



# OZARK DIVISION NEWSLETTER MARCH 2023

Welcome to the 1st Quarter, 2023, edition of the Ozark Division Newsletter. Did you ever wish for a 773 Hudson engine when you were a kid? Well as it turns out, Lionel made several different 773s over the years. Our first article discusses these engines and lists as many of the 773s that we could find. The second article recounts my visit to our most senior TCA member in Oklahoma, Art Hayes, Oklahoma City. I also visited long time TCA member, Brian Williams, in Tulsa. I traveled to Oklahoma just prior to the pandemic and took lots of pictures which you will have access to through a Photobucket Album. But first, a word from our President, Rob English.



With train show season winding down, and yard work looming, I thought I might provide a comment or two about keeping the train juices flowing... until it gets hot outside here in Ozark Division.

Running nights. Invite a few friends over for an informal running night. Ask them to bring a young prospective member (or two!) so they can make a connection or two and perhaps join the TCA and Ozark in the future. Invite them to run their trains with like-minded folks. I have done this several times in the past year and will take credit for signing a couple of folks into TCA.

Social events. Pure social events where people can get together... and inevitably talk trains. Invite prospective members here too.

Social media. There are OODLES of groups on Facebook these days Including the Ozark Division and its chapters. Post... don't just lurk. We all get something out of it when you post. Just once a week! About anything! Takes less than a minute. Can you imagine the conversation if all Ozark members posted just once a week? WOW!

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

Rob English, President Ozark Division of the TCA

## 773 Hudson Anthology

By Don Miller (06-59842) with Brad Marples (HE95-41819) and Rob English (96-43303)

Growing up in the 50s my concept of what Lionel trains should look like was formed by my brother's prewar 1666 with tin plate cars. In 1955 I received a Texas Special freight set. The engine was a bit bigger, but by and large the cars fit with my brother's set. As a kid, I poured over all the Lionel catalogs I could find. My 1950 catalog showed this huge steam engine numbered 773. The 773 was truly a mystery engine. At \$50 it was way too expensive for me or any of my friends to have one. Besides it would not run on our O27 track. When Lionel reissued the 773 in 1964, I finally was able to see and touch one at the Lewis Drug Christmas display in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Little did I realize that I was touching one of the most historic engines Lionel ever produced.

Diving into a discussion of scale model Hudson engines is like diving into murky water. To avoid the endless Hudson hunt, the intent of this article is to give the reader a taste of the history of the 773 produced under the Lionel name. The article is not intended to be a comprehensive listing of all the scale Hudson engines ever produced. I'll leave that to Greenberg, McComas, Tuohy and other book writers.

To trace the lineage of the 773 we need to go back to a prewar engine the 700E. There are several stories as to why Joshua Lionel Cowen built the 700E, but the one I like the best was told to me by long term TCA member, Art Hayes (see Art Hayes' story in this Newsletter). As Art tells the story, in 1935 Cowen attempted to join the New York Society of Model Engineers (NYSME). Cowen's application was rejected because his company never built a scale model. The insulted Cowen spent an estimated \$65,000 to \$75,000 for the tooling to create the 700E. Cowen claimed the model was accurate down to the last rivet. (It wasn't, but that's another story).

The **700E** (1937-42) came with 700E Display Board, 700W tender, its cab number is 5344 and runs on T-rail track.



Lionel also produced the **763E** (1937-42). This model is slightly less detailed (look at the valve gear) and ran on tubular track. It's cab number 763-E and 2226W tender. Early 763Es were gunmetal and had Vanderbilt tenders. (Click this [Link](#) for photo)



