

Bus Musings

Spring 2006

Vol. 7, No. 2



THE MUSEUM
OF BUS
TRANSPORTATION



The Newsletter of the Museum of Bus Transportation

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From the Dispatch Desk:

We are now approaching the end of the third quarter of 2006. MOBT is moving along with the fundraising effort, but with this issue we are really starting to "push it". We have enclosed a self-addressed envelope with the sincere hope that each member will make a donation to MOBT.

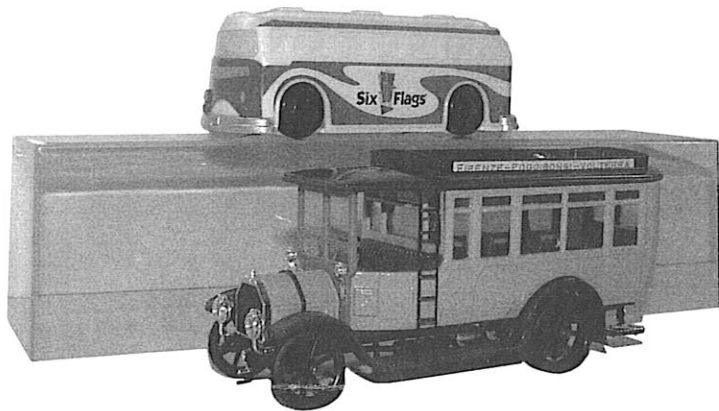
Please remember that George Sage promised to match all donations tendered through 2006. To continue our progress we will need a steady flow of cash. The Museum gate (not

Model Bus Musings:

Theme Parks, Musical Tours and Antiques!

Model buses can take us around the world or just across town....all on a desktop! This month we will start off with a great little advertising premium, made as a model bus, to promote the famous Six Flags Amusement Parks, as their real media ads feature a real Flxible vintage bus in this same graphics scheme. The model bus is 4 1/2 inches long, all plastic with revolving black plastic wheels, in a cream color with red, black and multi-colored graphics, with blue painted windows. It is dated 2005, made in China, and was used as a premium in a Wendy's restaurant promotion for Six Flags last year. Look into a hole at the rear of the model and see a bright colored photo of the little funny dancing man in the ads, or in another version that I have the photo is of a roller coaster ride.

At the bottom of that same photo is a truly wonderful 1/43rd scale 1915 Fiat Omnibus, modeled on the shores of Lake Como in Italy



Along the Line:

Bus Bash 2007:

As most of you know we may be hosting the only 2007 Bus Bash in September 2007. It would be held on the grounds of the Museum in Hershey. Watch for more details in upcoming issues and industry publications, if it comes to fruition.

Storage Facility:

Faced with outgrowing our storage garage in Myerstown, the Board has begun to search for a larger and affordable location. Currently, we pay over \$1,400 a month. Myerstown is 30 miles from Hershey and although it has served us well, it may be time to move. We'll keep you posted.

unlike farebox receipts on city buses) fall far short of our costs.

Major projects for 2006 are searching for a larger and more affordable storage area, the acquisition of a long-awaited Ford Transit (which will need someone to adopt it for painting), and painting of our 1951 Checker.

Other items include switching our display units in the Museum, the Spring Fling, and the 2007 Bus Bash.

Please keep those cards and letters (with cash) coming! Hope to see you at our upcoming events.
Tom Collins

by Rio Models. This is a highly detailed replica of a vintage motorcoach where second class passengers entered via a left side rear door and this bus had chain drive. The color is an orange-yellow, and the driver sat in an open-sided front compartment and luggage was stored on the roof rack! First Class passengers probably entered in the left forward door, and side windows have nice little green curtains inside to shield the sun.

