

COLLECTING WITH
MAIRX

Issue 32

December



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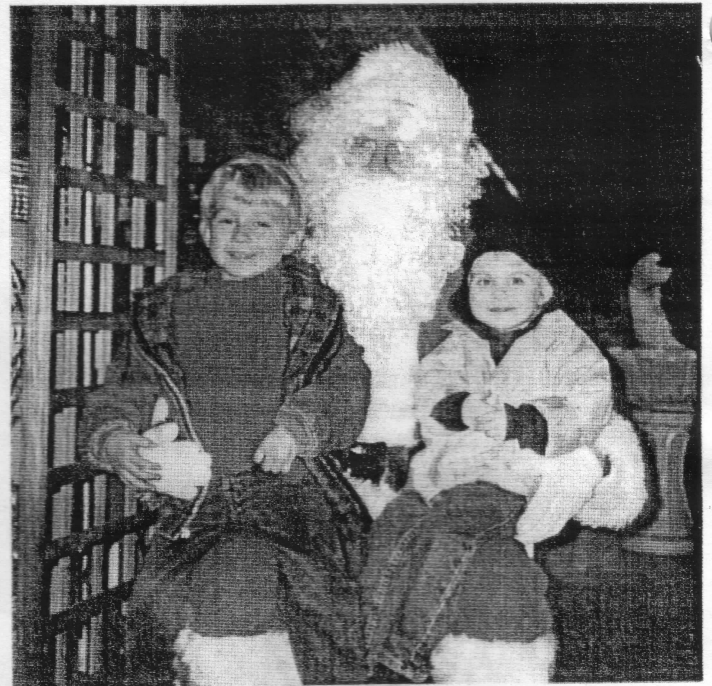
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ON THE COVER...is a photo of my Christmas present to myself for 1999. My shiney new green airplane. I now have a red, blue, cream, yellow, green, and with canopy a silver, blue and olive drab.

Also Merry Christmas from Louis Marx and Lauren Micah!

Happy Holidays from our home to yours. I want to thank all of you for your well wishes and holiday greetings. It's great to be a MARX Toy and Train Collector at Christmas. You have a few extra days to dust and rearrange and run those trains that we all love so much. Some have moved this year and some are settled into their homes they have enjoyed for years. Our friends and families gather around us as we all share what it is to be a MARX collector. Crazy.

I've seen lots of very nice MARX trains on the internet and have managed to buy a couple of them. It seems as though MARX trains are very much down in value and I have noticed that some are setting minimums that are not being reached. I saw recently a Canadian Pacific engine and tender in black with silver and red lettering and three tab and slot eight wheel red coaches. The high bid was only \$61.00 and the pieces looked to be in C-7 or C-8 condition. Who knows what the reserve was but it was not met. When I think about the toys and trains I used to see 20 years ago, it is a bit discouraging to see only what we see today. I'm speaking of the pieces that have been tucked into collections for the ages. The military and hard to find pieces that you never hear about these days. Selection and availability are slim at best and to me that means the prices should be high. There however are still 1000's of MARX trains and toys to be had and availability of rarer and scarcer items is just not as high as it used to be. Some of us are just not into this whole thing as deeply as others and time simply doesn't permit us to be. You know some of the hard-to-find plastic stuff isn't even surfacing now. When has it been that you saw a Canadian Pacific 5 piece freight set or a Mohawk set or even a Champion set? Or even pieces from them? The economy is basically good, maybe not as stable as we are told but basically good and quality and quantity of MARX toys and trains down. That means to me that prices should be up but they're not. That says to me that it's a great time to try to buy those items that you see in the marketplace today.

Happy Holidays once again to all of you and please keep in touch. I hear you say "I don't want to miss a single copy of "Collecting With MARX" but you don't write or call or send a note or anything. I can be reached at 417-866-1068 and fax at the same number or email at louismarx@worldnet.att.net. Please feel free to relate anything to us as you come across it. Have a safe and happy holiday season and keep collecting into the next century.

In a time when many are not interested in family anything, I am thankful for a hobby and friends that me and my family can take part in. There is nothing I enjoy more than my family. Take time this Christmas season to polish and play with your Marx toys and trains, but remember when it's all said and done you can't take them with you. Take time to hug and kiss and love those close to you.

Marx

My First Exposure to Marx Trains Christmas 1952

In the last issue of "Collecting With Marx" you asked for some of your readers to write about their early experiences with the trains manufactured by Louis Marx. My thoughts went back to the Christmas season of 1952 (it may have been 1951). As a seven year old boy I was waiting in eager anticipation of Christmas morning as only a young child who had absolute faith in Santa Claus can, CERTAIN in my naive knowledge that I would receive a shiny new electric train. I already owned a 1010 Hafner loco with three cars but now I was ready for the electric train like the "big kids had"....after all I was seven. I did everything possible that a boy could do. I ate all my vegetables for weeks prior to Christmas without complaining, I polished my shoes without being asked, I made my bed before going to school (most days) and I tried my best not to tease my younger sister unless it was absolutely necessary. I even carried out the garbage after being asked to do so only once. I mean I was really trying!!

Knowing that Santa was busy I tried my best to make it easy for him. I cut out pictures, with sharp pointed scissors...a no-no which he must have found out about, and attached these pictures from the newspaper to the front of our refrigerator. I felt he couldn't mix up my request for a new AMERICAN FLYER electric train.

I am sure that I didn't sleep a wink that Christmas Eve. I just knew that the American Flyer train would be waiting for me as soon as I got up. I had even told my best friend about my new train, describing in exact detail the beauty of two rail operation and the scale detail of the loco and cars..weeks before Christmas. I was certain, really certain....

Well, what happened Christmas morning? It was etched in my memory for all time. My sister in tow we charged downstairs to Christmas tree. I could hear the electric train running even before I got to the bottom of the stairs. You could hear those darn Marx trains for miles around!!! I knew instantly that something was wrong and I stood there in disbelief. My Dad's distant voice asking me if I liked my new electric train. I didn't know if I answered or not, I just stood there. I was numb...I knew I was going to be getting an American Flyer and it wasn't there. I only vaguely remember opening the rest of my presents that particular morning and murmuring thanks to my Aunt Bess for a lovely knitted sweater.