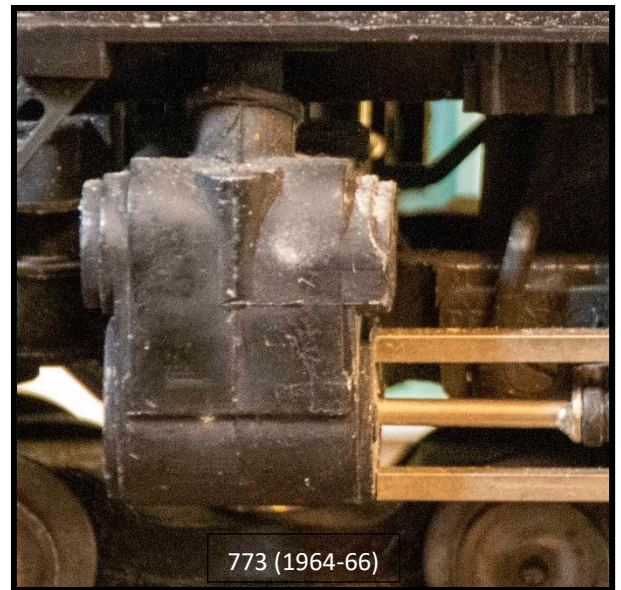
Now we come to the “star” of this article, the first and real (in my opinion) **773**. Offered back in 1950 for Lionel’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The new innovations of the time like magnatraction, 3 position E-unit and smoke were added. Magnatraction required sintered iron wheels with simulated spokes. Compared to the 700E, the 773 was less detailed, but still certainly a beautiful engine.



The **773** produced in 1964-66 lacks a slide valve guide (see next page). A disappointment was the small plastic 736W Pennsylvania tender produced in 1964 (shown below). The tender was changed to a 773W New York Central for the 1965 – 66 productions. You can find a picture of the 65-66 model at this [Link](#). Many, if not all, the 773W tenders had the water scoop installed backwards. Finally, the cab numbers on the side of the 1964-66 model are larger than the cab numbers on the 1950 model.







Fast forward 20 years and Lionel reissues an engine that looks like the 773 except they put the wrong number on the cab (author's opinion). The **783** was produced in 1984, (sku 6-8406) with improved smoke, improved magntraction and a vastly better looking 2426W tender. But why not number this engine 773? There is speculation that Lionel had originally intended to offer this engine in 1983, but problems with the Mexican production delayed the issue of this American made locomotive. Thus the 83 in the cab number. The price of this engine was about \$575 for pre orders, easily the most expensive engine Lionel had produced to date. Later Lionel added 2 more engines to this series, including the 784 (6-8606) Boston & Albany in 1986 (see [Link](#) for photo) and the gray 785 (6-18002) New York Central in 1988. (see [Link](#) for photo)



In 1997 Lionel offered a **773** (6-18058) NYC only to Century Club members. This was the first 773 offered equipped with TMCC. Note an engineer appears in the cab. Two other significant scale Hudson engines were offered in 1997. They include the (sku 6-18062) Santa Fe 3447 (see [Link](#) for photo), and the (6-18056) NYC 5344 equipped with a Vanderbilt tender. (see [Link](#) for Photo)





In 2001 Lionel produced another 773 with leftover parts from the 1997 Century Club 773 production run. Only 500 of these engines were produced. It also had a cab number of 773 but a new sku of 6-38015. It had a 6-wheel truck, nicely detailed, tender. The low production number makes this an engine very rare, with only a few who have ever seen one.



In 2005 Lionel offered a remake of the #13150 Celebration Series freight set. This set included a scale, TMCC equipped **773** Hudson engine.



An engine that is not part of the 773 discussion is the 2010 VisionLine model (I could not help myself). The engine is Legacy equipped and offered in black (6-11209) cab number 5344 or gray (6-11218) cab number 5331 shown below. This engine was billed as an accurate recreation of the 700E. I had a chance to compare this engine with an original 700E and they are very, very similar. Some of the parts on the VisionLine engine were sharper than the 700E. This includes the whistle and the two auxiliary generators on top of the boiler. The pilot truck wheels are smaller on the VisionLine model.



