

# METCA NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 22

SEPT. 1967  
6th YEAR

## 202 RETURN QUESTIONNAIRE

### THE NATIONAL CONVENTION IN RETROSPECT

#### THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN:

The "Lucky 13th" as it was known in Baltimore was, in the writers opinion, a grand success. For those who were unable to attend the meet we will attempt to enlighten you in the following resume.

Attending were approximately - 1200 people. Of these about half were collectors and the other half family. Even though it rained on Thursday, and Friday & Saturday were rather hot and humid, the collectors were prompt and true much as the proverbial letter carrier.

The group came armed with plenty of items to sell or trade and in lieu of these, plenty of cold cash. The hall was a bee hive of activity from the time the doors opened at 9 AM until the armed guard took over at night. Not only were there a tremendous amount of items on display, but there was a great amount of activity in items changing hands. Every one agreed that prices were high. In fact, by comparison, much above the level of prices at our Metropolitan meets. The high prices did not act as a deterrent, however, but perhaps indirectly spurred activity. As one collector, who had just purchased a set of State Cars, aptly put it: "I sell at inflated prices so I don't mind buying at inflated prices". It is tough on the man with little to sell or trade and who must collect on a limited budget, but obviously he was in the minority at Baltimore.

In closing, a few words of praise for the men of the W.B.&A. Chap-

More than 80% of the METCA membership returned the questionnaires that were included with the last Newsletter. With this response from over 200 of the Division's members the Board of Directors now has tangible evidence of what the feelings are among their fellow collectors. That is the real reason for this questionnaire. It was not intended to be a ballot were the members vote on their likes or dislikes.

For example, that would mean Saturday meets would be ruled out by a majority vote for Sunday. Instead, with this informal questionnaire, your BOD realizes that although fewer members might attend a Saturday meet the officers are still free to act and perhaps hold one once a year in a smaller hall. Therefore, even a minority of the membership can be served. A "No" vote on any question does not rule that question out completely.

The results of the sheet have still to be discussed by the Board and many of the comments written in require consideration too. Future Newsletters will contain results, but briefly the following is the outcome of the "probe":

(continued on pg. 3)

ter, who did a grand job of organizing the meet and its activities. They not only organized activities for the collector, but for the women and children as well. There were fashion shows, guided tours of the city and numerous other activities to interest the family while Dad could make his train purchases in comparative secrecy.

W.S.

PHOTOS FROM THE MAY 21st MEET



# FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

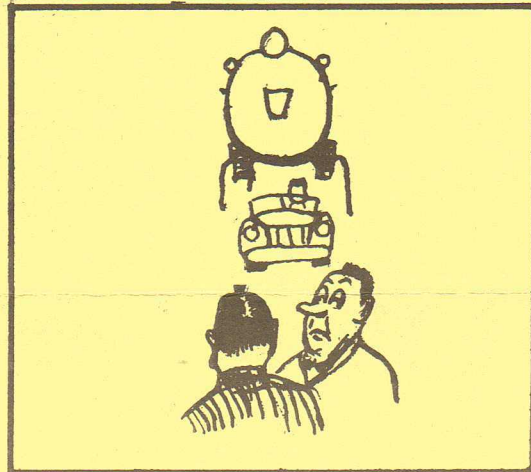
METCA  
Sept. 17th, Veteran's Center  
Kenilworth, N.J.

EASTERN  
Oct. 20-21st, Lancaster, Pa.

METCA  
Nov. 19th, Veteran's Center  
Kenilworth, N.J.

## COMING AT THE SEPTEMBER MEET

We are very fortunate to have fellow member and collector - MAURICE ROMER as a speaker at the September meet. The Topic, naturally: American Flyer !



"Claims he gets the real ones cheaper than the Tinplate version"

