



Music City Chapter TCA

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ALL ABOARD!!

Late Fall 2020

Newsletter

President's Message

I went through several drafts of this message trying to find the right balance between optimism and realism as we move forward into the new year. Let's face it, 2020 has been a challenging year. It's a year that will long be remembered by historians for years to come. A year of unprecedented events: a raging pandemic, a bad economy, social unrest, climate change, and a contentious presidential election. I may have missed one or two events but you get the idea. This has affected every facet of our daily lives as well as our favorite hobby toy trains.

This year's message will not be devoted to our annual Christmas Toy Train Show at the Nashville Fairgrounds. The Covid-19 has closed that venue through the end of 2020. I'm sure it was a difficult decision for them, but one that protected both our TCA members and the general public.

This would have been our 27th Annual Christmas Toy Train Show. Over the years, many of us associate the holiday season with this show. Gone is the anticipation, the excitement, and the preparations that normally takes place during this time of year. Gone is the camaraderie that emerges between both our members and the general public. Like most of you, I will miss all of that this year. Right now, our safety is of utmost importance. Our trains will always be there.

While there are good reasons to look back, I will leave that to others, I'd like to focus on 2021. The Spring and Summer train shows at the church will be contingent on health and safety guidelines at that time. We have locked in the 2021 Christmas Toy Train show at the Nashville Fairgrounds. As is our custom, it will be held the second Saturday in December. That date is December 11, 2021.

The 2022 TCA National Convention is scheduled to be held in Nashville, TN. Division President Bob Keller and Secretary Don Webb made that announcement at our Spring Show. There is a lot to do and we will update you every step of the way.

Historically each national convention offers a themed boxcars representative of the convention's location. Naturally, Nashville has many recognizable themes to choose from. Everything from music, sports, entertainment, etc. are all under consideration. Several suggestions have been offered for these logo boxcars. We would welcome your ideas on this project.

The holiday season is right around the corner and even without our shows we have a lot to be thankful for. This will be a different time. While we may have to make some sacrifices this year by either limiting the size of our gathering or not traveling to see family and friends, next year may be the best one ever. I don't think I'll ever take normal for granted again.

There are now multiple vaccines on the horizon. Hopefully there is



a light at the end of the tunnel and this virus will be a thing of the past.

I look forward to seeing all of you in the very near future.

Celebrate the magic of the season and please stay safe.

Joseph Marabeti
President

Meeting of the Officers and Board of Directors

Due to the coronavirus, the Officers and Members of the Board of Directors have not had an in-person meeting since March. However, over the last several months, the group communicated via emails and telephone conversations. Most of our discussions centered on the cancellation of both the Summer and Christmas Toy Trains shows. In each instance, both the Donelson Baptist Church and the Nashville Fairgrounds determined that the health and safety concerns necessitated the cancellations of those shows at their venues.

There was additional discussion regarding alternative venues, if appropriate. It is our hope that we will continue to have shows in 2021 if we can do them safely.

The Officers and Members of the Board will continue to communicate as necessary.

Submitted by
Doug Roberts, Secretary

Train Trivia

Tennessee railroads are perhaps best known for their rugged operations through Appalachia. However, being so far west it is also unique in being home to both eastern and western railroads. Tennessee is home to six of the seven North American Class 1 railroads. Can you name them? What is this system called?



Answer: "CSX, Norfolk Southern, Canadian National, BNSF Railway, Union Pacific and Kansas City Southern."

Editor's Notes

Pennsylvania Railroad Electric Locomotive GG1 "4800"

Over the years, many of us have owned, bought, and sold the iconic GG1. This remarkable design was created by engineers from four companies - the PRR, General Electric Co., Westinghouse Electrical and Manufacturing Co., and Baldwin Locomotive Works. And in 1934, construction started on what would become GG1 No. 4800.

Before actual production started, the PRR called in industrial designer Raymond Loewy. He persuaded the railroad to weld the production bodies instead of riveting them. As a result, No. 4800 became the only GG1 with a riveted body shell and so gained the nickname "Old Rivets".

Here are some of the Highlights of the No.4800's Career:

- Built in 1934
- Became the first in a class of 139 GG1s
- Only riveted body GG1
- Styled by famed industrial designer Raymond Loewy
- Pulled the first electrically powered train out of Washington, D.C. and set a speed record for that stretch of railroad at 102 mph
- Attained a top speed of 128 mph during braking tests in 1935
- Removed from service in October 1979, after 45 years and 2 months of operation
- Accumulated approximately 5 million miles of service
- Displayed nine different major paint schemes during its active life
- Restored in 1982 to its 1935 paint scheme by the Friends of GG1 4800

Resources:

The American Society of Mechanical Engineers
National Railway Historical Society
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

Submitted by
Joseph Marabeti