



## *Music City Chapter TCA*

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# *ALL ABOARD!!*

## **Spring 2021**

### **Newsletter**

### *President's Message*

The corona virus has certainly impacted our ability to enjoy our hobby with our TCA members and friends. The June 2021 National Convention in California is now targeted for the week of August 15 thru August 22. Most of the shows in the early part of the year have either been cancelled or rescheduled. You know things are serious when the CMA awards, held in Nashville, are cancelled for the second year in a row.

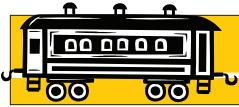
However, there seems to be light at the end of the tunnel. A third vaccine from Johnson & Johnson is now being distributed throughout the country. And, it is reported that there will be enough vaccines for every adult by the end of May. Good news! Hopefully we will get this virus under control soon.

I've spoken with some of you who have been buying and selling online. A nice alternative to enjoying our hobby, but nothing beats the real thing. Also, you can enjoy virtual visits on Facebook between train shows. See John Blake's article in this edition of the Newsletter on that topic.

As reported in the last Newsletter, our Spring and Summer shows were on hold until they could be done safely. While the Spring show was cancelled, we are planning to have our summer show in late August contingent upon the gymnasium's availability at the Donelson Baptist Church. In addition, our Christmas Toy Train show is scheduled for December 11th at the Nashville Fairgrounds. We will adhere to the health care protocols in place at that time. Once the dates have been confirmed, notices will be sent via email and regular mail.

I am looking forward to a great turnout at both shows. I know I'm ready for a show as are many of the members to whom I've spoken. Please stay safe!

*Joseph Marabeti*  
**President**



## Meeting of the Officers and Board of Directors

There's an old saying about the light at the end of the tunnel, possibly being an oncoming train. In our world, I'm not sure that's a bad thing. And right now, I'd like to think of that light as upcoming train shows. For better than a year, our shows have been "shelved" as a result of something over which we had no control. Even so, your Board of Directors have been meeting in the digital world trying to find a way to bring back the shows we all enjoy so much and so safely.

Now, with vaccine's begin administered by the thousands every day as well as other measures we're starting to see train shows open up once again. I myself have attended two shows in 2021 and both have been both safe and successful. Your Board is working hard to plan both our Summer Show for August in Donelson and our Christmas Show at the Nashville Fairgrounds in December. Know this. We want to hold our shows as much as you do!

Stay tuned. We'll keep you posted as the plans develop.

*Submitted by  
Doug Roberts, Secretary*

## Train Trivia

**Numerous towns proliferated along the Union Pacific construction route from Omaha, Nebraska to Promontory Summit, Utah. The towns were famous for their rapid growth and infamous for their lawlessness. What were these towns commonly called?**



Answer: "Hell on wheels" towns.

## Virtual Visits: Seeing Trains and Layouts via Facebook

There are good things to be found on Facebook for the train collector.

Using this platform, people have set up sites for different types of trains (tinplate, postwar Lionel, etc), for one gauge or another (Standard gauge, American Flyer S gauge, etc), and for different groups. The TCA has several sites. The Train Collectors Society (TCS) of the UK has sites. And ... we, the Music City Chapter of the TCA – have our own site (thanks, Vic).

These sites come with a community of people interested in trains. People post photos of pieces in their collections and video clips of trains running on their layouts. I've enjoyed getting to see trains running on home layouts that I would only expect to see in a book or in a museum. Often there is a lot more to see than just the train being run. You see other trains, buildings, steam engines, perhaps a vintage toy airship at the mooring mast, or a vintage Detroit monorail in operation.

Especially through the TCS, I've gotten to see trains we don't see often (if at all) over on this side of the Atlantic. Many of us started out with Lionel, American Flyer, or Marx postwar trains. It's not a big jump to trains made before 1945 in the USA. Those trains, plus trains made later, are most of what we find at our train shows. Thanks to people posting on these sites, I've gotten to see some remarkable trains – clockwork and live steam by Bing, Marklin, and others, going back to the 1890s. I've gotten to see a Weeden Dart run. As I've watched some vintage equipment run, I've gotten to worry that someone had the track too close to a table leg or too close to the edge on a table. And I've gotten to see trains running at train shows in England, in Australia, and elsewhere.

In addition, I've had the pleasure of joining in the conversation via comments with train collectors in the UK and elsewhere. If you post photos, you'll find an appreciative audience. If you've gotten a piece and you don't know quite what it is, or it's from a manufacturer you're not familiar with, you'll find people



who can help you. Post a few pictures and ask – you can get help fixing problems, finding parts, and more. If you get an unfamiliar piece, you’re likely to find someone who has experience with that sort of thing and will be happy to offer advice and help. And it’s fun just to join the conversation. The sites I’ve been visiting have rules restricting posts to items related to trains. People attempting to put up off-topic posts have their posts removed and, if they keep it up, are kicked off the site. You do join a site or group. Usually, you have to answer at least one question, mostly just to show that you are not a robot.

I do end up seeing the same post on several sites.

When I’ve posting pictures that fit more than one site, I’ve done the same. I’ve wondered if we’re all on all of the same sites.

When you do a search or get an invitation to join a site, look at the number of posts per day. I suppose it depends on how much time you want to spend and whether you want to look at everything. You can “unjoin” a group.

If you’d like to see what I’m talking about, search on Facebook for the Music City TCA site. Some sites do allow you to share posts. I’ve been in the habit of sharing posts to Facebook friends, and have been sharing some of the posts from other sites on the Music City TCA site. Plus, it’s a place where we could get together between train shows.

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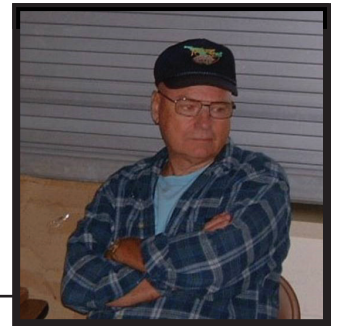
*Submitted by  
John Blake, Vice President*



## *Our Deepest Sympathy*

### **Ken Carlson**

**Former  
Vice President  
Music City Chapter**



We are sad to report on the passing of former Music City Chapter Vice President Ken Carlson. Ken served for many years with former Chapter President Jim Tate. He was always willing to lend a hand whenever it was needed.

We express our thanks to his family for his many years of service to the Chapter and hope they will find comfort in a life well lived.

### **Jack Mitchell**

Many of the people who share our love of this hobby are not TCA members. One such person was Jack Mitchell. Jack would come to our shows with his dog Spud and announce that “Spud was in the house”. Jack and Spud would leave the shows with some items he purchased and a smile on his face. Jack passed away earlier this year. He will be missed.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to his family and friends.