

Ozark Division Newsletter

“Celebrating the Magic of Toy Trains”

www.ozarkdivision-TCA.org

This year marks the 50th anniversary for the Ozark Division. The first Ozark Division train meet was held on Sunday, January 22, 1967 at Robinwood Swim Club in Creve Coeur, MO.

The process to form the Ozark Division was started in 1966, that is as far back as the records go but I suspect the process was started even earlier. I am not real sure how the word got out about forming new division within the Train Collectors Association other than word of mouth. The correspondence indicates that Earl Smarr and Don Lorange were the two who spearheaded the movement. If I overlooked someone I apologize.

In late November 1966 an organizational meeting, which was probably one of several, was held at the New American Legion Home in Columbia, MO. At that meeting Earl Smarr read a letter from Eric Buckley, National Secretary, of the Train Collectors Association. The letter outlined what was required to form a division. The first was to have at least 25 names of members of the TCA. That was accomplished as 17 individuals were present and 7 proxies were carried by those present. Next a slate of candidates was chosen and an election was held. Earl Smarr was elected the first President, Clarence Miles was elected Vice President and Don Lorange elected Secretary/Treasurer. The annual membership fee was set at \$2 per year by the members in attendance.

Some time in 1967 it became official as the Board of Directors of the Train Collectors Association announced the formation of the Ozark Division. The boundaries of the Ozark Division would include the states of Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma.

At the November 1966 meeting all of those members who attended would become founding members of the Ozark Division. Unfortunately the records do not include all of those individuals. Here is the partial list of founding members—Ed Acuff, Liborius Ahrens, Doug Bourner, James Denninghoff, Roy Gunter, Don Lorange, Clarence Miles, Dick Nauss, Jim Shouse, Earl Smarr and Lloyd Taaffe. If anyone knows of any other members who attended that November 1966 meeting I would like to add those names to the list of founding members.

By 1970 the Ozark Division membership had grown to around 100 members. The Ozark Division was sponsoring train meets all around the division, Kansas City, Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Springfield, MO and St. Louis. Springfield was always a popular venue as it was about half way between St. Louis and Oklahoma City which made travel easy. Those shows attracted individuals from all around the Division and during the fuel crisis it was about a one way gas tank from most directions.

In 1970 the Ozark Division membership approved the first Constitution and By-Laws. You can see the current Constitution and By-Laws on the Ozark Division website

Special points of interest:

- Ozark Division at 50 Years
- Election Results
- Membership Renewal
- 63rd TCA National Convention
- Welcome Aboard

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www.ozarkdivision-TCA.org. In late 1975 the St. Louis Gateway Chapter was formed. The first President nominated and elected was Charles R. Anyan, the current TCA National President. The first Secretary/Treasurer was Richard M. Hamilton.

As 1980's began the Ozark Division had a total membership residing within the boundaries of around 315 with about 250 being dues paying members of the Ozark Division. In 1981 the Ozark Division hosted the first of three national conventions. The Convention was held at the then Cervantes Convention Center and our host hotel was the St. Louis Sheraton Hotel located on about the 50 yard line of what was the Edward Jones Dome. The convention headed by Lloyd Taaffe was a great success, as there was over 700 members who registered. This convention featured a first, a banquet car in place of a non-descript table center piece. The first banquet car was a Lionel 5700 Oppenheimer Woodside Reefer with a disc glued on the doors signifying the Convention. There were just 37 cars produced and today very hard to find.

In 1986 the Ozark Division expanded its boundaries by annexing from the Midwest Division seven counties located adjacent to the greater St. Louis area. Those counties included the southern portion of Macoupin County south of Illinois Highway 16, Calhoun, Jersey, Madison, Monroe, Randolph and St. Clair Counties in southern Illinois.

As the 1980's ended and the 1990's began the membership numbers saw a spike as a result of the second TCA National Convention held in 1992. The 38th TCA National Convention was held in St. Louis, however there was the possibility the convention wasn't going to happen at least not in St. Louis. About a year and half before the convention I received a call from the St. Louis Convention and Visitors Bureau advising that our convention dates were in peril, they couldn't guarantee that the Convention Center would have air conditioning or electricity as remodeling and expansion was underway to make a home for the new St. Louis Rams. The search was on for a new location and to the rescue came the Stouffer's Concourse Hotel located near St. Louis Lambert International Airport. The facility had some challenges but with their help and cooperation those challenges were overcome. The convention sold out all rooms available at Stouffer's as well as one of the two overflow hotels. After it was all said and done the 900 plus who registered had a good time. I am still reminded of the fire alarm going off around 7:30 on Saturday morning forcing everyone above the seventh floor to evacuate the building. As it turned out someone lit a cigar near a smoke detector setting off the alarm. The convention banquet car was a Lionel 52003 Trailer-On-Flat Car lettered for Ozark Division and the trailer decorated for the Convention. As I recall the proto-type of the car sold for about \$800 at the banquet auction. There was just 100 cars prepared and another first Lionel paid for the cars.

In 1995 the Central Missouri Chapter was formed. I am not sure who was the first President of the Chapter. I hope some one will up-date me with that information. As the 1990's came to an end the Ozark Division had almost 600 TCA members within the boundaries and a Division membership of 215.

