

# OZARK DIVISION NEWSLETTER

## “Celebrating the Magic of Toy Trains”

[www.ozarkdivision-TCA.org](http://www.ozarkdivision-TCA.org)

### Special points of interest:

- Catalogs and Magazines
- Annual Membership Meeting
- Membership Renewal
- Welcome Aboard

Why are catalogs and magazines so important to the hobby we all enjoy? I don't think there is a right answer to the question.

I thought I would look up the definition of the word catalog. According to the *Merriam Webster's Deluxe Dictionary* the definition that best fits this writing “a complete enumeration of items arranged systematically with descriptive details”.

My first recollection of a Lionel catalog was from the early 1950s as my first Lionel train set was a Lionel Scout set which was under the Christmas tree. What a surprise because I could now play trains with my dad. He had his own Lionel train set. Like a lot of kids the trains came out at Christmas. From that time on a new Lionel catalog always showed up before Christmas and I could pick out something new for my train that would come from Santa Clause.

I am not really sure where the catalogs came from, but if I had to guess they came from Famous Barr Department Store in downtown St. Louis, MO. My dad worked at Boatmen's National Bank in downtown St. Louis located just a block east of the store at the corner of Olive and Broadway. At Christmas time the toy department on the eighth floor was expanded and Lionel electric trains were featured prominently. A trip to downtown was always a part of Christmas to see all of the decorated department store windows. Famous Barr always had the big Lionel electric train display along with the windows with animation. Even Stix Baer Fuller had decorated windows facing Washington Ave. I don't recall if Scruggs Vandervoot & Barney had decorated windows.

As I got older we would go to the Northland Shopping Center the Famous Barr Department Store. At Christmas time the lower level of the store was turned into a very large Toy Department. Lionel trains were featured as well as American Flyer trains. I was dropped off at the toy department to watch the trains. I was always able to get a catalog or two from an associate. Into the back seat of the car I would start looking at the great pictures of those great electric trains as we headed for home. Once at home I would go to my desk that was in my room and pull out the old catalogs and compare the new and old images in the catalogs.

Catalogs were always my “wish books” as I would memorize their contents. As stated earlier I could select a new item to come from Santa Clause. I would always ask for the Santa Fe A-A, they never showed up from Santa. I did get the Erie Alcos as well as cars and accessories most of which were asked for. As I recall I had every catalog at least through the 1950s. I guess they got thrown out or worn out as they disappeared just like my box of baseball card.

I still get excited when the new Lionel and MTH catalogs show up. I still like the

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the hardcopy copies even though I know the electronic copies do save a lot of space. I know that some collector have file cabinets fill of catalogs which haven't seen the light of day in ages. They have been hermetically sealed so they won't deteriorate. I purchased the Lionel Catalog Archive 1945—1969 from HSL a couple of years ago, sure saves on space. I don't think their product is available any longer.

Magazines are another useful tool for our hobby. I picked up a recent copy of a popular toy train magazine and after thumbing through it I got some ideas about building a layout, I could troubleshoot a problem on a locomotive, see what was new in the market place and buy a train set. There are magazines that are task specific that can help you plan a layout, build the bench work for your dream layout, show you how to wire the layout and finally describe the different technics for scenery construction.

There are magazines that highlight railroads of today as well as magazines that cover the history of railroading. These are insightful publications and the information contained can certainly be transferred to your dream pike. Railroads have given those annoying railfans the nick name of "foamers". I found the following definition of foamers "a term railroad employees use to describe a railroad enthusiast/railfan and the railfan community at large". Most often used disparagingly. However, without some of those "foamers" there probably wouldn't be those great railroad photos and disasters averted.

When I look back at the history of model railroading magazines I immediately think of *Model Railroader* and *Railroad Model Craftsman*. Although there was another magazine *Model Builder* published Lionel. The magazine was published from January 1937 through April 1949 with 76 issues published.. I have several editions from the early 1940's and sold at the newsstand for 10 cents. The *Model Builder* magazine has become quite collectible over the years. There was another magazine that had a short run from November 1951 to December 1954 and that was *Toy Trains*. It was published by Model Craftsman Publishing Corp. and publisher Charles a. Penn. *Toy Trains* was a magazine like no other at the time as it focused on articles about Lionel, American Flyer, Ives, Bing and other toy train manufactures written by highly respected and up-and-coming authors who would have long careers in model railroading industry. One of those authors was Edwin P. Alexander, a founding member of the Train Collectors Association.

