



KEY LOCK & LANTERN NEWS



Nov/Dec 2010

Issue No.5

A Holiday Season Filled With Shows & Events

The holiday season is in full swing, and for most railroaders collectors, that means a schedule filled with train shows and related events. Many local railroad clubs sponsor model train shows during this time of the year, when the general public has thoughts of Lionel trains circling Christmas trees in their heads. And for railroaders collectors, there is always the chance to get a bargain on a piece of scarce memorabilia that is buried in a box at a swap meet. While some dealers have reported less than spectacular sales, overall attendance at most railroad hobby shows seems to be strong this year. In addition, many railroad historical museums have holiday events scheduled, in what is otherwise the "off season."

For those museums that are fortunate enough to operate excursion trains on their own property, or a nearby shortline, holiday trains have also been popular this year. Polar Express trains, based on the children's book and movie of the same name, have been sold out on several lines. These reports are certainly



Holiday train on the Catskill Mountain Railroad at Kingston, NY. CMRR Photo.



Model train shows & displays, such as this one at the Medina Railroad Museum, introduce the railroad hobby to the general public and help support railroad preservation.

good news for the railroad historical groups that organize these trips. The profits from special events this season will go directly toward the preservation of railroad memorabilia and equipment next year. With funding from other sources scarce in recent months, every dollar of revenue counts.

While the excursion season is winding down, there are still a number of railroad hobby shows and events scheduled for the coming months. The Tampa Model Train & Railroadiana Show is scheduled for the weekend of December 18th and 19th, and railroad enthusiasts in the northeast are already looking forward to the big Railroad Hobby Show in Springfield, Ma on January 29th and 30th.

For western collectors, the 33rd annual Winterail show in Stockton, Ca will be held on March 12, 2011. With many dealers having attended several large estate auctions this fall, there should be some interesting new stock at many tables. And don't forget to check with local railroad and historical museums for winter programs.

For more information on these, and other events that are planned for the next few months, check out the Railroadiana Show & Auction Calendar, beginning on Page 2.

See You At The Model Train Show

Another Gaithersburg show has come and gone, signaling that the end of the year is fast approaching. This year has been particularly busy for me, with several auctions and the Gaithersburg show to attend, followed immediately by the New Haven RR Historical convention and the Great Train Extravaganza in Albany, NY.

With so much on the calendar, sooner or later we have to choose between events, or stay home altogether to get some work done around the house. After spending eight hours at a model train show and only taking in a couple hundred dollars, it is tempting to scratch it off the list, and focus on the major railroadiana shows.

However, we shouldn't forget that most new collectors get started at the general railroad hobby shows, and discover the railroadiana-only shows and auctions later. Without at least a few tables of memorabilia at the model train shows, there will be nothing to spark their interest.

It is also a nice change of pace to attend a show with only a handful of railroadiana dealers. After checking those tables, there is plenty of time to enjoy the model train displays and browse at a leisurely pace, all without the fear of missing something. And on occasion, that rare item turns up, usually at a lower price than we would pay at a railroadiana show.

For those who set up tables at railroad hobby shows, don't forget that KL&L has membership brochures that can be printed and copied for distribution at your table. Just e-mail me, and I'll send you the PDF file. Let's introduce some new people to collecting railroadiana and to Key Lock & Lantern. See you at the model train show.

Dave Hamilton
KL&L President & Editor

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KL&L members may forward this newsletter to other interested collectors, but it may not otherwise be copied or redistributed without the permission of the KL&L Board of Trustees.