However, that was not the end of my memories that Christmas morning. As tradition went my best friend, Norman, showed up to see my new presents, including my new train. How humiliating. I went through the motions showing him my gifts and casually asked him what he had received. He had already opened his gifts on Christmas Eve. I'll never forget that smug look on dumb old Norman's face. In the midst of listing off an endless ream of items received he said..."oh, and a new American Flyer train". I was reeling from the shock. Norman had never even asked for an electric train...he didn't even like trains. He didn't want it, I was positive. Then the truth came to me in a flash. This was my train. There had to have been a mix up. I just knew it. This was my train. Norman just lived directly opposite me on Moody Street. I was out the door instantly, across the street without my feet even touching the snow. I was half way back home with my

train tucked under my arm before Norman tackled me. I guess quite a struggle ensued before our respective parents showed up. I was positive that my train had been mistakenly left by Santa at Norman's. My Dad would straighten it out with Norman's family. There I was in the middle of Moody Street, still in my pajamas, fighting back the tears,...waiting for my Dad to make things right....

I never believed in Santa with as much fervor after that Christmas. I have often wondered if Norman ever had as much fun with his stupid old American Flyer train as I did with my Marx "that you could hear for miles away".

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
Gary Hindle

Rekindling Old Christmas Memories

My parents had a tough time farming in central Iowa during the late 1940's. They still managed to surprise us with some treasured Christmas gifts. One winter they gave me a Marx windup train that I treasured. Several years ago my nephews rescued the train from our old farmhouse and gave it back to me. The windup motor had been over wound and some of the cars were missing wheels and hitches. I found a local dealer who had some old Marx parts and I had to make my own hitches. I bought track and found a dealer on the internet who sold me a windup motor that matched my train. Now, my grandchildren can wind it up and play with it. We build bridges for the track and have a great time watching the old train go. It sits in a special place on a shelf in my computer room.

Imagine my surprise when I saw the advertisement in your magazine that contained a train like mine. My train was like the (c) 28.5 in freight train at the bottom of the ad for \$1.19. My train has one more car...a local dealer said it was somewhat rare. I would be interested in any information about the extra car and wonder if anyone knows the exact date or has an exact ad of my 5 car train.

Gary Knox
1110 E. 14th St. So
Newton, Iowa 50208-

I did make it to the Salina Toy show. Not much in the way of trains but I did pick up a Marx 4" red bus and a 4" milk van for \$25.00 and \$15.00. Condition was not great but they were both complete so worth the price.

I also picked up a 5545 flat with 2 Burlington trailers for \$50.00 at the local show at Railroad Days here in Topeka.

I've been buying up rusted or incomplete scale boxcars for repainting and have a few done and they look good with a 333 or 999 and a string of original scale cars.

I'll try to send some pictures for the next newsletter keep up the great work and hope to see you at a show soon.

