

COLLECTING WITH
MAIRX

Issue 23

June



COLLECTING WITH MARX

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Summer Fun! With the abundance of mud we have around our place now, Louis and Lauren love to go out and play in the water and mud. As you can see Lauren doesn't always like the ideas that Louis has for playing.

It's been a pleasure meeting and speaking with many of the "Collecting With MARX" community over the past several weeks. It was my pleasure to attend two train shows since the last magazine. My findings include a red "Jubilee" style or "Canadian Pacific" style engine with red matching tender and two red coaches. I have seen several good buys and many nice boxed sets. Prices seem to be in the fair to high range but on some very high quality both pre- and postwar sets.

Well it seems that one of the scarest most rare MARX tin postwar piggyback loads has surfaced. It's a strange find because of the fact that before this find we only new of between 5 and 10 of them to exist. I remember sitting at the MARX meeting at York, PA with my friend Jim Norton's Montgomery Wards tractor trailer and Tasker Brush asking how many own one and how many others do we know about? I think the total at that time was 4 or 5. Well, several have surfaced and the best figure I have been able to obtain is less than a hundred. These sold between \$200.00 and \$250.00. In my opinion this does not decrease the value of those already in the hands of collectors but rather increases the value in the desirability of the piece may increase through the increased possibility of obtaining one. Many collectors are willing to pay the price if the piece is only available

If you don't have one there may be some still available. I don't know for sure but I may be able to help you make a connection:

On this same order Jim Norton recently obtained an "Allied Van Lines" tractor-trailer combo in this same size (however not the same series). Linemar production and absolutely great detail make this trailer another very desirable piece. I personally have a "Red Ball Van Lines" made just the same only in a different paint scheme.

Larry Chernow called and said he found a great red Joyline (Made in England) set at York. Stan Troski also landed some goodies at York. However, overall, Spring York was not the greatest place to find something for the advanced collector, and for the collector just looking to add a few pieces to his collection the prices may have been a little out of line if a little patience and restraint is used.

If anybody has any of the items on my want list please let me know! Don't forget to send your free for sale add for classifieds and use your free add that you get with your subscription. Make all checks payable to MARX CLAUSSEN. And our address is 7475 E. State Hwy YY, Springfield, MO., 65802. Call me or FAX at 417-866-1068.

Please keep in touch and let us know what you are finding. Thank you to all who continue to support the magazine with money, adds, articles, pictures, etc. It's your magazine! Please spread the word and help us keep it going!

I would like to express my condolences to the family of Ian Paterson of England. Ian was a friend of mine and many of you out there. He loved the hobby and was a great contributor.

Also, well wishes to those of you who have been ill. I wish you well and keep getting better. The hobby would not be the same without you!

Louis MARX and Lauren Micah are still growing ever bigger and really enjoy playing trains. Grandpa Norton gave Louis a few engines to run and he now has a collection that is greater than the collection I had in 1980.

Enjoy life and keep looking for those MARX trains. When you least expect it you'll find something! I guarantee it!

Marx

CARMARX - WHAT THE 'EL' IS THIS?

By: James A. Norton

Several issues ago CARMARX reported that the next large rebuild on the layout would be the installation of his Christmas present - the Chicago Elevated Rail Line. It has been a slow and tedious process and still a long way to go - but the El is alive and running. Remember we reported on the operation and characteristics of the set in an earlier issue.

A major decision had to be made as to where on the layout to put the new line. Some of the older MARX advertisements show a two level track with trains above and below. While this looks appealing it has several draw backs. First, with the elevators in place it is difficult to rerail, uncouple or adjust the train on the lower track. Next with switches on the lower track it requires some adjusting to span the switch machine. One major problem, if you are using a single transformer to operate both levels, there can not be any metal touching the upper track or any elevator that is grounded on the common transformer. This seemingly simple problem caused CARMARX to lose what little hair he had left. A simple solution - use two separate power supplies.

Operating the Chicago El on just the provided oval of track provides a lot of fun but soon loses interest because it does not seem real. An expansion to lengthen the rail line is the next step. Here are some tips for installing the extended line over an existing layout.

1. Use long, three foot sections of O-27 track to decrease the number of elevators needed and span areas where the "feet" cannot sit down on the layout.

2. Use the old time truss bridge to crossover track on the lower level. The holes in the bridge just fit the holes in the top of the elevator and give a good solid support for the track.