As the 21st century began the Ozark Division started planning for the 59th TCA National Convention to be held in 2013. However before that the Heart of America Chapter was formed in 2009 with Andy Dubil as the first President.

Under the direction of Dennis James the Ozark Division once again produced another great TCA National Convention. The Millennium Hotel in St. Louis was the convention headquarters, all activities started and terminated there. The 318 members who registered for the convention had a good time in St. Louis. Unfortunately for the hard working staff of the Millennium Hotel it closed in early 2014. Our Convention was probably the last big event they hosted. And yes there was a Banquet Car, Weaver Woodside Reefer Falstaff—Lemp Brewery #1504 (green). There was also a brown woodside reefer with a very low production.

As we move into 2017 there are 393 TCA members residing within the borders of the Ozark Division. The Ozark Division has 207 members who have paid the annual membership fee, also including some courtesy memberships.

Election Results: Here are the Ozark Division election results; Donald L. Miller elected Vice-President and Jon R. Lundvall reelected Secretary/Treasurer. 44 ballots were received and the candidates were elected unanimously.

Membership Renewal: Final call for those who have yet to renew their membership to the Ozark Division for 2017. How do I know if I am current; if you are receiving this newsletter electronically you are current. If you receive the newsletter via the mail, check your mailing label and if the number 17 or higher appears you are in good standing and if your mailing label shows just letters you are in good standing. If your mailing label is highlighted it is time to renew your membership. Please follow the instructions on the membership renewal application.

63rd National TCA Convention: *"The Point is...Trains!" Pittsburgh 2017* that is where the convention will on June 24 thru July 2, 2017. For more information the convention check your most recent edition of the National Headquarters News or go to the Convention website: www.TCAconvention.org. It looks like the convention committee has packed in a lot of activities for the entire family. Register early as some of the tours will probably sell out early and don't forget about the early registration discount. If you are planning on going to the convention make some time to attend the Board of Directors meetings planned for Wednesday and Thursday and the annual membership meeting on Saturday afternoon. This should be another great TCA National Convention where you can meet up with some old friends and make some new ones.

TCA 2016—2017 Tenth Annual Appeal: This year the membership challenge is to raise \$30,000 to be used solely to supplement the General Fund to help defray the cost of membership benefits. It is real easy to make your donation, I add my donation to my membership renewal or you can complete the Annual Appeal Form contained in the most recent edition of the National Headquarters News. Your donation to the TCA is tax deductible.

In Memoriam: With great sadness I must report the deaths of the following members; David K. Daniels HR74-6948 and Richard P. Jones 88-28216. On behalf of the entire Ozark Division membership I would like to extend our sincere condolences to their families.

Coming Events: The Ozark Division and Central Missouri Chapter have events planned for later this year. Please see the attached registration forms for the show details. Register early to avoid being disappointed as tables sell out fast. We are looking for hosts who would want to organize Train Meets in other areas of the Ozark Division. Please get in touch with me so we can make plans. I can be reached at 314-239-7996 or jonlstrains@netscape.net.

I need your input—I am looking for stories from you, about your layout, your collection, your favorite train, car or accessory. Send me your stories at jonlstrains@netscape.net.

Jon Lundvall, Editor

TCA 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.

Ozark Division Officers: President Bradley Marples, bmarples@cox.net, 785-271-4430; Vice-President Donald L. Miller, olathadm@aol.com, 913-814-9107; Secretary/Treasurer Jon R. Lundvall, jonlstrains@netscape.net, 314-239-7996. Ozark Division Standards Committee: Gregory J. Hake, lionelboxman@yahoo.com, 314-239-8541; Terrall Klaassen, terrallkl@hotmail.com, 405-663-2399; George Scordias 314-567-3778.

OZARK DIVISION PAST PRESIDENTS

1967 Earl Smarr*
1968 Doug Bourner*

1969 Clarence Miles*
1970 Arthur Paschen*

1971 Byron Arnold*
1972 Charles Freeman*

1973 Michael Deitz
1974 Lloyd Taaffe

1975 George Burgess*
1976 Loren Kemp*

1977 William Brown*
1978 Don Lorance*

1979 Steve McGee
1980 Bo McAlister

1981—1982 Jon Lundvall
1983—1984 James Redman*

1985—1988 Larry Strassburger
1989—1990 Raymond Moulis

1991—1992 Martin W. Glass
1993—1994 Joseph G. Molner

1995—1996 Matrin W. Glass
1997—1998 Larry Strassburger

1999—2000 David Kubat
2001 Wm. Tom Arnold

2001—2002 Rodney Dreifuss
2003—2004 George Scodias

2005—2006 David Osborn
2007—2008 Charles W. Rothweiler*

2009—2010 Richard E. Malon
2011—2012 Larry Strassburger

2013—2014 Dennis James
2015—2016 Lou Eggerding

*Deceased

Welcome Aboard: Please welcome aboard the following new TCA members residing with the Ozark Division:

David Beardsley 16-72342
11009 Modesto Dr.
St. Ann, MO 63074
314-344-821

Tom Vogt 16-72346
515 Imperial Dr.
O'Fallon, MO 63366
314-974-5108

Kenneth Wolf 17-72395
4145 Elkhart Lake Rd.
St. Charles, MO 63304
314-971-5963