



GRAND CANYON MODEL RAILROADERS

MAIN LINE

MAY, 2021

Volume 30

Number 5

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Dave Brown

I see a light at the end of the tunnel, and it ain't an oncoming train! We had our first big event in over a year, the April Mini Meet. It was a little different than other Mini Meets in that it was held outside, but the vendors came as did the buyers! I spoke with lots of the vendors, and most did OK. Not bad for the first time outside. Let's hope that this is the last outside meet.

The next thing up is the May meeting. Because of the year being set up right we will be on the fourth Saturday this year. I don't know if things will be more relaxed yet, but we will still have a meeting, show and raffles. This month's theme is military trains. So, bring your Army, Navy or Air Force, Coast Guard or anything Uncle Sam's defenders.

By June, I hope things will continue to ease up and we can have our hot dog and apple pie meet. The July Cactus Meet is going well. The entrance will be different and the room a little smaller, but it will be happening.

August is Beat the Heat meet and our bus tour. Believe it or not, I have the first bus reservation on my desk. Let's fill that bus and continue to getting things back to normal.

At the May meeting, hopefully things will be more clear on these upcoming events.

CALENDAR

GCMR meets are held at 9:00am in the Parish Hall of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church at 1212 East Glendale Avenue in Phoenix, located on the north side of Glendale, just east of the traffic light at 12th St. It is easily reached off the Glendale Exit of either I-17 or SR 51. Go east from I-17 or west from SR 51 to 12th Street.

May 22 - GCMR meet - Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

July 24 - Cactus Meet - North Phoenix Baptist Church. See the flyer this issue

August 21 - Beat the Heat Swap Meet - Prescott. Bus tour to the Meet. See the flyers this issue

August 28 - GCMR meet - Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

MEETING NOTES

No Board or Membership meeting was held during the Mini Meet.

MINI MEET REPORT

by Janet Mattern

With all things considered, I thought that the April Mini Meet went well. The weather was great and the trees along the east side of the property provided shade for most of the vendors.

Of the nineteen sellers who signed up, fifteen showed up; I do not have a count on the buyers. Because the meet was outdoors, due to restrictions by the church, that might have affected the turnout of both sellers and buyers.

When I asked the vendors how they did, most seemed pleased; but in some cases that was due to lower expectations because of the current situation we're in.

Of course, there were vendors who did not have many sells; and for those, I did remind them that the meet was free and it only cost them their time.

Hopefully, by September, things will be back to normal and the Mini Meet will once again be indoors with more sellers and buyers in attendance.

DAVE'S MINI MEET PHOTOS



MOVIETIME

by Ken Withers

This month's installment of Hollywood Trainspotting features three movies that one can be forgiven for mixing up, because they are essentially the same story produced three different times, even with some of the same cast.

The common thread is that they all take place at a resort built by a railroad, and all were produced and distributed with the cooperation and encouragement of the railroad.

As an example, the Sun Valley resort outside Ketchum, Idaho, was developed in 1936 by W. Averell Harriman, chairman of the Union Pacific, to drive train traffic west. Harriman would invite celebrities to promote the resort - Gary Cooper, Ernest Hemingway, Clark Gable, Errol Flynn, Marilyn Monroe, and others - all of whom would have publicity photos taken while riding on the world's first ski chairlift.

The innovative chairlift was fashioned by engineers in UP's Omaha machine shop from the equipment used to unload bananas from barges to railway cars. UP would also engineer publicity by latching on to the movies - the most popular mass media of the time - with a million pounds of product placement in the form of the train.

SUN VALLEY SERENADE (1941) This silly MGM romantic comedy starred figure skater Sonja Henie and singer John Payne, assisted by comedian Milton Berle. It had very little plot to get in the way of the spectacular scenery and daring winter sports challenges, all designed to entice the movie-going public to buy their Union Pacific railroad tickets and head out to America's new winter wonderland.

