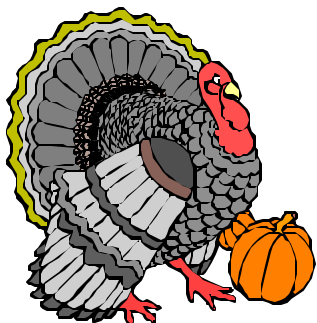




Pacific Northwest Division LOGGER

November/December 2008
Celebrating 50 years with TCA



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The 50th Anniversary celebration of the TCA Pacific Northwest Division was held in the Washington State History Museum in Tacoma, Washington. This celebration included a pasta dinner with salad, door prizes and access to the museum which has a railroad exhibit. Everybody that attended enjoyed the event and was surprised when the two of the original founders of the Pacific Northwest Division (William Lowe HR58-170, Paul Korsmoe HR58-287) received a Lionel Northern Pacific boxcar with their name and TCA number on the car.

With the passing of Ted Ahlberg, Richard Dodd accepted Ted's car (HR58-274) and subsequently presented it to Ted's family. Ted's oldest son is going to be the custodian of the car and it was on display at Ted's memorial service. Also, all members that attended received the same Northern Pacific boxcar, each uniquely numbered. The number identified the year that the division was founded followed by a sequential number which makes each car one of a kind. The last day for the PNWD members to claim their car is December 1, 2008. The remaining cars will be put up for sale.

All the PNWD members need to congratulate Richard and Barbara Flinchbaugh for the work done to obtain the PNWD Northern Pacific 50th Anniversary boxcar for each member. Through Barbara's connections it was accomplished in 4 weeks and 2 days from conception to a final product to be presented at anniversary dinner.

Elections for President, Treasurer and one Member-at-Large are forthcoming. There is one nomination for Treasurer and two for the Member-at-Large position (vote for 1). The Pacific Northwest Division needs to have a member volunteer for President. The ballot, included in this November Logger **must be postmarked by December 10, 2008.** The results are required to be sent to National TCA by December 15, 2008. The results will be published in the January 2009 Logger.

I am pleased to announce that Barbara has agreed to stay on as the Logger Editor for the time being. The Pacific Northwest Division Winter Meet on February 8, 2009 will be at the Moose Lodge Hall (several blocks north of the existing location at the SW Washington Fairgrounds). The Moose Lodge hall is cleaner and more attractive and has a paved parking lot. They will provide 40 tables with the rent which is all that is required unless we get a big increase in interest and attendance. The best part is that they will provide the coffee and donuts and a breakfast for approximately \$6.00 for the members who are interested. Barbara will provide a new map in the January Logger, along with the new member registration form, which will include the box to be checked if you want the breakfast. I think that this will be a good change.

(See pictures on page 6 of the Moose Lodge as well as those taken in York with Seymour Knight (Pleasant Valley Process Co. as well as those taken at the museum when our 50th Anniversary car was presented to Paul Edgar.)

The PNWD dues for 2010 will increase from \$10.00 to \$15.00 annually. Accordingly, any late dues (paid after January 1st, will be increased to \$20.00) This is required to cover supplies and mailing costs for the division.

Frank Geczi
President, PNWD TCA

TCA Mission

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

The views expressed by the contributors to this publication are theirs and not necessarily the view of the Editor, Pacific Northwest Division or the Train Collector's Association.

President

Frank Geczi
12508-206th Pl. S. E.
Issaquah, WA 98027
Phone: 425-271-1547
e-mail: frankgeczi@aol.com

Vice President

David Walsh
4122 No. Gove
Tacoma, WA 98407
Phone: 253-756-8841
e-mail: pwalsh1000@hotmail.com

Secretary

Richard E. Walters
58515 71st Ave. W.
University Place, WA 98467
Phone: 253-565-2371
e-mail: walters1221@comcast.net

Treasurer/Logger Editor

Barbara Flinchbaugh
36066-57th Ave. So.
Auburn, WA 98001
Phone: 253-939-2228
e-mail: rflinchbau@aol.com