Duane Ogan

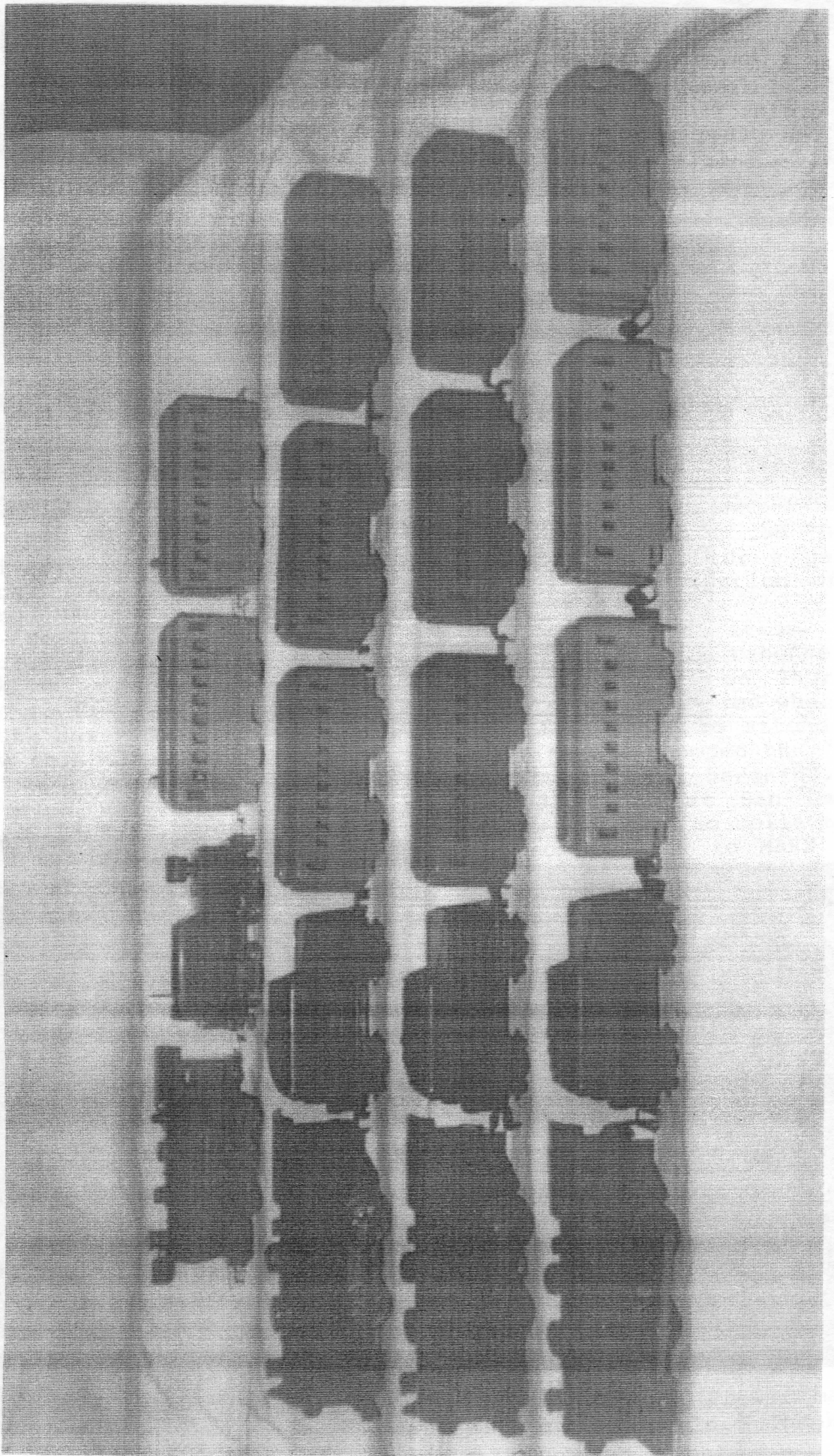
Gary Anderson 101499

I was lucky to obtain three different 198 engine passenger sets. I originally saw them on Dr. John Folkins for sale list. Dr. Folkins was an old time Marx collector in Canada. At that time, he had the three sets: red 198, blue tender and 3 yellow coaches, black electric 198, black tender and 3 blue coaches, and black windup 198, black tender and 3 red coaches. He may have added some extra passenger cars to 2 car sets, to make them into 3 car sets. He was asking \$100 each. You must understand that this was 20 to 25 years ago, when \$100 bought a lot of Marx. I passed on them at that time, but not without some soulsearching. Eventually John's collection was sold to a Mr. Douglas also from Canada. He died and then his widow, Vicky had the entire collection, which consisted of John's and what Mr. Douglas had, for sale. Paul Gailey from Florida bought the collection to resell.

Paul had an interesting and probably the fairest way of selling trains. He would publish a for sale list with prices and descriptions, and set a designated time to call. At that time, and not a minute before, you called in and bought the train if it was still available. Al Osterud and I would get together before the sale, and let each other know what we wanted. This particular sale had the three sets from Folkins for \$100 total. This was a bargain, even though the red 198 had some damage. I finally got thru to Paul and managed to buy the three sets. I had followed them in three collections, and finally bought them for my collection.

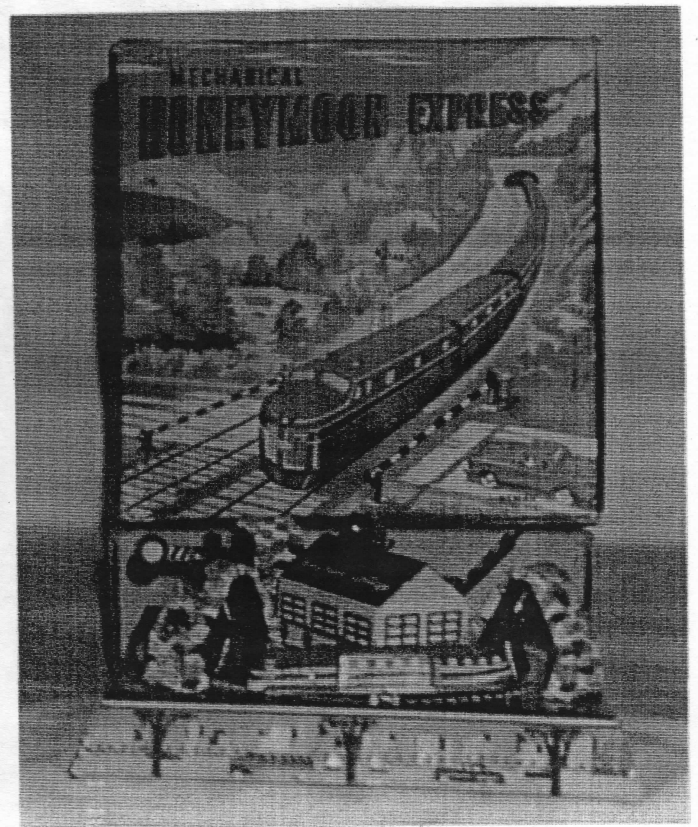
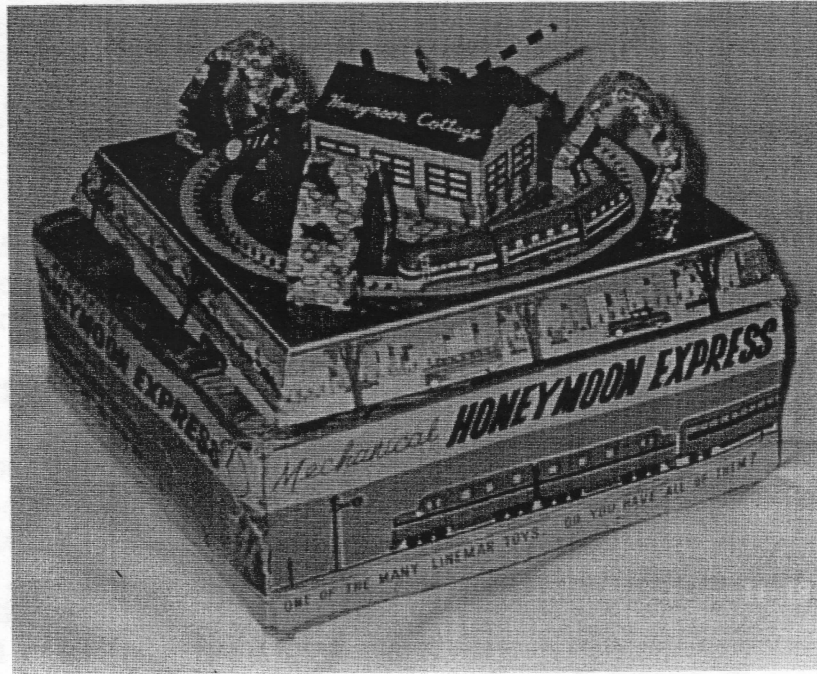
I just recently bought a boxed red 198 set on Ebay. When I first saw it, the pieces looked excellent. I asked the seller what the condition of the pieces were. He took the engine and tender out of the box and placed them on a table, where they proceeded to roll off, and fall on the floor. The red engine suffered a broken piece under the cab, and the blue tender lost part of the sideframe. The frustrated seller took the parts and engine and tender outside and proceeded to throw the pieces into a pond. Luckily he did not toss the engine and tender too. He could not retrieve the missing pieces. He changed the description on the auction, noting the new flaws. This did not seem to slow down the bidding since it cost me more than I thought it should bring.

