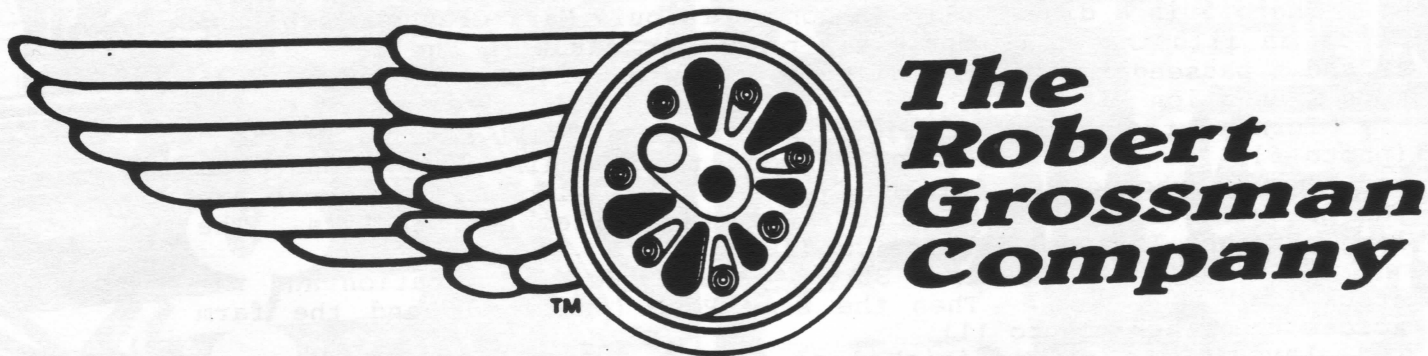
I haven't been able to spend much time looking for trains and toys lately, but I did buy what is suppose to be a prototype 6" 8 wheel military flat with a truck load. The man has several pieces of which some could have been made up at a later date. It is always necessary to be a little scepticle of items supposing to be prototypes. I figured I wouldn't have lost much if it isn't legitimate because the car is supposed to be in good shape with original load clip and original vehicle. These cars are supposed to be from the original owner since purchase from factory in Girard.

I came across a good find. I got a pair of rail cars with their original rail loads. I'm keeping the rails for mine but I am selling the two extra rails cars. There was also a non embossed wheel car and an empty flat car for a load. These cars seem to be few and far between so some of these I find in nice condition I keep. Not easy to find.

Still tentatively planning on going to York this fall. Also looking forward to cooler weather. We have a high today of 98.

Please continue to send ideas and articles. I'm not easy to catch and I'm not able to call and talk like I want to but there will come a time again when I can. Continue to contribute.

I'm going to a show the second weekend in August. You never know what will turn up. I have good shows and bad shows. Think about what you would like to see on the pages of "Collecting With MARX". Maybe you know someone you could encourage to do it. Thanks and Happy Collecting.



THE ROBERT GROSSMAN CO.
1967 CHELFORD RD.
RICHMOND HTS. OHIO 44143

After accumulating more MARX trains and accessories than I could display or operate it came time to be selective and decide where to put the emphasis. Being a "depression baby" my real true love was for the tinsplate toys that came from the "five and dime" store or from the annual Christmas wish book. These cheap toys and trains were as dear as the most expensive toys of today. There is something about the feel and look of the brightly colored and out of scale trains. Much of their charm comes from our imagination the other comes color, scale and design inaccuracies. In our minds a six inch, four wheel, tinsplate passenger car can become a seventy-two foot pullman with twelve wheel trucks. Buildings, vehicles, animals, people, etc all fit together perfectly.

There are many decisions to be made in building a layout. First, where is it going to be? This usually determines the size it will be. Most important is the style. Will it be mostly track with a lot of operation or will it be a small community with rail service. Most of us do not have the resources to do both. Some of my early layouts were mostly rail yards and track for operation. As time went by buildings, accessories and vehicles began to take over the space. In real life the railroads exist to serve the people and industry. This layout seems to combine both operation and scenery.

The layout is designated a MARX tinsplate layout, however only about 90% of the items are MARX. Some are lithographed tin cans, American Flyer and Wolverine. Most of the vehicles are MARX. A few plastic pieces have slipped in but an attempt has been made to keep it tin. The main line track is powered by an American Flyer transformer and the remainder of the layout runs on four MARX transformers. All the wiring and controls are simple wiring as would have been done in the late 40's. One serious error in the layout is that only tinsplate will operate on it. Clearances and curves will not accomodate 333's, 1829's or F-7 diesels. Both the old and new MARX tinsplate will clear buildings, curves and adjoining tracks.

The track design is a simple main line with four sidings and two crossovers that allow a train to reverse direction and make a return trip to its origin. Only one train at a time can be operated. Each siding is a control block and the east and west center sections are separately wired so that they may be used as a passing siding. Block signals indicate which track has power and all switches are lit to indicate direction. Operation of the layout requires a steady hand on the throttle and attention to switch settings. Sound is provided by a "garage sale" boom box with a continous play steam locomotive tape.

Downtown MARXVILLE is designed around the 6" x 5" x 4" store that were sold in the early 1930's to go with the windup called "Main Street". Mingled in with these are new tin litho buildings and other manufactures houses. Photo 1 shows the main street looking east and photos 2, 3 and 4 show some of the "Home Town" stores.