Seattle Chapter President

J. Michael Bowerman
4410 231st PL SW
Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043
Phone: 425-778-8750
e-mail: jmbowerman@msn.com

Portland Chapter President

Steve D'Ambrosia
21920 SE Mark Road
Clackamas OR 97015-8756
Phone - 503-449-8756
email - slincoln52@hotmail.com

Treasure Valley Chapter President

Michael E. Peck
550 N. Sierra View
Eagle, ID 83616
Phone: 208-375-9464
e-mail: michalepeck2001@yahoo.com

PNWD BOD Members at Large

Steve Ramsdell
3886 NE Roosevelt St.
Bremerton, WA 98311-9633
Phone: 360-478-6435
e-mail: sstgram@earthlink.net

Dennis Tichi

P.O. Box 529
Woodinville, WA 98072-1005
Phone: 425-788-8910
e-mail: goofytrainman@msn.com

IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG? I HAVE TO ASK THE QUESTION ABOUT THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY CARS

Why is the response so poor that 37% of our members still have not responded by either picking up these beautiful 50th Anniversary Cars or sending in their form - - nearly 90 people have not responded at all. One would think, being that the cars are being given away to each and every member that was current with their dues paid as of September 15, 2008, the response should have been nearly 100%. To our knowledge, this give-away has never been done before by any TCA Division.

Many countless hours were spent by Ed and Patti Anderson in coordinating that wonderful party on October 4th where 55 members enjoyed the gala event and picked up their cars. Two members, Paul Korsmoe and Billy Loew, who were with the founding group in 1958 and are still fortunate enough to be with us today, gave a wonderful speech that day at the party and the feeling of both men was that the camaraderie and fellowship they have enjoyed throughout these past 50 years is still with them today.

Cars were also picked up in Lake City on October 26th and at Chehalis on November 2nd and others have responded and sent in their \$7.00 to have them shipped.

You cannot imagine the hours that it took both Dick and I to get the cars purchased from Lionel, sent off to Pleasant Valley Process Company to be custom painted to meet the requirement of the Pacific Northwest Division and individually numbered – something that has never been done before and then shipped to Seattle in time for the party. Yet, this whole process was accomplished in only one month and 2 days.

Which bodes the question – what do you members who do nothing, participate in nothing and never show up at any meet or function, expect from TCA? Are we, the Pacific Northwest Division, doing something wrong? Why are you a member? We send out the Logger 6 times a year and believe me, printing and mailing is not cheap and when asked, many members indicated they rarely even read it. Some of you never show up at the Division meets but at functions that are open to the public – you are there. Many times it looks like a TCA meet because there are so many TCA members that never attend our meets participating in the others shows.

Well, for those of you who have not yet responded, you have until November 23rd to show up at the Seattle Chapter meet in Lake City and pick up your car or put your order form in the mail by November 24th. If the form is not postmarked by that date and/or received by December 1st, you will no longer be eligible to receive a free car. That mandate was set forth in the very beginning and there will be no deviation from it.

**This article represents the expressed feelings and personal opinions of
Barbara Flinchbaugh, Treasurer and Logger Editor**



WANTED- - Please Call

Bill Hollingsworth

425-392-1104

**“O” Scale Switch Lamps to be used on
Gargraves and other Scale switches**

Seattle Chapter Summary

Year End Greetings from the Seattle Chapter

The September and October Lake City meets continue to show an upswing in attendance and activities. Due mostly to the distribution of the Pacific Northwest 50th Anniversary car, the October meet drew the Chapter's largest attendance in years. Both meets were followed by very successful Layout and Collection tours. Rick Dunn showed off his unique postwar collection following the Sept. meet. I never thought I would see, under one roof, a collection of premium condition early postwar trains like I did at Rick's. Our thanks go out to the hospitality of Rick and Sheila.

My own Layout and Collection tour that followed the October meet took a different approach. I believe I demonstrated that a TCA member with a modest collection can host a successful Layout and Collection Tour. It was fun to show our members how my 7 ft x 12 ft O-Gauge layout could be tilted up at a 90 degree angle and, if necessary, rolled up against a wall. I hope someday to convince the Lake City Community Center the advantages of such a train layout. My thanks go out to the help and hospitality of my wife, Angelika.