This movie may be best known for introducing America to what would become her favorite train song, Glenn Miller's "Chattanooga Choo Choo." Although issued at the time by RCA Victor as the "B" side of a 78 RPM single, was nominated for an Academy Award and proved

so popular that it sold 1.2 million copies the year of its release, becoming RCA Victor's first official Gold Record. The number is performed twice in the movie, back-to-back, first by Glenn Miller's orchestra and then by the breathtaking Nicholas Brothers, feathering Dorothy Dandridge.

The song is supposed to describe a trip on the Southern Railway's Birmingham Special from New York to points south. But it couldn't have left Pennsylvania Station from Track 29, because the station only had 21 tracks at the time. And you couldn't have had your ham and eggs in Carolina, as the train traveled west from Virginia directly into Tennessee, skirting past North Carolina. And, of course, it terminated in Memphis.

SPRINGTIME ON THE ROCKIES (1942)

Not to be outdone by MGM and the Union Pacific, the following year 20th Century Fox teamed up with the Canadian Pacific Railway to produce its own silly romantic comedy, this time set in CP's Lake Louise resort in the Canadian Rockies. They even nabbed John Payne to play essentially the same role that he played in *Sun Valley*.

There isn't much about trains in *Springtime in the Rockies*, although the producers couldn't help but poke fun at their rivals from Sun Valley with their own parody of "Chattanooga Choo Choo," sung in Portuguese by the inimitable Carmen Miranda.

The Union Pacific sold the Sun Valley resort in 1964 and discontinued train service to Ketchum. Lake Louise maintained corporate ties to Canadian Pacific until 2001 through the Fairmont Hotels and Resorts, which was a division of CP. The resort can still be reached by railroad, as originally intended, via the Rocky Mountaineer's "First Passage to the West" service.

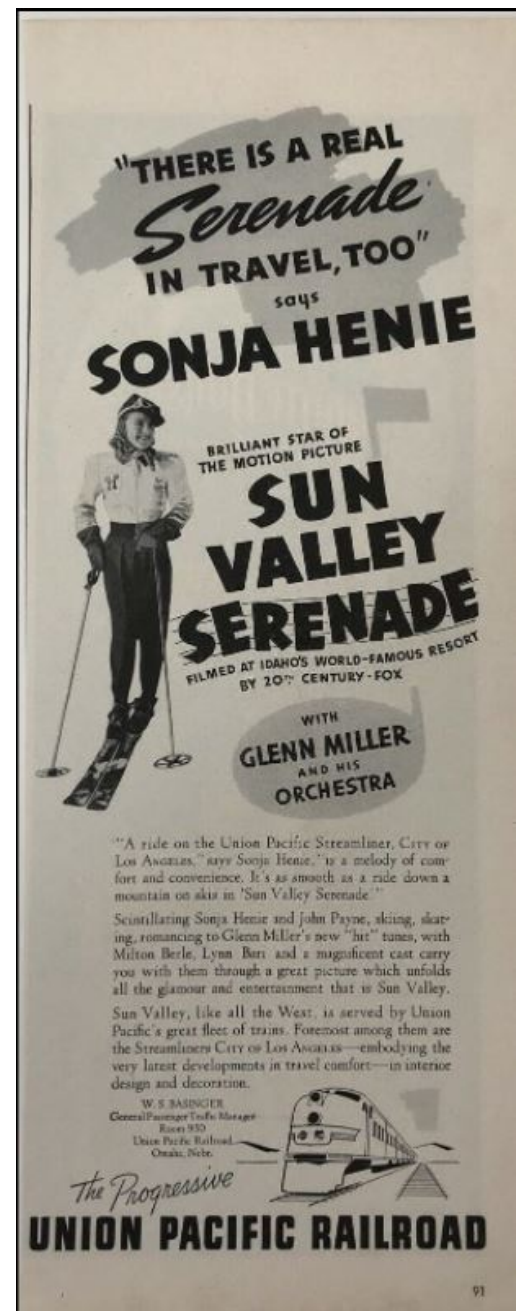
DUCHESS OF IDAHO (1950)

A decade after *Sun Valley Serenade*, the Union Pacific resort became the backdrop for an equally silly romantic comedy getaway, only

with higher production values. *Duchess of Idaho* also become an enigma for film historians, who ask why MGM would spend lavishly to have Lena Horne shoot three musical numbers (her last appearance for MGM), only to leave two on the cutting room floor, and ask why to cast young crooner Mel Tormé, only to cut out his one and only musical number, leaving him in the background as a hotel bellboy with a few short lines.