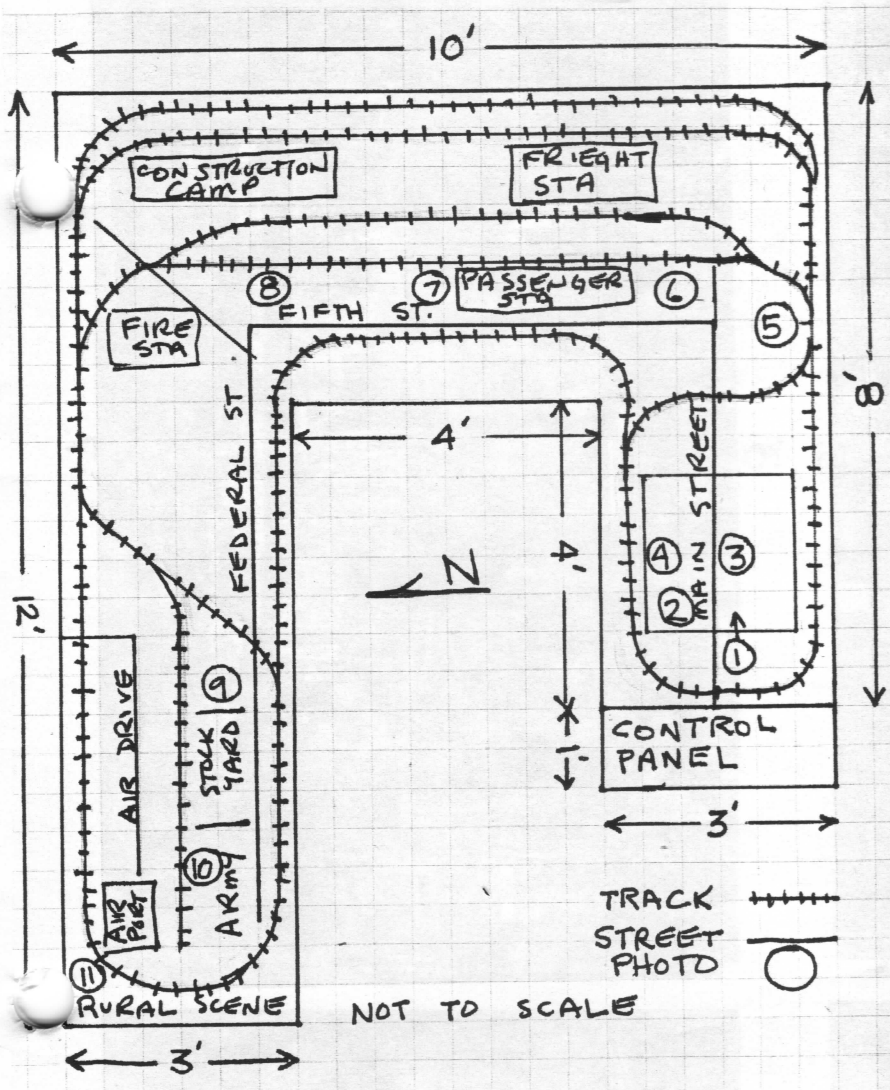
Photo 5 is a diner built in honor of Louis Marx Claussen's birth. It is an illuminated 6" Montclair passenger car with the back closed in and a passenger strip installed in the window. It is mounted on a wood foundation with a light.

Turning the corner to Fifth Street is a "Gull Service Station" (photo 6), "Grand Central Station" and the "Machine Shop" (photo 7) and the "Greyhound Bus Terminal" (photo 8). Also on the layout are the "Fire Station" and "Airport" from this series of buildings. The large Freight Terminal is also used.

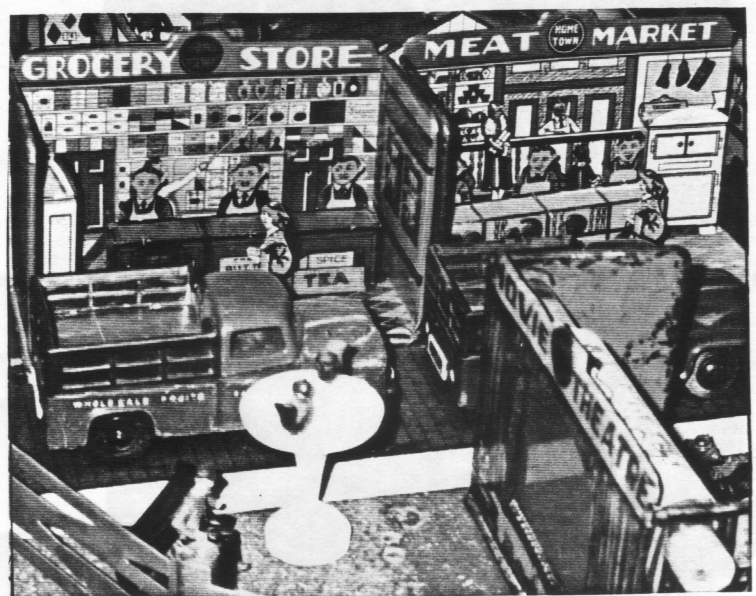
Turning west on Federal Street is a "Blue Bird" station and the stock yard (photo 9). Then the Army Post (photo 10) and the farm across the track (photo 11).

Layouts are never finished as there is always something to be moved, added or deleted. This layout is in the master bedroom of our house. For years I have been negotiating for track rights into the adjoining guest bedroom. Not the entire room, just two tunnels and a shelf around the room for track. So far I have only two chances of this happening. They are "slim" and "none" and my wife says slim just went out the door. Probably the next addition will be "the ELEVATED" on trestles and bridges as advertised by new MARX TRAINS.

Hope you have enjoyed a visit to a MARX TINPLATE layout and we are looking forward to seeing yours.



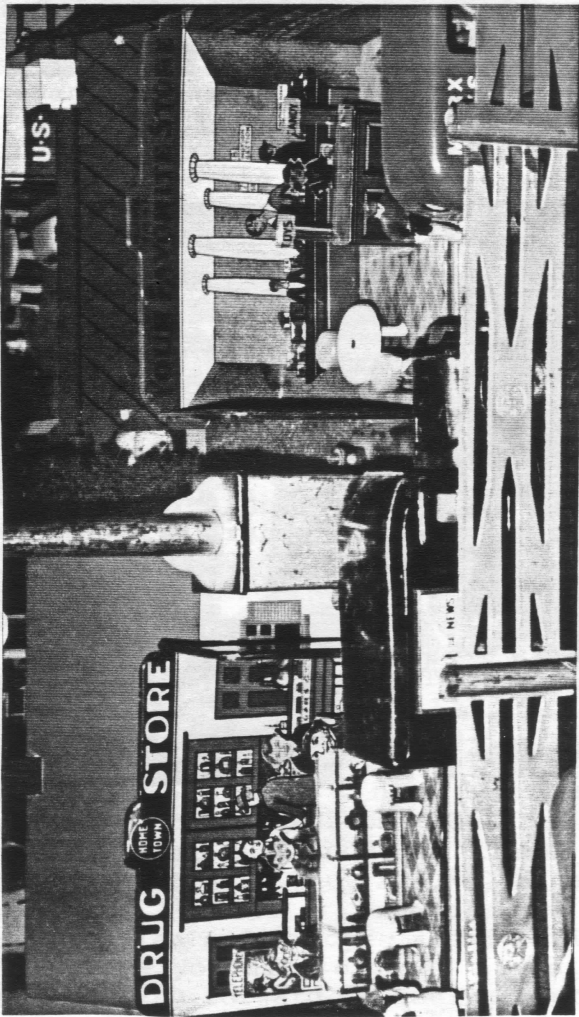
1.



2.



