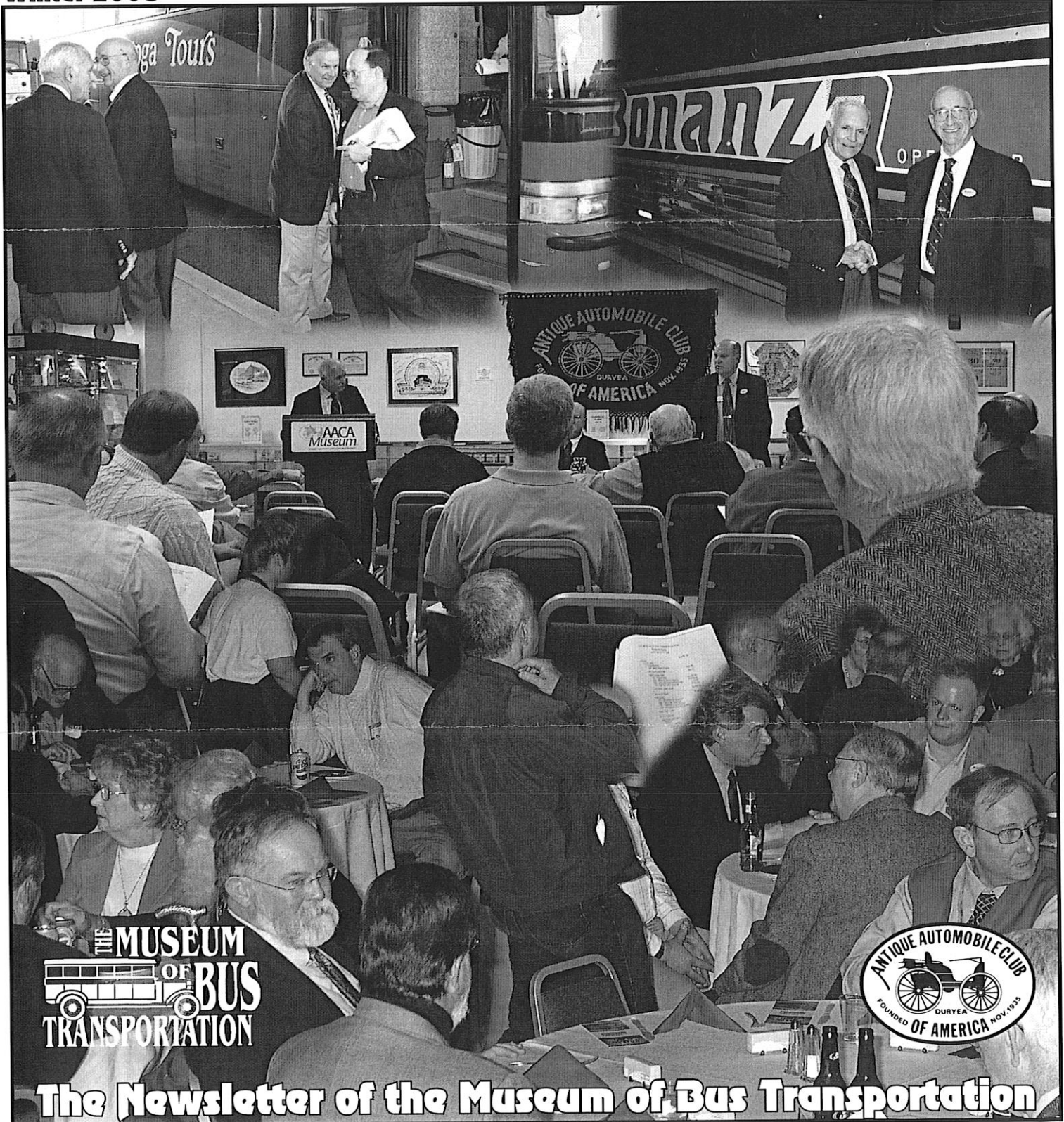


Bus Musings

Winter 2006

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**THE MUSEUM
OF BUS
TRANSPORTATION**



The Newsletter of the Museum of Bus Transportation

161 Museum Drive Hershey, PA 17033

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From the Dispatch Desk:

We thought we'd try a different approach – getting the first issue of the new year out before the old year ends!