At least they saved Eleanor Powell's fantastic tap dance number, although it has no relation to the plot. After all, she came out of retirement to appear in this picture and reportedly rehearsed until her feet bled.

The promotion of the Union Pacific in *Duchess of Idaho* is more direct than in the earlier *Sun Valley Serenade*. Although it may make us a little uncomfortable today to see the strictly segregated social structure of 1950, you have to admit that Van Johnson's club car number paints a compelling image of passenger rail travel in the mid-20th century, thanks to help from the Jubalaires gospel quartet.



TERRY'S LAYOUT UPDATE

by Terry Gibbs

Providing The Layout With Power

On my standard gauge layout I need lots of power so I have my own power station and run a special coal unit train to provide energy. We have power to burn. We also have a windmill so we can water our horses.



FOR SALE

I am replacing my TW TrainWorX Chicago Union Station with a new one I will be scratch building. Hence this one is for sale. You've seen it on the current and previous layout. It is priced at \$995 w OB. They currently list at \$1795

Contact: Peter Atonna at: mjatonna@gmail.com or call at: 928-308-3559

This is a 1929 Lionel 318 coal train running around on original period track and rubber roadbed. The train came with the black loco, three hoppers with coal loads and the black roofed red caboose. I added a few more hoppers because they are cheap and neat.

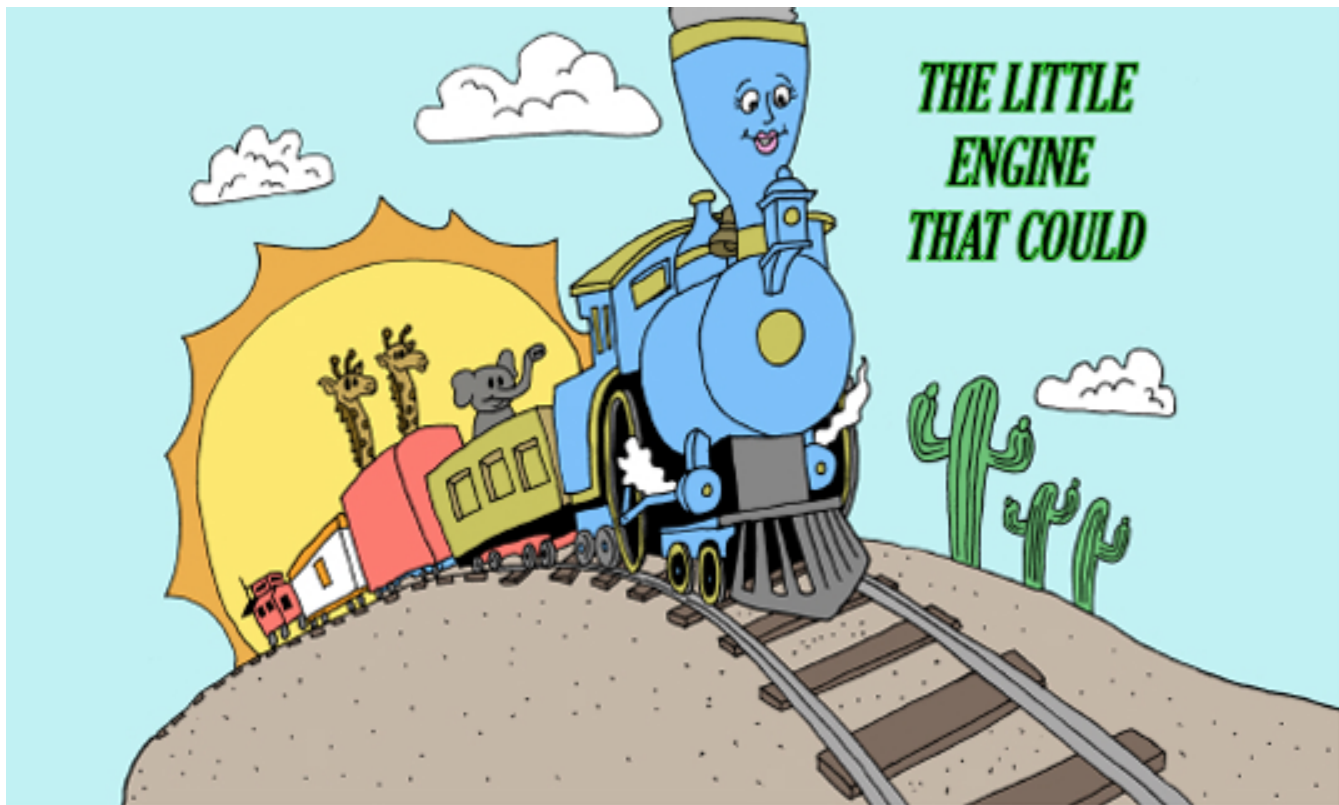
The 840 power station and the 140 sheet brass tunnel are the two biggest Lionel accessories. The cardboard mountains are copies of original 1925 Lionel backdrops. The tin fence is from the 1930s. The windmill is from a 1950s kit.