Send news items to Dave Hamilton at:
transportsim@aol.com

Railroadiana Show & Auction Calendar



- Dec 18-19 Tampa, FL** - 6th Annual Tampa Model Train & Railroadiana Show. Florida State Fairgrounds. Info: www.gserr.com.
- Jan 8-9 DeLand, FL** - 34th Florida Rail Fair. Volusia County Fairgrounds. Info: www.gserr.com.
- Jan 8 Griffith, IN** - Blackhawk NRHS Winter Swap Meet. American Legion Post 66. Info: www.blackhawknrhs.org.
- Jan 15 Atlanta, GA** - 40th Atlanta Railroad Show. North Atlanta Trade Center. Norcross, GA. Info: www.gserr.com.
- Jan 22-23 Allentown, PA** - Great Lehigh Valley Train Meet. Merchants Square Mall. Info: www.lehighvalleytrainmeet.com.
- Jan 29-30 Springfield, MA** - Railroad Hobby Show. Eastern States Expo, West Springfield. Info: www.railroadhobbyshow.com.
- Feb 12 Jacksonville, FL** - Jacksonville Rail Fair. Prime Osborne Convention Center. Info: www.gserr.com.
- Feb 26-27 Allentown, PA** - Spring Thaw Railroad Meet. Allentown Fairgrounds. Info: www.allentowntrainmeet.com.
- Feb 26 Boonsboro, MD** - Railroadiana Auction. Cochran Auction Gallery. Info: <http://cochranauctions.com>.
- Mar 6 Clark, NJ** - Central Jersey NRHS Railroad Show. Mother Seton High School. Info: www.jcrhs.org.
- Mar 12 Stockton, CA** - Winterail Railroad Photography Exposition and Railroadiana Show. Scottish Rite Masonic Center. Info: www.winterail.com.
- Mar 19 Steelton, PA** - Railroad Show & Collectors Market. IW Abel Union Hall. Info: <http://harrisburgnrhs.org>.

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Collectors and Families Will Enjoy New York's Medina Railroad Museum

In our efforts to grow membership in various railroad historical organizations, we often puzzle over the problem of getting younger people interested in the hobby. In these days of Facebook and text messaging, there seems to be less interest in history and antique collecting. On the other hand, events such as Thomas the Tank Engine rides and model train shows still seem to attract large crowds of youngsters. For many of us, our interest in collecting railroadiana was sparked by a ride on a tourist line or a visit to a model railroad display. We need to introduce the history aspect of the hobby to those who already have an interest in trains, and a trip to the Medina Railroad Museum with younger family members is an excellent way to do that.

Located in a former New York Central freight house in Medina, NY, the centerpiece of the museum is a 200 foot long HO scale model railroad layout. Trains pass over high trestles, into tunnels and freight yards, and through large cities. While the layout is not intended to recreate a specific line or time period, visitors will recognize accurate depictions



The Medina Railroad Museum is housed in a circa 1905 New York Central Railroad freight house.



Both young & old visitors will enjoy the museum's huge HO Scale model railroad layout.

of certain trains and local scenery. Some of the more unique features include an Erie Canal town, with scale boats and locks, a train wreck scene, and a model of the famous lake boat *Edmund Fitzgerald*. The level of detail is impressive for a layout of this size, and new scenes are constantly being added.

Surrounding the model train layout are dozens of display cases containing railroad memorabilia, with a focus on the lines of the western New York region. From common tickets to rare lanterns, there are examples of almost every type of



A visitor examines part of the Medina Railroad Museum's large collection of tools and railroad equipment.

Continued on Page 6

Gaithersburg Still Delivers Despite Tough Economy

While most collectors have less spending money these days, many still made the trip to Gaithersburg, MD last month, for the big railroading and transportation memorabilia show. And although a few of the regular dealers were absent this year (mostly due to personal health and family issues), there was still an excellent selection of railroading available for purchase. No matter how tough the going gets, Gaithersburg still manages to deliver.

Several dealers reported brisk sales of more common paper items and timetables, along with anything that was priced to reflect the current state of the market. However, a number of higher end items also changed hands. One lantern with a \$1600 price tag was snatched up in the opening minutes, with almost no bargaining. Truly rare items still seem to command top dollar.



