



OZARK DIVISION NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2022

Welcome to the fourth quarter edition of the Ozark Division Newsletter. Featured are articles about Brad Marples train house in Topeka, KS, and an article about the Grant Family Layout. Past president Brad Marples has amassed a collection that requires a house to store it. Darin Grant, current Ozark Division Vice President, recounts the development of his layout from childhood to its president configuration. Both articles feature pictures and video links. But first a word from our current president, Rob English.



Two occurrences -plus or minus- during the last month or so of importance...One was the Great St Louis Train Show and the other was a TCA National Board of Directors meeting.

The Train show was the only time this year I was able to get out and sell some of the accumulated trains for the past couple of years. I don't like to do eBay (fees and such) and I haven't tried Facebook marketplace. I would rather sell to the local collecting community and public. Personal interactions are key to spreading the word of our chapter, division and TCA as a whole.

Terrific groundwork is being accomplished by David Osborn and the Gateway Chapter, Dennis James and the Central Missouri Chapter and John DeSoto and the Heart of America chapter. I urge the TCA national members to attend the local chapter events (OR start a chapter!) or even get involved locally. It doesn't require much time and you will meet some terrific toy train folks!

Please take a look at the calendar of events later in this newsletter.

The BOD meeting made it clear to me just how important the divisions are to the whole - and the chapters are to the division. I'm happy to say that the Ozark Division maintains a reasonable financial position, and, a reasonable political position at the Board level. But, the BOD could use more input from the members about how to further the mission and the future of the TCA. I would love to hear what you all have to say about this topic. Please shoot me an email at tcaozarkdivision@tca-ozark.division.org and give me your thoughts!

Please don't hesitate to contact any of the Ozark Board with your ideas and questions/concerns.

I hope that you all have a wonderful Holiday season with friends, family.... and trains! Rob English

Brad's Train House

I am sure that many of us as kids had dreams of trains at Christmas time. Some dreamed of a specific car or engine. Others may have dreamed of train sets, perhaps a freight set with cars one could load and unload. Or a passenger set with sleek lighted passenger cars gliding down the track. Dreams that spurred the imagination to visualize their trains on a layout running through tunnels and lots of operating accessories. But how many of us dreamed of a house full of trains? Well, that is a dream that has come true for one of our Ozark Division members.

Dr Brad Marples life with trains started in modest way. The neighbor boys had outgrown their trains and they were given to the Marples family. Several boxes of trains and track were divvied up between he and his brother. Brad got the Marx 1829 engine freight set and his older brother got the Lionel Santa Fe Alco diesel. The Marples boys played with the trains throughout their adolescent years, but as they aged and went off to college, their interest waned. The predictable result was that their mother gave the trains away. (Years later, Brad would track down his original trains. They were found in a barn in the same box his mother had used to give them away!)

Fast forward 30 years, Brad is married and has kids. The Marples decided that they needed a train under the Christmas tree. Brad bought an UP starter set and ran it on the white carpet under the tree for several months. The simple UP train set ignited the train collecting bug in Brad's brain. Over the next 30 years Brad has accumulated one of the most significant collections of trains I have ever seen .

Brad built a large layout in the basement of his home and filled all the walls with trains. In the last few years Brad has specialized in buying boxed sets and the parts inventories of several dealers and closed hobby shops. The boxes began to pile up in their basement and when they spilled over into their TV viewing area, his wife told Brad that he had to do something.

Doing something involved buying a house in downtown Topeka built in 1907. There were many challenges to prepare the house for storing the trains. The house had previously been occupied by a law firm. The first two floors were offices, but the third floor had a refrigerator filled with liquor and a poker table. All had to be cleared out and the heating and ac units updated. However, the most challenging part of the remodel was getting rid of the hundreds of bats in the attic.

