

THE LION CUB

THE MINI-MAG FOR LCCA JUNIOR MEMBERS



JMS IN PRINT

I enjoyed reading JM



Briana Gambino's article in the Febru-

ary issue of *The Lion Roars* about her experience at the Denver Convention last July. It was a great, true-to-life testament why the LCCA is the best toy train club on the planet.

In the April issue of *TLR*, nine-year-old JM Joseph Westrich



described his train hobby experience within his family. He shared photos taken over the years from his birth to the present time.

Both of these JMs received a Cub Reporter certificate, a memento of their achievement as published young authors.

FROM DOM'S DESK

by Dominic Caponi RM 12586
Coordinator, JM Program



Hello Junior Members,

I hope winter time was full of fun while operating your trains. I encourage all Junior Members who spent those months designing and building their very own layouts to let us know all about their adventures. Share your story or a few pictures for publication, and ask dad and mom to help you become a Cub Reporter.

Check out the next issue of *The Lion Cub* for an announcement about a contest that includes dynamite prizes. There will be first, second, and third place winners.

In February I had the pleasure of attending the World's Greatest Hobby on Tour train show in Edison, NJ. I had the opportunity to promote not only the LCCA, but also the new and improved Junior Member Program. It was great to see children and parents sharing their love and enthusiasm for trains. I was able to show these families what the LCCA has to offer. I even convinced a few to become members!

One of my favorite moments of the trip was attending the LCCA Awards Ceremony held at the club house of the New Jersey Hi-Railers. I met several staffers from Lionel as well as the wonderful Dick and Linda Kughn. It was exciting to see where the hobby and our club came from and where it's going.

My focus in the coming months will be on the Convention in Grapevine/Dallas, TX. I'm working with the Convention committee to produce these great experiences for JMs and young family members:

- Two drawing classes with artist Angela Trotta Thomas
- Popcorn and a Movie Night
- Build a FasTrak™ floor layout
- With luck, win a raffle prize at the Banquet
- Participate in JM events and, with luck, win a door prize
- Run your trains with Tom Nuzzo of Lionel LLC
- Pose for a snapshot with Lenny the Lion
- Run the trains in the play area.