3. Experiment with the positioning of the top brackets to find the most stable footing for the trestle.

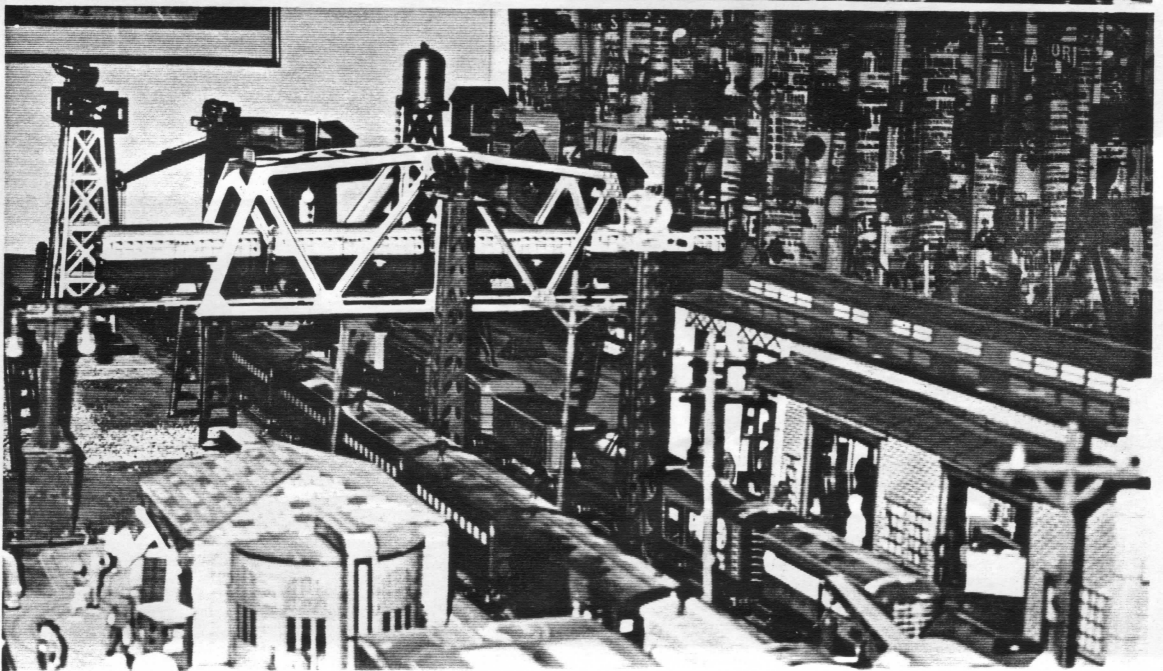
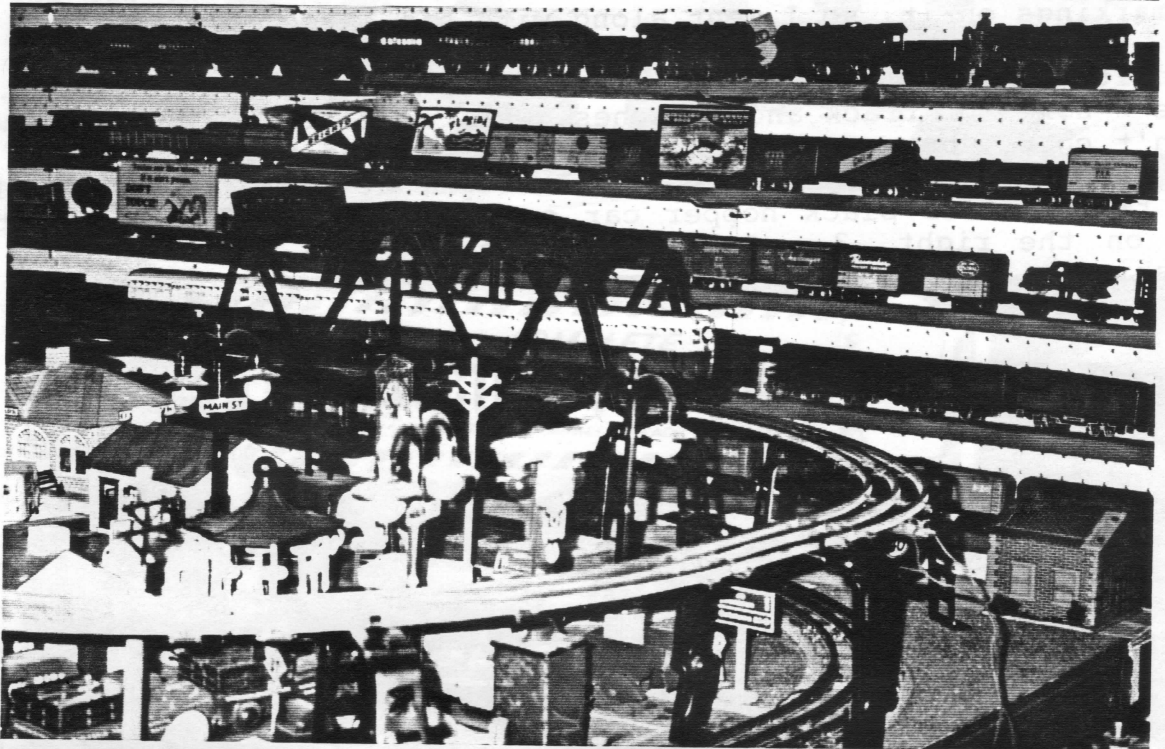
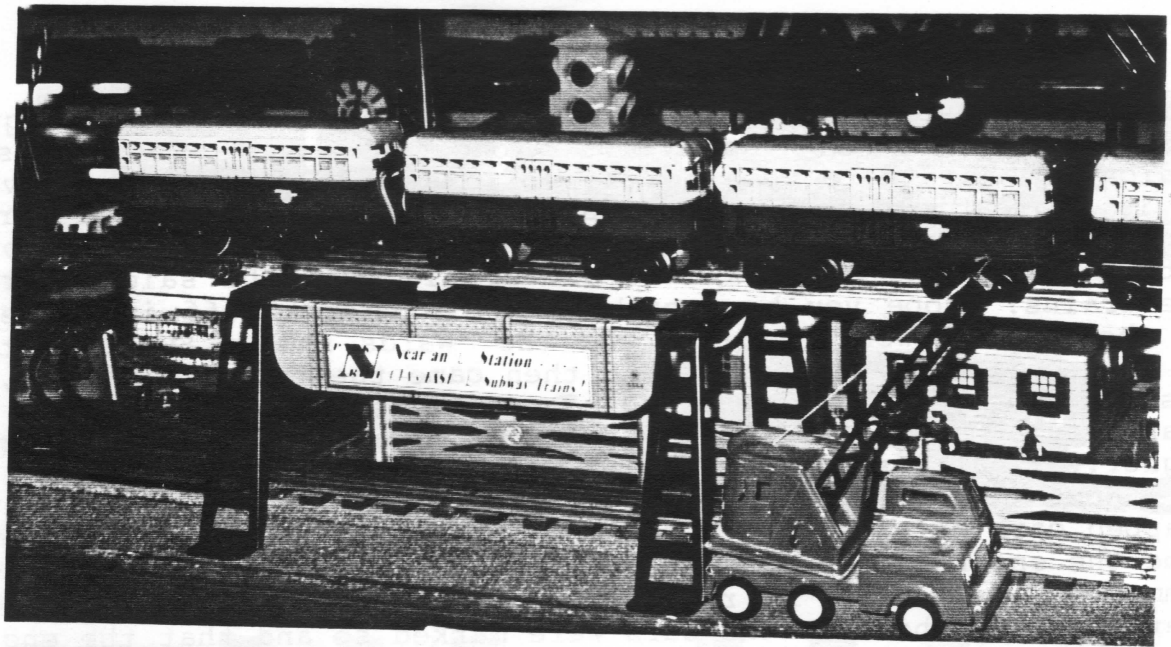
4. The original MARX elevators are compatible with the new ones and also give you some more flexibility as the height and span can be adjusted on many of them.