Early admission holders get a head start on some of the higher end lanterns and dining car china.



The Key Lock & Lantern display at the Gaithersburg show introduced the organization to prospective members.

Once again this year, Key Lock & Lantern had a table at the show, to introduce the organization to prospective members. A number of KL&L members stopped by the table to say a brief hello, before continuing to hunt through the show's five different rooms and hundreds of tables. An all weekend pass was a must for those who wanted to spend any time visiting with fellow collectors.

Fairly decent weather allowed for some train watching on the adjacent former B&O main, or a side trip into Washington to visit some of the museums. If we could only convince Amtrak and MARC to stop at the fairgrounds, we would have it made. Overall, a trip to the Gaithersburg railroading show makes for an enjoyable weekend, whether or not a collector is planning to make any big purchases. We can safely assume that most everyone who attended is already looking forward to next year.



Just before the opening of the public show on Sunday, the dealers are set up and ready for the day's action.



Need a sign or a signal? The outdoor display area for the larger items is a Gaithersburg show tradition.

Lanterns of the Western Maryland

Most collectors probably have a number of reference books on their shelves, with subjects ranging from general railroadiana price guides to specific categories of memorabilia. Another part of the bookcase usually holds at least a few volumes covering the history of a favorite railroad (or several different railroads) and related subjects. It is not too often that a book falls into both of these categories, but *Lanterns of the Western Maryland* could fit well on either end of the shelf.

Author Mike Yetter has taken the time to conduct extensive research into the various lanterns used by the Western Maryland and its predecessors, and has located many examples in museums and private collections. The result is a fairly comprehensive guide, with 50 spiral-bound pages of detailed information and color photographs.

Many of the lanterns pictured in the book are quite rare, and are unlikely to be seen anywhere else. While the main focus is on brakeman's hand lanterns and globes, examples of inspector's and marker lamps, and presentation lanterns are also included. Variations in styles and markings are outlined, which can be useful in dating specific lanterns, and the identification of fakes is discussed.



Many of the lanterns and globes pictured in the book are extremely rare and cannot be seen elsewhere.

For the Western Maryland historian, who may not be an experienced railroadiana collector, the author provides a general description of lanterns and a short history of each manufacturer. For collectors of lanterns, who are not familiar with this interesting line, a brief overview of the history of the Western Maryland and its predecessors is included. The result is a book that will appeal to both railroadiana collectors and railroad history enthusiasts alike.

The “memorabilia” aspect of a railroad’s history is not always well documented, and *Lanterns of the Western Maryland* does an excellent job of providing this information. The book is self-published by Mike Yetter, with a limited press run. For more information, see the listing in the “Want Ads & Announcements” section of this newsletter. The author



Mike Yetter's Lanterns of the Western Maryland is a comprehensive study of the lanterns used by this road.

is currently conducting research on locks and keys from this railroad, for publication in a similar book, and any information from KL&L members on this subject would be appreciated. He can be contacted at myetter@myactv.net.



Lanterns of the Western Maryland includes photos of the details of many of the lanterns cataloged in the book.

Medina RR Museum

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A large collection of toy and collectible model trains is also on display, in addition to the operating railroad layout. Several hundred ship and aircraft models fill other display cases, along with scale models of stationary steam engines and military equipment. Museum director Marty Phelps is a retired firefighter, and his extensive collection of fire department memorabilia is shown, including over 400 fire helmets. While the current trend with museums seems to be a greater focus on interpretive exhibits at the expense of display space for artifacts, this one strikes a perfect balance between presenting history and showing off its collection. More railroadiana is currently stored in the museum archives, and will be displayed when a planned expansion is completed.



The Medina Railroad Museum plans to use former NYC units on its excursion trains in the near future.