There are currently four Lionel 250 Watt Z transformers, and a small 100 watt fixed voltage transformer under this area of the layout.



FROM KEN WITHERS

Earlier this week I received the announcement below that the Great Arizona Puppet Theater is mounting a new production of *The Little Engine that Could*. These will be Saturday-morning outdoor performances in the parking lot of the old LDS church in central Phoenix, just off the I-10. I've attended these outdoor performances in the past – they are really fun, for kids and grown-ups alike.



"I think I can!" Join us for this **brand new show** that tells the famous tale of the optimistic little engine who faces a seemingly impossible task. You can order breakfast to be delivered directly to your vehicle from [Fair Trade Cafe](#) -- information will be sent to you after you make your reservation.

Admission is \$40 per car load for non-members, \$30 for members; PAID reservations are REQUIRED and must be received before 5pm the day before the show. [Reserve here](#) or call 602-262-2050, ext. 0 to pay. The parking lot will be open 15 minutes before showtime. Restrooms will be available before and after the performance. Call GAPT at 602-262-2050 for reservations

**"ONE OF ARIZONA'S LARGEST
MODEL RAILROAD SWAP MEETS"**
**CACTUS SUMMER
TRAIN SWAP**

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

**\$6.00 admission per person – masks required
Children 16 and under free with adult**



SATURDAY, JULY 24th, 2021

Massive Outdoor Farmers Market at the same time!

NORTH PHOENIX BAPTIST CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP CENTER

**5757 North Central Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85012**

(Central Ave entrance - park in the Southwest lot)

**Free Parking * Air Conditioned
A Family Affair * Food Available
Table Top Auction * Test Track
Door Prizes * Fantastic Raffle**

**ALL SIZES AND
SCALES FOR SALE!**

Presented by your pal Casey Cactus and the

**GRAND CANYON MODEL
RAILROADERS**

Visit us at www.gcmrr.org

email: info@gcmrr.org



CACTUS SUMMER TRAIN SWAP

Saturday, July 24th, 2021

**This coupon good for \$1.00 off
your \$6.00 cost of admission**

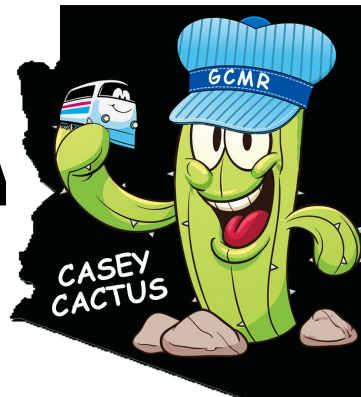
Masks Required - Children 16 and under free with adult