5. Fasten the elevators to the layout at those points where the track seems to "float" or where necessary to insure alignment.

As with all layouts - it is never finished but is always a work in progress. The rail is up and the train runs, but all the town, houses, buildings and vehicles must be relocated. One fringe benefit that my wife approved was the dusting of every thing on the layout. We are anxiously awaiting the arrival of our first "Tin Town High Rise". The urban look is finally coming to the CARMARX layout. Other plans include building loading platforms along side the elevated track. The stairs from the metal overhead crossing bridge seem to fit well. Hopefully, our commuters will soon have a rapid transit elevated system in operation

Good hunting this summer and remember to look for those treasures on your vacation.



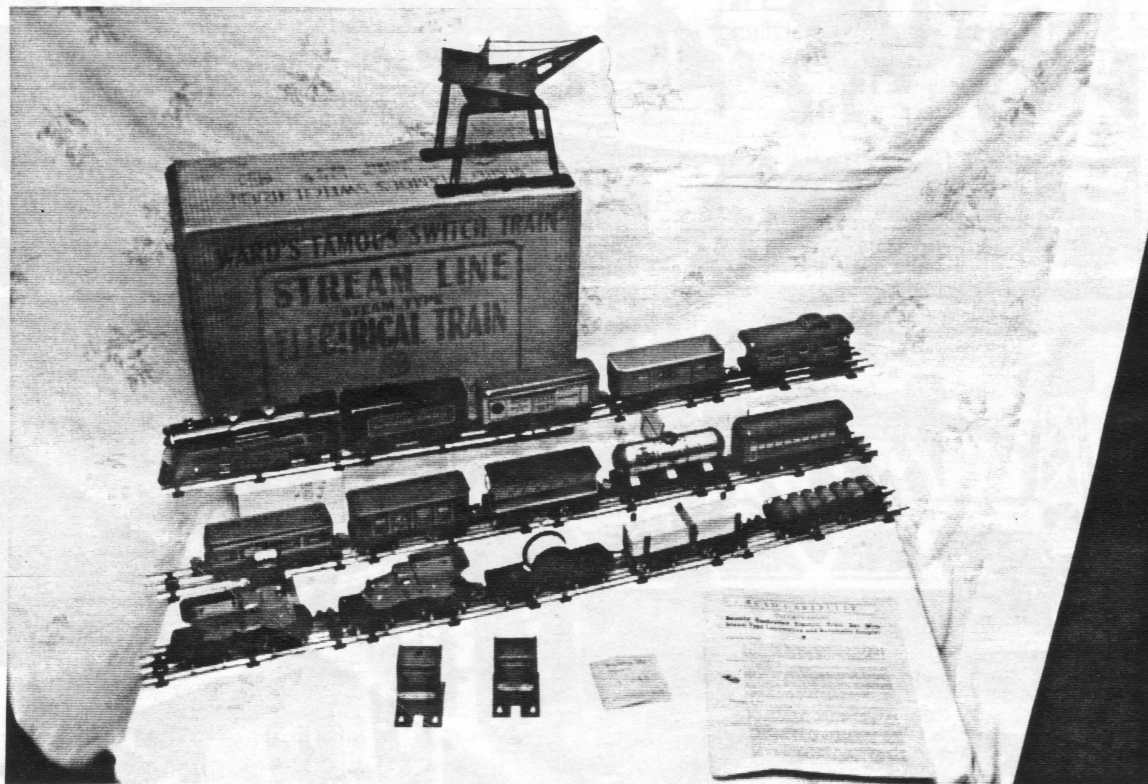


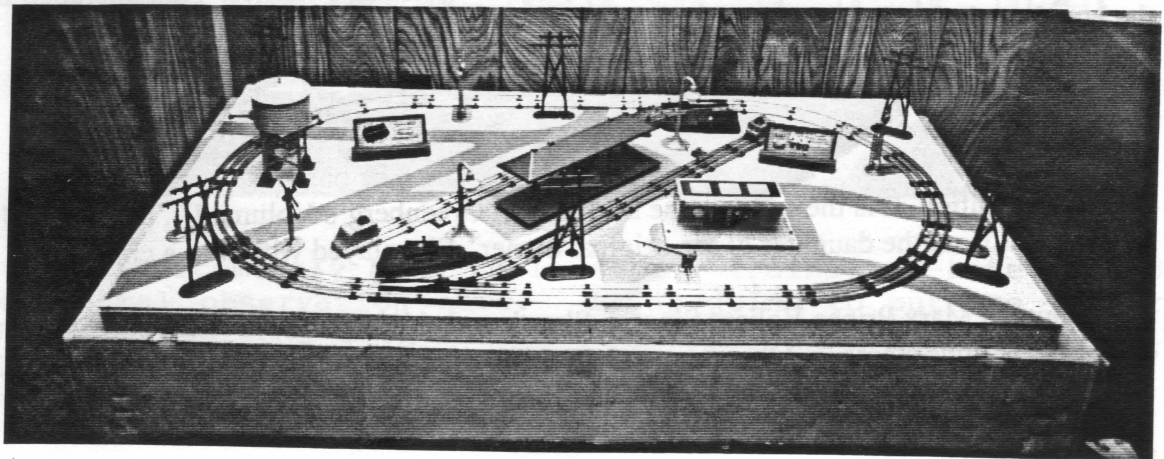