Over the howls of anguish that this engine should not be included, I have added the **773** Semi Scale Hudson engine (sku 2232040). This engine, cataloged in 2022, is equipped with LionChief plus 2.0 which includes Bluetooth and TMCC control. I have this engine in the Great Northern Road name. It is a great runner, looks right with the Baby Madison passenger cars, but it really can't be compared to the scale Hudson engines.



This is it, all the 773 engines that my research could find. I hope you enjoyed the article; it turned out to be quite a project but certainly a lot of fun. I know that some of you will wish I had included some other scale Hudson engines, so why don't you send me a picture of your engine and I will include it in the Photobucket album. Please do not reply to this email but send your pictures to [olathedonm@aol.com](mailto:olathedonm@aol.com).

**A note on viewing Photobucket album.** When you click on the [Link](#) provided in this document a new window will open showing a grid of Hudson engines. Click once on any picture in the grid and a full size picture of that engine will appear. If you want to find out more about that engine, click on the circle with an "i" in the middle.

Engine models, Brad Marples, Andy Dubill, Rob English and Don Miller. Photos Don Miller, Brad Marples and Rob English.





## Oklahoma Road Trip.

Prior to Covid, when I was still Division President, I took a road trip to Oklahoma to meet with two TCA members. My meeting with those members is the subject of this article. The first is Arthur Hayes 67-1901. Arthur, who lives in an Oklahoma City suburb, ranks fourth on the longevity list of Ozark members. The second long term TCA member I met in Oklahoma was Dean Williams 73-5923. Dean lives in a suburb of Tulsa.

Arthur lives in the OKC suburb of Yukon, OK. Yukon is on the famous Route 66 and home of the Rock Island Railroad Museum. Finding Arthur's home was a bit of an adventure in itself. He lives in a gated community between Route 66 and Lake Overholser. There are two entrances to the community and unfortunately the GPS took us to the wrong one. We had to call Art to rescue us.

Reaching his home, we see a beautifully landscaped house with a large 4 car garage and a pond in the back yard. As you meet Art you realize that there is something wrong as this man is way too young to be a 50+ year member of TCA! Stepping into the house, you are greeted by trains on shelves everywhere. On top of that, I had never seen most of the trains before.

Art, like so many of us, received his first train for Christmas in 1954. It was a 2035 freight set. Hobby shops in Oklahoma City supplied his early train needs. A man by the name of Evert Swan provided repair services for Art.



In his teens Art made friends with Dick Nauss, Tulsa, who convinced him that he needed to join TCA. This was in 1967 when Art was only 17 years old! While at Oklahoma

State University (OSU) he met "Bo" McCalister. Evidently the train bug had bitten Bo as bad as Art. Art tells of the two of them driving all night to a train meet in Saint Louis. Another story was that they would drive to Kansas City and load up his Corvette with trains at Spotlight Hobby and then drive to Springfield, MO to sell the trains. During those TCA meets Art became friends with many well-known collectors in the Midwest including Lloyd Taaffe, Doug Boerner, Ed Acuff, Jim Redman and Loren Kemp. He once saw 17 sealed Santa Fe diesel box sets at Loren's shop.

York also played a big role in Art's train collecting. He recounts taking 7 containers to York, selling at the "Billy Bud" held at the former Holiday Inn, at other "bandit" shows and at the York County fairgrounds. It was trips to York and other TCA meets where Art became friends with a TCA founder Lou Redman. He recounts that he once saw a 700e for \$50 at the York TCA meet.



Art's collecting habit has him focusing on a certain area and then selling his collection and focusing on a new area. In the 60s and 70s he was into Lionel Post War, in the 80s and 90s Pre-War Lionel in the 2000s Marklin, and now foreign manufactures and unusual O scale.

Numerous names of manufactures are represented on the wall of Art's home. Fred Icken, Ed Alexander, Lobaugh, Scalecraft, Bill Lineor, Joe Fischer and many more I had never heard of.

In addition to his collecting, Art is now building a large layout in the attic of his garage. I talked to Art recently and he has made significant progress since my 2019 visit. You can see more pictures of Art's home and collection in the Photobucket album found at this [LINK](#).

