

Rules of Order, I'm forgetful but not dumb. So I studied the TCA's Constitution, I didn't want to copy off them, I changed an awful lot of stuff in there that they had, we had a lot of rules at the start that were a lot different than the TCA. But then, of course, when I put the first Constitution together, I was also sending out these questionnaires which would have like ten questions and I would send those questionnaires to everyone who was a member and I would leave a blank for them too. All they had to do was to write in their opinion or their answer and mail it back to me, and I would wait until I got these questionnaires to decide how to write the Constitution. For instance, I wanted to find out if they wanted to be strictly a Lionel club right off the bat. The majority all said they did so then I wrote in the Constitution that we would be strictly a Lionel club, you see. I really couldn't make the Constitution up until I sent out about 10 different questionnaires, which took quite a bit of money to print those because they had two or three pages and you know at this time I was doing this on my own and that's where Jim Greytak came in handy. He helped print a lot of stuff for me and then I would send him the one copy and he'd send me back a hundred. I would send him a small envelope and I would get back a great big one from him. And that's how I got the first Constitution together and then of course when Officers were elected over the years, they'd change another rule here and there. And now our present Constitution today doesn't probably look too much like the original Constitution, but there's still some rules in there from that first Constitution. A lot of time they would just change a word here and a word there over the years because of something which developed along the way.

DD: Are you generally happy with where the Club has come?

JG: Well, there's only one thing I don't like today and it's about our Constitution. The United States Constitution starts off by saying a couple things in the preamble which I thought were very nice and I had those thoughts in the LCCA's original Constitution. To this day I don't know why the later Officers dropped that preamble that I had, which was something to do with honor and the Lionel name or something like that. They still say on the application something about you're suppose to honor the Club

Bylaws or Constitution, but I had a nice little thing in there on the original one. I don't know why they ever dropped it.

To me, I thought it was pretty neat because its almost exactly like the US constitution. That's the only thing that I don't really like.

DD: Was the change ever actually voted on...

JG: I don't know why the change was ever done. I was never an Officer so I don't know the reasons why the preamble was ever dropped but, I have original copies of the first Constitution and everything. Overall, to answer your other question, I don't have any complaints. In the first ten years the Club had some problems, and back then everybody still knew me pretty well. Now the only members who really know me are the long term ones. I used to get constant letters and gradually it's getting to where I don't get too many any more, but I used to get letters from members even though I was never an Officer. I used to get letters every time there was a problem. They would write in and I would have to say I'm sorry I'm not an Officer, but sometimes when they tell me what happened I would write the Officers and give them my two cents worth and once in a while I gave them grief. I tried to stay out of it as much as I could, but there were a few times they did things I didn't like. Naturally, you and I are never going to agree on everything and so how am I ever going to agree with everything the Officers ever did. But I would say I'm real happy except for one minor little detail about the Constitution years ago and I don't even remember exactly what the preamble said anymore but I can understand them having to change the rules to keep up with the times. The one thing I'm really pleased about is that I feel the Club caused *Model Railroader* to wake up and come out with *Classic Toy Trains* magazine. It's the frosting on the cake to me when CTT came out because that was one of the main reasons why I started the Club since there was hardly anything in print about Lionel.

DD: Why are there the three LCCA publications, The Lion Roars, the Interchange Track, and the Roster. Did you have a hand in that? Was that part of your original concept?

JG: Yes, I started the first *IT* and the

first Lionel magazine. Based on my idea, the Roster was initially done by Jim Hunt. I think the main reason we did the first roster was because everybody wanted to know who belongs to the Club.

DD: That's built right in the Constitution that there would be a Roster?

JG: Well I made all the early decisions, like I say, but I had to write these questionnaires first before I could come up with how we were going to do things. In order to know how to do things we had to have a Constitution, but I could write a Constitution right off the bat because I did a lot of studying on the US Constitution. Also, I do remember when Dennis Chandler suggested to me one day that the Lionel Lion should be the Club's mascot. So I originated that from his idea. But the Hudson was my idea, strictly my idea. Oh, I knew a lot of things about Lionel and I mean, I know that the Hudson was the best thing Lionel ever made and nobody made anything that good and so I was the one who put the Hudson on as our emblem and Dennis Chandler suggested the Lionel Lion as the mascot.

DD: Why Des Moines? It's not a hot bed of train collecting activity. Is that the reason because there were not a lot of people here and you were seeking a larger membership?

JG: No, it was like I said, the Lionel name and pride issues. And then hearing those HO'ers knock Lionel some way or other.

DD: It worked

JG: Yes, if I had organized better the first time maybe this American Flyer guy wouldn't have caused me trouble, but, who's to say. The only thing I just feel bad that I wasn't ready for that American Flyer guy that day he came in and that I wasn't able to convince them that they were wrong in changing that name, so after that episode, I decided that hey, I'm not going to give up on my original idea of creating a club for Lionel people like myself.

DD: Glad you didn't give up! Thanks Jim, for your determination and founding of the LCCA.

JG: You're welcome, and I hope everyone enjoys the hobby and Lionel trains as much as I do.