

Our Terminus Chapter's origin can really be traced to the train collecting and building interests of Burnis McHugh, whose lamp shop on West Peachtree Street was an incidental meeting place for train collectors and enthusiasts --both local and those whose business activities brought them into Atlanta from locales around the state. In those earlier days, Lenox Toy and Hobby was the only retail store of its kind in Atlanta. A newcomer like myself, arriving in 1968 from California...and later looking for associates in our hobby...and who inquired of that store about old trains and other collectors ...was courteously directed to call Burnis McHugh for "that sort of thing".

It was Burnis who advised me of a forthcoming train collectors' meeting at the home of Dick MacNary. A telephone call confirmed the fact, and I was invited to an informal gathering on Saturday, September 13, 1969.

This then, was the first meeting of those of us who shared a hobby, but had no established relationships in the area for that hobby. The meeting was most pleasant, and occupied the greater part of the day with conversation, recollections, and included a surprising amount of buying and trading. In attendance were the majority of those who would later become our founding members.

It was obvious that this group of congenial and enthusiastic people was too good simply to let disband and go their separate ways that afternoon. Several of us decided we should have another meeting. A subsequent announcement letter rather grandiosely referred to the "2nd Greater Atlanta Train Meet," to be held on Saturday, December 6, 1969, at the home of Jack Fulton. About fourteen collectors attended, including the first visits by Stewart Robinson, Bob Gellerstedt, and Gerry Kintz to our group. These meetings were really delightful affairs; there were enough people to make buying and selling trains worth while, the host-

wife invariably served bountiful lunches, there always seemed to be plenty of room for people, trains, and bargaining tables in the homes where we met!

It was at this same meeting that we considered organizing and aligning ourselves with some train collecting organization of national size. At that time the Lionel Collectors Club did not exist, and the Toy Train Operating Society was still a small group of Californians in the Los Angeles County Area. Thus it was decided to contact the Southern Division of TCA and petition to align ourselves with that group. On this same day a petition was established to be accepted as a chapter of the Train Collectors Association. At the suggestion of Dick MacNary, we called ourselves "Terminus", this referring to the origin of the first railroad in the State of Georgia, here in Atlanta. Those signing the petition were: R. L. MacNary, Burnis McHugh, D. Mike Kelly, W. A. Summerlin, Dale Allen, Walt McCleskey, L. A. Denson, Dr. Ed Flowers, Paul Moore, and James Bodecker (while I prepared the petition and collected the signatures...I forgot to include myself among the group of signers!). In addition to those petitioners founding members also include Stewart Robinson, Bob Gellerstedt, Gerry Kintz, and myself.

On January 19, 1970, a considerably expanded mailing list of collectors was advised that our group had been recognized, accepted, and now were an official Chapter of the Southern Division of the Train Collectors Association. Actual ceremonies accepting the Chapter had been conducted as part of the Southern Division's quarterly meeting at Titusville, FL, on January 11, 1970.

Our first meeting under Terminus Chapter auspices was held on Saturday, March 7, 1970 at the home of then-member Gerry Kintz, in Stone Mountain, GA. An enthusi-

astic group filled Gerry's house that day...a meeting typical of many subsequent quarterly meetings. Our original group of a baker's dozen has grown in ten years to a formidable organization of one hundred twenty-one train collectors.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jack Fulton". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name "Jack Fulton".

Jack Fulton

/jff

October 31, 1979