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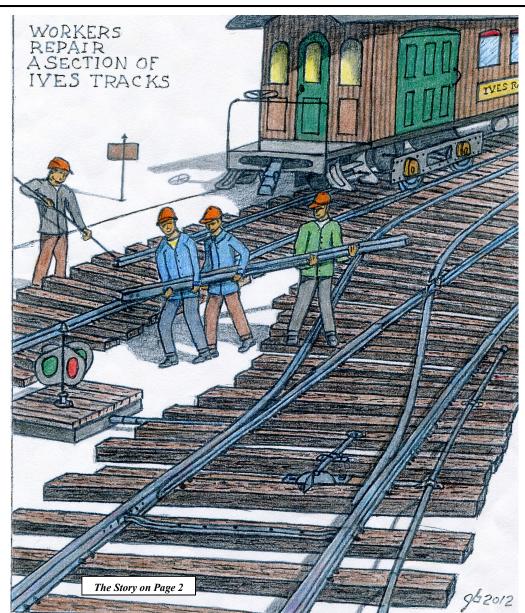
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# **WORKERS REPAIR A SECTION OF IVES TRACKS** by John Gray I-6662

## **PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**

## **Don Lewis**

The front cover illustration of this issue depicts a group of workers, wearing orange safety hats, repairing a section of IVES No.1 Gauge track, while a utility car stands nearby.

Keeping the tracks that serve the nation's railway system in good condition has always been crucial to the smooth and safe function of America's railroads.

Once the track has been laid down, regular 'surveillance and maintenance is then necessary to prevent any accidents that could ieopardize passenger safety and freight delivery.

Groups of railroad workers, overseen by a section-boss, are responsible for certain sections of track, making sure that all joints are examined, and the road bed has not been eroded by flooding or obstructed by fallen trees or other debris.

Safety checks of all bridges and switching areas are also included in their responsibilities, as well as "track repairs".

Of course today, with the help of modern equipment, these chores are made easier for the maintenance crews, who are out there constantly examining the nation's railroad track system to prevent any mishaps, keeping it safe for passengers and commerce alike.

And, just as important to the young owner of an IVES railway system, was the condition of the tracks serving his own little railroad empire.

## JIMMY COHEN's RUBBER STAMPS by Mike Vargas ITS #6973

Hey You Never Know...While having a conversation with fellow ITS member Marty Fasack, we happen to discus the reproduction work that was done by the late Jim Cohen in both standard and 0 gauge. He mentioned he'd like to write an article on some of Jim's work and he was looking for some help. Well you can imagine his surprise when I not only offered to help but told him that I had a good portion of Jim's rubber stamps. I had purchased them along with most of his parts when he decided to stop doing restoration work and to concentrate on a few choice projects. Sadly he knew the end was near and he wanted to finish a few items he had started but never completed.

Jim was a master craftsman, his work was so good it was scary. I'll never forget the time he showed me an IVES mockup for the Standard gauge Circus box car. I was floored, then he said " If you like it that much, I'll make you one TOO!" He once restored a #101 open trolley for me that crazed when he gave it a second coat of paint. He left it that way and aged it. It looked bad – I loved it!

A lot of his creations have unfortunately been passed off as originals due to the fact that he didn't mark them as repros or repaints. But in Jim's defense he told me that he was 'hired' to make a copy or repaint and if that person didn't want it marked as a 'repro' then he had no choice.

There are many cars that are so rare that owning a quality fake is the only way we'll ever enjoy one without having to pay a premium price. While MTH and Lionel have done a nice job recreating many rare trains, nothing beats a master piece that will fool most collectors. This is one thing Jim did well. Just remember if a deal is 'too good to be true', well then buyer beware.



### THE IVES SUNLIGHT CREAMERY CAR



THE SCHWERDTLE STAMP COMPANY 166 ELM STREET · BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT 06603 TELEPHONE (203) 233-2191

January 25, 1979

This is to verify that the "Sunlight" wood cut was originally made by Edward Schwerdtle for Ives Mfg. Co. It was used as a master to make a mold for rubber stamps to mark the side of a toy train car.

ACTUAL RUBBER STAMP USED FOR THE SUNLIGHT CREAMERY CAR BY IVES AND SUPPORTING LETTER FROM THE STAMP'S MANUFACTURER THAT WAS SENT TO JIMMY COHEN

Edward S. Selewerdtle I

*From ITS Web Site:* According to Lou Hertz, only three of these were made. Circa 1924, they are painted white with black lettering and stamped with the unique sunburst. The three, as seen below were sequentially numbered.