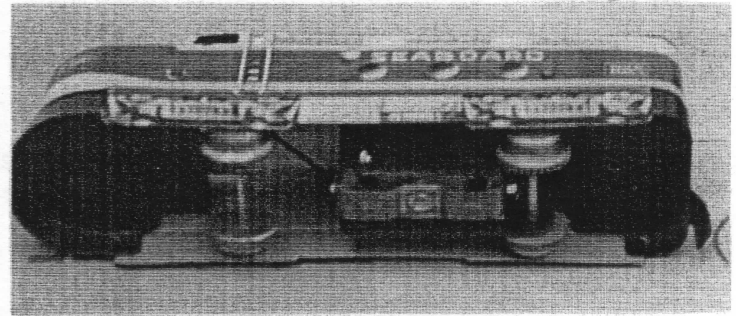
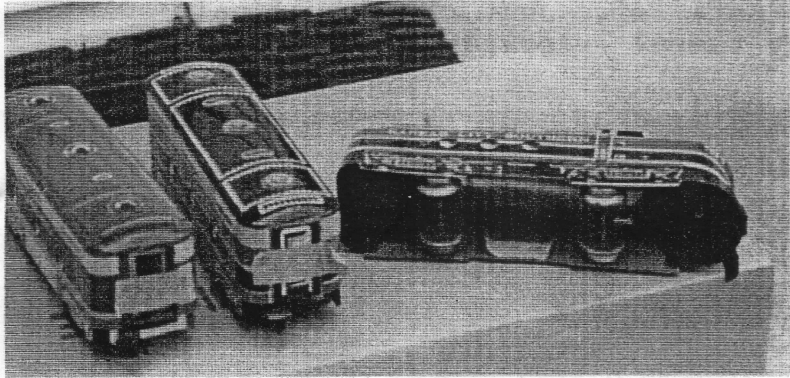
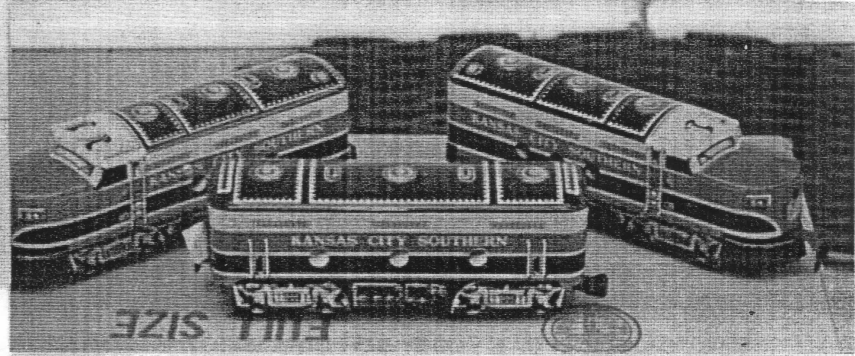
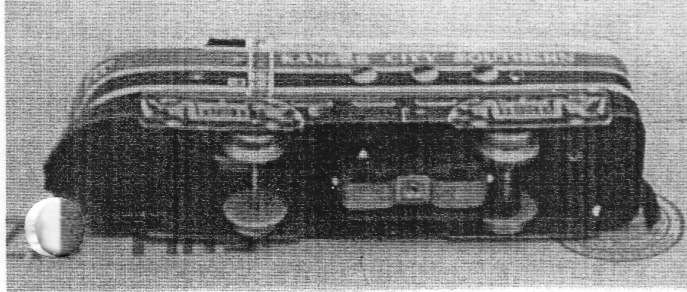
Of course any of these 198 engine/tender passenger sets, and even the early freight sets are usually sought by the Marx train collector. The electric 198 passenger set was sold in Canada through Eatons in the fall of 1949, so it has been around for a while...



Enjoyed your article on the Honeymoon express trains but saw no mention of one from Japan. Enclosed are photos of a linemar express I found about 20 years ago while visiting one of our sons in Georgia.

The other photos are of trains supposedly taken from the Marx factory in Erie and are marked with the car's catalog number on the top. Was very happy to capture these. Bob Thomas





Ken Nesvik sent me the red trailer to complete my red "Deluxe Delivery" set. It was the exact trailer I needed for a perfect match. Ken's a great guy with a wonderful collection of all things MARX.

York was, well, York!! High prices for mundane items. Some good stuff too. I bought the plastic military work caboose with tank and multi-colored tractors from Steve Eckel on Thursday. Then on Friday I found another red tractor with all red wheels in a junk box. Good find. No one from here was able to attend so I flew this time. Got there on Tuesday nite and shopped the "Billy Bud" open room sale. Not much there. Too early for bargains, too.