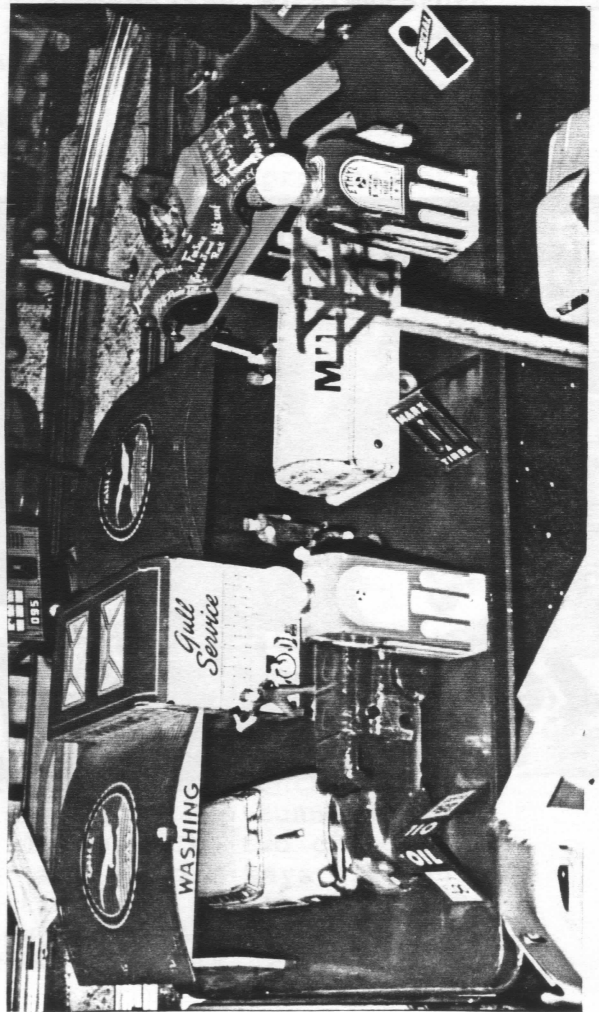
3.



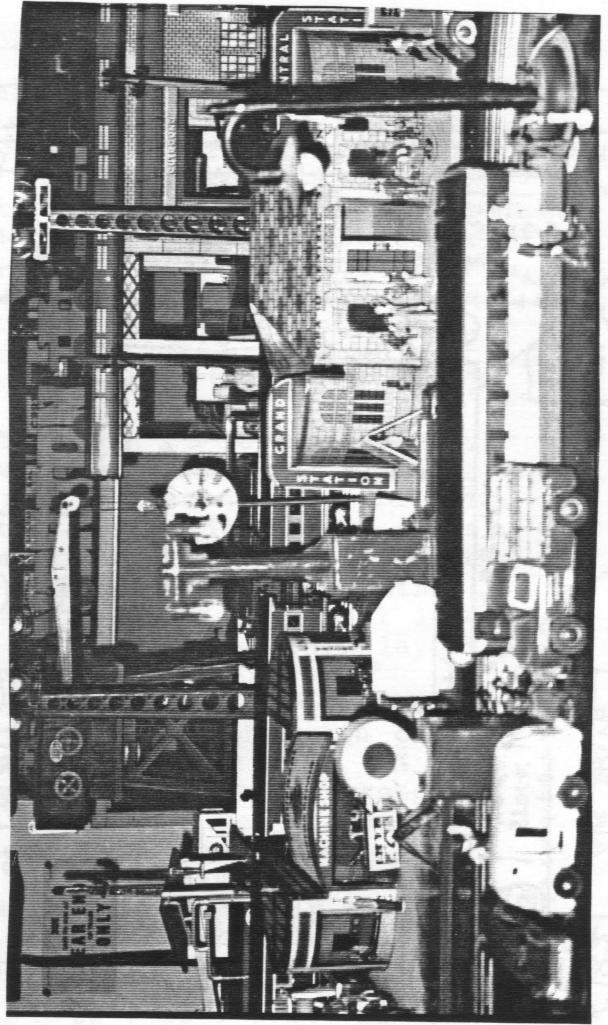
4.



5.



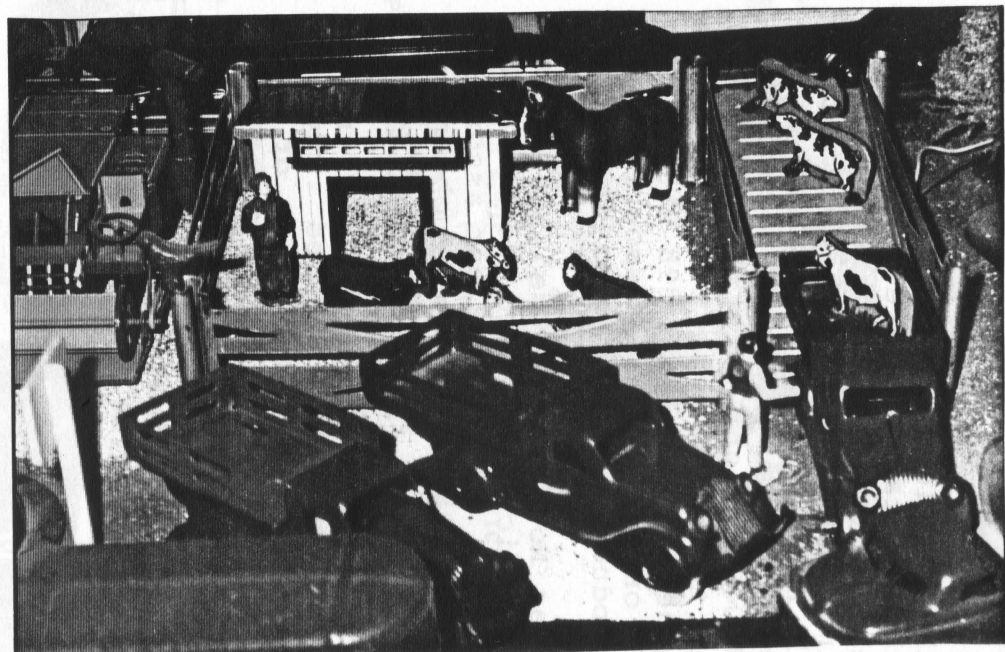
6.



7.



8.



9.



10.



