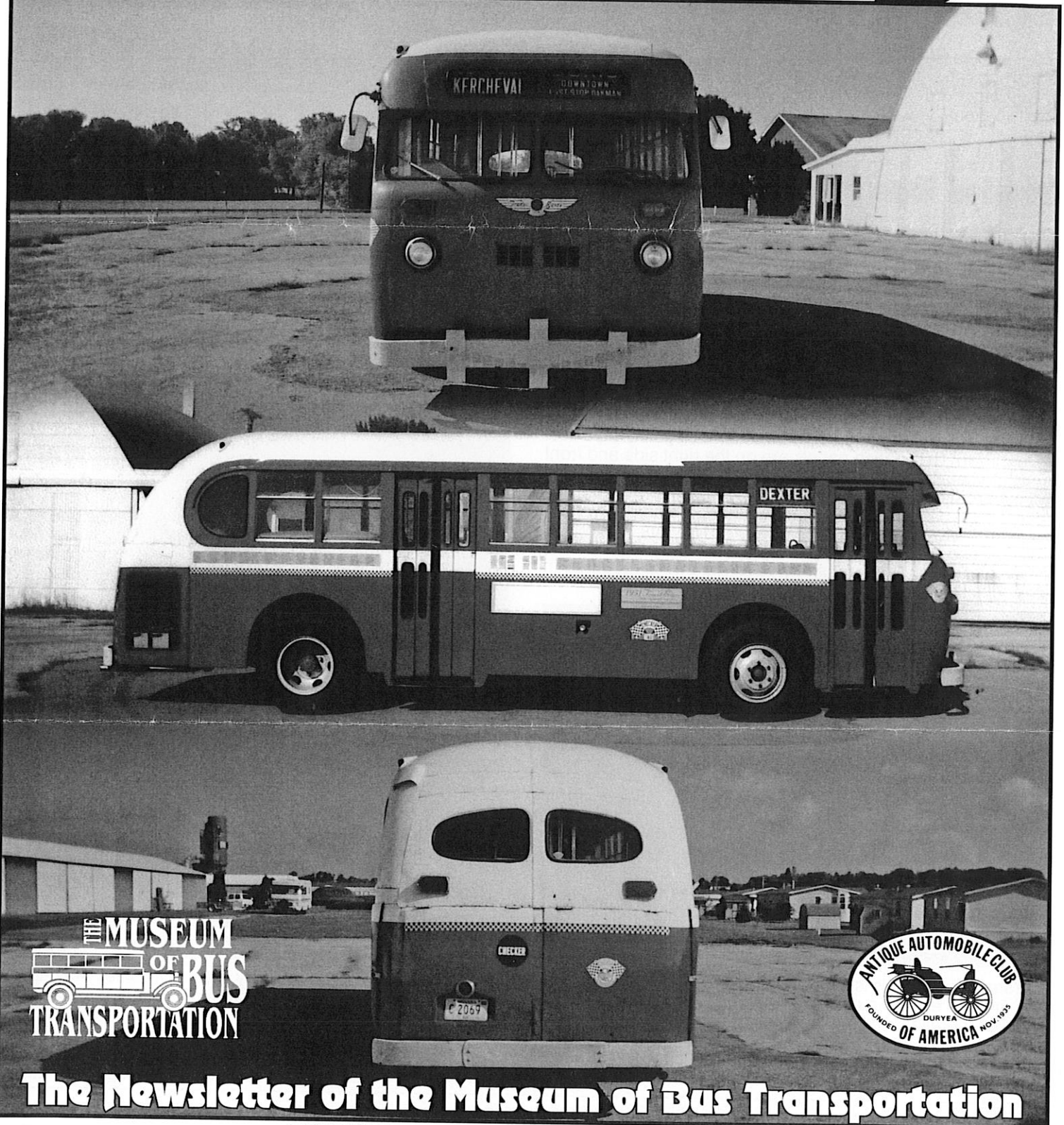


Bus Musings

Fall 2005

Vol. 6, No. 4



THE MUSEUM
OF BUS
TRANSPORTATION



The Newsletter of the Museum of Bus Transportation

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From the Dispatch Desk:

Summer, the busy tourist season, will be virtually over by the time you receive this issue. It has been an interesting season with attendance running slightly ahead of last year (average daily visitor count is 168, factoring in a 7-day period).

We decided not to make a major change in our floor display, other than adding the Crown Supercoach, which turned out to be a 1957 model. For East Coast school bus observers this "California Car" is quite unique!

The Museum tried a shuttle bus operation between the Museum and Chocolateworld. This was run by Rohrer Bus Service with a Cutaway Ford (Thomas Body). It was mildly successful in the two-week trial period, but the AACA Board will have to ascertain its return in 2006.

Model Bus Musings:

One of the finest model buses was produced back in the 1970's as a promotion for General Motors by a small firm in Florida called Air Jet Advance Models (they were in business at the time manufacturing promotional model airplanes for the airlines).

This handsome 12-inch model of the GMC RTS Coach was Air Jet's only bus model, made of a resin, wood-like material, and came mounted on a wood base with a clear plastic display cover. The one in my collection, and the only version I have ever come across, was of the actual GMC RTS Demonstrator bus taken around the USA to larger American cities in the 1970's. This model is the bright white colored bus with the multicolored blue center stripe, with the RTS logo on the sides. "Downtown" destination panels are on the right side and front separate detailed roof lights, front side mirrors, and windshield wipers are attached with very detailed wheels and tires. This model was made in very limited numbers, and most went to General Motors corporate advertising. The bus model is a solid casting with windows, body graphics and details added as decals, which, in the display case the bus is mounted in look quite realistic!