Today, as you enter the house, the front is a large living room/parlor. This room houses a large 15' x 8' layout with two dog bone loops . One standard gauge and one "O" gauge. Both use 72-inch diameter curves. Brad uses these loops to test the trains he has repaired. Sprinkled throughout the layout are many classic accessories such as the Ives Station and Lionel 128 terrace. In the center of the layout is MTH's recreation of Cowen's original gondola.





Next to the parlor is the Dining room . The space holds a 4' x 8' Marx layout. Everything on this layout is Marx including the track with plastic roadbed and the transformer. One loop of Marx track has a plastic roadbed. This track is very hard to find. Behind the Marx room is Brad's work area. Filled with test sets and drawer after drawer of parts.

The second floor has 4 bedrooms and the "library" in the back. Each room is dedicated to a specific era and/or manufacturer. Shelving units hold the trains stacked from floor to ceiling. Bedroom #1 holds Postwar Lionel. Bedroom #2 modern Lionel, MTH and Atlas "O". Bedroom #3 Marx and Marx accessories. Bedroom #4 Prewar "O" manufactured by Lionel, Ives and America Flyer. The collections in the library are standard gauge. Manufactures represented are Lionel, Ives and American Flyer.





The third floor (where the attorneys used to play poker) has several shelving units holding parts, broken parts and trains waiting to be inventoried, and a small “U” shaped layout (where the poker table used to be).



I hope you enjoyed our tour of Brad’s train house. Many of you are familiar with the collection of the deceased John DeSantis in Pittsburgh PA. Having viewed both, I would call Brad the John DeSantis of Topeka. Here is a [link](#) to a video done by the local Topeka TV Station, KSNT.

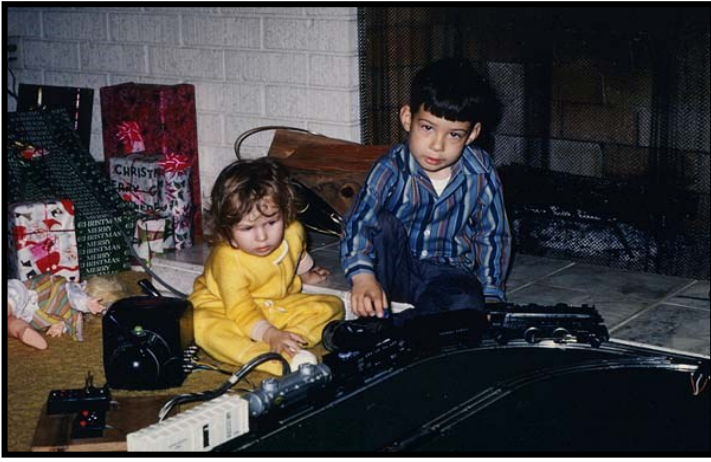
Don Miller 06-59842 Brad Marples HE95-41819



A Lifetime Investment in Happiness

By Darin Grant 11-65910

Like many of us, I received a train set for Christmas. My first train set was an HO scale western style set that my parents gave me before Christmas to determine if I liked model trains enough to warrant giving me the family Lionel trains the following December. So, on Christmas morning of 1971, I received a Lionel train with track mounted on plywood that could roll under my bed when not in use. My first train set was a mix of my dad’s 1949 set and my uncle’s 1957 set and was powered with a ZW transformer!



Darin and his younger sister in 1971.

After Christmas, my dad showed me how to make a paper Mache tunnel for the layout. Sometime later, my dad took me to the Train Stop in San Dimas, California, the closest train shop to our home to purchase Life Like trees, street lights that lit up and the Lionel Cross Country set that contained a watchman's shanty, signs, telephone poles and a bridge that I could use on my small layout. We eventually moved from California to Lee's Summit, Missouri in the Kansas City metro area and my dad said that the layout would have a place in the basement and that we would enlarge it to a 4' by 10' layout!

My original layout was incorporated into this new layout that used O-27 track and switches, multiple levels, and a small yard for switching. I was given the remainder of the family trains that had been in storage and each year I would receive additional train cars at Christmas and sometimes my birthday to expand my fleet. My dad would call Madison Hardware to order parts that were missing from his original trains or trains I had acquired at auctions when needed.