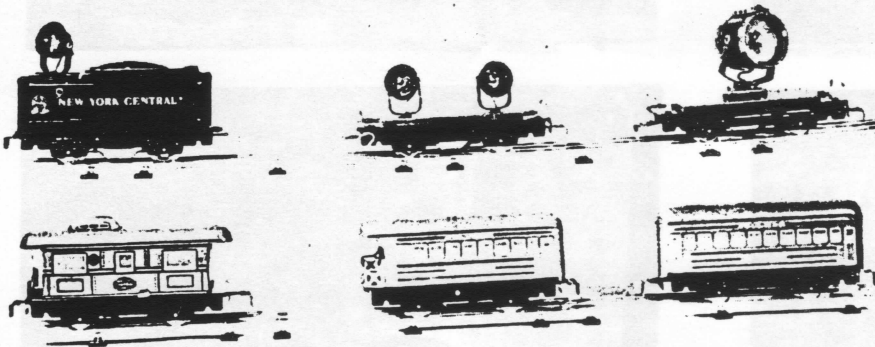
11.

Norm Brickl sends a copy of the "Allied Toy Catalogue" from March 1952. I own an original and these catalogues are very interesting to study. This catalogue includes the entire MARX train line for 1952. It's 20 pages and keep in mind that this is a dealer's catalogue to order stock for the local hobby shop. Nineteen fifty-two was a year that was very inclusive as far as offering a comprehensive list of engines. We have the 10005 freight set, the 994 and 7 inch cars, the 21 diesels with scale type cars, the 999 with scale cars, the 333 with tender or with coaches, the 897 and 898 with 6 inch cars, Southern Pacific style engines only they say Missouri-Kansas-Texas Lines (which is a set never produced) and the Marlines style Jubilee engine.

A set of cars which was offered as No. 586 included the lighted 556 caboose, a very desirable and difficult car to find. This assortment wholesaled for \$12.00 per dozen. Another 12 car assortment included the very desirable load cars. The flat with a truck and the barrel car are two of the best ones here. This set sold for \$7.20 per dozen wholesale.

A couple of accessories that are difficult to find today include the "cutout" foot bridge #1340 and the Automatic lighted crossing gate #1438. Twelve foot bridges carried a wholesale price of \$9.35 per dozen and the automatic gate included 6 pieces for the steep price of \$28.00 per dozen. This gate is as good as anything anybody had. It was very well done.

The catalogue includes parts, bumpers, stations, bridges, etc. I will be including some entries from this catalogue in future issues.

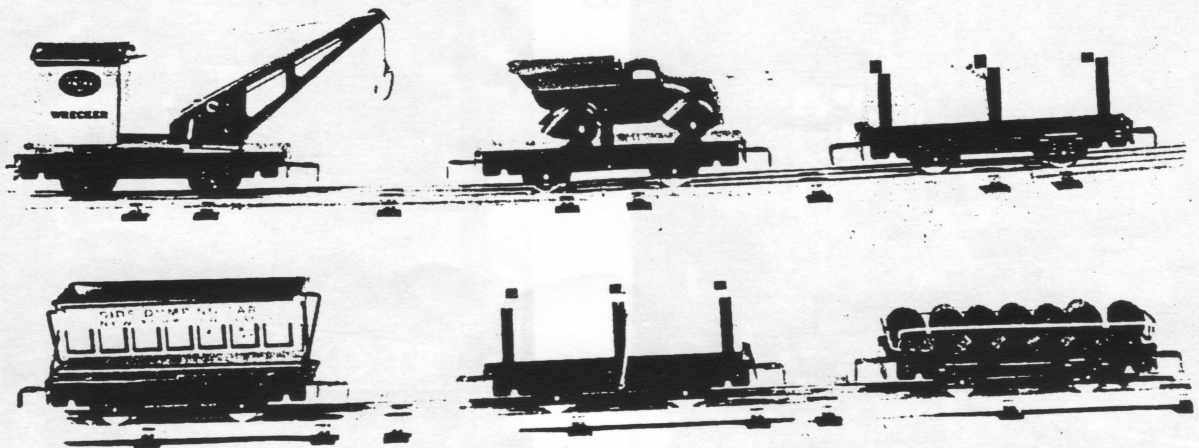


**No. 586
LIGHTED R.R. CAR SET**

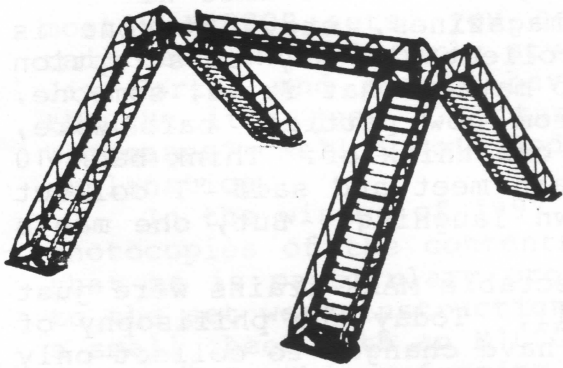
Packed 1 Doz. Asst. Cars to Carton
Weight per Carton 5 lbs.

**No. 576 RAILROAD CAR ASSORTMENT
ALL FOUR WHEEL CARS**

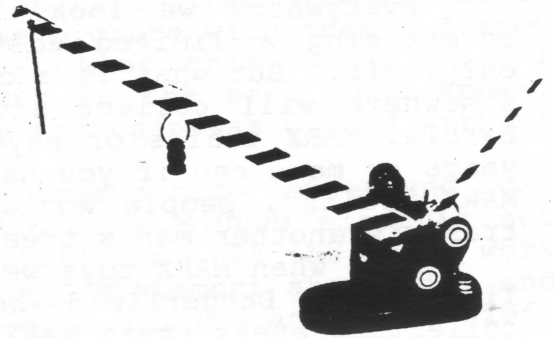
Beautifully Lithographed in R.R. colors
Shipping weight 12 lbs.
Packed 3 doz. assorted



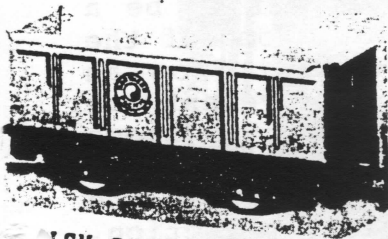
No. 584 NOVELTY R.R. CAR SET
Packed 1 Doz. Asst. Cars to Carton; Weight Per Carton 5 lbs.



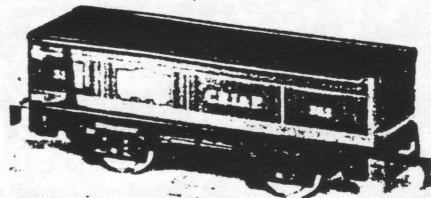
No. 1340 METAL OVERHEAD UNION PACIFIC FOOT BRIDGE
 With 2 sets of stairways. Measures 13½" wide by 7½" high
 Packed 1 doz. to Carton, Weight per carton 19½ lbs.