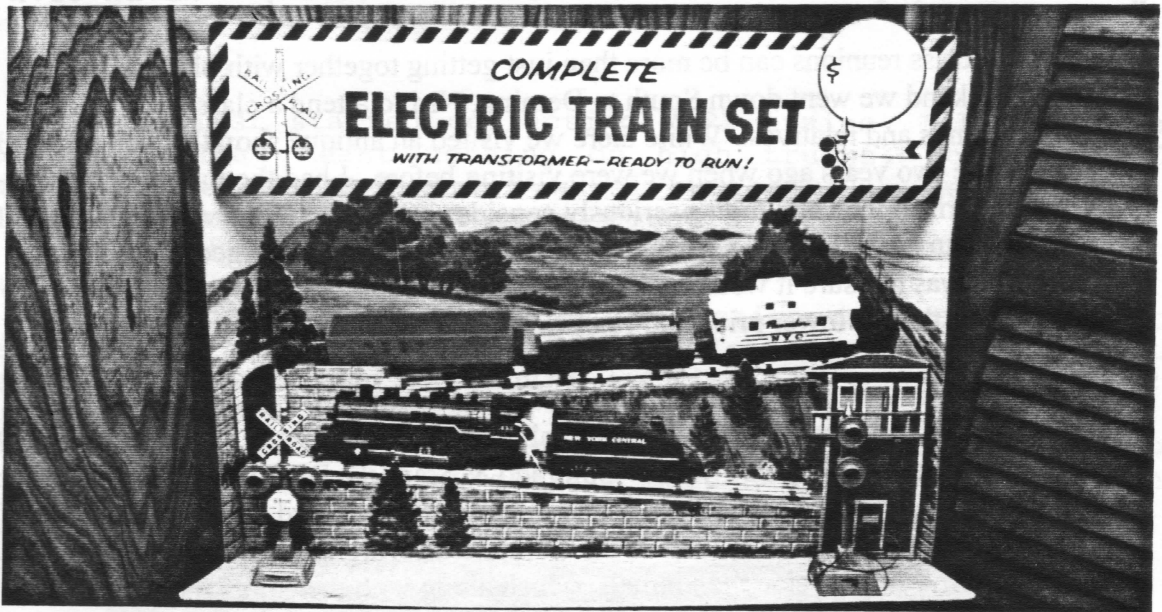
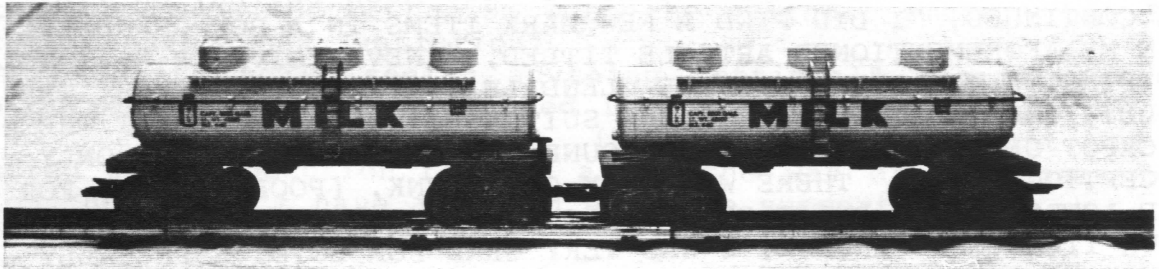
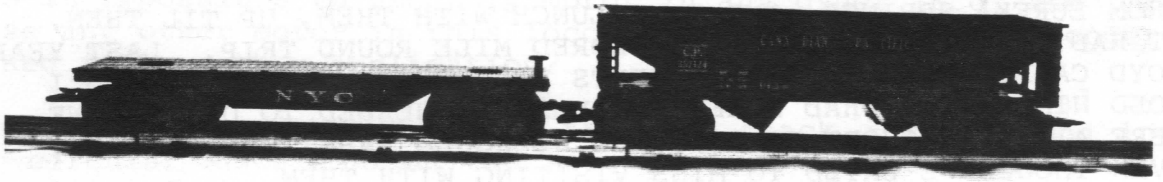
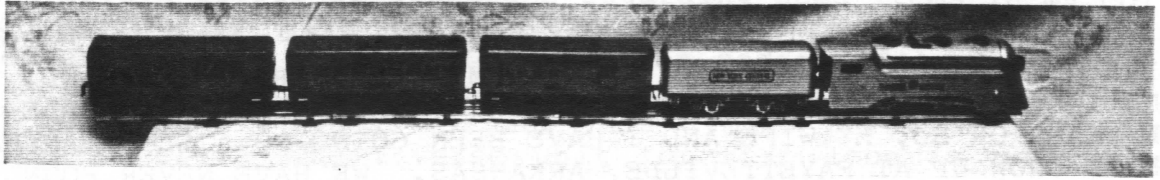
Well about a week ago I received a call from an antique shop which sometimes turns up trains, (once or twice in 4 years). He indicated that there were 5 boxes of MARX tin and to come over now! He is a great old fellow, with a Yankee sense of humor. I arrived to find him sitting on a rocker, on the front porch of his store, and with a smile and a quick exit out of his chair he said, "Here about the trains? Hope you have cash." And with that off into the corner of the shop we went. First came the "Wards Famous Switch set", well we pulled it out, car by car and then came the two truck flats, well I lost it and told him it was the nicest tin set I've ever seen, he said thank you. He thought so too, and that it wouldn't make the price any higher! (That was good).