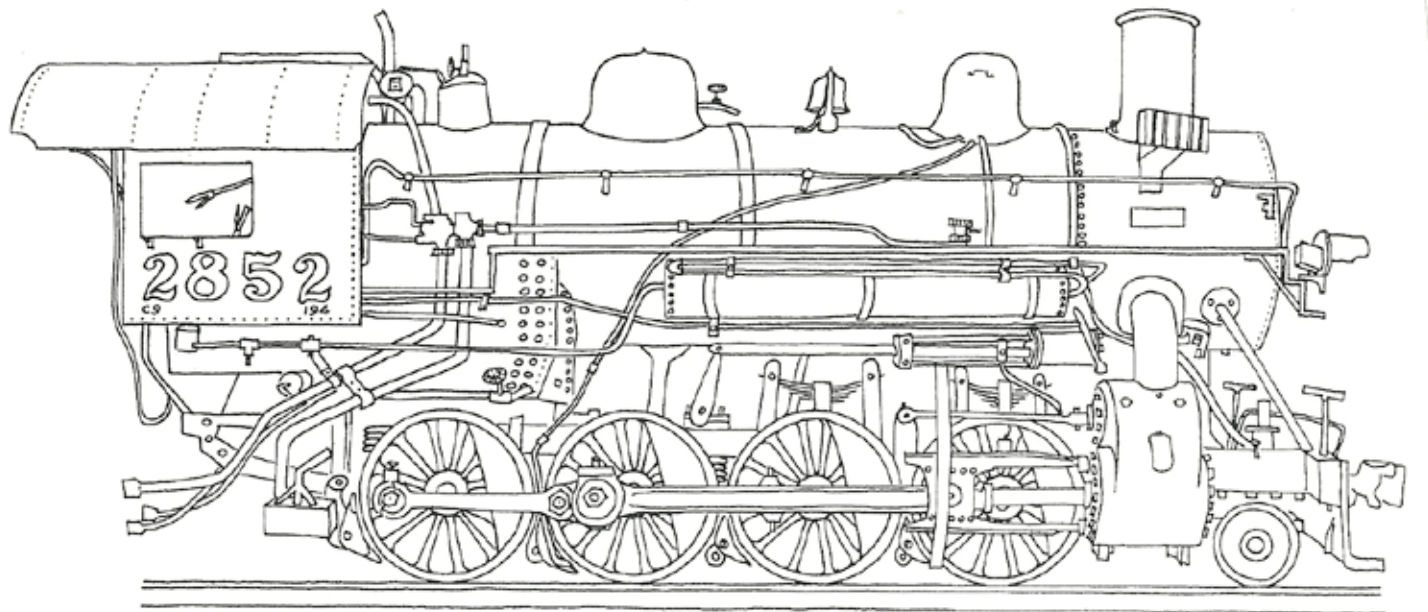
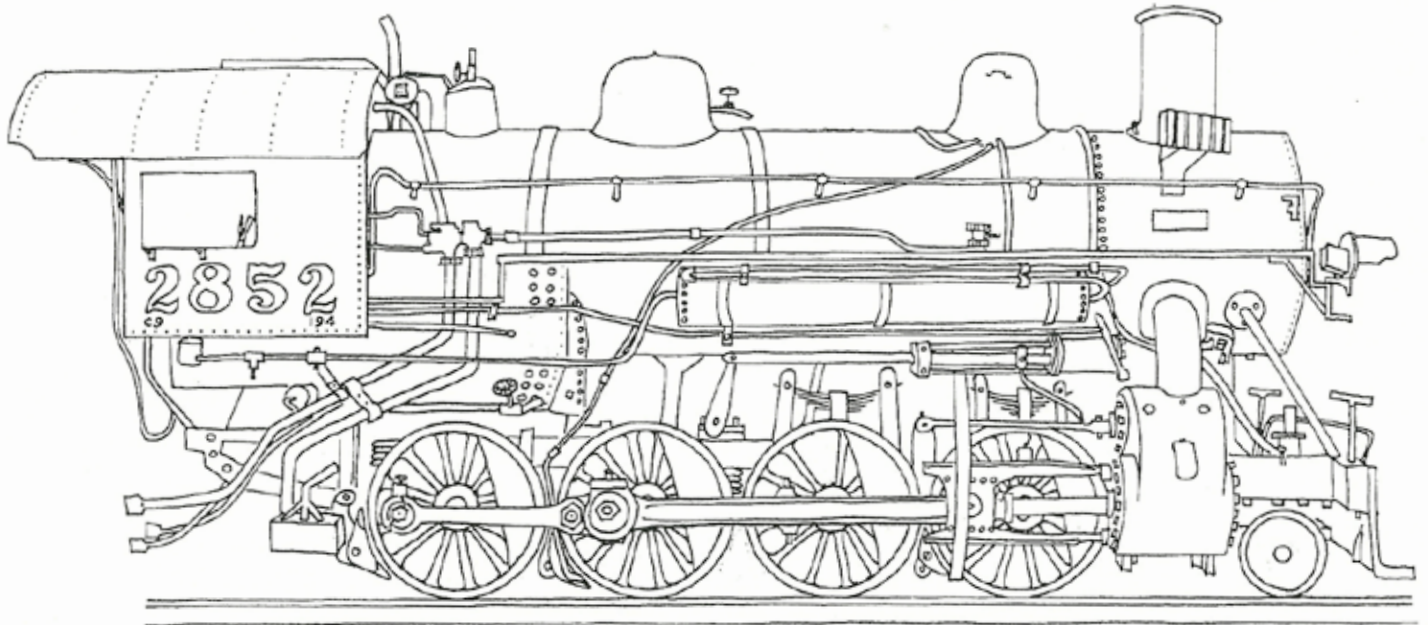


I invite JMs to send your stories, pictures, and ideas regarding the Junior Member Program to me so that LCCA can show what JMs are doing as displays on easels during the Convention.