We are now in our 7th year of publishing and, hopefully, you have noticed that we are trying to make each issue better, and incorporating your ideas.

Our 2005 Annual Meeting was, again, a success – nearly 60 members attending throughout the day. Conestoga Tours supplied a late model Van Hool (how many of you knew they had Van Hools in their fleet?) for a tour of

Lancaster County, including stops at “charter bus” locations.

Our guest speaker, George Sage, was on hand throughout the day and was full of interesting tales of his many years in the bus industry. After a cocktail hour and dinner he entertained us with “grass routes” tales of how he got started, his favorite buses, and the origin of Bonanza Bus Lines. In closing, he offered to “match” all contributions to MOBT for the balance of CY 2005 and CY 2006.

Not everything we tried at MOBT in 2005 worked, but in all we had a pretty decent year, and we're looking forward to 2006. Happy New Year to all!

Tom Collins

Model Bus Musings:

In early October, I donated a display of model buses to the MOBT, which I hope you will enjoy viewing. Thanks to John Lenhart, a fellow MOBT volunteer and model bus collector, for helping move the heavy showcase from Baltimore to Hershey.

One of the models you will notice in the new display is a 10-inch long plastic model of Santa Monica, California's BIG BLUE BUS. This replica represents a 2002 North American Industries (NABI), 40-seat, liquefied natural gas powered fleet No. 4001; these handsome bright blue replicas were sold by the City of Santa Monica's bus operations. This is a clean and very friendly bus operation to ride. They even have little computer boxes on the street to plan your ride! This little model looks exactly like the real bus.

The 8-inch long die cast double-decker Neoplan “Skiing Centre” miniature coach is a current China-produced “pull back” motor toy, sold at many U.S. souvenir outlets for about \$3.00. It has nice opening left side doors and full plastic interior. There are numerous versions of this toy model, but this one is my favorite with the ski figure painted right across the lower rear windows. Some of these may even turn up at Museum's Gift Shop. The model has a

lot of details for the low price, and the graphics are most colorful.

The third model featured in this issue is a piece that goes back to my childhood when tinsplate models from Japan were common to be found in U.S. toy stores. This one I do not remember ever seeing a real life counterpart to, and as was the case with so many of those old 1950's Japanese tinsplate toys, the box art often looked better than the actual model itself! This 1957 “GMC” School Bus is 12 inches long and fully battery operated. The headlights actually light, as do the red stoplights at the rear roof, and this wonderful model has actual stop and go action when the little switch is activated. This rather rare to find model today seemed to capture the look of those old late 1950's GM Coaches, in a charming way that only those old Japanese tinsplate toys could do. This old battery-operated miniature bus had lots of appeal back in the 1950's, but today it is truly a collector's item, and represents an era of toy production that we will never see again. All the new safety laws today would prohibit any of those old Japanese tinsplate models, with sharp edges, to be sold on today's market, but truly now this is a wonderful toy bus to add to our collection shelves. Happy Collecting!

Doug Campbell

Along the Line:

New acting Board Member, Oliver Ogden, an avid bus and truck enthusiast has been appointed to the position filling in for Richard Fullington. Oliver is one of our most active volunteers and can be seen at the Museum several times a week. His first love is older buses, which operated in and around New York City.

MOBT Membership:

We now have 439 members and are growing. Why not enlist a friend or co-worker? Let's swell the ranks in 2006!

Ron Patterson:

We regret to announce the passing of a loyal MOBT supporter, retired Capitol Trailways Bus Operator Ron Patterson.

Several MOBT members attended Ron's funeral and our own Reverend Dan Lehman provided the hearse. Ron was carried to his final resting place in Dan's 4905, followed by our Capitol 4106. Reverend Dan also delivered the gravesite eulogy.

Publicity:

The Lebanon Daily News, a widely circulated local paper

On the Cover: A collage of our October 29, 2005 Annual Meeting featuring George M. Sage.

in Central Pennsylvania, ran a two-page spread about the Bus Museum and suggested that it would be an excellent place to visit. The article featured several photos.