Increasing cost is affecting everyone these days including the Seattle Chapter. To compensate for this the Chapter voted to increase our door fee to \$5.00 a meet effective January 1. Thanks to the cooperation of the Lake City Community Center director Gordy Smith (who happens to be a TCA member) we escaped having a big rental increase for another year. In return, the Seattle Chapter agreed to hold a minimum of nine meets for 2009. The new schedule includes dropping the June and November meets to avoid schedule conflicts with division meets while retaining July and August summer meets. As usual, no meet will be held in May. And, for the first time in many years, a holiday meet has been scheduled for December 2009.

Seattle Chapter is pleased to announce the successful Layout and Collection tours will continue next year. Ed and Pat Anderson have reported Steve and Gretchen Ramsdell will kick off next years schedule with a home tour this coming April.

The Seattle Chapter board remains intact except for the retirement of long time treasurer Dick Rock. I would like to thank Dick for the outstanding job he has done over the years in handling the Seattle Chapter finances. We welcome aboard Matt Graves as our new treasurer for 2009-2010.

See you on November 23rd for our final meet of 2008 and enjoy the holidays.

Mike Bowerman, Seattle Chapter President

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2009

For the past five months the Seattle Chapter members have hosted home layout tours following our regular Lake City Chapter meets. Thank you to Bryon and Irene Parsons (June), Bill and Kay Hollingsworth (July), Dennis and Venette Tichi (August), Rick and Sheila Dunn (September) and Mike and Angelika Bowerman (October) for opening up their homes and sharing their fun hobbies with us. Each and every tour was unique, personal and memorable and truly enjoyed by the many members that attended. Several of our members had "perfect attendance" by attending each tour.

Steve and Gretchen Ramsdell from Bremerton have invited our members to their home for the first layout tour in 2009. Their layout was one that was featured during our 2005 National Convention.

We are planning for this tour to be on April 4, 2009 which is a Saturday ... making it more convenient for our members to attend. **DETAILS TO FOLLOW IN THE COMING MONTHS.** Mark your calendar today.

Ed Anderson, Seattle Chapter V.P.

Please see the great pictures on the following pages that were again taken by Patti Anderson at both Rick Dunn and Mike Bowerman's homes.

FOR SALE

6" ATLAS LATHE

Excellent for hobby use. Perfect condition.
Comes with belts, face plate, tool holder, pulleys, dog, wrenches, some cutting bits and new gears (in a bag – never used).

Accessories (Purchased separately):

Milling attachment (never used), steady rest, RH & LH tool holders, 3 jaw check, 4 jaw chuck, drill chuck, threaded center, cutting tools (new).

All for \$1,095.

Bill Hollingsworth
425-392-1104

Rick Dunn's layout tour pictures

Pictures by Patti Anderson & Frank Gezzi



Mike Bowerman's layout tour pictures (Pictures by Patti Anderson)



**Here's Margaret McCoy with her special car -
Was she ever surprised!!!**



Frank Geczi's pictures from York in October and those taken at the Nov. 2, 2008 meet in Chehalis.



Mark Boyd took these pictures of Frank presenting our 50th Anniversary car to Paul Edgar, TCA National Vice Pres. at the podium that was designed as a memorial for Gary Lavinus. Our PNWD donated \$5,000 to this effort. ←



Frank with Seymour Knight. Seymour owns the Pleasant Valley Process Co. and was the genius that painted our 50th Anniversary Cars for us. Frank was very happy to meet with him. →



A big spider web and pumpkins in Stroudsburg, PA ready for Halloween.



Bill Hollingsworth at his table and Jan Anderson is taking care of Vic's table. Ed Anderson brought his Marx trains to our meet and below is David Dansky helping many interested members.



