

The family of Thomas W. Sefton, former President and Chief Executive Officer of San Diego Trust and Savings Bank, announced in late 2001 the donation of Mr. Sefton's extensive collection of early 20th century toy trains, Buddy L riding toys, and railroad-related artifacts to the California State Railroad Museum. The donated collection—which numbers over 7,000 individual items—is considered one of the premier Toy Train collections in America, and it was accompanied by a significant cash contribution. These funds have been used to curate the collection, and to design and construct the permanent Thomas W. Sefton Gallery and “Small Wonders” exhibition to facilitate public viewing of the collection at the Museum.

“My father wanted his toy train collection to end up at a place where it would be widely appreciated by adults and children alike,” said Harley Sefton, Thomas W. Sefton's son. “He always felt that the California State Railroad Museum was America's leading institution devoted to the preservation of railroading's legacy. Today, so does the rest of his family.

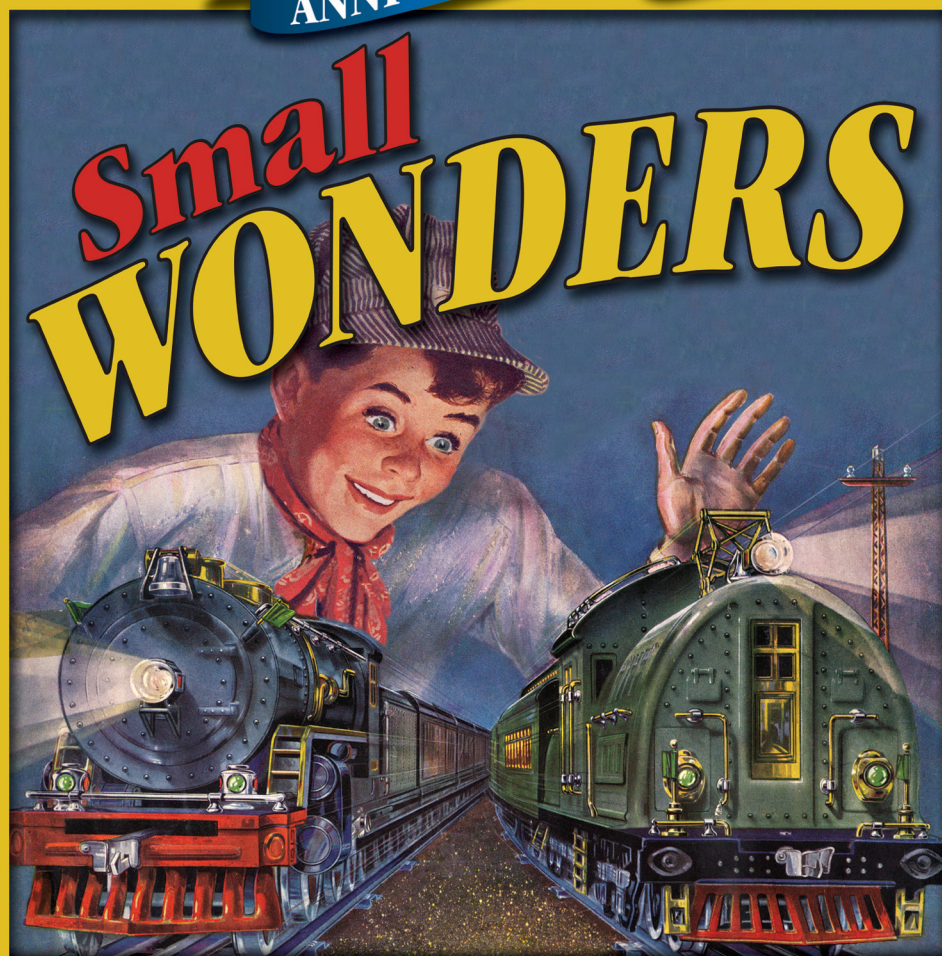
The family is very pleased that the Museum will take on the responsibility of caring for his collection and exhibiting it to the hundreds of thousands who visit each year.” During Thomas W. Sefton's years of operating these trains in his home, his setup included enough tracks to cross three football fields.

“When it first opened ten years ago, the Thomas W. Sefton Gallery added a new kind of excitement to the California State Railroad Museum's offerings. Since then, the Museum has become a must-visit attraction for Toy Train aficionados,” said Museum Director Paul Hammond. “The fascinating story of toy trains, and the magnificent collections displayed in the Gallery, have become a real favorite for children of all ages.”