Continuing my Oklahoma Road Trip, I have a friend in Tulsa that I wanted to visit, but he had a conflict. I had already committed to stay one night in Tulsa so I decided to call TCA members in the area until I found one that was available and willing to visit with me. After several attempts with no answer, I finally connected with Dean Williams (73-5923).



Just getting to Dean's home was worth the effort. Dean lives in the town of Sands Springs, OK. The GPS directed me to River Road which is really a RIVER road just east of the Arkansas river. It was an after dinner drive and the mist was coming off the river and covered the tree lined road. Dean owns a modest home with an outbuilding that he uses to house his business, "Deans Train Shop".

I met Dean at his front door, and we proceeded to the shop. In addition to the repair equipment and parts, he has a variety of homemade trains and a large collection of transformers. On his shop wall are two warped box car shells (see the picture at this [LINK](#)). He relates the story that he purchased a large collection of trains in Missouri. The trains filled his suburban to the top. It was a hot day, and he crammed these two box cars at the very back into the window. Well, you can see what the sun did! After we had visited a bit, Brian asked me if I wanted to see the "good stuff" in the house. (I sure did!)



Dean lives alone and like so many of our TCA members, the trains take over the house. The trains fill the holes left by loved ones. One of the interesting things that Brian does with his trains is to convert all the small "Vulcan" type engines by replacing the DC motors with Post-War mechanisms. Certainly, makes for an interesting and varied collection of these little switchers. Almost every room in the house had shelves of trains on display. I think the best way to tour Brian's collection is to look at the pictures found at this [LINK](#).

By Don Miller 06-59842



## CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

### Gateway Chapter, St. Louis

The Gateway Chapter met on January 15, 2023. The Annual Business meeting was held. Presentations by Dave Holt on semi-scale 9 and 1/2 inch passenger cars, Rob English presented his semi-scale switchers and Greg Hake brought a large bag of various reproduction boxes.

Our next chapter meeting will be April 30th at 1pm and we will meet again at the Kirkwood Public Library on Jefferson Ave.

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



### Central Missouri Chapter Report

#### Columbia, MO

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

We participated in the Hobo Joe Train at Paquin Towers in Columbia, Missouri held on March 18. This is done for the Parks and Recreation Department for our use of the Rock Quarry Park Clubhouse.

Our Facebook page is [mid-motrainclub.](#)



## Heart of America Chapter

### Kansas City

Don and Judy Miller hosted their annual Christmas Trains open house on December 31, 2022. A good number of HOA members were present.

The HOA Board met to develop plans for 2023. We are having a layout tour at a new member's home on April 1st and planning our second HOA swap meet on June 3rd. Details on the Activities list in this Newsletter.

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



### Do you know what this?

I saw this unusual looking transformer in Dean Williams extensive collection of transformers. The transformer was manufactured by "National". We found an answer on Google, but it is not train related. Stay tuned for next Quarter's Newsletter for what we found. (Or Google it your self!)





## Train Related Activities in the Ozark Division geographical Area

Sponsored by the Wichita Toy Train Museum & Club

**April 1st, 2023:** TCA HOA Layout Tour  
Saturday 1:00pm - 4:00pm  
Home of Tom French  
18199 Melrose Dr., Bucyrus, KS 66013

**April 20, 21, 22, 2023:** York Train Meet  
Eastern Division TCA  
York State Fairgrounds, 334 Carlisle Ave,  
York, PA 17404

**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 22-23rd, 2023:** B&D Toys 2nd Annual Charles Buswell Memorial Model Train Show  
Saturday 9:00am - 5:00pm, Sunday 10:00am - 3:00pm  
Seward County Fairgrounds - Ag Pavilion  
430 N. 15th Street, Seward, NE 68434

**April 1-2nd, 2023:** Rocky Mountain  
Saturday 10:00am - 5:00pm, Sunday 10:00am - 4:00pm  
National Western Complex  
4655 Humboldt St., Denver, CO  
<https://rockymountaintrainshow.com/Default.aspx>