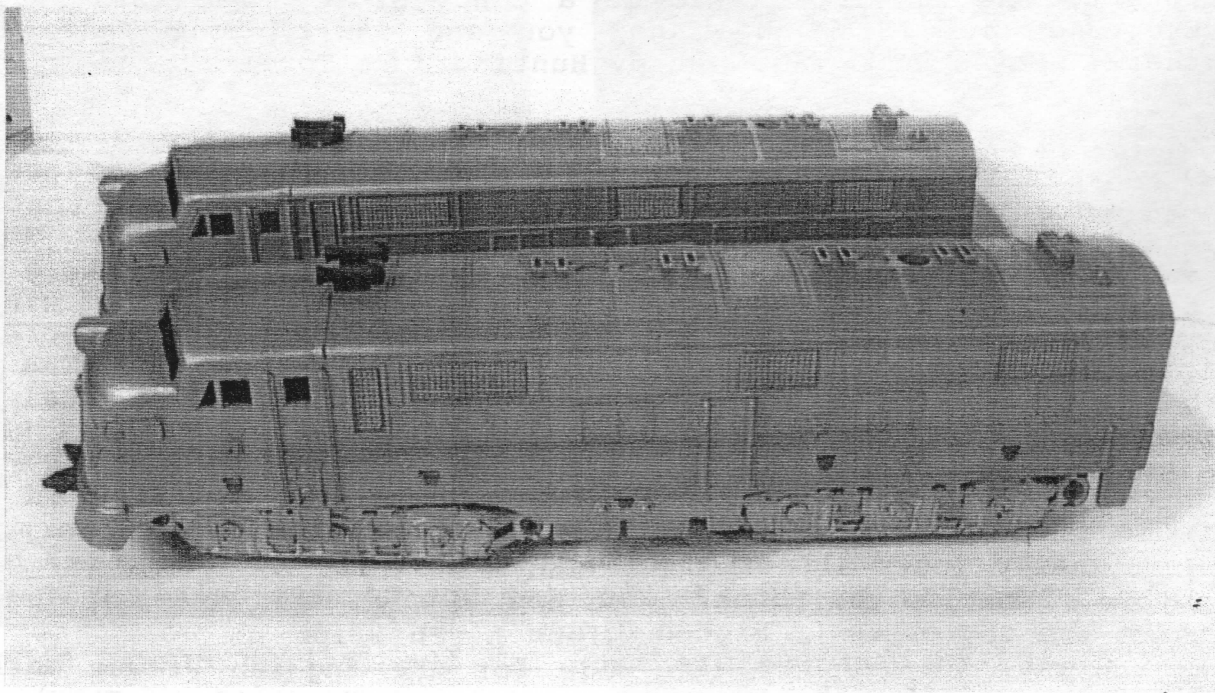
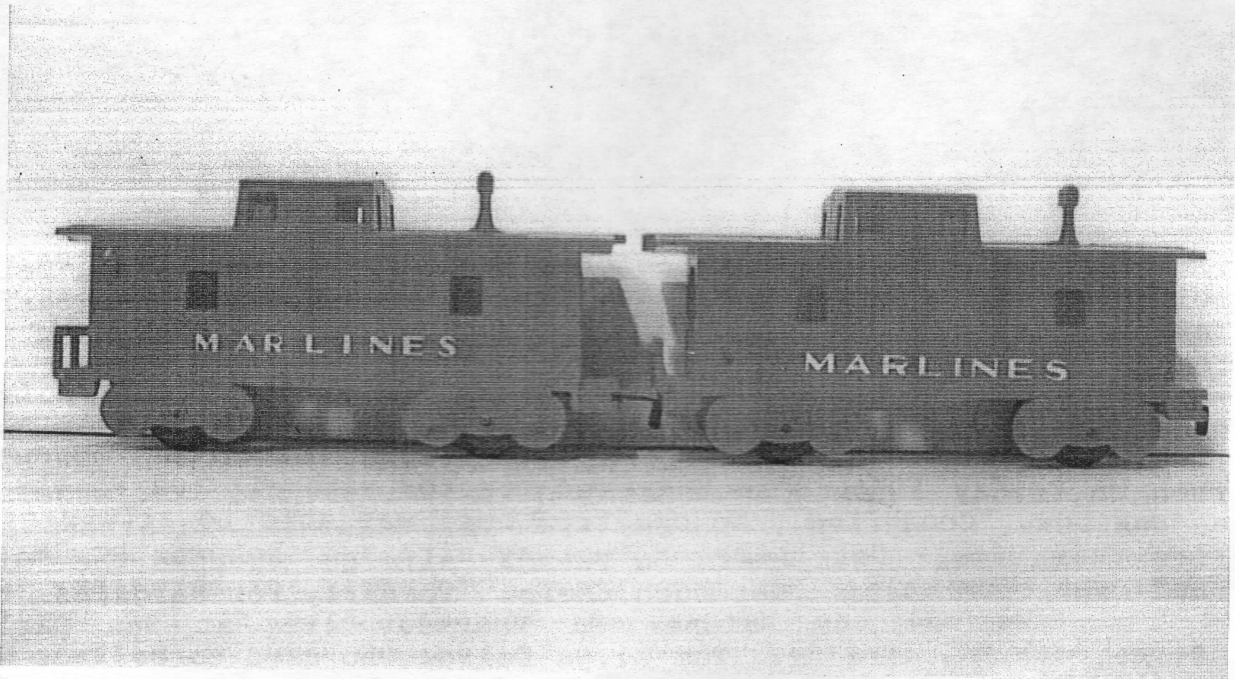
We all had dinner on Thursday nite at San Carlos. Steve, Dick M., Fred P., Tom C., a fellow who used to collect MARX years ago named Dick Owen and who is coming back to MARX after many years with several other brands. It was Dick's first trip to York and he was like a kid in a candy store! Had lots of fun. Everyone says "Hi" and wished you and family could have been there. Maybe next year. Happy Hunting John Torgerson.

I was at a meet today and found a strange Commodore Vanderbilt loco. It has four hard plastic wheels of the prewar ten spoke variety, it has a swinging bell under the cab that is actuated by a wire rod that is connected to the drive rod. There are three additional plates attached to the drive rod. There are three additional plates attached to the front of the windup mechanism for weight, the key is a threaded type and is screwed into the opposite side from the normal windup mechanisms. The on-off lever is also on the other side and is thinner than usual and passes up over the windup mechanism and the wheel is like a lighter flint strike wheel. Other than that the hand rails pass through to the other side. There is some sort of catch in the front made from the same type wire that looks like the factory did it. Really looks all original and I haven't seen one like this before. What do you think? You have got to have heard of this if there are any others. Signed Glenn L. Phillips

Glenn, This engine was made for the English Prewar market. It is very difficult to find and is very desirable. Thanks for the great description!

Enclosed are pictures of a couple of items of interest that I recently came across. Firstly the Marlines cabooses. The one on the left has silver lettering which is smaller than the heat-stamped white lettering version on the right. Anyone else come across any other versions?

Secondly, by way of purchase of a MARX barrel loader I was informed of the availability of a pair of F-7 AA units that were unpainted. Both items were used as Toy Fair displays by MARX in the early 70's (or so the story goes!). The engines are the same gray mottled plastic used on the Santa Fe'. Any how the AA pair caught my interest. Any others out there? --Regards, Troy DeBord.



