

" HOW IT ALL BEGAN --- TERMINUS CHAPTER "

The Day - December 6th - The Year - '69 -
That date shall stand in the annals of time.

Twas the day of the train meet and all through the MacNary house
ALL the creatures were stirring, even Dick's spouse.

The tables were lined by the walls with care
In hopes that many collectors soon would be there.

When suddenly at the door there arose such a clatter
Marilyn sprang from her chair to see what was the matter.

When what to her wondering eyes did appear
But a number of train collectors with boxes of gear.

Their eyes, how they danced! Their voices so merry °
Their boxes so loaded they were difficult to carry.

There was Jack Fulton, Burnis McHugh- Mike Kelly and Dr. Flowers
To unload all those boxes would probably take hours.

Bill Summerlin, Buddy Denson, and Walt McCleky were hot on their heels
What things will be done to acquire anything with small wheels.

Bob Gellerstedt, Jerry Kintz and Stu Robinson were present
To join with the group they were not hesitant.

The weather was blustery as some December days are,
But it didn't bother Jim Bodeker as he jumped from his car.

Down the basement steps they all flew
To set up their wares and see what was new.

Dick sped from the basement to answer the door
And who should be standing there but Paul Moore.

The last to arrive -- and he came on the run
Was Dale Allen -- and the Meet was begun.

The coffee and doughnuts were consumed with haste
For these hobbists simply had no time to waste.

Meanwhile in the kitchen the wives were befuddled
The strange sounds from below were really quite muddled.

Such words as --

Panagraphs - transitional - and F-3 frames
Burlington, Sante Fe Chief - the men knew all the names.

Then NUMBERS -

like 8 - 402 ---2360 --- and 773
All items handled carefully and examined with glee.

The wives were fearful of what this day would bring
As they gathered round the fire to each other they'd cling.

One said to the Others - " To have trains for a hobby seems awfully strange!"
To which was replied, "Cheer up, their hobby could be dames."

Around Noon, Dick said, "Hey Fellows -- Let's break for lunch !"
Sandwiches, chips and what have you were then served to the bunch.

Back downstairs the business was started,
Much needed to be done before they departed.

Birnie remarked, "Let's join with other collectors across the nation,
We'll meet new people with more trains from past generations."

"How do we get started? There must be a way"
"Why not petition Southern Division of TCA?"

The petition as drawn by Jack Fulton was fine
But on checking the signatures, Jack said, "Where's mine?"

In the excitement of the occasion to insure all was right
His signature does not appear, due to an oversight.

The next order of business was to select a name.
Why not call ourselves Terminus -- It will bring us fame.

And on and on the excitement continued to grow
All were oblivious of the outside howling of the wind and the snow.

At the end of the day after all had calmed down
The thoughts of those who'd been there went round and round.

Looking to the future, they could hardly wait
For the announcement of the next Train Meet Date.

AND SO --

From this small group of fourteen, we've become 122
To these founders -- for their vision -- Tonight we salute you.

Written by Donna Robinson, Terminus
Chapter President, on the 10th Anniversar
of the Chapter and read at the Anniversar
Dinner on 12/1/79

