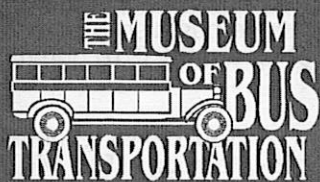


Bus Musings

Spring 2005

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The Newsletter of the Museum of Bus Transportation

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From the Dispatch Desk:

Thanks for all the comments received concerning our new format; generally they were good. If we receive any negative input regarding the layout or material, we will take steps to improve or rectify this.

Take particular note to Doug Campbell's new column on model buses; we plan to add this as a regular feature.

Our first official event of 2005 was a huge success. Nearly 100 Trailways personnel, current and retired, attended this all-day affair (see column for details). Thanks go to Bob Beard for planting the seed for this event and doing much of the legwork.

Along the Line:

Acting Board Member

The Board has appointed Bob Beard to an acting member position. Bob will fill Dick Fullington's position on the Board until he has fully recovered from his recent operation.

We are pleased to note that Dick remains in contact with us and was quite visible at the Trailways Day function. We continue to wish him a speedy recovery.

Additional Publicity:

We were recently interviewed for an upcoming article in Bus Ride Magazine. In addition to that, the Hershey Chronicle Newspaper will be featuring the Bus Museum on the front page of a forthcoming article. Bus Line ran a full page ad for us, and Bus and Coach News continues to run articles.

Trailways Day:

"Trailways Day", Saturday, April 9th, was a success, including the nearly perfect weather. Gale Ellsworth (pictured below) hosted the event, which featured a dedication of our Golden Eagle.



Mr. Frank Henry was the Master of Ceremonies and assisted in the ribbon cutting for the Golden Eagle

We placed our Trailways 4104 and 4106 Coaches on display, and they were the subject of many photographs. A lot of "stories" were exchanged.

We finally have a website that we can all be proud of. This virtual work of art is the result of the efforts of Sharon Ogden (wife of very active Member Oliver Ogden). Visiting this site on a regular basis will keep you informed of our activities. It is interesting to review how many "hits" we get in a month.

Attendance at the joint Museum has been excellent over the past few months. Most Saturdays exceed 200 visitors, and many of them come just to see the buses. It should be a very good summer!

Contributions seem to be ahead of last year, but we continue to keep a watchful eye on our expenses.

Tom Collins

Member George Herwig:

Many of us recall MOBT Member George Herwig as an outstanding bus operator for American Bus Lines (Continental American) out of Pittsburgh. What we didn't know was that George is one of the last surviving employees from the old Harmony Short Line and, as such, was instrumental in restoring the TDH 3207 pictured here. He dedicated it on April 9, 2005.



George said he would work with us to place the vehicle on loan at some future date.

4104 On Display:

Our pristine 4104 Coach is part of the Spring display at the Museum. We have had many "old timers" stop by to see it and to sit in the driver's seat.

How many of you recall the order and function of each of the toggle switches, and what was the one you didn't want to use?

Spring Fling:

There will be an "Open House" at our Myerstown storage facility, on Route 422 in the Country Acres Industrial Park, just west of Myerstown, PA, which will include bus displays, artifacts, food, etc. You are invited to set up a table (\$10 donation to MOBT).

We will be open at 8:30 AM, and we plan to offer a shuttle bus to the Hershey Museum in the mid-afternoon. (This will be an interesting bus, but not one from our fleet.)

On the Cover: Our 1971 Golden Eagle (S/N 8410) former Panhandle Lines 42303 pictured on its way back from Fullington Trailways, who refinished the Coach for us in time for "Trailways Day".

Timeline Update:

We are now into the 1950's. Vice President Bob Smith has several themes available for sponsorship. Please contact Bob at 717-361-7595 if you want to reserve a panel.

1947 Flixible:

Our '47 Flixible is receiving its share of notoriety. It was recently photographed by Gorgi Models as they prepare to do a "Flixible Clipper". It also appeared at the opening of a new sports stadium in Lancaster, featuring the "Barnstormers", an old baseball team who traveled in a "FLX" in the 1940's.

Transit Bus:

The Gilmore Museum, in Michigan, has offered us a 1951 Transit (Checker) Model 01 (ex Detroit Department of Street Railways). Their Board must vote on this, but it looks promising that we will be able to add this to our fleet.

We should report in this column that we were not successful in obtaining one of the former Deluxe Stages ACF IC-41's -- they all got away from us.

Next Stop: The Bus Toy Shop



In your visits to the Museum in Hershey we hope you have noticed that the many model buses on display (most from the collection of John Dockendorf, MOBT's Vice President) form an important, impressive, and fascinating part of the educational experience at the Museum. I have had a fascination with collecting toy buses since early childhood (in the 1950's) and hope, beginning with this first article, to share with you in future issues of Bus Musings, some of the few thousand toy buses in my own collection, review current releases, and to hopefully expand your own interest in this fascinating part of our hobby! Welcome Aboard!

With any collection we all have a favorite item, so I will start with (although it is really hard to choose one) a model that has for many years been the model bus that I must call my favorite! This huge 17 inch long, 5 inch high, and almost 6 inch wide tinsplate metal "D.C. Transit" GM "Fishbowl" City Bus replica was made in the 1960's and seemingly sold as a souvenir item to Washington, D.C. visitors. It has a friction motor, clear plastic windows, and wonderful authentic graphics noting the roofline "Articooler" logos on either side.....as air-conditioning was quite a feature on a city bus back then! This toy bus has full interior, plastic steering wheel, rubber tires, and was made in Japan.

Thomas built buses used a die-cast 8 inch long Saf-T-Liner C2 School Bus toy model for its corporate advertising. The model resembles a Freightliner chassis, with the little foldout "Stop" sign on the left side. Painted in school bus yellow, white & black, this 1/54th scale model has rubber tires, and represents an innovative new school bus design. The base is made of plastic, and such corporate advertising pieces are highly collectible and often made in rather limited numbers (made in China).

And for a final model in this first column, we will travel back to the 1950's when Trailways sold both in its terminals and in American toy stores, this plastic 10 inch long rather generic bus resembling a GM 4103 Coach of the period, toy National Trailways Bus with opening luggage door in rear, opening passenger door, and a changeable destination sign on the right side. This model was molded in gray plastic for top half and bottom half was white with gray wheels and red lettering. This piece had a certain charm, although rather crude by today's model standards. It was made in the 1950's by The Ideal Toy Corporation of New York, and is a rather rare piece to find in good condition today. The box art is actually more colorful than the model itself, but it truly represents motor coach travel of the 1950's era, and was a Trailways advertising piece enjoyed by many a young bus traveler of the period. Until we meet again, Happy Collecting!

Doug Campbell



Congratulations to the Museum of Bus Transportation for the outstanding job it is doing preserving and sharing buses and artifacts for current and future generations.

We at Hohler & Associates extend a well-deserved "Thank You" to the hard working MOBT Board and all MOBT supporters around the country.

While Hohler & Associates primarily make a living providing cooling systems to the Bus Industry, if we can ever assist in helping fellow "bus fans" locate hard-to-find components to bring life back to buses from our past, we would welcome the opportunity to do so. And, of course, if we can ever sell you a high-quality cooling system from Diesel Radiator we would be delighted to earn your business.

Since the Museum of Bus Transportation still has many needs, we whole-heartedly encourage you all to continue and possibly expand your support of this great organization.

Sincerely,

*Dale A. Hohler
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