Holiday Time On The Net

If I only had known. It's a matter of dollars. I quite frankly was growing tired of the net. Rarely even anything I was interested in bidding on. When it rains it pours.

I only had to give \$480.00 for a nice green airplane for the 6" flat car last month. The bad part of this situation is that I was at the show where it was purchased by the owner I bought it from. They only payed \$5.00. Now there is a yellow airplane, not in the greatest shape, on the net and thank goodness I already have a yellow one.

Some of you may remember the list of "do you have these" we did a couple of years ago. Well there were several of them on the net in November. There was a set of five solid window New York Central meteor coaches in rusty condition that sold for over \$700.00. When I questioned the seller as to how much rust was on the pieces, because they were not photographed, the only reply I received was that they were not rusted through leaving a hole. So I did not persue past 350.00.

Yet another piece that was listed as a who's who of Marx trains is a 490 olive drab plastic engine. You say "that's not a tough piece". I say the 490 in OD is very difficult. It was selling by itself and I have heard that it actually came with a 4-wheel plastic military set. How many of those are out there? By the way this engine turned out to be painted but there is actually an OD 490. There also is a blue 490 engine.

How about a set that was distributed only in Canada? The next item was a very tough set with a 198 black engine, Marlines stubby tender in black and two medium blue coaches. This one was in absolutely perfect condition and there is only one tougher than it in this style and it actually has red coaches. Not a great running set however extremely collectible for the Marx train collector in that it is so very difficult to find. I bought my set in Canada on a trip to buy a collection. This set brought over 500.00.

And a set that I have always wanted but have never been given an opportunity to purchase is a set with the very common Nickle Plate caboose, very common Wabash gondola and an extra-hard-to-find Red 995 long stamped steel engine and red 7" tender. The picture showed it only in good condition however no rust just in played with condition. This one brought lots of bucks.

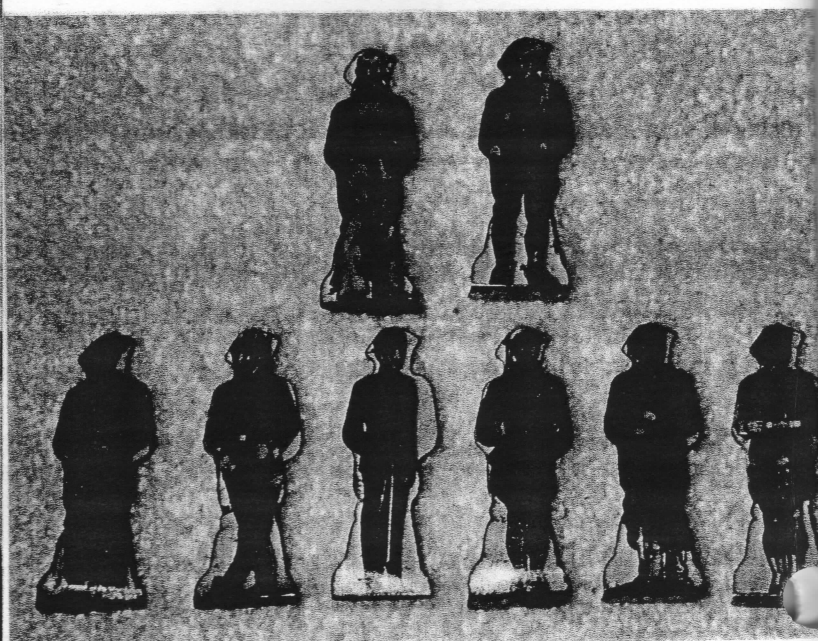
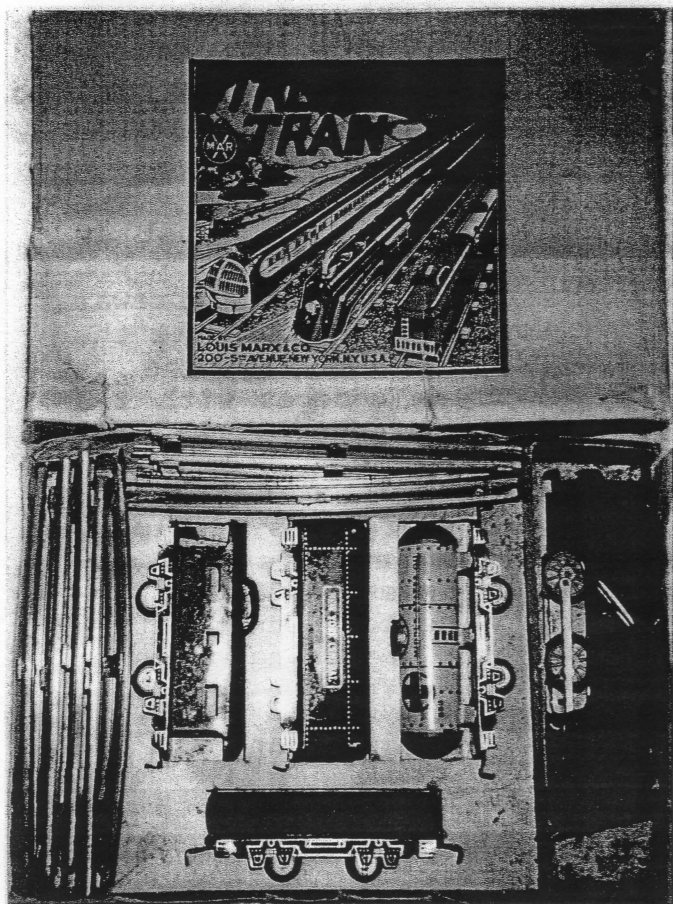
Also among November's internet possibilities was a prewar English set comprised of a Black English Commodore engine like the one described by Glenn Phillips elsewhere in this magazine, a Black with gold trim 1314 tender, and two cream coaches with red roofs and trim. A very uncommon set that is without a doubt very limited in availability in 1999.

Another piece you don't see is a Popeye and Olive Oil handcar with excellent lithography but without the charactors. Almost always the rubber-like figures have wasted away and are not with the piece. I have only seen 3 or 4 complete pieces in 25 years.