The Medina Railroad Museum is an excellent place to bring younger family members who are old enough to not only enjoy the model trains, but who can start to appreciate the railroadiana displays as well. Serious collectors could spend hours examining the extensive exhibits, so it is certainly a museum for everyone. The museum also operates excursions on the adjacent Falls Road RR, including Santa Claus trains, Thomas, and other special events that will appeal to the entire family. Medina is only about fifteen miles north of New York State Thruway exit 48A, and the museum is located a block west of where Route 63 crosses the tracks. It is open year round, from 11am to 5pm, and is closed on Mondays and major holidays. For details, visit the museum website at <http://railroadmuseum.net>, or call 585-798-6106.

More Photos on Page 7



The walls of the Medina Railroad Museum are lined with display cases filled with every type of railroadiana.

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Medina RR Museum

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The New York Central freight agent at Medina, NY is once again back at his post in the freight station office.



Much of the memorabilia at the museum has a local connection, and is labeled regarding its location of use.



Railroadiana at the Medina Railroad Museum is generally grouped into exhibits covering specific railroads.

Railroad Museums & Historical Groups

Send in photos of your museum's displays for publication in

KEY LOCK & LANTERN

For more information on how KL&L can help promote your museum, contact Dave Hamilton at transportsim@aol.com

Paul Koren Steps Down As KL&L Webmaster

A little over ten years ago, KL&L member Paul Koren designed a website for Key, Lock & Lantern. At the time, the internet was still more of a novelty than an essential part of everyday life. By establishing a website, KL&L made certain that it would be a part of the coming "digital age." As the website's creator, Paul signed on as the KL&L webmaster, and has been responsible for maintaining the site ever since.

After holding this position for the last decade, Paul has decided to step down, in order to have more time to work on other projects. His work for Key, Lock & Lantern is greatly appreciated, and without his expertise, the organization could not have maintained a presence on the internet.

KL&L Editor Dave Hamilton has taken over the job of maintaining the website, and is making plans for future enhancements. We need the assistance of KL&L members in developing a more extensive website for both members and the public. Anyone with experience in website design is invited to participate, and should contact Dave Hamilton at transportsim@aol.com.

The internet allows us to reach more people and provide more services to our members, at a relatively small cost. The digital age is here, and KL&L is on board. Thanks again to Paul Koren for his work in getting us there.

Key Lock & Lantern Issue Number 160 In Production

Key Lock & Lantern Issue #160 is currently in production, and will be mailed out to members shortly after the holidays are over. This issue contains the next part in the series about the development of the Dietz Vesta lantern, articles about switch keys, some interesting restoration tips, and our other usual columns.

Next year, we plan to return to a regular publication schedule, now that we are back on track after last year's unplanned change of editors. Contributions will still be accepted at any time, and will be used in a future issue. The Key Lock & Lantern magazine is what we make of it, and photos and articles are appreciated. Contributions and suggestions are welcome by e-mail at transportsim@aol.com.