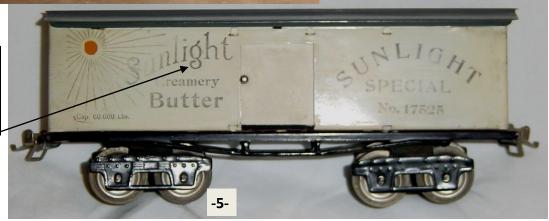


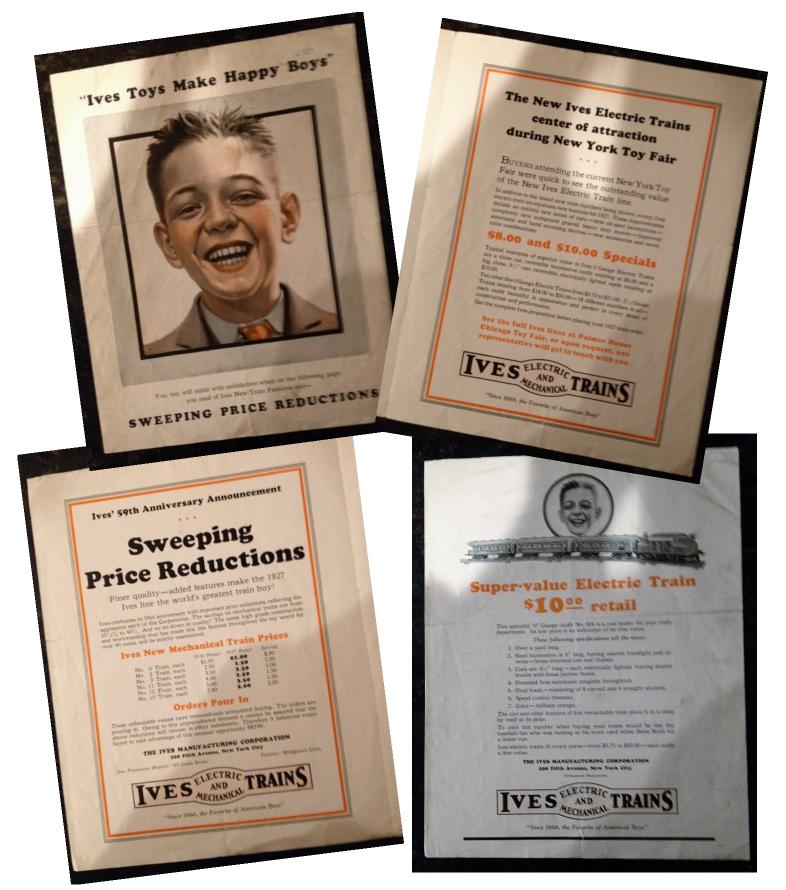


#### **REAL SUNLIGHT CREAMERY CAR**

(NOTE THE BOTTOM OF THE "g" IS MORE

OPEN THAN JIMMY'S FAKES) AND A DIFFERENT RUBBER STAMPING

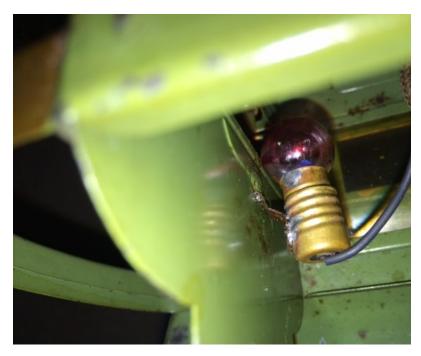




Thanks to Marty Braun I-6590, TCA 85-22993 he has given us some dealer mailer advertising depicting IVES desire to seriously discount certain sets for 1927 sales. In some cases the discounting on mechanical sets approached 30 percent. IVES also put together some \$8 and \$10 sets as an enticement for orders, and a promise to dealers that they could see the entire line of trains at the upcoming Palmer House Chicago Toy Fair.







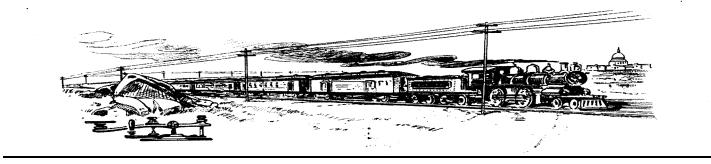
# **182 OBSERVATION**

### Phil Morris 1-7042, TCA - 79-13340

Shown is the interior of a factory "Apple Green" 182 Observation Coach that is part of a 1927/28 three car No.704 boxed set. The cars in the set present with full brass trim and 4-wheel trucks. A unique feature of this 182 observation coach is the factory applied rear lamp that is in addition to the usual central lamp. The lamp socket is soldered to a tiny sheet metal bracket that was soldered to the inside of the rear wall of the car prior to painting. \* Unique to this set, is a 3243R having a wide field motor and silver rubber stamped R-Unit patent information on the bottom of one pony truck. This is a follow-up to the wonderful article by Martin Fasack in the September 2015 issue of Tracks featuring a similarly illuminated 195 wide gauge caboose from the same production year(s).

\* Please note: When I purchased this set some years ago, the rear socket bulb was broken off inside the socket which was heavily corroded but through the corrosion, one could still see some of the original green paint. Not realizing the unique significance of this additional factory applied socket, I unsoldered the socket from the bracket and replaced it with a period socket having a porcelain central insulator but a slightly different profile. In my ignorance, I did not retain the badly corroded OEM socket which was a duplicate of the central socket.

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