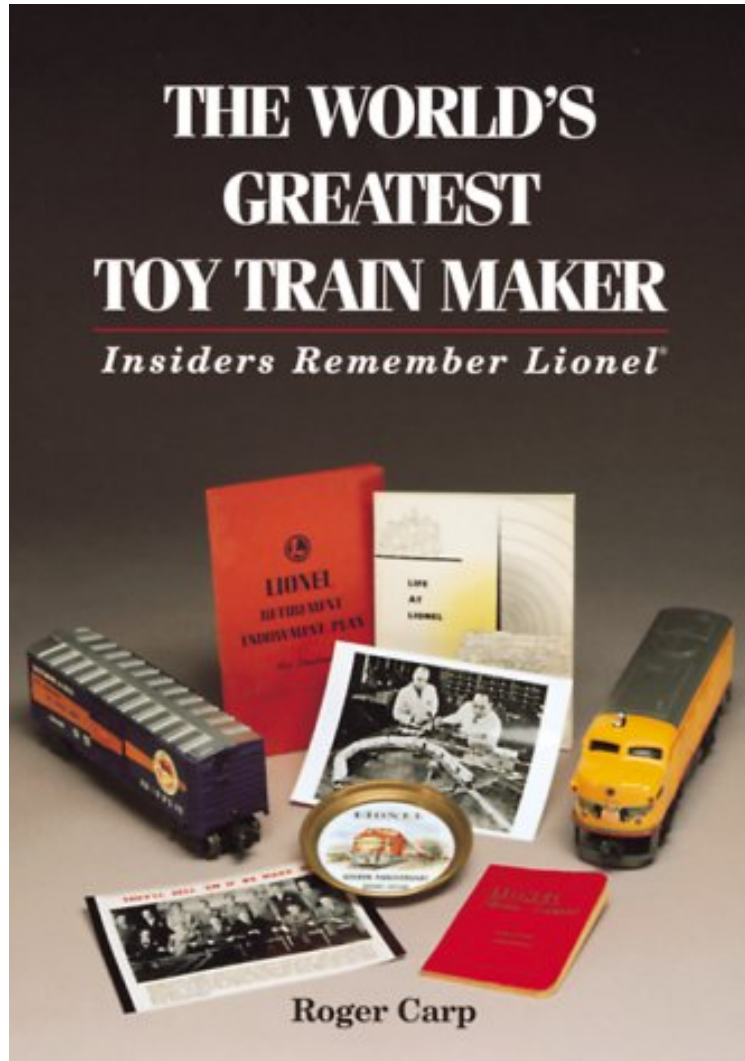


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The World's Greatest Toy Train Maker: Insiders Remember Lionel

Roger Carp

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Roger Carp : The World's Greatest Toy Train Maker: Insiders Remember Lionel before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The World's Greatest Toy Train Maker: Insiders Remember Lionel:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Lionel Insider's Story: Good for fans like meBy Robert S. BoehmThe rich and interesting stories in this book about several of the top Italian and German designers at the wonderful train-making Lionel company leave the model-railroading reader wanting to learn more about the many breakthrough developments made at the company in the 1930's, 40's and 50's. The company's founder J.L.Cowen reminds the reader of Bill Hewlett of HP with his fatherly approach to supporting the engineers who made the technological advances behind the many of the ingenious products released by the company during its 65+ year

history. This is a book for the avid Lionel fan and it delivers information that has been unavailable elsewhere. Read it and then pass it on to your Lionel collecting friends. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Of Coal Piles, Chickens, and Memories By WILLIAM H FULLER If one is just starting on the fascinating journey of discovery about the Lionel Corporation and the marvelous electric trains that it made, this is not the book with which to begin. Carp's collection of reminiscences by nine former Lionel employees will not acquaint the reader with a comprehensive or chronological history of the company and will add very little to whatever knowledge the reader may already bring concerning the company's products. Anyone still early in the journey will find Ron Hollander's "All Aboard! The Story of Joshua Lionel Cowen and His Lionel Train Company" the book to read. Once the reader has the main history of the company under his belt and is familiar with the names of its movers and shakers, then is the time to open Carp's book on "the world's greatest toy train maker" and to appreciate the experiences of the former employees therein. At its economic height, Lionel was quite a large company and employed workers with many diverse skills. In Carp's book, the reader will meet assembly line foremen, tool room supervisors, administrative assistants, illustrators, electrical engineers, salesmen, photographers, publicists, and innovators in electronics—all people whose names went unknown to the children who played with Lionel trains and to most other people outside the industry. Yet these largely unknown and unseen employees all influenced the development, production and marketing of the trains and of Lionel's military products. Without employees such as those in Carp's book, Lionel could never have achieved the market dominance that it enjoyed for many years, nor would the name carry the fiercely loved emotional reactions that it still evokes among thousands of toy train aficionados and hobbyists today. In short, Carp's book shows us the Lionel Corporation from the viewpoint of employees who labored in supporting roles rather than in the limelight of the executive boardroom. Reading this collection of memory-lane stories did reveal one proposed product that I had not run across before in any of the other company histories that have been published. I certainly would like to see a sample of that steam locomotive tender with the chickens popping out of the coal pile pursued by a would-be chicken-catcher! Reading also revealed one rather significant factual error relative to a Lionel product: Page 99 describes Lionel's Super-O track as having a "darkened center rail and ample wood ties." In reality, the center rail was bright copper, darkening over time only through normal oxidation, and the closely spaced ties were wood-grained plastic. The track used no actual wood whatsoever. While this is only one error, to be sure, it is a very blatant one, immediately obvious to anyone with common knowledge of Lionel's products. At 112 pages, the book is also a rather thin volume, but it is nonetheless a useful addition to one's library on the Lionel Corporation and is worth the reading—just not as the first book to be read on this topic. 8 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Personal accounts of workers at the "Old" Lionel Corp. By A Customer Each of 9 chapters is devoted to the quite candid account of a particular worker who describes his experiences while working at Lionel. Areas covered are engineering, sales, and management. The many photos are from Lionel archives, private collections, and taken by the employees themselves. Narratives closely conform to the many extensive, taped interviews conducted by the author over a period of years. Since I am the subject of Chapter 9, I can attest to the authenticity. Many facts are presented for the first time and should be valuable additions to the collections of toy train enthusiasts.

The inside story of the Lionel Corporation as told by former employees. Traces five decades of Lionel train history as people behind the scenes describe Lionel's leaders, products, achievements, and legacy from the 1920s through the 1960s.