The other photo shows a modified Greyhound Corgi Scenicruiser by Royal Coach of Mechanicsburg, PA. This replicates the famous bus that traveled over 25,000 miles on a musical tour in the year 1954 by Fred Waring and his famous Pennsylvanians as they enjoyed rest and relaxation between shows on this luxury coach with raised observation deck, washroom facilities, and air suspension ride. The model has the exact trim and coach No. P-5446, and interesting is the misspelling of the word "Pennsylvanians" on the model's front, which correctly should read as it does on the real coach...."Pennsylvanians"! It is all part of the fun of collecting model buses.

Happy Collecting!

Doug Campbell



Flxible-Twin FL-35:

We received a call, and offer, of an ex-Wichita, KS 1954 Flxible-Twin Coach Model FL-35. Talks are continuing on the delivery of this interesting and unusual City Bus. The offer came to us from John Deck of Wichita.

Joe Radinsky:

Joe hails from Buffalo, NY and has been a bus fan since the early 1960's. Recently, he donated over 60 boxes of timetables, transfers, and other bus artifacts to us (some of it we will sell).

Museum Volunteers:

Often we are asked to "train the trainer" as it were. Museum volunteers generally focus on the nearly 90 automobiles on display. Classes are held, frequently, for both the car and bus groups.

On the Cover: Our GM Movie Bus – the 4515 was in "Forrest Gump" and the 3207 was recently in the filming of "The Good Shepherd", which will appear in December 2006.

This is done so that we can learn from each other. This photo shows one of these classes; note the attention to our Golden Eagle.



Randy Wilcox:

Randy is the Regional Sales Manager for Motor Coach Industries in Blackwood, NJ. He recently visited the Museum with his father, Floyd Wilcox, a retired Quaker City Bus Company (and later Safeway Trails, Inc.) operator. Floyd was intrigued to learn that our "Greyhound" PD 4103 (restored in 2003 by ABC into Greyhound livery) started life as Quaker City Bus No. 203. As an operator, Bus No. 203 was assigned to him!

Floyd sent us a photo of No. 203 taken on April 25, 1955, after it was damaged by a dump truck (with Floyd at the controls). Floyd and Quaker City received over \$15,000 in damages by the trucking firm.....a lot of money back then!

Matching Funds:

At our annual meeting last October, you will recall the offer of matching funds for all collected monies our organization could garner in 2006. This was made by George Sage, former owner of Bonanza Bus Lines, Inc., and our guest speaker. To date, funds have exceeded \$10,000 and we've got the rest of the year to go. We've attached an addressed envelope, with this mailing, to serve not only as a carrier but a reminder to all to mail in your contribution. Whatever you send will be acknowledged (remember we are a 501-c3 organization) and you'll have a tax deduction for 2006.

We have gotten some excellent industry publicity on this. This is a chance to help your organization grow. Thanks!

Fleet Manager Comments:



I grew up in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. What I remember most about my childhood was my love for cars, motorcycles, trucks and buses. I loved riding the city buses as a child.

As I grew older my passion for motor vehicles grew. When I was 21 I went to work at the post office as a mail carrier, and within a few years was driving a school bus part-time.....I was hooked on those buses for sure. I even quit the post office to be able to drive buses more often. I purchased two of my own; the first a 1951 Chevrolet, which I made into a homemade (and looked it) camper for the family. We spent many nights in that old bus! I also purchased a 1949 Ford school bus that was a real beauty. However, someone talked me into selling it, and it was also turned into a camper.

I still worked for the school district, working my way from driver to the Manager of Transportation. The love for buses was in my blood, and while still working at the school I located and purchased a one-owner 1954 Chevrolet school bus with a Wayne body. A

Aerocoach:

ABC/Camden has completed the restoration of our 1945 Aerocoach. It was returned to Baran's Transit Lines, Inc. livery and carries the original number (#3). The late John Baran gave this coach to us over two years ago after he had completed all of the interior work on it. ABC spent nearly two months of free shop time to turn the exterior and the coach to what we think is, perhaps, the best looking seated Aerocoach still on the planet.