No. 1438 AUTOMATIC LIGHTED CROSSING GATE
 Has two movable lowering arms which descend when train approaches, and rise after train crosses. Central control is electric. Overall measurements 13½" long.
 Packed ½ Doz. per carton. Weight per carton 6½ lbs.



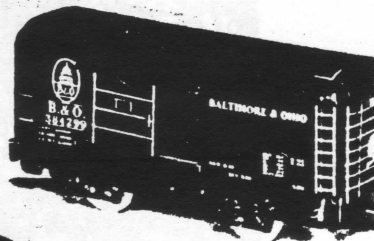
HIGH SIDE GONDOLA



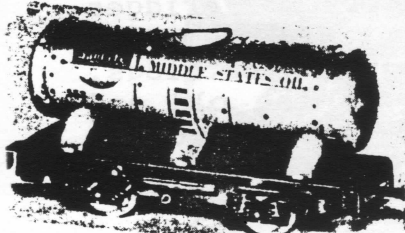
GONDOLA



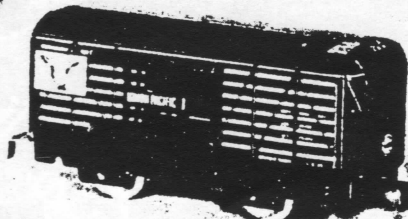
COAL CAR



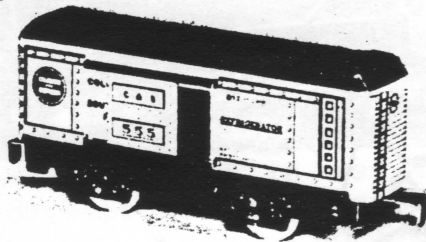
BOX CAR



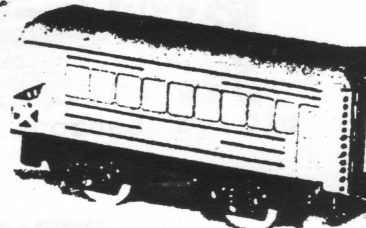
OIL TANK CAR



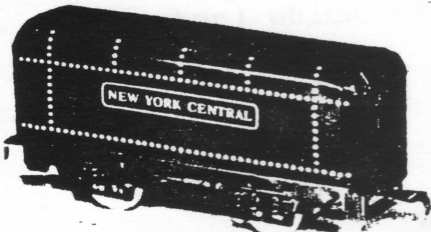
CATTLE CAR



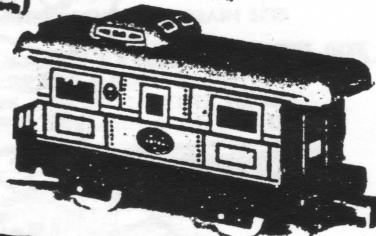
REFRIGERATOR CAR



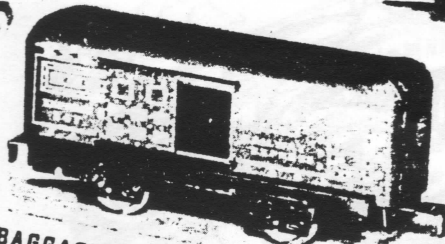
OBSERVATION CAR



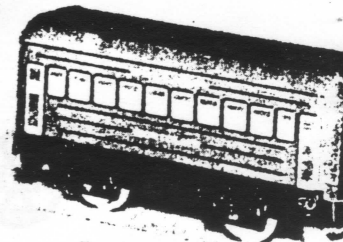
TENDER



CABOOSE



BAGGAGE and EXPRESS CAR



PASSENGER CAR

CARMARX ASKS: WHAT IS A COLLECTABLE?
By: James A. Norton

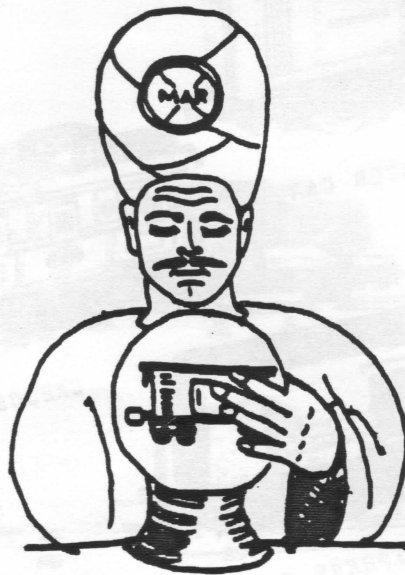
Everywhere we look, T.V., radio, magazines, etc., someone is advertising a limited edition, highly collectable, by subscription only, etc. But what is a collectable? No matter what it is, someone, somewhere will collect it. Anything from cow patties, barb wire, Barbie, MARX trains or anything else you can think of. Think back 10 years or more ago if you had been at a train meet and said "I collect MARX trains", people would have fell down laughing. But, one man's trash is another man's treasure.

Back when MARX toys were highly collectable MARX trains were just like Rodney Dangerfield--no respect at all. Today the philisophy of collecting every train MARX made seems to have changed to collect only the rare, hard to find high dollar items. The common MARX engines and rolling stock seem to be sitting on the dealers shelves and tables begging for someone to take them home. Are we returning to the days when MARX trains were under the tables and sold by the box?

One of the model railroad magazines has predicted that the Hong Kong, Taiwan, China cheap mass produced battery operated or windup trains will be the collectables of the future. Of course the limited production high dollar trains will remain collectable for those that can afford them.

Where is MARX in this race? The new MARX trains appear to be a quality product. Well engineered and produced in the US. Some of the early new MARX trains have already appreciated in value. From an operational view point the new motors are a tremendous improvement over the original. The production of items that were only prototype seems to continue the Louis MARX original line of trains. The addition of new road names and product names to the original style of engines and cars should provide the MARX collector with a continuing collection. Such things as the Sears car, Pepsi Cola, SP passenger, Penn RR etc are some prime examples.