Next came the "Passenger Set". I started to unpack the larger wrapped cars only to find 3 American Flyer red passenger cars but next came the engine! And what an engine it was. A silver, rubber stamped Commodore Vanderbilt in real nice condition. He said the set was American Flyer because the cars were marked so and that the engine had no markings on it, so I went along with him, okay it's American Flyer.

Next came a box of boxed accessories including; switch tower, circuit breakers, street lamps, light towers and other stuff. Next came 2 boxes of track and switches, well next came the price, well it wasn't cheap, but worth every penny that I paid for it.

Also enclosed are the items I bought at York. 1. A NYC flat on "E" trucks, a CP black hopper car on "F" trucks. 2. The white milk car on the right. 3. A store display. 4. A store layout. --Stan Troski.





A YEAR OR SO AGO, I WROTE A SHORT ARTICLE I TITLED, " NEVER GIVE UP ". WELL, LAST YEAR I BROKE MY OWN RULE AND GAVE UP, AND I MISSED A VERY, VERY GOOD BARGAIN. FOR THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS OR SO, MY WIFE AND I HAVE BEEN GOING TO A SEMI- ANNUAL TRAIN SHOW UP AT FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS. WE HAVE NEVER FOUND MUCH OF ANYTHING TO BUY, BUT SINCE WE MEET OUR GOOD FRIENDS, AND FELLOW TRAIN COLLECTORS, BOYD PYLE AND BARBARA SOUTHWICK, FROM EUREKA SPRINGS, AND HAVE LUNCH WITH THEM, UP TIL THEN, IT HAD BEEN WORTH THE FOUR HUNDRED MILE ROUND TRIP. LAST YEAR BOYD CALLED TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR US TO MEET THEM, AND I TOLD HIM THAT WE HAD SOMETHING ELSE WE NEEDED TO DO, AND WE WERE A LITTLE SHORT OF CASH, SO WE WOULD PASS THAT SHOW UP, EVEN THOUGH WE HATED TO MISS VISITING WITH THEM.

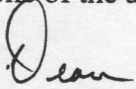
THE NEXT EVENING AFTER THE SHOW, BOYD CALLED TO TELL ME THAT I REALLY DIDN'T MISS MUCH. I FELT MUCH BETTER, UN TIL HE CONTINUED, "I DID FIND A FEW MARX ITEMS IN A BOX OF JUNK." (IN MY AFOREMENTIONED ARTICLE TITLED, " NEVER GIVE UP ", I TOLD OF FINDING THE ITEMS FOR THE GLENDALE STATION, THE BENCH, THE DOLLY, THE TWO TRUNKS, AND THE SUITCASE.) WELL, BOYD HIT THE JACKPOT OF ALL JACKPOTS. HE FOUND THE SAME THINGS, THE ONLY EXCEPTION BEING, THERE WAS ONLY ONE TRUNK, (POOR BOYD!), FOR THE ASTRONOMICAL PRICE OF 25¢ EACH! YES, ONE DOLLAR FOR ALL FOUR ITEMS. OF COURSE, I WAS VERY GLAD FOR BOYD, ESPECIALLY SINCE WE HAD ALREADY FOUND OURS THE YEAR BEFORE, BUT, IF HE HADN'T GONE, THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN MISSED. AGAIN, " NEVER GIVE UP ".

High school class reunions can be more than just getting together with old classmates. This last weekend we went down South to Deming, NM to attend a class reunion and visit with friends and relatives. While there we visited an antique shop that had a boxed Marx set there two years ago when we were visiting before. I had thought that it was grossly over priced then and didn't seriously consider buying it. However, since then, the scarcity of clean boxed prewar sets and some of the prices being charged caused me to reconsider. I was not sure it would still be there, but there it was! To make a long story short, I offered them a lower price and I now have another set and a lighter wallet.

The number on the box is 3999W, which is not listed in any of the books I have. It consists of a Commodore Vanderbilt engine (all black), a NY Central tender, 2 each 552 dark red gondolas, 2 each 91453 yellow Colorado & Southern RR Refrigerator cars, 2 each 1678 olive Northern Pacific hoppers, a 663 pole car with load, a 553 yellow tank car, and a 694 brick red caboose. All of the frames/trucks are black type S-B1 with the small holes above and outside the journals, which along with the colors indicates the set was produced in 1936. The cars and engine are in C-8 condition. The set also included a whistle, instruction sheets, transformer, track, and two manual switches. Also included in the box, but obviously not part of the set, was a red Bogota passenger car. Everything looks correct and consistent, but maybe some of your readers can confirm the set contents.

About the boxed prewar military set I obtained last year. The box number is 5926G and it in C-8 condition. It is the same as the set listed in Greenberg's Volume III, page 106. I purchased it from the daughter of the original owner. She played with it as a child.

I also found a Marx Prince Valiant Singing Sheath and shield set in excellent condition at one of the antique stores in Albuquerque, but at \$295.00, I left it there.