**April 29th, 2023:** Iron Spike 6th Anniversary Railroad Swap Meet  
Saturday, April 29, 2023 10:00am – 3:00pm  
Washington City Auditorium  
211 High Street, Washington MO 63090  
Admission \$8, includes same day admittance to Iron Spike Museum

**April 2nd, May 7, June 4, Aug. 6, Sept. 10, Oct. 1, Nov. 5, Dec. 3 2023:** Chicago Great Midwest Train Show  
9:00am—3:00pm  
DuPage County Fairgrounds  
2015 Manchester Road, Wheaton IL  
<https://www.trainshow.com/shows/gmts>

**June 3rd, 2023:** TCA HOA 2nd Annual Swap Meet  
Saturday 10:00am - 2:00pm  
The Palmer Center  
218-A North Pleasant Street, Independence, MO 64050

**April 8th, 2023:** Sons of American Legion Spring Train Show  
Saturday 10:00am - 3:00pm  
Dupo American Legion Post #485  
200 South 5th Street, Dupo IL 62239  
Contact Dirk Reynolds at 618-973-2237

**June 8-11th, 2023:** O Scale National Convention  
Hyatt Regency, 13200 E 14th Pl, Aurora, CO 80011  
[oscalenational.com](https://oscalenational.com)

**April 15th, 2023:** 8th Annual Arkansas City Train Show  
Saturday 9:00am - 4:00pm  
Agri-Business Building  
712 W. Washington, Arkansas City, KS

**June 24-July 2nd, 2023:** 69th TCA National Convention  
Burlington, VT  
<https://www.tcatrains.org/national-tca-convention/>

**July 9-July 16th, 2023:** LOTS  
44<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention  
2001 Alcoa Highway, Alcoa, Tennessee,  
37701-3163  
<https://lots-trains.org/annual-convention/>

**July 24-29th, 2023:** LCCA 53rd National  
Convention  
Concord, NC  
<https://www.lionelcollectors.org/>

**August 13th, 2023:** Mid-America Train &  
Toy Show  
Sunday 9:00am – 2:00pm  
KCI Expo Center  
11730 NW Ambassador Drive, KC, MO

**August 26-27th, 2023:** Central Arkansas  
Train & Hobby Show  
Saturday 9:00am – 4:00pm - Sunday  
9:00am – 4:00pm  
Conway Expo & Event Center  
2505 E. Oak St., Conway, AR

**September 7 & 8, 2023:** 32nd Annual  
Greater St. Louis Train Show  
Saturday 10:00am – 4:00pm  
Sunday 10:00am - 3:00pm  
Kirkwood Community Center  
111 S. Geyer Road  
Kirkwood, MO 63122

**September 9th, 2023:** Boeing Employees'  
Railroad Club - St. Louis RR Swap Meet  
Saturday 10:00am – 3:00pm  
Greensvelder Recreation Complex at  
Queeny Park  
550 Wiedman Road, St. Louis, MO  
[https://www.berrc-stl.com/V3.0p/  
index.html](https://www.berrc-stl.com/V3.0p/index.html)

**September 23rd, 2023:** Ozark Model  
Railroad Association Train Show  
Saturday 9:00am – 3:00pm  
Ozark Empire Fairgrounds Central Build-  
ings Event Center  
3001 N. Grant Ave, Springfield, MO  
[www.omraspringfield.org](http://www.omraspringfield.org)

**October 14th, 2023:** 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Swap  
Meet - Central Missouri Chapter of the  
TCA  
Open to TCA, sponsor members 9:00am, to  
the public at 10:00am - 3:00pm  
Columbia Senior Activity Center,  
1121 Business Loop 70 East, Columbia,  
MO 65201

**October 19, 20, 21, 2023:** York Train  
Meet Eastern Division TCA  
York State Fairgrounds, 334 Carlisle Ave,  
York, PA 17404

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



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