One coupon per person

IT'S TIME AGAIN FOR THE FANTASTIC
BEAT THE HEAT

**SWAP MEET BUS
WITH MULTIPLE LAYOUT TOUR
IN COOL PRESCOTT VALLEY, AZ**

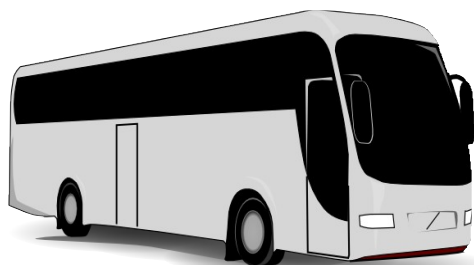
(Swap meet presented by Central Arizona Model Railroad Club)



SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, 2021

CASEY SAYS; "IF YOU LIKE MY CACTUS SWAPS, YOU'LL *LOVE* MY BUS TOUR"

LET CASEY DO THE DRIVING!



**COMFORTABLE DELUXE MOTORCOACH
SAVE ON GAS AND STRESSFUL DRIVING
ON-BOARD VIDEOS AND BOTTLED WATER
ON-BOARD RESTROOM AND STORAGE
PRIORITY ENTRANCE INTO THE SWAP MEET
MULTIPLE LAYOUT TOUR INCLUDED
OPTIONAL BAG LUNCH WITH BEVERAGE
LUCKY RIDER WINS A DOOR PRIZE**

SWAP MEET ENTRANCE FEE INCLUDED!

Of Course I'm Going: _____ Wouldn't Miss It!

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Select Your Pickup Location:

Arizona Mills leave at 6:00 AM _____ **Paradise Valley Mall at leave 6:30 AM** _____

Metrocenter Mall leave at 7:00 AM _____ **Carefree Highway McDonald's leave at 7:15 AM** _____

Number of adult GCMR club members: _____ at \$35 each = \$ _____

Bus Trip Presented By:

Number of adult Non-GCMR members: _____ at \$40 each = \$ _____

Number of children under 12: _____ at \$15 each = \$ _____

Number of bag lunches (OPTIONAL): _____ at \$7 each = \$ _____

Total: **Make checks payable to "GCMR"** \$ _____

Mail this form and check to:

Make your reservation early!

Limited Seats Available

David Brown

3534 W. St. Charles Ave.

Phoenix, AZ 85041

(480-650-5336)



All payments required prior to August 14, 2021

No refunds after August 14, 2021



Prescott Area **BEAT THE HEAT**

SWAP MEET

Model Trains, Accessories & Toys

At the Liberty Traditional School

3300 N. Lake Valley Rd, Prescott Valley, AZ 86314

Saturday, August 21, 2021: 9am - 1pm

Presented By:

The Central Arizona Model RR Club

Adults \$5.00 – Children 12 and under Free

Contact: Dick Gage © 802-272-1352 or Doug Gilliatt 480-390-0320

Table Reservations \$30.00 per table in advance

**** 1 Free Admission with Each Table purchased ****

Dealer Setup Time 7-9 AM – No Early Public Admission

The CAMRRC is Not Responsible for Lost or Stolen Items

Please Note: FACE MASKS ARE REQUIRED IN THE HALL

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

of Tables _____ (Limit 4 per seller) @ 30.00 each _____

Helper Name _____ @ 4.00 ** _____

Helper Name _____ @ 4.00 ** _____

Lunch Reservations (sandwich, chips, soda) _____ @ 7.00 ea _____

Special Requests _____ Total _____

**Make Checks payable to: CAMRRC and mail to
CAMRRC, 514 Goshawk Way, Prescott, AZ 86301**