Dean Lawry

I have a couple of questions regarding some items in my collection. In comparing my five Mercury locos, the one for an articulated passenger set that has double reduction gearing, three piece pickup, and a lever beside the smokestack to control a sparkler or "choo-choo" mechanism (which is missing) has a much longer motor frame than all the others. The reverse unit for this loco is mounted at the rear, next to the cab, which is probably the reason for the excess length. To accommodate this length, the cab floor is shorter. This makes it impossible to use this motor in any other loco, and impossible to use any other motor in this loco. Do you know if this longer motor is used in any other application?

I have two 1666 steamers, one with both stack and cylinder smoke, the other with only smoke from the stack. The second loco has a $\frac{1}{4}$ " circular MARX logo on the side of each cylinder while the first has only a blank circle in the location. This is like counting rivets, but I would like to exchange tops between locos so that the better top is on the mechanism with the cylinder smoke - but I don't want to create a new "variation".

I don't recall seeing anything "official" regarding the date when current pickups were changed from three piece to one piece. Do you have any insights on this? (My gut feeling is that the change occurred when production resumed after the war or very near to that period, but I don't have any hard evidence supporting this.)
Bob Osburn.

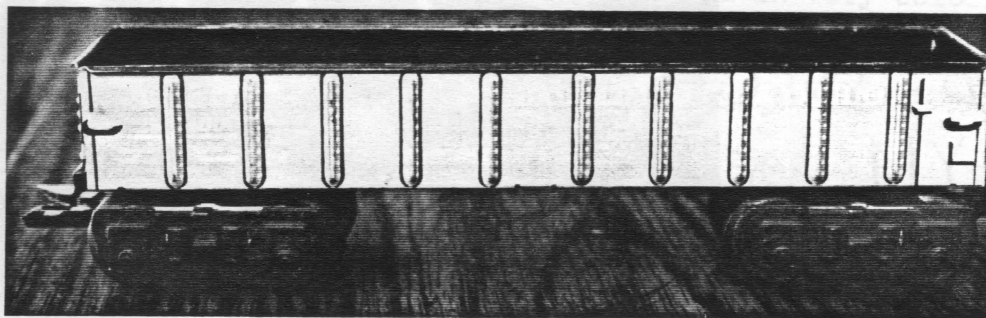
Bob, I agree that the switchover is basically from WWII. I don't think the problem with switching the shells is any problem. The first shell should be the logo shell.

When I first started collecting MARX trains, I limited myself to 3/16 only. That meant nothing on high trucks, no 6", no 7", no plastic (except the E-7 and 8 wheel switchers). Needless to say, I let some choice items slip thru my fingers.

One of those is the B&O 254000 gondola on POSF trucks. Bought it and sold it within a couple weeks.

After a few years, the 3/16 collection was complete so it was time to expand. Where to go? Time to look for 3/16 on high trucks. Some of these are very difficult to find including the NIAX 256 and the pictured B&O gondola.

Finally I bought a collection which included this gondola. Another item for the display shelf. Good Hunting John Torgerson.



I collect mostly MARX scale series trains. I have two 3558 New York Central observation cars. I was going to put one up for sale, when then I noticed each had a different drumboard. I was lucky I noticed it before I sold it. It always pays to examine your trains carefully before selling them. --Al Schindler.

I can't tell John Torgerson that the small boxes that he obtained in Wheaton are MARX, but I can say that small boxes were supplied to other toy companies for advertisement reasons. The small boxes in this picture with the 552G car are not original MARX accessories. They were originally supplied as doll house furnishings --Cliff Carlson.

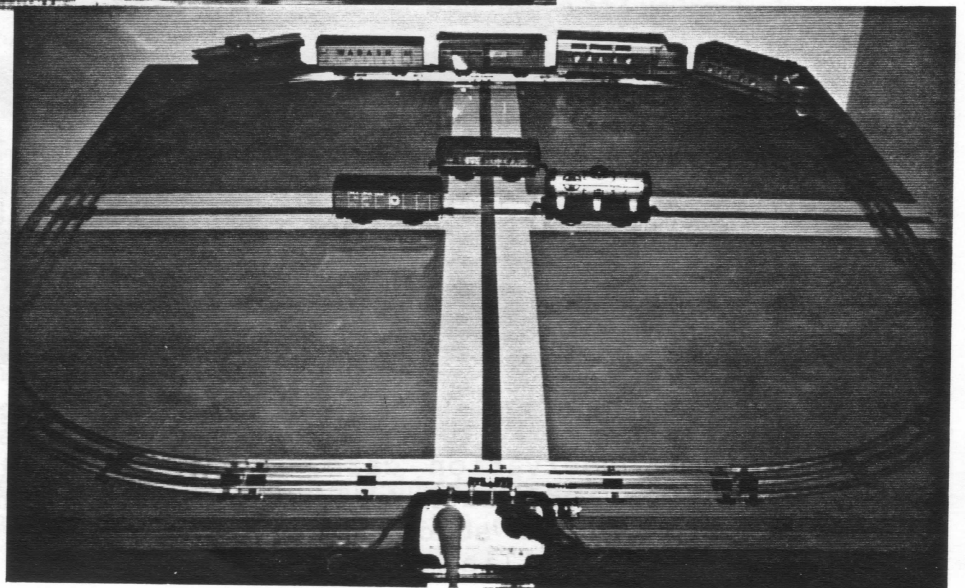
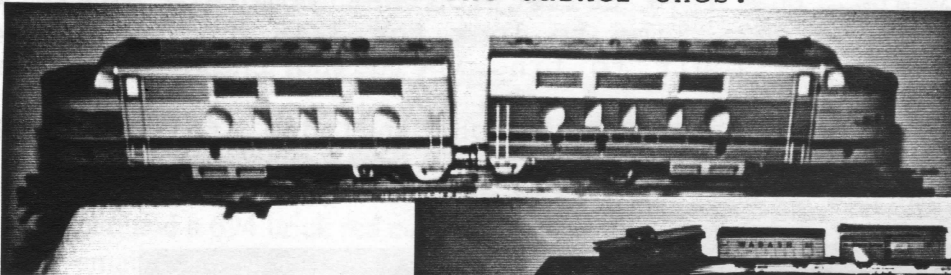
I'm a new subscriber and have received my first issue #22. Your publication is very interesting and I will look forward to future issues. Am enclosing a photo that might be of interest to you and other MARX collectors.

