



Atlantic Division Express

Where the TCA began



Convention Edition - August 2014

60th National TCA Convention Photo Album



PHILADELPHIA



It's unanimous-One of the best conventions ever!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It seemed like the day would never come. What day? June 21st, 2014, the first day of the National TCA Convention hosted by the Atlantic Division.

Four years of preparation and finally it was "game time". Saturday June 21st, the first day of the convention held at the Crowne Plaza in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Here came the TCA members checking in to the hotel and stopping by the AD registration desk that ran flawlessly thanks to Russ Keil, AD Vice President and Registration Chairman. The first of the scheduled tours went out and ran as planned thanks to Mike Ramsey, AD Treasurer and Tour Chairman, along with his committee. At the end of the day Russ and I commented that it was "One Down" without any problems. Little did we know that the week was to get better and better as it went along.

Each day the tours went out and returned on schedule with the happy tourists. Every day we received comments on how everyone was enjoying the tours and the selection of sites to which the buses took them.

Operating layouts were set up by various clubs while Bob Robinson and Glenn Stinson organized some magnificent static displays. These depicted Railroads and Toy Trains tied to the Philadelphia area.

Then one of the highlights, the Wednesday night Welcome Party. The Crowne Plaza provided us with a most wonderful "Taste of Philadelphia", Cheesesteaks, Hoagies, Soft Pretzels and Tastykakes. To top off the night the AD made arrangements for about twelve members of the Quaker City String Band to perform at 9 PM. My wife happened to see them getting ready and commented to me that there were about fifty of them in the lobby. She was close. Forty-eight members showed up. What a time. For the rest of the week all we heard was how much everyone enjoyed the surprise of the string band.

Thursday night we cruised the Delaware on the "Spirit of Philadelphia". Another great time. Great food and great sightseeing! Of course, we had planned perfect weather for this evening so all could enjoy the Philadelphia skyline at night, the Battleship New Jersey and the Ben Franklin Bridge lit up. Another round of accolades for this event.

The week continued to go by with flawless tours and events. Saturday, June 28th seemed to come quickly and we closed out the week with the Convention Banquet. Bill Erskine provided us with wonderful entertainment as MC. Another great meal from the hotel staff and a live auction. What better an auctioneer to have but our friend and AD member Ted Maurer? A lively auction ensued with many great items. One of the highlights for me was the Gold Banquet Caboose that sold for \$900.00.

All in all we continue to get comments such as "The best convention ever". It was certainly rewarding to see that the attendees enjoyed themselves after the long months and hours of planning and meetings.

I want to personally thank all of the members of the Atlantic Division Convention Committee and volunteers that helped make the 2014 TCA Convention the major success that it was. For anyone that missed it, you missed a great time. Thanks to everyone that came and helped us celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the TCA, "Where the TCA Began". Would we do it again? I'd say yes, but not in the near future, it was a lot of work, but as it turned to be well worth it.

We hope to see everyone in Somerset, June 2015.

Bob Lubonski
President, Atlantic Division, TCA

Registration: 'Game On!' The five boxes of completed registration materials were lined-up with supplies nearby for walk-ins and the occasional corrections to the contents. Signs and handouts were in place to make the convention a great experience. The registration process could not have been so successful without the work of Russ Keil, AD Vice-president, the convention Co-Chairs, Joe & Nancy Fisher and Terry Trickel, and the entire convention committee. These dedicated members and their significant others manned the registration desk, convention store, and provided help to members when and where it was needed from Sunday to closing on Saturday night. And a special 'Thank you' to the Crown Plaza staff who were the greatest team to work with and exceeded our expectations in making all of the activities possible.