MOBT Monthly Meetings:

Generally, we meet at the Museum on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM. All members and guests are invited to attend, but it is suggested that you call ahead (717-566-7100 ext. 119), in case any changes occur.

MCI Day:

Bob Smith planned an "MCI Day" at the Museum, on November 16th. MCI's Walt Sturdivent, from their Blackwood, NJ office, contacted MCI customers from Pennsylvania (where they have a strong customer base) and invited them for a full day at the Museum. This included a tour, lunch and rides (or drives) in a new "J" or "D-4500". We supplied our unique two-axle MC-9 and a stick shift MC-8 for display, so the operators could reflect back a few years. There were 40 attendees, representing 24 companies.

Aerocoach:

Our 1945 Aerocoach model P45/37 (ex-Baran's Transit Lines No. 1945) has been shipped to ABC Bus Sales in Camden, NJ.

Clancey Cornell, Chairman of ABC and MOBT Board Member, offered to refinish it and ready it for display. It will be re-painted in Baran livery, with some enhancements, and re-numbered to No. 3, which is the original fleet number. Work is projected for completion in early February. We are, indeed, grateful to the Cornells and ABC for this generous offer. How many Aero's are still out there? Not many!

Fundraising Match:

George Sage, in his address to us at our annual meeting, announced that in support of the Museum he would match (dollar for dollar) any contributions through the end of CY 2006. For instance, if anyone makes a donation of \$50, it automatically becomes a \$100 donation, with his match. We strongly encourage you to make a contribution. We will continue to grow and enhance the Museum only through financial support. All contributions are tax deductible, as we are a 501-C—3 charitable organization.

Trailways "Oldies":

This photo, taken at our Annual Meeting, shows three former Trailways "old guys" left to right George Herwig (American Bus Lines), Tom Collins and Bob Beard (Safeway Trails, Inc.), and oh yes, the Hostess is "Joyce". Bob Beard was elected to our Board at the recent Annual Meeting (a welcome addition!).



4515 Donated:

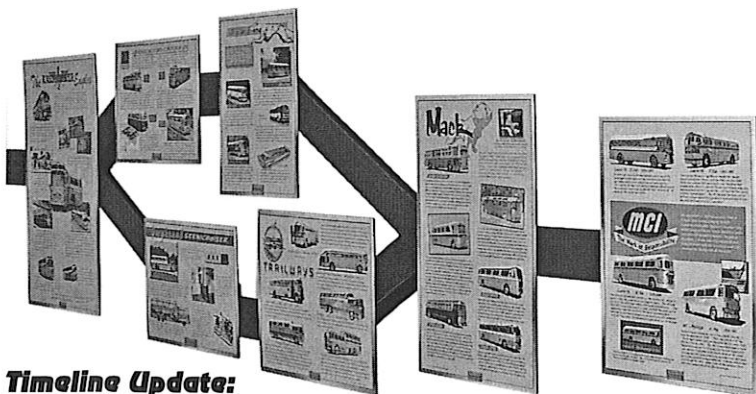
Lakeland Bus Lines, Inc. (Dover, NJ) has donated their 1959 GM Coach TDM 4515 (S/N 391) to the MOBT.

Numbered 108 in their fleet, this Coach was purchased new by Westwood Transportation as their No. 225. It had several owners before it ended up in Chet Furmanek's historical collection. Chet painted it in Lakeland colors, then sold it to Lakeland. It is about as pristine inside and out as a restored Coach could be and it's a "star" having appeared in the hit movie "Forrest Gump"!

It is now on the Museum floor, and we sincerely appreciate having this Coach in our fleet, thanks to Maureen Leo, Vice President of Lakeland.

Donations:

Donations were recently received from Dino Mandros, Concord Trailways, Lakeland Bus Lines, Dan Lehman, Don Barlup and Tom Kane. All were gratefully acknowledged.



Timeline Update:

Again, thanks to Vice President Bob Smith we are into the 1950's with full color timeline panels. Bob was honored at the Annual Meeting for his efforts. Consider the purchase of one of these panels. Call Bob at 717-361-7595.



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 York, 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.