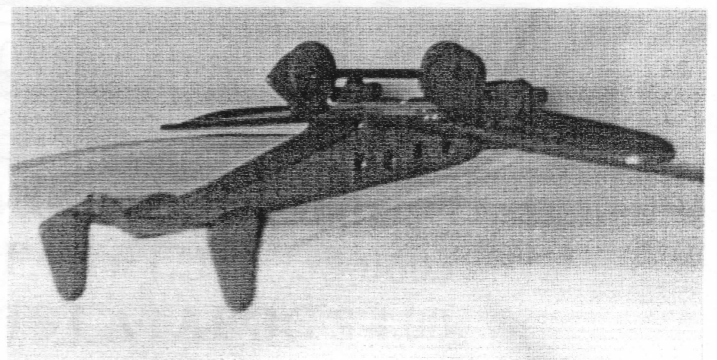
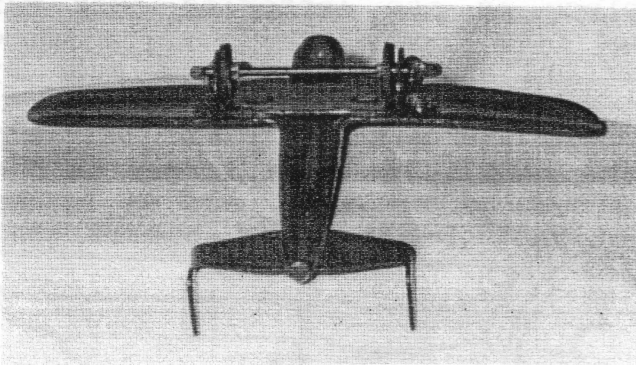
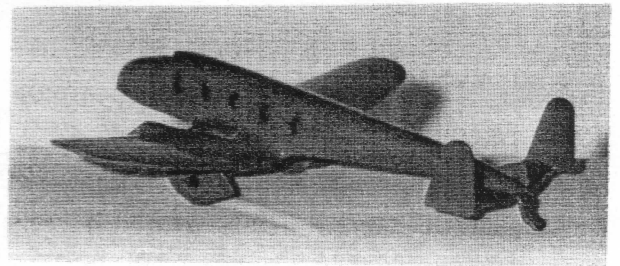
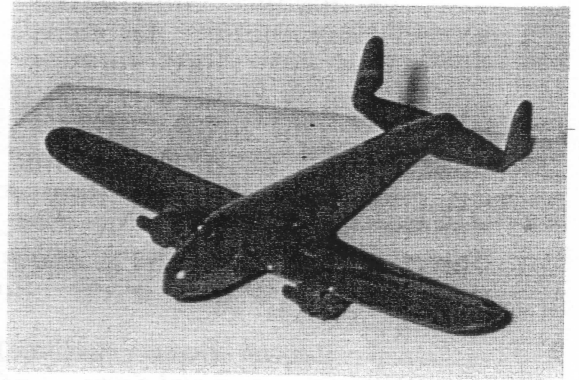
How about a plastic wheeled Seaboard 4-wheeled B-unit with a five piece set. Including A unit with no motor, matching caboose, black Sinclair tank car and B+O gondola yellow with gray interior. I have only had 5 or 6 chances to buy a B-unit over the years.

These pieces were available to the highest bidder and all are very desirable pieces to add to our collections. It's all a matter of who is willing to pay the most.

My wife and I returned in September from our annual trek to our summer cabin in western Ontario. As usual, we (or I) look for MARX train items. Along the way, we were fortunate to pick up various old store Christmas catalogs, a boxed set no. 3995 containing a brown 6-inch no. 51998 C&NW boxcar with yellow letters, set no. 520 in the box and several more of the Soldier of Fortune figures. Happy Collecting! Donald I. McLeod



For those of you who haven't seen the coveted Marx airplane I took these for you to see. This is the one I bought on the internet.



I went to an antique store in Green Bay, Wisconsin and the owner had some misc. MARX train stuff in a glass. He had an old black Commodore Vanderbilt in very poor shape.

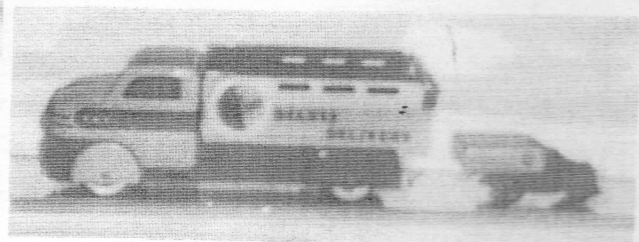
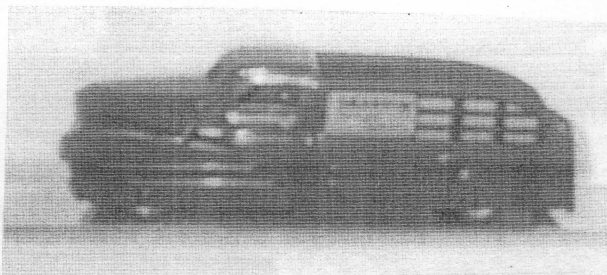
I needed the smoke stack and a spoked wheel off it, so I asked how much? He said he didn't want to sell it because he just got in a set that needed a couple of wheels and the drive gear. I told him I needed it for parts too. He said I'll tell you what, you fix the other motor for me and you can have the rest of the parts. I said okay and did. He had a command set with a (494) CP engine, but he had two tenders. I told him the (951) wedge tender went with the set. He said thanks, you can have the other one. It was a (551) rivet tender. When I got home I realized it was the rare one with the big white MARX emblem on the end. What a deal!

I liked Norm Brickle's article in last issue about his rewarding experience of collecting in malls, flea markets, auctions, rummage sales, train shows and friends. I agree with him that "that's what collecting is all about". Getting out with other people with the same interest. To sit home and get on the internet would be boring and unchallenging to me. Your missing the best part. On the internet you're paying the highest prices. Part of the fun is to find something really good at a low price! The rest of the fun is the hunting, The traveling around, and meeting other collectors.

After you buy something the fun is over, All that's left to do is dust it!! --Jerry Wixon.