A friend of the family gave my Grandson and I a MARX set #9452(A) -no box included, -7" cars, engine- #62 -B&O, EMD F3, AA units-blue/silver. Boxcar-#37956, PRR, red and gray. Gondola-#80982, Wabash, yellow. Caboose-#511 blue and silver. The reason I am sending the snap shots to you is for you to observe the way the silver and blue colors are reversed on the locomotives in this set. I don't think this is the norm and I found it very unusual. Thought I would share this oditty with you.

I have a question. In your "For Sale" section I see (C-4, C-6, etc.) This seems to be the grading of the item. Please review this grade system sometime. Keep up the good work. --Arthur Reynolds.

Mr. Reynolds--Thank you for your letter and contribution. I appreciate the fact that you are involving your grandson in MARX trains. Continue telling us what you are adding to your collection and please keep in touch.

Now about your B&O set. The engines I have seen are almost always a different color. The reason for this is that as the color runs on the tin sheets, progressed the changed from dark blue to lighter blue. These two pieces obviously were done on seperate sheets so when they all finally got together for assembly the lighter pieces got out together with the darker ones.



MARK TRAINS & TOYS FOR SALE:

TRAINS:

1. M10000 Red Boxed 4 pc set, exc cond. w/flat bulb, UP Lucky Piece, & box insert! Box lid has piece missing in one corner but otherwise nice with unusual box depicting picture of M10000. \$350.00
2. #54 Kansas City Diesels: Large Motor "A" & Dummy "A" both exc. \$160 pair.
3. #1998 Union Pacific Diesel Switcher Yellow & Gray w/"Roar". Exc. \$80.
4. #2002 New Haven Diesel powered "A" unit. Exc. \$75.
5. 6" NYC 1935 US Mail Car red w/yellow lettering. Sides are exc but top has some rub marks. Hard car to find. \$100.00
6. 6" C&NW #51998 Yellow w/White lettering Boxcar. VG due to spots, touch up on ends. VERY hard to find in this color. \$95.
7. 6" 8 wheel Slotted UP Cattle Car w/hard to find T&S couplers. Exc.+ \$90.
8. 6" 8 wheel #90171 BL&E Red/Yellow Boxcar, auto couplers, Exc. \$135.
9. 6" Brown Frame UP Caboose. Exc. \$35.
10. Scale #27000 NYC Flatcar w/no stakes or holes for stakes variation. Hard to find. Exc. \$65.
11. Marx 50 Watt Transformer w/original wooden handle. Exc & scarce. \$28.

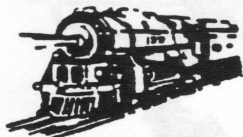
TOYS:

1. Marx Streamline Speedway wind-up race car set. Colorful box containing 2 beautifully litho'ed cars: #5 brown & blue Comet and #2 red & yellow Arrow w/marbelized plastic track. Complete & exc w/some tape on box. \$165.
2. Marx 1937 12" Bus Terminal. Beautiful litho, but missing gas pumps. Overall condition is VG for this hard to find piece. \$85.
3. 19" Marx US Army Truck w/original canvas top. Tows plastic artillery gun. Exc+. \$155.

MORE TRAINS:

12. 6" 4 wheel #90171 Candy Apple Red w/ Silver lettering Boxcar. Uncommon sliding door version. Exc. \$60.
13. 6" State of Maine Boxcar #4490 VG \$45.
14. 6" Army Searchlight Car. Works well w/repro pickup. VG. \$65.
15. Boxed mechanical Train Set #526. Has #401 Clockwork Steamer, UP tender, red Seaboard gondola, UP caboose. Set is like new in very colorful box. \$85.

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WANTED

1. KC Southern cabooses tin.
2. Need B&O cabooses #504, #517.
3. Fruit Growers Express 6" reefers.
4. Pacemaker Freight 6" boxcars.
5. English Green Link Set.
6. English Joyline cast iron engine any color.
7. 6" flat for #5 Army tank.
8. All red 6" 8 wheel log car.
9. Red 994 style engine and tender.
Marx Claussen, 7475 E. State Hwy YY, Springfield, MO., 65802. Call 417-866-1068 evenings 6-10pm central.

Mickey Mouse Tender. Gulf double tank car. Will 301-845-8522.

2 each 3557 NYC scale silver coaches and one 3557 vista-dome/1950 "GAEX" box and 256 "NIACET" tank cars both with T&S coupler and type "D" trucks/9100 Union Pacific box and 35461 "PFC" Refrigerater cars both with RED ends and base. Al Schindler, 61-30 138 Street, Flushing NY, 11367-1127. Tel 718-463-3924. FAX 718-460-3587. email 103347.2717@CompuServe.COM

MARX HO fast freight set item No. 6875B. David B. Smith, 14512 Appalachian Tr., Chesterfield, MO 63017. 314-532-6194.