PUZZLES BY BOOMER

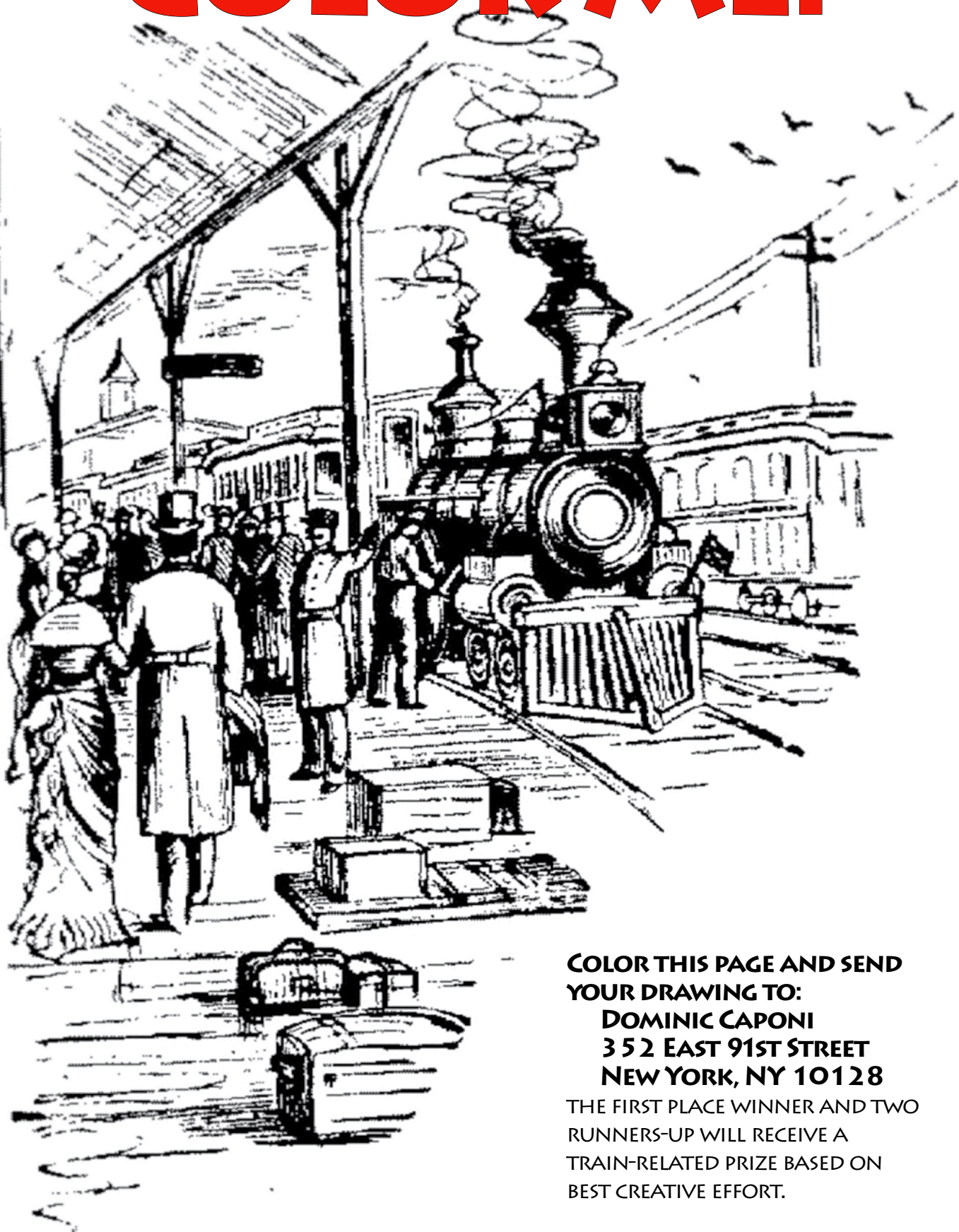
EYE SPY

There are eight differences in the two drawings of the steam locomotive.
Look closely and see if you can find these differences.



Answers: Clouds, hand-brake inside window of cab, bell on top of engine, coupler on front of locomotive, ring on front wheel, spoke on second drive wheel, brake pad between second and third drive wheel, rivets above third and fourth drive wheel.

COLOR ME!



**COLOR THIS PAGE AND SEND
YOUR DRAWING TO:**

**DOMINIC CAPONI
352 EAST 91ST STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10128**

THE FIRST PLACE WINNER AND TWO
RUNNERS-UP WILL RECEIVE A
TRAIN-RELATED PRIZE BASED ON
BEST CREATIVE EFFORT.