KEY LOCK & LANTERN

**Can Help Promote Your
Auction, Show or Event**

**Contact Dave Hamilton at
transportsim@aol.com**

Railroadiana Show & Auction Calendar

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- Mar 19** Taylor, MI - Bluewater NRHS Railroadiana & Model Train Show. Taylor Town Trade Center. Info: www.bluewaternrhs.com.
- April** Albany, NY - **Annual Key Lock & Lantern Convention.** Details & exact date TBA. Info: www.klnl.org.
- Apr 9** DeLand, FL - 35th Florida Rail Fair. Volusia County Fairgrounds. Info: www.gserr.com.
- Apr 9** Griffith, IN - Blackhawk NRHS Spring Swap Meet. American Legion Post 66. Info: www.blackhawknrhs.org.
- Apr 10** Poughkeepsie, NY - Kingston Train & Hobby Expo. Gold's Gym. Info: 845-334-8233.
- Apr 16** Columbus, OH - 49th Buckeye Show. Ohio Expo Center. Info: www.gserr.com.
- May 1** Albany, NY - New York Central Historical Society Train Show. Clarion Hotel. Info: www.nycshs.org.
- May 22-23** Allentown, PA - Great Lehigh Valley Train Meet. Merchants Square Mall. Info: www.lehighvalleytrainmeet.com.
- May 29** Albuquerque, NM - 14th Albuquerque Rail Fair. New Mexico State Fairgrounds. Info: www.gserr.com.
- Jun 5** St. Charles, IL - St. Charles Railroadiana Show. DuPage Expo Center. Info: www.gserr.com.
- Jun 12** St. Charles, IL - Kane County Railroadiana Show. Kane County Fairgrounds. Info: www.rsshows.com.
- Jun 25** Charlotte, NC - 8th North Carolina Railroad Show. Metrolina Expo Trade Center. Info: www.gserr.com.
- Jul 9** DeLand, FL - 36th Florida Rail Fair. Volusia County Fairgrounds. Info: www.gserr.com.
- Jul 9** Griffith, IN - Blackhawk NRHS Summer Swap Meet. American Legion Post 66. Info: www.blackhawknrhs.org.
- Aug 13** Atlanta, GA - 41st Atlanta Railroad Show. North Atlanta Trade Center. Norcross, GA. Info: www.gserr.com.
- Aug 13** Lynchburg, VA - Lynchburg Rail Day. Boonsboro Ruritan Club. Info: www.blueridgenrhs.org.
- Aug 21** Niles, OH - 29th Northeastern Ohio Railroad Show. McMenamy's Banquet Center. Info: www.gserr.com.

**Send Show & Auction Listings to:
transportsim@aol.com**

WANT ADS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Want Ad insertion is FREE to all current Key Lock & Lantern members on a space available basis, in both the KL&L Magazine and the KL&L News (digital edition). Ads may be e-mailed to j944wb@aol.com or may be sent by regular mail to: John & Marie Brainard, 35 Nordhoff Place, Englewood, NJ 07631

For Sale

For Sale: D&H Schenevus station sign - 13 3/4" x 74" steel with cast iron letters. In very good condition, ready for display. \$500.00. Ralph Gasner, 86 Chappell Dr., Milford, NH 03055. Call 603-673-6125.

For Sale: Brass conductor's lantern - CT Ham Mfg Co #39. Page 137, Item 13.5 in the Encyclopedia of Railroad Lighting, Vol 1. \$400.00. Paul Pietrak at marypaul@aol.com or 716-662-4193.

Wanted: Buyer for Star Headlight presentation lantern, nickel plated, green over clear globe w/ old english lettering "Bates" with scrollwork and wreaths. Rare maker, super display. Pictured on cover of KL&L Issue 158. E-mail for more info/photos: tmstrsurs@logical.net. Asking \$1000.00 + shipping. Jane Silvernail.

For Sale: *Lanterns of the Western Maryland*. By Mike Yetter. A spiral-bound, 50-page book containing a detailed history and color photos of lanterns and globes used by the Western Maryland and its predecessors. \$20 + \$4 postage. Send cashiers check or money order to: Mike Yetter, 1423 Kensington Drive, Apt. 204, Hagerstown, MD 21742. E-mail: myetter@myactv.net.

For Sale: Switch Lamps, Marker Lights & Parts. Website: JerrysRRStuff.com. Phone: 206-778-0386. E-mail: jerry@JerrysRRStuff.com

For Sale: Approx 200 brass RR keys, 400 brass & steel RR locks, 75 steel RR keys (Frisco). Perry McDonald, 911 Walker Ave, Caruthersville, MO 63830.

Wanted

Wanted: Switch keys from the L&HR, WVRR, SRR, NY&ERR. Stock Certificates: Wawayanda RR, Mine Hill RR, Pequest & Walkill RR, and Southfield Branch RR. Phil Simms, 8 Still Waters Drive, Campbell Hall, NY, 10916. Call 845-427-5051.