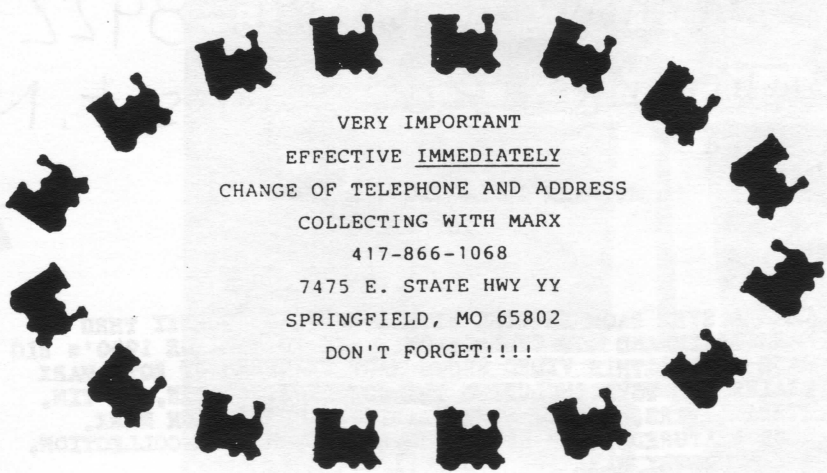
I need three (3) 605 bumpers for a recreated mid-40's MARX layout. Must be in good condition and cheap. This bumper had bull's eye top. Carl Vansaghi, 513 S. 7th, Herrin, IL., 62948. Write or call 618-942-6314 anytime except between Noon-4pm.

#548 CRI&P Guernsey Milk gondola preferably with the wooden cans, 4 wheel. Also, #46010 SSW in blue, brown, orange or yellow, 4 wheel. Louis Rodkin, 87 Amanda Cres, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R2V 3N3 phone 214-339-2513. Email Irodkin@rrcc.mb.ca

MY GRADING SCALE

- C-1 Worthless except to recondition.
- C-2 Poor - Rusty and /or scratched good for parts.
- C-3 Fair - Desirable only til another comes along.
- C-4 Good - Played with - scratches - dings - wear - parts missing.
- C-5 Good - Played with - scratches - dings - wear.
- C-6 Very Good - nice collectible - much play wear.
- C-7 Excellent - moderate play wear.
- C-8 Excellent Plus - very light play wear.
- C-9 Like new - very light wear in original packaging.
- C-10 Mint - Unplayed with in original packaging.

VERY IMPORTANT
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CHANGE OF TELEPHONE AND ADDRESS



FOR SALE

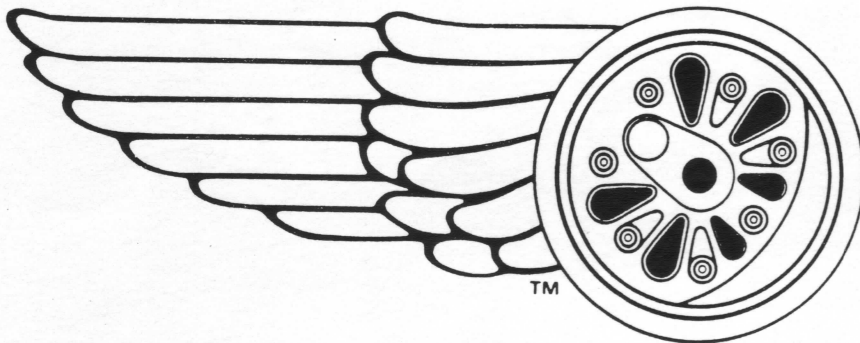
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1. 4 piece gray Mercury passenger set. VG \$185.
 2. boxed set #7215. WP 702 gold switcher with very legible vivid lettering and gold lettering on caboose. Excellent set. \$145.
 3. SP Maroon #39520 drop center flat. Ex. \$195.
 4. Erie orange flat #4528 w/2 green tractors Ex. minus \$295.
 5. US Air Force #2824 missile firing gondola. Works. Excellent. \$125. Will 301-845-8522.

-
1. Blue Mercury 4-unit set C7 \$450.00.
 2. #500 5-unit army train C5/C6 \$185.00.
 3. #5545 flat W/2 orange Allstate C8 \$200.00.
 4. #5545 flat W/2 Burlington trailers C8 \$100.00.
 5. #901 yellow and gray WP AB dummies C7 \$175.00.
 6. #1207 WP 3-car passenger set C7 \$200.00.
 7. #1460 gantry crane W/light C7 \$125.00.
 8. MoPac blue diesel switcher C7 \$50.00.
 9. #2940 Grand Central Station C7 \$150.00.
 10. #3855 Monon 7-inch caboose C7 \$40.00.
 11. #C506 B&O 7-inch caboose - D trucks C8 \$50.00.
 12. #234 Gray NYC vista dome C7 \$45.00.
 13. #065 yellow water tank w/box C8 \$40.00.
 14. #2561MD 8 wheel dummy searchlight C7 \$200.00.
 15. Red Cape Canaveral tender C6 \$50.00.
 16. #2124 Dummy(?) Budd Car C9 \$150.00.
 17. #56834 outfit w/orange Mopac Cattle original set box C7 \$400.00.
 18. Send LSSAE list for more MARX.
- Ted Valis, 1211 Tamara Ct., Hollister, CA., 95023. 408-637-8327.

Repainted 333 w/smoke and awnings original cast TDR \$100.00. 333, TDR and 3 NYC passenger cars \$135.00. 1666 grey w/sop TRD \$75.00. SASE for 100+ item list. Harvey Tremper, 5074 Niper Rd., Bath NY., 148810. 607-566-8310 7-9 pm est.

New MARX #'s 5192, 5193 CP cut-out window coaches (4 car set), \$100.00 each set, C8. Roland Brouillard, 3953 Orchard Ave. No., Robbinsdale, MN. 55422. 612-533-2739 after 6pm CT. E-mail: Rbrouill@aol.com.

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