THE SOCIETY OF THE DYNAMIC RAILS

by Mario Evangelista RM 19687

Episode 2 – Uncle Al Steps In

Josh walked down the steps to the basement and discovered Krysti sitting on the lounge seat her mother placed in her new train room. She had her history book opened on her lap but it was obvious that her attention was focused more on the sunbeam flowing in from the small window at the top of the wall of the basement than her school work. Josh was not the brightest bulb on the family Christmas tree when it came to sensitivity, but even he could see his cousin was deep in thought.

“What are you studying?” Josh asked.

“Nothing,” she replied in a far-off tone. “I’m watching the dust specks dance around in the sunlight.”

“Ah OK,” Josh replied in a tone that implied it was time to change the subject. “Why don’t we work on the platform like we planned?”

“Oh, I guess,” Krysti sighed.

“Well what do you want to do?” Josh asked in his uppity shocked voice that he loves to use when his younger cousin said something that he thought was dumb. “We have a ton of track to lay, remember?”

“Oh yeah,” replied Krysti. “I forgot.”

“You forgot? Don’t you ever want to see these trains run?” At this point Josh was starting to get a little upset with her.

“Of course I want to see them run, you big dummy! Can’t you see I have other things on my mind?”

At that moment a horrible thought came to Josh. “Oh no, don’t tell me that your mom and dad are going to take the platform down and build something stupid. Like that home gym your dad wanted?”

“No Josh, that’s not it,” came the voice of Krysti’s mom from upstairs in the kitchen. “Maybe you should let your cousin tell you what is bothering her.”

At that, Krysti’s mom closed the door at the top of the stairs but Josh could swear he heard her mumble something about men and listening. After he heard the door close, Josh shrugged his shoulders, looked back at Krysti, and asked, “OK, what’s up?”

“It’s about my dad. He just got called up by the National Guard, and he has to go away.”

Josh looked at her and said, “So what. We can still work on the train platform.”

“So what? What kind of dweeb thing is that to say,” snapped Krysti.

That’s how Josh got all those streets named after him – ONE WAY. Their attention turned to the voice of Krysti’s father who stood on the stairs with a smile on his face and wearing his Army uniform. Behind him stood Uncle Al who came over to say good-bye to his brother-in-law before he left for the base.

“What’s the big deal?” asked Josh. “You always came home in two weeks or so. Krysti and I can wait until then.”

“No, big guy, not this time,” his Uncle Dave said with a sigh and gave him a little pat on the head.

“They are sending him to Afghanistan and they said on TV that we are fighting a big war there,” Krysti said as a small tear rolled down her cheek. Dave bent down and swooped his daughter up into his arms and whispered, “I’ll be home before you know it” and gave her a soft kiss on her forehead. Gently setting her down, he dried her eyes with his hanky and told them that Uncle Al would help them build the platform.

At that bit of news Josh and Krysti looked at each other as if trying to decide who should speak up first. Krysti took command saying, “I know Uncle Al is mom’s brother and we love him and all, but ...” Krysti was grasping for the proper words. Her eyes darted back and forth between the faces of the two men. Josh thought, “This might be a good time to mention the time Al tried to change the hot water heater.”

But Al spoke up first. “Oh, excuse me. I missed the part about electromechanical principles at law school!” Changing the subject, Dave bent down and gave his nephew a hug and asked him to tell his father Mike that he was sorry for not calling. His orders were cut on short notice because another officer was ill and couldn’t go.

“As for you two troops, I called the train store and they are waiting for the three of you. There are some useful how-to books for Uncle Al, and the FasTrack™ remote switches I promised you are in stock.” Turning to Al, Dave reminded him to pick up train hobby magazines as prep work for the project.

“OK, OK – consider it done,” Al replied. Just then Krysti’s mom came downstairs with the kids’ coats, dressed them both for the cold weather outside, and signaled her brother Al that the crew at the train store was waiting for them. She wanted the kids to be out of the house before Dave left for the base. As Josh and Krysti went out the basement door to the driveway, Dave and Mary followed. Just then Dave called out to Al, “Hey buddy, if you get over your head, surf the Web for information.”

“Yeah,” laughed Josh. “That saved some of my dad’s hair more than once!”