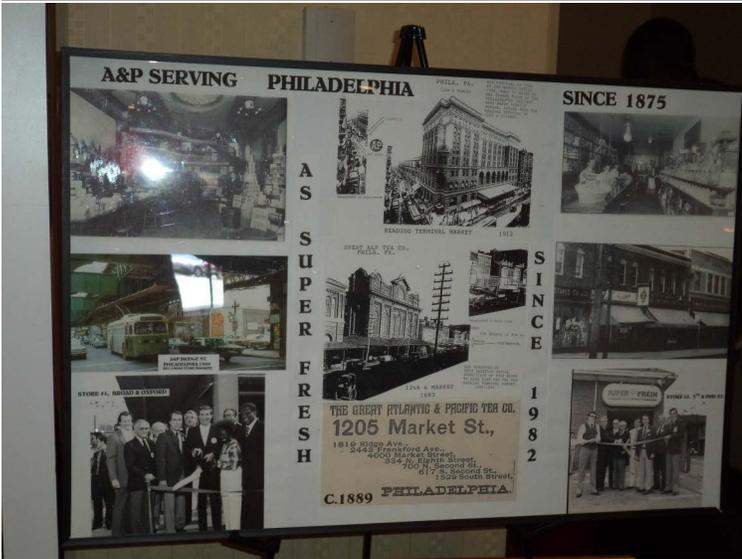


The displays showcased the railroad heritage of Philadelphia through manufacturers headquartered here and railroads of local and national fame. J. G. Brill Co., Edw. Budd Mfg. Co., Baldwin Locomotive Co., and Pennsylvania and Reading Railroads firmly established Philadelphia as the birthplace of American Railroads. These great businesses made them a natural for the toy train manufacturers to replicate their products in miniature and adopt and apply their logos to toy and scale toy trains. It is these trains that our members lent from their collections that made the public displays so successfully executed to tell our story about toy trains and railroading in Philadelphia.

Thanks to Bob Robinson, Bob Huppmann, Fred Tucker, and Rich Zipin for setting up the displays and to all the contributors who made these possible: W. Becker, Joe & Nancy Fisher, Chris Gans, Ed Kapuscinski, Russ Keil, Joe Lehman, Phil Meyers, Carl Pfeiffer, Bob Robinson, Garry Spear, Glenn Stinson, Fred Tucker and Rich Zipin.



The story of the Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company and many of the product advertising samples found and preserved to date. These were borrowed from the A&P Historical Society. Thanks to member Walter Waholek.



The Crusader story was front page news when it entered Reading's service from Philly to New York on December 13, 1937. Built collaboratively using two Reading RR's Pacific 4-6-2 (Nos. 117 and 118) and clad in stainless steel by the Budd Company. It brought streamlined transportation into the region. In the early 50's, the stainless steel skin was removed and the Pacific's were returned to freight service while the Crusader name continued under diesel power.



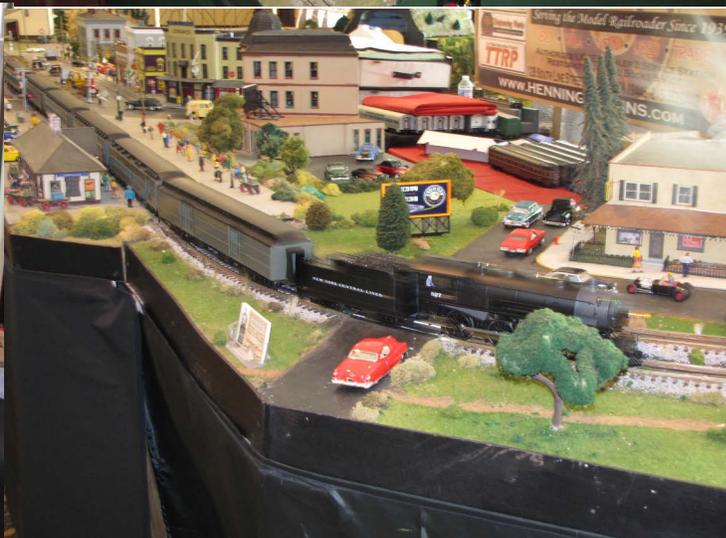
The operating layouts and Displays were enjoyed by all, convention attendees and the other hotel guests; many of whom were fascinated by the diversity of the running layouts and the skill of the modelers. Thanks to the crews who manned these from Wednesday through Saturday.

South Jersey S Gaugers from Stratford NJ: Joe B., Tom B., John B., Ed C., Ray F., Larry D, Hall F. Bob F. Frank F, Jerry M., Mike M., Michael McC., Geoffery McD., Ken P. Steve P., Joe S., Ron S., Hank W., and Rich W.

North Penn 'O' Gaugers from Henning's Trains, Lansdale, PA: Bill B., Bill H., Bryon H., Harry H., John W.

Garden State Lego User Group, & DelValley Lego User Group: Alan C, Mike M. Jenny and Jen

Standard Gauge Module Association: Ed B., Norm B. Chris B., Clem C., Kirk L., Wayne S.







There was plenty to do for the members and their children. The Kid's Club provided 'hands-on' fun and a presentation by a young collector. Thanks to Chairman Leon Duminiak for his efforts on making the Kid's Club fun for all. Lionel gave a presentation of new products and the National Members Meeting was held.



Tours: There were 20+ tours (some duplicated) that provided a glimpse of the region's railroads, historical and cultural attractions, and just fun places to experience. From Cape May, at the tip of New Jersey to Steamtown, near Scranton, and places in between, the buses ran from early morning to dinner time. A special thanks to Mike Ramsey and his committee for selecting the best tour company and then making the tours happen without a mistake. On the following pages are some of the tours and National Park Service photos of Steamtown, (as no one sent any). Many of the convention attendees were able to see some of the best of Philadelphia's attractions.