CALIFORNIA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM  
*presents*

THE TENTH  
ANNIVERSARY OF



*the* MAGIC of  
TOY TRAINS

*E x h i b i t*



*G u i d e*

The all-new exhibit **Small Wonders: The Magic of Toy Trains** is America's most comprehensive toy train exhibit. Within its 3,300 square feet of display space, guests are treated to a unique learning experience lavishly illustrated with hundreds of colorful, authentic toy trains. All Aboard!

The exhibit is organized into six specific themes. To start your tour, begin at the elevator (see map below). Here are the themes you'll explore from that point:

- 1 Exhibit Introduction.** In this area, you'll learn that toy trains are part of our culture and heritage—and are an art form worthy of exhibition.
- 2 Collector's Attic.** Explore why people collect, how Thomas W. Sefton went about collecting (his collection forms the basis of this exhibition), and how scarcity and other criteria impact the value of a collectible.
- 3 Toy Trains 101.** Think of this as an "introduction to toy trains!" Explore how early toy trains evolved from pull or push toys into wind-ups, friction, live steam, and electric toy trains.
- 4 Lionel City.** Here, you'll see the classic toy trains of the 1920s and 1930s highlighted, and learn how packaging and marketing methods reflected the changing cultural and social outlook of Americans.
- 5 Operating Layout.** Experience the thrill of lights, color and motion as toy trains come to life! Step on up, push the "start" button, and watch reproduction toy trains whiz around on four different train tracks.
- 6 Toy Trains for Everyone.** Learn how scale model trains developed as part of the toy train phenomenon, and consider how toy trains have affected our shared culture in America today.

## TREASURE HUNT

*While touring this exhibit today, see if you can answer the following:*

In what decade was the oldest train in this exhibit built? \_\_\_\_\_

What three qualities do collectors look for when examining a toy train? \_\_\_\_\_,

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

Thomas W. Sefton's spacious home was located in what California city? \_\_\_\_\_

Was Buddy "L" a real boy? \_\_\_\_\_

Why are reproductions used in place of authentic vintage toys on the operating layout? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

At the push of a button, what does the "Talking Station" announce? \_\_\_\_\_

What letter of the alphabet is also the name of the very smallest model railroad "scale"? \_\_\_\_\_

Fill in the blank: \_\_\_\_\_ the Tank Engine

*As long as there have been RAILROADS, there have been TOY TRAINS*

## INTERESTING FACTS

Approximately 1,000 vintage toy trains are displayed in this exhibit

The toy train layout features approximately 300 feet of operating trackage

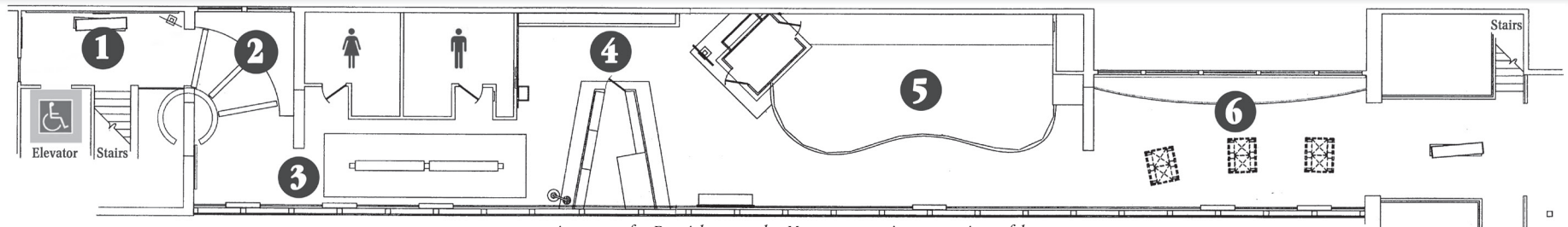
There are six interactive displays included in the exhibit

1,600 boxes were needed to pack all of Thomas W. Sefton's collection for shipment

Two years were required to unpack, sort, and catalogue his over 7,000-piece collection

Approximately one year was required to fabricate and install exhibit cases and displays

Placing the many artifacts in the final toy train exhibit required six weeks.



*overview of Railroad Museum's main floor*