Enclosed are a couple of pictures of MARX trucks I have come across. One is a blue and red truck with a transfer sticker that says, ARROW (in black) with a red arrow running through it, and SPECIAL DELIVERY under it. This transfer is on both sides of truck rack. The wheels are metal, stamped steel, four in all. Of real interest is the rear axle housing over the axle: a 2-inch diameter half-moon cover in the bed of the truck bottom. Inside or underneath this half-moon piece is the lettering "Rex Mar Rocket Ship". Obviously a reused item from a previously stamped toy. These are the only indications that it could be made by MARX.

The second picture is the big and little Deluxe Delivery trucks. The little one goes on the ramp flat: the larger or big one is a toy 10½ inches long, 3 5/8 inches high, and 4½ inches wide. The litho is very attractive. Great shelf pieces that aren't destined to go out doors for play. --Duane Ford.



WANTED

I sure desire a deluxe great northern boxcar #18918. I can be reached at 360-876-1001. David Wecker, PO Box 98, Silverdale, Washington, 98383.

Wanted: Military Airport, camo tunnel, OD Airplane, prone flat soldiers. Please call Ira Goodman, 1-516-265-3837. 811 Jericho Turnpike, Smithtown, New York 11787

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1. Rocket fuel caboose. \$225.00. C-8.
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Mercury Copper passenger set C-6. lighted, engine, tender, Toledo, Chicago, Baggage and Detroit Observation. \$390.00.

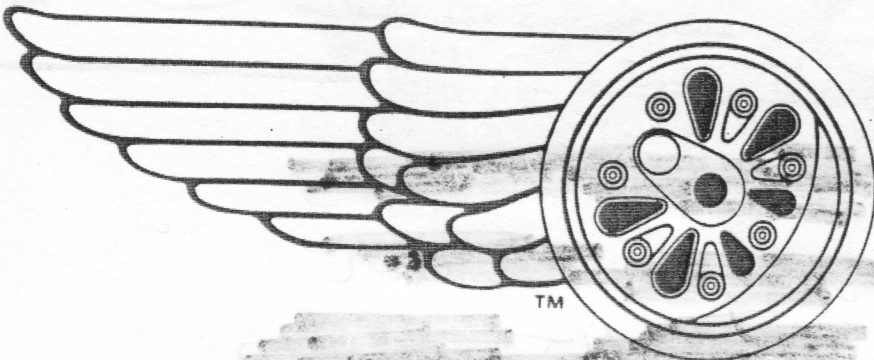
CB&Q Burlington #5545 with two trailers. C-6 \$185.00.

Will Dukes, 301-898-8272, NEW PHONE NUMBER, 6 to 9 pm est.

FOR SALE

Set #4424 With Box. Rock Island A-B Set with dummy A added. 5545 CB&Q flat with 2 Burlington trailers and red cab. One trailer has crease on top, and all doors and wheels are in tact. 4528 Erie flat with 2 original red tractors 5543 Cities Service double tank car, 5545 CB&Q flat with erie girder and original tie down. 17858 Rock Island bay window caboose. Excellent condition. Only one missing step. Box corners tattered but all there including track and transformer. \$425.00

Harlan Broers 1-651-653-7436 4:30-9:30 P.M. Central.

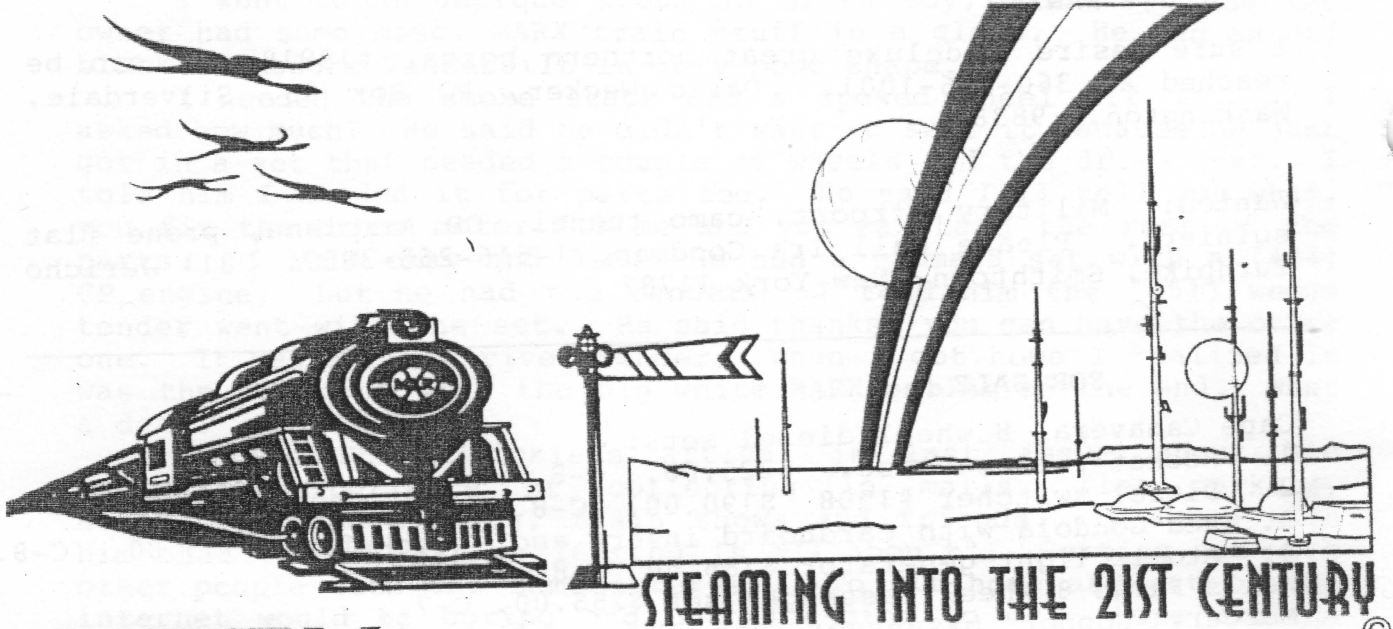


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