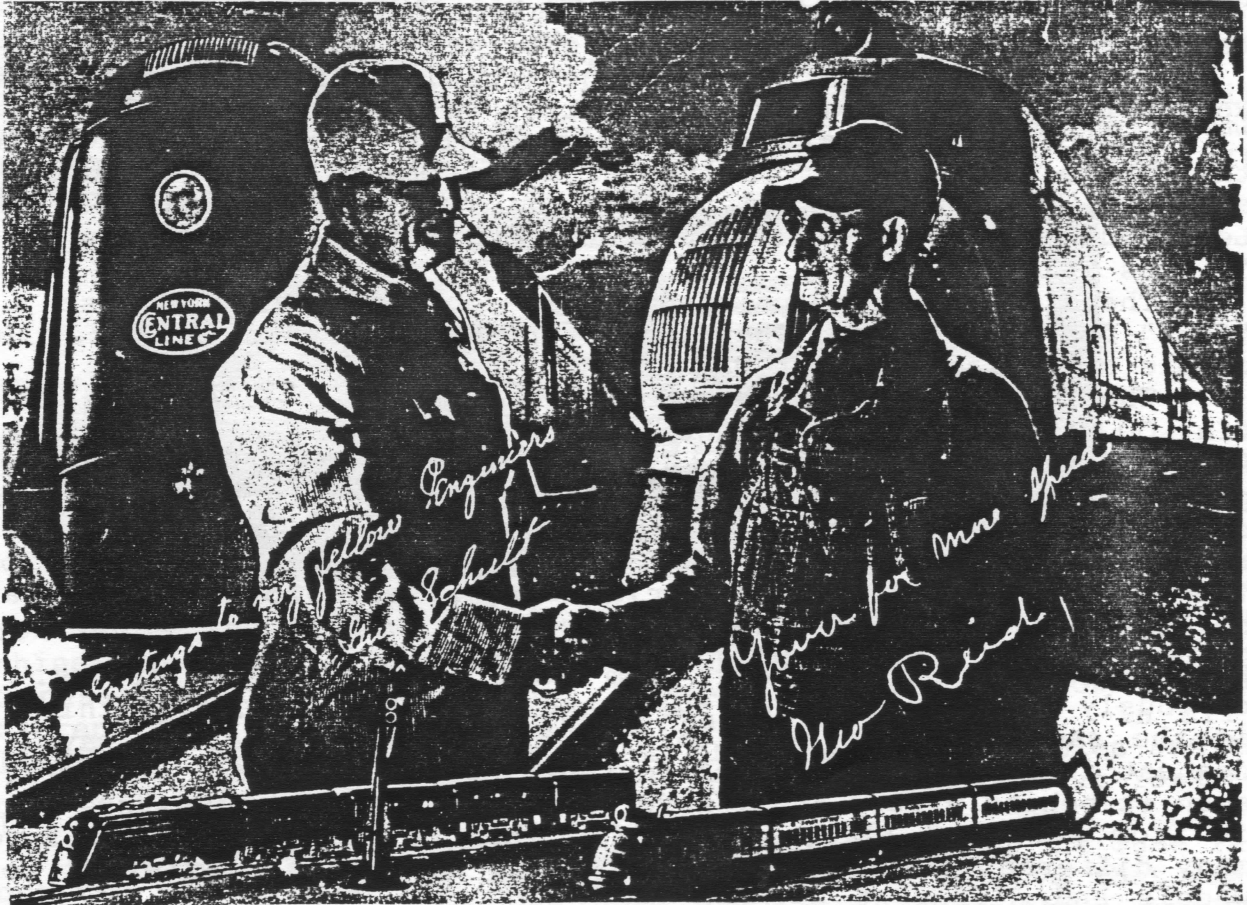
CARMARX is looking forward to the release of the Diner, bridges and trestles. The newly announced elevated train brings back memories of the two tier trains as advertised in the old Woolworth catalogs. Hopefully the MARX collectors will continue to seek out the old and continue with the new. Remember the trains we threw away 20 or 30 years ago are the collectables of today.



CONFIRMATION REQUESTED

In some of the early to mid 1930's MARX train sets (I'm guessing mostly M10000 sets) you could find a picture of two men obviously railroad men with early style trains in the picture with them. I know Jim Norton and myself have discussed just what this could be. I thought it's just a picture somebody stuck in the box. Who knows? Who cares? Well I do! And until recently the case was closed without explanation.

In the winter of 1997 Jerry Alexander sent a nice letter and some photocopies of the contents of a tan and yellow M10000 electric set that he is particularly proud of and rightfully so. In the paper work to the set were instructions, an "important" statement about oil, and a small sheet with an M10000 set and the words Winslow and "Firechief Skates." Is this referring the the photograph? If so who are they and what's the big deal? Thanks Jerry!



This picture was included in set number 1093 (as recorded by Jim Norton) which corresponds to the same type of set.

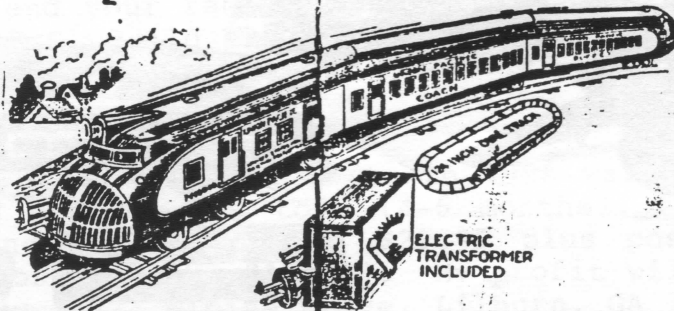


ALL OUR

ELECTRIC AND MECHANICAL TRAIN SETS

WINSLOW and "FIRECHIEF" SKATES

MECHANICAL AND ELECTRIC DRIVEN TOYS SHOULD BE OILED FOR BETTER RESULTS AND LONGER LIFE WITH 3-IN-ONE OIL



LOUIS MARX & CO. - 200 FIFTH AVE. - NEW YORK CITY, U. S. A.

READERS WRITE.....

I recently obtained a MARX anti-aircraft gun, which is apparently an artillery piece. The large wheels are 2 5/8 inches in diameter, tin, black with a dark red interior. The anti-aircraft gun is exactly like 572AA 4 wheel train car and the 257AA 8 wheel train car. The man I purchased the artillery piece from had in turn obtained from another, who reported that he had at times used it on the 4th of July to shoot fire crackers with. If so, the unit shot very well for there are no scars or damage to the barrel. It is pictured with my 572AA and 2572AA pieces.

I do not know whether it was towed by a truck or jeep. Does anyone have further information on this unit?

Though I'm not much for repainting, here are a couple of units that were already repainted when I obtained them.

One is an electric CW and 4 wheel tender painted in the Milwaukee Road colors, with Milwaukee Road letter on the tender.

The other is an all red CP engine with "Circus Train" letter on the engine sideboards. The tender is a common 551, the sides, front and back all painted red. The top has the original 551 litho. Lettered on the sides in white are the words, as with the engine, "Circus Train".