After several years, our family moved to the country outside Greenwood, Missouri and the train layout was dismantled to be moved. The new house had a larger basement where I could build a much bigger layout and planning ensued. The day after Christmas of 1983, my father, grandfather and I began construction of the train layout that I still have to this day. We built the table using lumber left over from the construction of our house and 5 new sheets of plywood I had acquired earlier and the plywood and wiring from my earlier two layouts. I had also received a case of Gargraves track that Christmas and had some old Lionel O22 switches to use in building the layout.

Over the next few decades, the large 8' x 20' layout was moved back to Lee's Summit, Missouri and then a short time later was moved to Town & Country, Missouri in the St. Louis metro area. I would visit the Kirkwood train store and the area train shows to add some key items to the layout during this time. When I purchased my first home in Prairie Village, Kansas, the layout was taken apart, moved and set up there. My friends and I would have many late night operating and building sessions at this location! Currently the layout is in Overland Park, Kansas, the fifth location since it was originally built and incorporating parts of my first two layouts that date back to 1971.



A video of the layout can be seen by clicking this [Link](#).

Article by Darin Grant, Ozark VP, 11-65910
Video by Don Miller 06-59842

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Gateway Chapter, St. Louis

The Great St. Louis Train Show and Food Drive was held December 3rd at the Immanuel Lutheran Church School. A nice turnout of vendors and attendees. The next meeting is January 15, 1:00—3:00pm at the Kirkwood Public Library. Personal reminder emails are being sent to members whom we haven't seen in a while. Responses have been positive.

The chapter's Facebook page is [St Louis Gateway Chapter of the TCA](#).

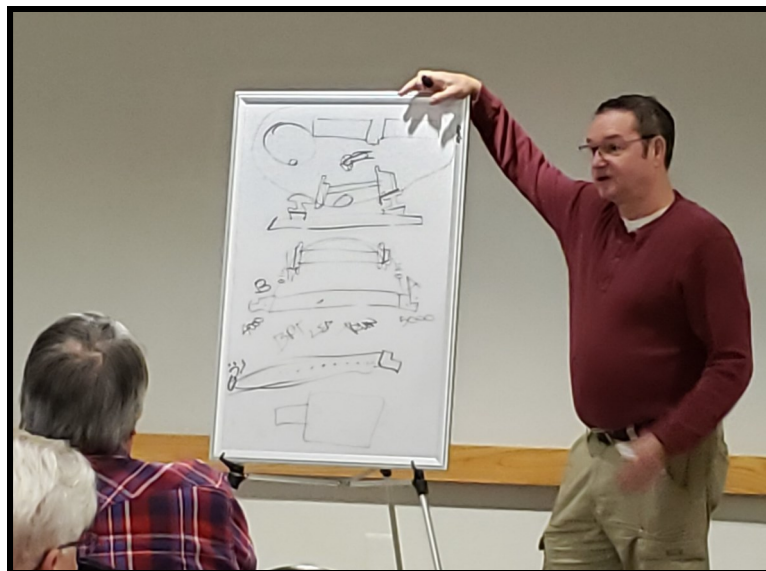
Central Missouri Chapter Report

Our monthly meetings continue and are usually the first Wednesday of each month. 2002 Grindstone Parkway, Columbia.

HOA Chapter News

HOA held its Annual Meeting on Saturday, December 10, 2022. The attendance was significantly higher (33+) this year now that the membership is getting out and about this year. Our HOA Chapter membership number remains strong at 64 and we continue to remain financially stable. Darin Grant went over the Membership Survey and spoke on the results. The survey completed by 74% of the membership yielded some very interesting results that will help the Board in planning next year's activities.

The year's Annual Meeting Agenda included a BNSF Engineer, who spoke on various topics related to modern railroading. We had several members bring in items for the Show and Tell portion of the meeting along with a video of 2022 Chapter activities, such as layout tours, swap meets, train shows and convention participation. A new "revenue stream" was tried this year at the meeting, a Silent Auction table. .