Riding the Rails in the Good Old Days – Part X

A R I D E O N T H E ‘ G R E Y H O U N D ’

One day I found I had to go to New York. WOW! I had been waiting for this and lost no time getting one of my railroad friends to get me a pass to ride a GG-1. I took the usual train to Harrisburg where I found my connection waiting for me. He took me to the platform and soon that sleek GG-1 was at the platform. It takes some strength and agility to go up the steps (ladder) and into the cab. The engineer greeted me and showed me where to sit. I could see the fireman and part of the engineer and had a view through the front window.

I heard two short toots on the horn and we were rolling ever so quietly. The motors hummed and once out of the yard, we were up to speed in no time. In this almost noiseless locomotive I could hear the fireman calling signals and the engineer's response. On this part of the railroad the speed was 70 mph. When we left the North Philadelphia station we were soon on the 4 track mainline where we could fly, quickly reaching 90 mph and up. What a ride! I could still hear the voices of the fireman and engineer and the click-clack of rail joints. Not all of the line had received "ribbon rail" (seamless). Even at high speed the motors were quiet enough to hear voices. And I had never seen poles and scenery fly by so fast.

I returned to Altoona in a coach but with permanent memories of my ride on the "greyhound".

This loco would haul trains on its main line between New York and Washington D.C. hauling passenger trains every hour through some years. Those trains were called "The Clockers". This was one service the airlines would not be able to destroy. Eastern Airlines tried but could only dent it a bit.

Since I have mentioned the GG-1 so many times in this column perhaps I should provide some details that will explain its performance from 1934 to Amtrak's takeover of the PRR and its continued use for years by Amtrak.

The experimental first GG-1 was Number 4800 and it was built in 1934. Twenty-five years later she had run 2,795,577 miles. And it would add more miles from that date on.

SPECIFICATIONS

Wheel arrangement 4-6-6-4
 Horsepower 4620 – 385 per motor
 Number of twin motors 6 Total motors 12
 Continuous speed 100 mph
 Drive wheels 57" 12 wheels
 Total weight 460,000 lbs.
 Pantograph voltage 17,000 volts
 Length 79'6"
 Roller bearings – all axles
 Styling – Raymond Loewy

In 1945 locomotive 4840 struck a large bulldozer at a grade crossing near Stanton, Delaware while traveling at 80 mph. It threw the dozer across 4 tracks and dented the GG-1's nose. It also derailed the front truck. (Source: Pennsy Power by Alvin F. Stouffer). The Pennsy had 139 of these units which continued to serve as Amtrak motive power for more than a few years until Amtrak could replace them. They spent very little down time in the shop.

The freight service loved to get a "motor" as trainmen called them but that seldom happened.

Finally, a tribute is paid to this loco by TCA Past President, Jim Burke. In the Jan. 7, 2008 Newsletter he closed commentary about the "G" by writing: "The Pennsy attempted to find the maximum capacity of the GG-1; but, if accounts are correct, the GG-1 always had more to give". Thank you, Jim!

Respectfully submitted by Wm. "Bill" Hollingsworth

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Barbara Flinchbaugh, Editor
 Train Collectors Association
 Pacific Northwest Division
 36066-57th Ave. So.
 Auburn, WA 98001-9306



REMEMBER
YOU CAN SEE THE LOGGER IN
BEAUTIFUL COLOR – JUST LOG ON TO
OUR WEBSITE: www.traincollector.org
ENTER THE SITE & click on
NEWSLETTERS -- ENJOY!!!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Portland Chapter Meets

The Portland Chapter meets are held the 3rd Sunday of the month at the Aloha Mall, 18631 SW Tualatin Valley Highway @ corner of SW 185th Ave., Aloha, OR 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, Meeting and Auction, Contact - - Steve D'Ambrosia, 503-658-4383

The Portland Chapter Open House will be held on December 21, 2008. Come one, come all – enjoy the festivities.

Seattle Chapter Meets

The Seattle Chapter meets are held the 4th Sunday of the month at the Lake City Community Center, 12531-28th Ave. NE, Seattle WA, Doors open 9:00 AM, Contact - - Mike Bowerman. 425-778-8750

The November meet will be on the 23, so if you haven't done so – please attend and pick up your 50th Anniversary Car

No Seattle Chapter meet in December because of the Christmas Holiday