These units were painted by someone who had at least a good "feel" for repainting. They look rather sharp and different. Just a couple of variations that MARX didn't produce!

The other day I purchased a MARX army caterpillar type tractor-tin, OD with red or red/orange letters and markings. It has "Army = 1 Art" printed on both sides. It is a windup unit, which works, with a permanent key, and an on/off lever. The tracks are missing as is the operator figure. I am seeking somewhere new treads and a possible replacement man/operator. Also the approximate age of this piece. The wheels are 2 1/4" in diameter and are 5" axle to axle. Can anyone help? --Duane Ford 517-323-6409.

Duane--Always good to hear from you! Three great pieces. You obviously know the dates of the 4 and 8 wheel pieces. The third piece is the same and I've seen this piece in many different ways. The neatest is in the "Soldier of Fortune" set with the tin soldiers, I've seen it behind a Jeep and I have seen it with a 10¢ dime store stamp on it from a 5¢ and 10¢ store shelf. This is one that you will see in many different colored litho variations as well as different colored wheels and different colored base support. Thanks for the pictures Duane!



Well, no more tenders for awhile. Time to move to something else. Back in 1986, my son Scott and I made the trip from Wisconsin to Portland, OR to attend the TTOS convention. A good friend and fellow MARX collector, Dick Owen was convention chairman. It was a good opportunity to see a little of the west coast, meet Dick in person and attend a national convention.

Before leaving, Al Cox of Seattle, WA sent me a list of trains for sale. On that list was the 3/16 Santa Fe cattle car #13549 but with brown doors!! Interesting, but I wanted to save my money for the convention. Besides, I had already signed up to see Al's collection as a tour from the convention. If the brown door car was there, well, I'd get a look at it anyway. If not, well I wasn't supposed to own it. Fate would decide.

The trip went well and we arrived in Portland. Did all the convention stuff and got to Al's on the assigned day. After several hours of looking at a terrific collection, it was time to see the "for sale" items. There it was, the brown door cattle car. After close inspection, I believed the piece to be original and purchased it.

Since then, I've heard of 5 or 6 more like mine. Is it first production before the Santa Fe doors were produced or did the assembly line simply run out of the correct door? Who knows. Who cares! It's a difficult item and I'm glad to own it. --John Torqerson.



Greenberg's Volume 1, page 14, figure 2 describes (G) as a hole which holds the hollow rivet used as a pivot for the wrecker and machine gun cars. I have quite a few type I frames on other freight and passenger cars with the (G) holes. Does anyone know how many different cars with type II frames have the (G) holes? In all my collecting I have found only one type II frame with (G) holes and that is a cable car. I will try to bring it to show and tell at York this fall.

Oh, by the way, the article by Dan Fenstermaker in the June issue about the KCS engine and caboose for \$70.00. I believe that was me he was talking to. It was a 7" caboose #980. Yes, there are some good bargains still out there. I did real good at York this past spring.

Thanks to Bob Rosenberg I have a Mickey Mouse boxcar now. All I need now is the tender to complete the set. I also picked up two blue whistling Mercurys at York.

I wish you and your family the best of luck when you move into your new home. P.S. Build the train room first! Hope to meet you at York. York is a priority you know. HA! HA! --Ray Cox.

Let me hear if you want a 12 month 1998 wall calendar featuring MARX trains (6-8 months) and toys (4-6 months). This done by Wolf Camera here at no-coupon cost of \$29.95 plus postage. (If I get coupons, actual cost will be \$19.95). My profit will be your enjoyment. Richard L. MacNary, 4727 Alpine Drive, Lilburn, GA 30047. Phone: 770-972-5894. Fax: 770-736-3447.

MY LUCK HAS CHANGED?

My sister and brother-in-law were at our house for the 4th of July weekend. Sunday after church I was looking through the auction section of the newspaper. Almost finished, having not seen any trains to persue, the last line of the last auction stated, "Leonil train w/5 cars, Metal Canadian Pacific Elective train, Wind-up Canadian Pacific Train plus more items." WOW! I thought.

In my mind of course I'm thinking "Canadian Pacific" at worst could be a freight set with vehicle load car, maybe a barrel car, reel car, etc. At best a mint in box passenger set! Windup? In Canadian Pacific Windup? There are only two that I know of. One is scarce the other darn near impossible. The first a passenger windup that pulled the four wheel 3 and 4 coach passenger sets in maroon and gold Canadian Pacific colors. The second, and one of the most difficult pieces in all of MARXdom to acheive, a gray boiler with blue and gold detail windup engine to pull a short freight train.

In my toy store imagination I made plans to attend the Monday evening auction. I told my wife, "I'm going to stop by the auction house on my way home from work. Don't hold dinner for me." Of coarse in my mind I'm thinking, "This could be the greatest MARX train find in history and nobody in Springfield has a clue that they are even here let alone how much they are worth. I'll be able to buy them for a song."

Monday after work I proceeded to the auction house. Entering the auction room I began looking for toys and trains. I spotted the Lionel stuff and on a table back in the back corner I spotted what looked to be a Jubilee style engine and some cars. Nothing said Canadian Pacific and nothing is exceptional. Just stuff. Not terribly dissappointed because I had been in that situation before, I had about an hour and a half before auction time so I went on home.

I got home and proceeded to tell my wife what I saw. She said "Maybe they didn't have it all out yet!" Dummy me--I didn't even think to ask.

I went back to the auction house expecting to find more stuff. No chance. There was nothing to add to my collection.

It was an exciting 36 hours however and sometimes the chase is more exciting than owning something.

On Sunday I received a call (on the 18th of May) from my friend in Pomona who collects cast iron toys if I am interested in buying an ore car and some toy trains in no time I took off to Pomona by bus.

About 2 hours I arrived in Pomona, met my friend and immediately purchased the ore car of 1907 by Hendy of S.F. Cal.

Then I looked at the trains - it was so dirty from storage, unmistakably a MARX deluxe set - its cars are in prototype colors. Eyeing a milk chocolate Great Northern 18918 boxcar is something about a set I haven't seen before. The set is complete except for the caboose at \$30.00 at his asking price seemed to be a bargain so I bought it. The set consists of 6665 no stripe engine, clip-on headlight wire, tender 951 all stamped steel litho NYC, boxcar GN 18918 chocolate RS white, Hopper LV 21429 black RS orange, Tank UTLX 284 RS red, Gondola ERIE 51170 black RS white. All cars have F trucks die cast wheels, and a tab cut out from each truck to align spring. All have plastic forks including black oxidized 3/16 tender trucks. It takes courage to find MARX in unlikely places. Upon leaving the store I noticed faint lettering of freight entrance door of building next door "Montgomery Ward". Could be that set from that store? My friend took me home with that big ore car and the MARX. Can the membership identify what NYC caboose came with it? --Robert Verre.