In a smaller scale this issue I review one of the very best school bus models ever – in die-cast metal in 1/87 "HO" scale – by Boley Corporation, and available in most American hobby shops for about \$8.00. The model is made in China and has incredible tiny details and represents the current international school bus

We received our portion of Don Coffin's great collection. Don is "downsizing" and wanted us to have most of his collection to either sell or display.

We have reserved a booth for "Car Week" October 4-7, in Hershey. This will be manned on a daily basis and we hope to add new members and sell some bus-related materials.

It looks like we'll be hosting the 2007 Bus Bash. It will be a big one, as we plan to use a Hershey facility as the venue. Watch for details as we work with Larry Plachno on this special event.

We look forward to our Annual Meeting and seeing as many of you as possible – it's fun and also serves as a fundraiser for YOUR organization. Please join us (and add a new member if at all possible).

Tom Collins

with front safety bar, left side "STOP" sign, detailed front mirrors, realistic doors, and even the tiny muffler assembly underneath!

Lights and graphics are well detailed, and this bus in its tiny size looks real enough to drive away! Full interior detail is included, and this along with many detail parts are molded in plastic, but the die-cast body gives the model good weight and a quality feel. This really is an exceptionally nice model school bus to have on your collector display shelf!



In the photo next to the school bus is another well-detailed, very small Van Hool touring coach, used to transport passengers at Disney's Florida Cruise Ship Terminal from parking to the terminal, and alas this little model is sold only at Disney's Cruise Line gift shops. Some friends brought me this from their cruise, and it is item #38072 from the Disney Cruise Line, painted in a lively white, red and yellow paint scheme. You can even see the tiny Van Hool logo on the front and rear of this model coach. The bus is fully die-cast, about four inches long, and I am told an exact model of the real Disney Cruise Line fleet. An unusual Disney collectable that's a bus too! Happy Collecting!

Doug Campbell

On the Cover: Our newest addition – a 1951 Transit 01 Bus (manufactured by Checker). It was an ex-DSR Bus and needs a little cosmetics to make it right. How many of these could be left? (Photo courtesy of Dan Lehman)

Along the Line:

New Members:

Frank Spotts, Pottsville, PA
Wayne Thomas, Cherry Hill, NJ
Jeff Stonesiffer, Gettysburg, PA
John Calnan, West Chester, PA
George Slezak, Clinton, MD
Nick Gibbon, Philadelphia, PA

Website Happenings:

Have you visited our website lately? -- It's won an award from METRO Magazine as the "website of the week" recently.

Sharon Ogden
Webmaster

Timeline Progress:

Vice President Bob Smith has new timeline panels available. You are invited to call him at 717-361-7595, to be a part of our bus archives.

Volunteers:

We would be remiss if we failed to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of two of our volunteers – Dan Lehman and Oliver



Amtran #153: This photo was taken in late August by Member Bob Selzer. Four MOBT members traveled to Altoona to take delivery of this T6H 4523A (S/N 1289). The photo shows Amtran Operations Manager Tom Klevan turning over the title to Tom Collins, president of MOBT.

Ogden. These guys work non-stop to make our projects successful.

Trivan:

Ever hear of the Roustabout Company in Frackville, PA? While they did not build buses, some of the 112 three-wheel trucks they built did find their way into East Coast Trailways fleets where they were used as baggage trucks and garage shuttle vehicles. We now have a 1963 model on display and it gets a lot of attention! Visitors want know where is the back wheel.

Regions and Chapters:

We have enhanced our display case with additional models and nameplates courtesy of the Motor Bus Society. In addition, another glass case will house some of the Don Coffin collection, (see photo) which we plan to rotate on a regular basis.



Industry Events:

The MOBT will be present, through the AACA Marketing Department, at the forthcoming ABA Marketplace and the Pennsylvania Bus Association Winter Meeting.

Coming Soon:

Dr. Lee P. Hacker of Williamsburg, VA is donating a rare 1969 GMC TGH 3301 (S/N 005) – Ex-Williamsburg #B-24 to us. It should be on the property by year's end. Dr. Hacker is a friend of Jim Lehrer, who recommended us.

Pledges:

Cash pledges were recently received from Dino Mandros and Harry Blunt (Concord Trailways). All were gratefully acknowledged.

The Good Shepherd: Movie:

The "Good Shepherd" is the movie currently featuring our 1948 TDH 3207 (painted and lettered for AB&W, Alexandria VA). The paint details were submitted by Bob Sauer. The movie also features a TDH 3714, which was acquired from another source.

COMING EVENTS

Saturday, October 29, 2005

MOBT Annual Meeting
--Lancaster Area Fan Trip
--Guest Speaker George M. Sage
--Evening Dinner

Saturday, October 28, 2006

MOBT Annual Meeting
--York Area Fan Trip
--Special Guest Speaker
--Evening Dinner

Saturday, June 3, 2006

3rd Annual Bus Fling

JOIN US, IF YOU CAN, AT ANY OR ALL EVENTS!

Newsletter Sponsor: This newsletter is sponsored by Dino Mandros - Lancaster, Pa.



1954 GM TDH 3714 – Conestoga Transportation Co. – June 5, 1955, Photo courtesy of F. W. Schnider

"Bus Musings", our quarterly newsletter, is published for you in the interest of providing a thumbnail sketch of what your organization is doing to preserve bus history. We continue to invite your comments.