Wanted: Looking for small hardware items from the Northhampton & Bath RR such as keys, badges, brass time/tool checks or any other significant small item. Have some interesting items to trade from US Steel roads. Contact Jeff Wolfe at lobowolf@aol.com.

Wanted: Factory marked inspector lamps not already in my collection. Must be complete and in reasonably good condition. Marked globe a plus. Need RDG C&O B&O GCT SOURY (or S RY) Erie Acme model plus others I may not be aware of - Larry Davis, 5110 Hollywood Ave; Shreveport, LA 71109. 318-469-7825.

Wanted

Wanted: Hardware items from the Gary Railways, EJ&E and CLS&E, NYCL oiler keys, NYC Subdivision tags and livery and dray badges. Contact Jeff Wolfe at lobowolf@aol.com.

Wanted: Switch key from the Fort Eustis Military RR. Also photo of USAX engine #7291. This was an army engine that I worked on but never got a photo of. Contact Charles McQueen at 29705 Robert Dr, Livonia, MI 48150.

Wanted: PRR Macbeth #220 pearl glass globes with straight letters 3/4" in height, "PRR" in rectangle. Need clear and red globes. Have traders or cash. Joel Shaw, 31 Sandle Drive, Fairport, NY 14450. Phone: 585-385-3776.

Wanted: Keys, locks, lanterns, fly fishing leader boxes, passes, buttons & other from the Denver, South Park & Pacific Ry - Denver, Leadville & Gunnison Ry - Union Pacific Denver & Gulf - Colorado & Southern Ry. Leonard Walmsley, 11044 Claire Circle, Northglenn, CO, 80234. 303-429-8674.

Wanted: Photo of NY State Railways Syracuse Lines car #1024. Also any photos of Syracuse trolleys on Irving Ave and around Syracuse University. Contact Dave Hamilton at transportsim@aol.com or by phone at 518-439-8392.

Wanted: Switch key for the PCRY (Pacific Coast Railway), not PCRR (Penn Central), probably made by Fram. Contact Steve Mott at 805-544-5339 or by e-mail at sjmott2359@sbcglobal.net.

Wanted: Diesel builders plates, especially EL and other northeastern US railroads. Have plates to trade. E-mail: RBombel@aol.com.

Wanted: Brass burner for a Dressel double wire tall globe railroad lantern & twist off font with burner for a Dietz 39 Vulcan wire frame. Also buying Western Maryland locks, keys, lanterns & globes, and C&PRR items. Joseph G. Hauger, 401 2nd St., Terra Alta, WV, 26764. E-mail address: whiteoak4@verizon.net or phone 304-789-2229.

For Trade

For Trade: W&ARRCo brass top wire bottom 1878 model A&W. Also, switch type key marked SRRR, possibly Sandy River RR. Contact Walter Sulowski at walter-sulowski@msn.com.

KEY LOCK & LANTERN

Index on Computer CD

Index of all KL&L Magazines from Issue #1 through Issue #151 in searchable Acrobat (PDF) format. \$7.95 postpaid. Send orders to:

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Membership Brochures

Are Available in PDF Format for Printing & Distribution at Railroadiana Shows, Historical Museums, Railroad Club Meetings & Other Events

Contact Dave Hamilton at transportsim@aol.com to receive the file by e-mail

Back Issues

The Sale of Back Issues will resume soon - watch here for details.



All submissions for the KL&L magazine, news items for the digital KL&L News & general inquiries should be sent to:

KL&L President & Editor
David Hamilton
244 Elm Ave
Delmar, NY 12054
E-mail: transportsim@aol.com

Send membership applications, dues payments, address changes & want ads to:

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Key Lock & Lantern Membership Form

Please make check or money order payable to Key, Lock & Lantern, Inc. and forward to: Marie Brainard, KL&L Membership, 35 Nordhoff Place, Englewood, NJ 07631-4810

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