WANTED

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Help I have a 1614 Automatic Dump Unit with a bad/poor condition shack, and base. I need a 1614 for parts to repair my unit, or a good complete 1614 to purchase. Also want a 1404 block signal position light type (metal). D Lamont, 110 Washington St, Ithaca NY 14850. 607-277-5351 eves, best.

In good condition, tender and 1 or 2 coaches for #110. Hafner cast iron engine, also 1 or 2 coaches for small early American Flyer cast iron engine. Carl Dickerson, 328 S Collingwood St., Box 103, Pretty Prairie, KS., 67570. Phone 316-459 6279.

Union Pacific tin wind-up diesel, circa 1952, yellow and brown cabooses, boxcar, cattle car, oil tanker, etc. Ed Ellis, Phone 613-593-6466 days or 613-747-7741 evenings. Eastern time.

Right Hand Remote Control switch #1590. George Kerle, 76 First St., Melrose, MA 02176-4025. 617-665-9348. Anytime, leave message.

I have an extra cab for the #350 Joyline with the boiler attached plus smoke stack. Roof is missing on cab. Condition C-5. Will trade for Complete boiler front for another #350 I have. Bob Thomas.

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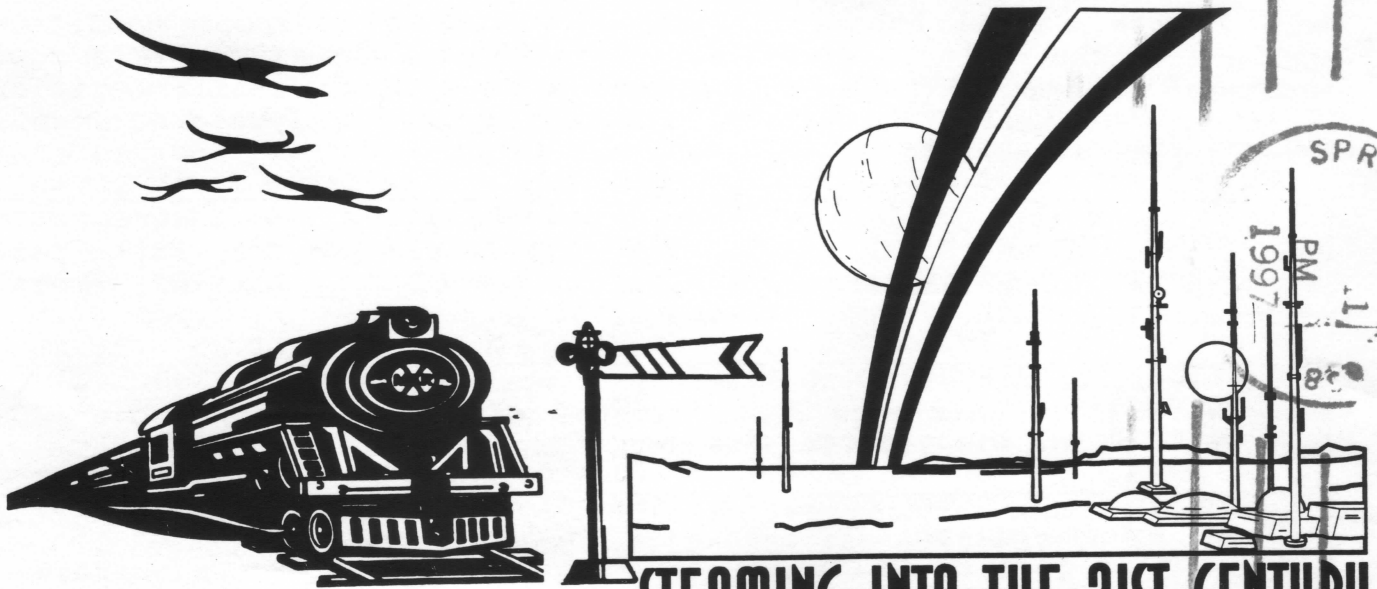
FOR SALE

897 OD loco, no tender, runs needs cleaning, GD - \$225. Boxed set 8142 KCS, trains EX, Box GD - \$425. CP plastic 2366 cabooses EX \$125 - neat boxed playset #6652 Guide-a-traffic, buildings, track, the car and paperwork, hard one - VG+/EX+ \$150. Call on these for more info. Richard D. Fletcher, 60 Fredonia Road, Newton NJ 07860. Phone 201-579-0028.

MARX list, over 6 pages of rare and common MARX trains issued monthly Send SASE for copy. Tony Hay, Box 9274-M, Huntington WV 25704.

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1. Copper Mercury set - loco, tender, US mail, Toledo, Toledo, Detroit, C-7 \$375.00.
 2. #13079 LNE 3/16 Hopper C-8 \$65.00.
 3. #13079 LNE 3/16 hopper. C-7 \$50.00.
 4. #44572 C&O hi-side gondola C-9/OB \$25.00.
 5. St Paul and Pacific cars #1 and #3 plus Wells Fargo tender. C-7 \$45.00.
 6. #13579 ATSF 3/16 cattle car C-8/OB \$65.00
 7. #20053 red Seaboard Boxcar. C-7 \$50.00.
 8. Girard Station - illuminated. C-7/OB \$100.00.
 9. Outfit #32355 Freight set in Bi-level box with accessories. C-8/OB \$150.00.
 10. Wardville Cardboard suburban station - 1930,s. C-7 \$65.00.
 11. Empty Box #35300 - #333 Combo set C-7 \$25.00.
- Ted Valis 1211 Tamara Hollister, CA 95023. 408-637-8327.

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1. Canadian Pacific cabooses #2366 - chipped roof, reglued \$135.00
 2. Union Pacific #3900 cabooses 4 wheel. Yellow -C-8, \$65.00.
 3. Rock Island #1998 switchers - power & dummy C-8 \$235.00.
 4. Cape Canaveral 4 wheel cabooses - C-8 \$95.00.
 5. Cape Canaveral 4 wheel tender C-6 - chipped overlay \$65.00.
 6. Western Pacific E-7's, Power A and Dummy A, C-6 GRAY and YELLOW \$250.00.
 7. Battleground Playset WWII #4204 in a C-8 box. \$95.00.
- Send SASE for sale list. Will Dukes, 8394 Inspiration Ave., Walkersville, MD. 21793. Call 301-845-8522.
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