



VIEW FROM THE CAB

As we approach November, I find myself reporting on another recent Train Show, but this one the Grand-Daddy of all Train Shows, The Eastern Division TCA York Show. This show had been dark since spring of 2020, like nearly all train shows across the country. So, as I was not able to attend myself, I solicited comments from Bill Ziegler, who has filed this report:

"Tables in most of the halls were reduced by 15 to 20% and aisles were made wider as a result."

"Attendees and vendors were less by a similar 15% to 20%, meaning the aisles were not as difficult to move through. Masks were optional; most vendors did not wear them, but many attendees did have their masks' on."

"In general the show was well attended and there was a feeling of comfort at being able to 'Breathe Train Air' again! Prices for postwar trains seemed to be a bit less than 2 years ago."

On other fronts, most of our activities have been making small improvements to the displays at the club house. Our last meeting October 13th was well attended, and I am reminding everyone that we will have a Christmas Party this year, December 9th, at the Salt Pond Club house, from 5:30 until 8 pm. Please contact Jessie Pieplow at 302-537-4983 so she can know how many are coming and what side dishes are being prepared. We routinely provide some wine and beer, water and one main course, and members bring a side dish and/or dessert. Jessie's E-mail is jwpieplow@aol.com. This is always a fun event and the setting there is perfect for our needs.

We also decided to cancel the Yard Sale we had tentatively set for November 6th.

The club will be setting up displays at the Georgetown Public Library for the coming holiday season. The Setup date will be Thursday, Nov. 18th at 10 am. Main Display dates for the general public are Nov. 27, Dec. 4, Dec. 11, and Dec. 18, and the times are 10 am until 2 pm. The take-down will be Monday Dec. 20th. There are no plans for January displays this year.

This is the time of year when some of our more 'seasoned' train operators get ready to set up a display for their visiting family and friends. It is a good idea to check over your engines and transformer to make sure they will run as well as they did when you packed them away. If you want to make sure all is in order, bring the operating items to the club to have them test run, or serviced if necessary. We can usually address any small issues right there, but several of our volunteers are expert repairmen as well. The layouts we have built are there for you to use, test run you train, and you might as well take advantage of it.

Latest info we have is that the Hartly Fire Dept. will host at train show on November 20th. We will send out an E-Blast if that changes.

Our next meeting is set for November 10th at the club house at 6:30 pm. Again, bring a chair.

John Hodges

Thanksgiving is a day when many families get together. This is a great time to show off your layout. You can add a Thanksgiving flavor to your trains with these items available from Lionel, or, you could place small pumpkins in a gondola, or add a turkey cut-out to one of your engines.



Three Turkeys for Thanksgiving

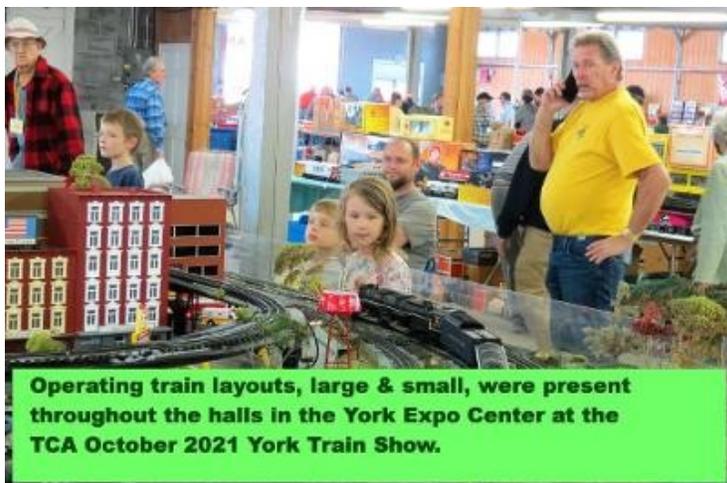
November always reminds me of beautiful colors and turkeys. Lionel gave us both in the 1957 catalog with the Girls Set. When this pastel-colored set was first produced in 1957, it was expected to be a favorite toy among girls. Much to everyone's surprise, demand for this toy was extremely low. Girls still wanted to play with dolls and other homemaking toys such as the "Easy Bake Oven". Of course, boys wanted nothing to do with the colorful train.. It was a "turkey".



In the 1951-1952 Catalog, American Flyer introduced the #747 Trestle Set. This set was made of cardboard and was an inexpensive set for you to make a figure "8" layout. It was a perfect set, if you were going to keep your layout up all the time. The problem is that most of us only ran our trains at Christmas, so they were put up and taken down many times. As you guessed, the cardboard trestles didn't hold up under this wear and Tear.



Marx also got into the "turkey" business with their "Audio Engineer". The advertisement claimed that you could "control your trains with your voice". Actually, all you could do was to make your trains GO, STOP, and BACK UP. The same action if your pushed a Button on your transformer. It was your voice that pushed the button Instead of your finger.



Operating train layouts, large & small, were present throughout the halls in the York Expo Center at the TCA October 2021 York Train Show.

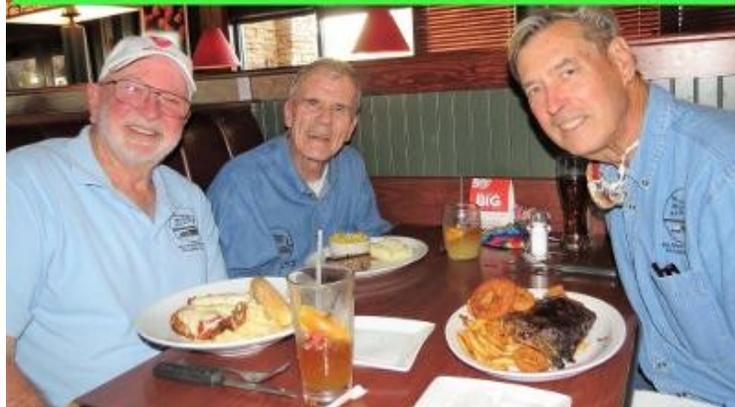


Is this a a sign of the times with empty dealer tables in the reconfigured open spaces at the TCA York Train Show October 21, 2021? Could it be that the current train collectors are getting older and there are fewer young members taking their places?

In the member halls the sales by TCA members were very active during the October 2021 York Train Show. This was the first York Train Meet in 18 months due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Three of the York, PA meets were cancelled during that time.



Bill Mixon, Dave Lawrence, & Bill Ziegler ate dinner after an exciting day at the TCA York Train Show October 21, 2021.



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