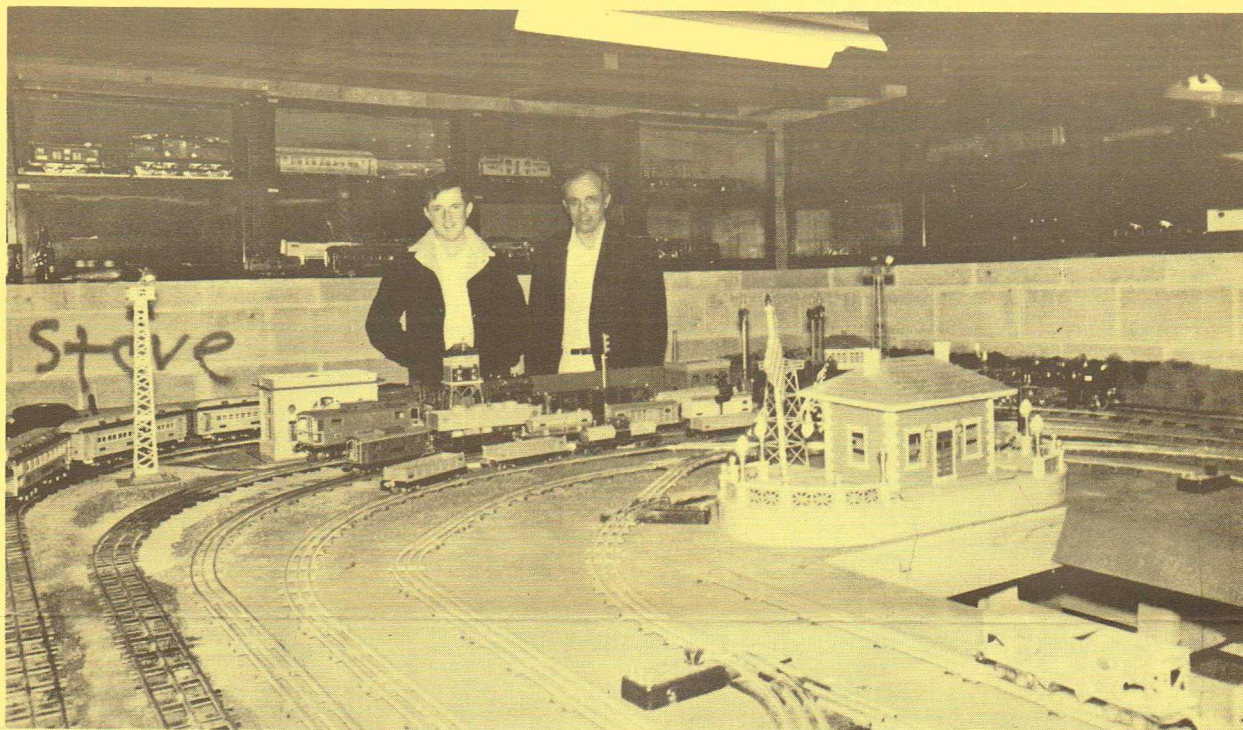
### WANTED

JIM EMERY wants to know who has the Block lettered, 6 wheel, #33 loco he saw at the last meet. .  
Wants to buy it - - - - -

### RESULTS OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE

- (1) Which is the best day for a one-day meet?  
Saturday 37, Sunday 126, Either 39
- (2) Are you in favor of a two-day meet? Yes 60, No 141, N/A 1  
If YES, please check choice of:  
Fri. 3 to 11P.M., Sat. 9 to 6P.M. 17  
Sat. 9 to 11P.M., Sun. 9 to 3P.M. 43
- (3) Presently, METCA holds four meets a year.  
Should the number of meets remain the same? Yes 165, No 37
- (4) If a two-day meet were held within the boundry limits of the METCA area, would you be willing to:
  - (a) Stay overnight at a nearby Motel?  
Yes 56, No 133, N/A 13
  - (b) Attend a banquet?  
Yes 83, No 97, N/A 22
- (5) Would you like the METCA Division to have a National Convention? Yes 175, No 19, N/A 8
- (6) Would you be willing to work on a Convention Committee? Yes 79, No 102, N/A 21
- (7) Would you be willing to serve on any committee or serve as an officer? Yes 78, No 100, N/A 24

(Note: N/A means "No Answer")



## FEATURE COLLECTOR

In this Newsletter we pay a visit to DONALD SMITH of Port-Jefferson, Long Island who both collects and operates Lionel Tinplate. As with many collections, the trains are relegated to the basement not because of a lack of interest, but because of a lack of space. A 12'X16' table provides a permanent layout with sufficient space to operate both Standard and "O72" gauge trains. In fact, all main line trackage is composed of 72inch diameter track including the S.G. curve sections that have "O72" rail on S.G. ties.

Don started operations in "O" gauge with his boyhood set, a green 252 with three cars. Both old and modern "O" have been added since, including a 256 with brass plates. Beginning a collection in Standard Gauge nowadays can be a costly endeavor and many collectors smile, recalling how they overpaid when buying their first S.G. loco. Not so with Don as he started by paying 50¢ for a 402 retrieved from a sandbox. Much has been added to the collection since its beginning. Glass cases along the walls of the room display the collection's roster of over 18 locomotives. Most

of Lionel's "Golden Age" locos are present such as: Black 400E, black & grey 392E's, 390, 385E, 384, 402, 408E and a really excellent grey 9E. A favorite of Don's is a Steven Girard set that is kept in operation on the layout. Also found on the layout are trackside accessories such as the #840 Power station (Don needs the pedestal for this if anyone has one) and the popular signals and grade crossings of the 1930's. Don joined TCA in 1966.

## Guess What ?