Like catalogs most of the magazines are now available on an electronic basis however, I guess I am old fashioned and prefer the hardcopies.

**Annual Membership Meeting:** The annual membership meeting of the Ozark Division was held on Saturday, December 5, 2016 during the Great St. Louis Christmas Train Show & Food Drive at Immanuel Lutheran School, Olivette, MO. The Minutes of the Meeting are contained in this Newsletter. The focus of this meeting was the nomination for election of new officers for the term 2017 thru 2018. The official Ozark Division Ballot is contained in this Newsletter. Please follow the ballot instructions and mail in your ballot in the enclosed self-addressed envelope.

**Membership Renewal:** It is time to renew your annual membership to the Ozark Division as all memberships expire the last day of the year (December 31, 2016). The annual membership to the Ozark Division is \$10. Please complete the enclosed Membership Renewal form and mail it in with your remittance. If you are not sure about your membership status please check your mailing label. If the number is a 16 or lower it is time to renew your membership. If anything else appears you are in good standing.

**Welcome Aboard:** Let's welcome aboard the following new members of the Train Collectors Association residing within the boundaries of the Ozark Division:

Nick Horrell 16-72141, 1102 Flint St., Red Bud, IL 62278, 618-443-7553

Allen Martinez 16-72126, 3522 Brown Rd., St. Louis, MO 63114, 314-537-4733

**Holiday Activities:** Here are some places to visit during the Holiday Season. The Museum of Transportation is hosting the E. Desmond Lee Holiday Train Exhibit along with the famous Famous Barr train display. The displays will run through December 30, 2016. The Museum of Transportation is located at 2933 Barrett Station Rd., Kirkwood, MO 63122.

“Model Railroad Experience” is at the Union Station in Kansas City, MO and features the 8,000 square foot display of model trains from tiny N-Scale to the big G-Scale model trains. The display is open all year and is free to everyone visiting the station. Union Station is located at 30 West Pershing Rd., Kansas City, MO 64108.

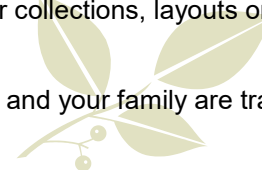
**Calendar of Events:** Ozark Division calendar of events for 2017; Great St. Louis Christmas Train Show & Swap Meet is scheduled for Saturday, December 2, 2017 at Immanuel Lutheran School. More details to follow.

Central Missouri Chapter has a tentative date of November 18, 2017 for the big Train Show & Swap Meet in Columbia, MO. More details to come.

Unfortunately the planned road trip to St. Joseph, MO scheduled for November 5, 2016 hosted by the Heart of America Chapter had to be canceled. Future plans are in limbo.

I hope you enjoy reading this Newsletter and by all means if you have any comments please feel free to contact me at jonlstrains@netscape.net or at 314-239-7996. I need your stories about your collections, layouts or anything you may think is interesting.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from everyone at the Ozark Division. If you and your family are traveling through the woods and over the river please drive, fly or float safely.



Jon Lundvall, Editor

**Postscript:** Full disclosure I subscribe to Classic Toy Trains, Trains, Classic Trains and O Gauge Railroading. I don't always read them cover to cover as time doesn't allow that. I have tried the on-line versions but quote frankly I still like the hard copy. However I did by the video library from Classic Toy Trains, certainly free up some space. As stated in the Newsletter I purchased the Lionel Catalog Archive 1945—1969 from HSL. I don't think that product is available any longer, however I believe they have some other products available. They can be contacted at [www.hslinc.com](http://www.hslinc.com) or Hybrid Systems LTD, Inc., 200 University Park Dr., Edwardsville, IL 62025, 800-779-2802

**Train Collectors Association Mission Statement:** “To develop an appreciation of and to preserve an important segment of history—Tinplate Toy Trains— through research, education, community outreach, fellowship, establishment of collecting standards, and to promote the growth and enjoyment of collecting and operating toy, model and scale trains”.

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Picture courtesy of *Classic Trains Magazine*