The auction realized over \$110.00 with proceeds all to HOA, The membership enjoyed cake, snacks and beverages while talking with old friends and meeting new ones.

In October the HOA held Garage Sale and Layout tour. Hosted by Russ Boresma, members had the opportunity to buy/sell trains and tour Russ' beautiful layout.

Our Facebook page is [Heart of America TCA Train Club](#).



Train Related Activities in the Ozark Division geographical Area

December 30th, 2022: The Miller's 2022 Christmas Train Open House

Friday, December 30, 2022, 4:00pm to 6:00pm

The home of Don and Judy Miller

12715 Grant St. Overland Park, KS 66213

January 7, 2023: Trainfair 2023

Saturday, 10:00am to 3:00pm

West High School

St Charles , MO

January 14-15th, 2023: Model Train Convention & Expo

Saturday 9:00am - 6:00pm, Sunday 10:00am - 3:00pm

McPherson Community Building

122 E. Marlin St., McPherson, KS 67460

January 15th, 2023: Gateway Chapter Meeting

Sunday 1:00pm—3:00pm

Kirkwood Public Library

Kirkwood MO

January 15th, 2023: Ozark Division Annual Membership Meeting

Sunday 3:00pm—4:00pm

Kirkwood Public Library

Kirkwood, MO

February 4-5th, 2023: Wichita Train Show and Swap Meet

Saturday 9:00am - 5:00pm, Sunday 11:00am - 4:00pm

Cessna Activity Center, Wichita, KS

February 18th, 2023: TTOS Sooner Division Winter Train Show

Saturday 9:00am - 3:00pm

Payne County Fairgrounds

4518 Expo Cir. E., Stillwater, OK 74075

<http://www.ttos-soonerdiv.org/division-events.html>

February 18, 2023: Pacific Eagles

Saturday 10:00am—3:00pm

707 W. Congress St.

Pacific, MO

March 11, 2023: Boeing Show

Saturday 10:00am—3:00pm

Queeny Park

St Louis, MO

April 1st, 2023: Greater Tulsa Area Train Show

Saturday 9:00am - 3:00pm

Bixby Community Center

211 N. Cabaniss, Bixby, OK

<http://www.ttos-soonerdiv.org/division-events.html>

April 1-2nd, 2023: Rocky Mountain Train Show

Saturday 10:00am - 5:00pm, Sunday 10:00am - 4:00pm

National Western Complex

4655 Humboldt St., Denver, CO

<https://rockymountaintrainshow.com/Default.aspx>

If you will be traveling in Missouri, remember the third Saturday of every month, Mid-MO Train Club hosts a Model Train Market at the Iron Spike Model Train Museum in Washington, MO.

Ozark Division Officers

Robert M. English 96-43303 – President

5 Exmoor Dr.

Saint Louis, MO 63124

314-989-9479

englishes@charter.net

Darin Grant 11-65910 – Vice President

11326 W 132nd Terrace

Overland Park, KS 66213

913-486-2131

dgrant@kc.rr.com

John F. DeSoto14-70274 – President Heart of America

Chapter

9601 NE 100th Street

Kansas City, MO 64157

816-415-0962

jfdkc640@gmail.com

David M. Osborn 75-7280 – President Gateway Chap-

ter

633 Highview Circle Drive

Ballwin, MO 63021

314-808-5708

osborns@swbell.net

Don Miller 06-59842 – Past President, Communica-
tions Editor

12715 Grant Street

Overland Park, KS 66213

913-814-9107

olathedonm@aol.com

Bradley Marples, M.D. HE95-41819 – Director

5125 SW Redbud Lane

Topeka, KS 66606

785-271-5530

bmarples@gmail.com

Jon R. Lundvall 75-8379 - Historian

810 Windmill Dr.

Ballwin, MO 63011

314-239-7996

jonlstrains@netscape.net