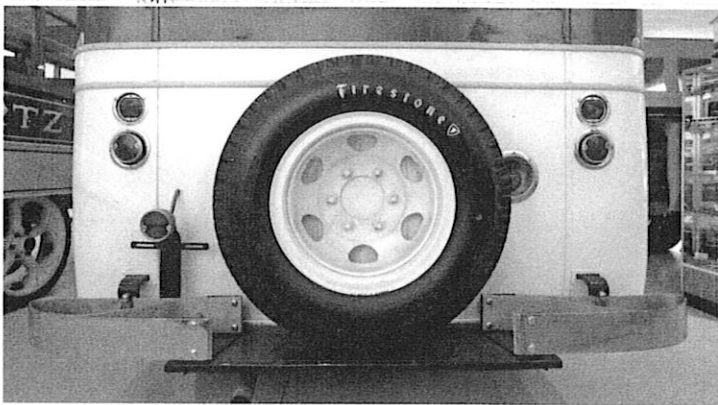
Our sincere thanks to Clancy Cornell for assisting us by having his Camden facility do this outstanding job.

State Bus Associations:

We have prepared and mailed 16 packets containing membership and general data on the MOBT to various professional state bus associations throughout the country. We also included photos of some of our most interesting vehicles.

Real Answers:

"Real Answers", Nashville, TN is the marketing firm for the Bridgestone-Firestone Rubber Co. Recently they visited the Museum and spent most of the day photographing the bus display in preparation for an upcoming editorial calendar, which will feature our buses. Imagine the nationwide publicity we will get from this!



Volunteers:

Several of you have volunteered to assist "on the floor" at the Museum this summer. Our volunteer, or docent squad, is now approaching a number where we can have full coverage each weekend. Our volunteer who spends the most time there is Oliver Ogden, who assists not only on weekends but also helps out during the week.....hats off to Oliver!

few years ago, my wife and I donated that to the Museum of Bus Transportation. The passion for buses grew, and I purchased my first city bus, a 1975 AM General (ex Greater Richmond). Well, the passion did not stop there; in fact it grew and grew. Right now my wife and I own nine buses, plus we are storing the '54 school bus as it is off rotation at the Museum. My passion for buses stands like this: three school buses; a 1954 Chevrolet/Wayne; a 1982 International/Blue Bird; and a 1982 Blue Bird 88-passenger All American; two city buses; a 1975 AM General and a 1990 Orion. We also have four road buses; a 1973 GMC 4905A; a 1974 MCI MC8; a 1979 MC-5C, and a recently added 1985 Eagle.

I am now an ordained minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ (number one in my life). Next come my family and friends and our six dogs, and after that are those buses.

My wife and I are also Santa and Dee Dee Claus (yes, Mrs. Claus has a first name). We are the proud owners of the "North Pole Lines", so you just know when the sleigh can't go old Santa rolls out one of those Red, White and Green North Pole buses.

Pastor Daniel W. Lehman
aka Santa Claus
Vice President and Fleet Manager, MOBT

2006 MOBT EVENTS

Friday, June 2 Clean-up Work Day

Myerstown Facility
(Call T. Collins if you can volunteer)

Saturday, June 3 "Spring Bus Fling"

Myerstown Facility
8:30 AM – 3:30 PM

*Flea Market, Bus Display, Food Available.
Registration Fee: \$10 (donation to MOBT-vendors only)*

*Please bring your own tables for display area.
No advance reservation necessary.*

Saturday, June 24 10th Annual Museum Expo

AACA & MOBT Museum
9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
(Museum open - Normal fees apply)

Cars, Trucks and Buses on Display. Food Available.

Saturday, October 28 Annual Meeting

MOBT Museum
9:00 AM – 8:00 PM

*Business Meeting, Fan Trip to Pottsville
Pennsylvania area, Bus Artifacts Available, Dinner
(Details in future newsletters)*

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

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Bus Musings, the quarterly newsletter of the Museum of Bus Transportation, 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.