



OZARK DIVISION **FALL NEWSLETTER**

2011

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<http://ozarkdivision-tca.org>



Train Show Update: As a result of a scheduling snafu the date for the Great St. Louis Before Christmas Train Show & Food Drive had to be changed to Saturday, December 17, 2011. No other changes. Look for the Great St. Louis After Christmas Train Show & Food Drive information later in this Newsletter.

Weaver Models has announced the release of a TOFC D&RGW flat car with a Riss trailer (U23019). For those who may remember the name Riss they were at one time one of the largest trucking companies in the United States with roots in the Midwest and specifically in Missouri as the company headquarters was located in Kansas City, MO.

Riss & Company, Inc. was started in 1927 by its founder Richard R. Riss, Sr. in Colorado. Operation began in 1928 with one truck hauling fresh produce between Colorado and the Rio Grande Valley. Richard Riss had his roots in Missouri as he was born in 1903 in the town of Poplar Bluff.

The depression forced many trucking companies out of business; however Riss & Company continued to grow its operation. In the early 1930s Richard Riss moved the company headquarters to Kansas City, MO at 15 W. 10th Street and opened their first terminal in that city. He soon had a location in Oklahoma and continued to expand their areas that they served. New routes were extended into Chicago, then to Boston on the East Coast and Dallas to the south.

The war years were very good to the company as they provided transportation services for the U. S. Government.

Following World War II Richard R. Riss, Sr. turned to building better service at lower rates. That meant investment in new rolling stock, terminal facilities and personal. New terminals would be built in various parts of the country. Their largest terminal was built in Boston which was the largest privately owned trucking terminal in the nation at that time. It was on a 14-acre tract of land and had facilities large enough to handle 500 trucks. From the late 1940s through the mid-1950s the company built terminals in Philadelphia, Jersey City, St. Louis, Oklahoma City, Detroit, Cleveland, Chicago, Trenton and Louisville, KY. By the mid 1950's their Cleveland terminal became the biggest

sitting on over a 50 acre site. During this period it was said that a Riss & Company, Inc. truck passed through the Pennsylvania Turnpike on average every 13 minutes.

As the company grew in the early 1950's it was documented they employed Owner/Driver's in addition to full time employees. They had 36,172 miles of road rights in 21 states and owned or operated 34 terminals in the United States.

In 1954 Riss & Company, Inc. placed one of the largest single orders for new trailers with Fruehauf Trailers numbering 1,400 of their "Car-A-Van" trailers. They also placed an order for 500 GMC "Cannonball" tractors. The engineers at GMC worked with the mechanical department at Riss with the design of the new trucks. The new tractor at Riss was painted bright red with a new sleeper cab. With the new rig they assigned two drivers, one to sleep while the other would drive. Their new trailers were all aluminum, silver in color with the company name on the sides in big red letters with their tag line "*Express Service at Freight Rates*". In addition to the reefer/box trailers they also had a fleet of flatbed trailers. Growing up in the 1950's I remember going by their terminal in St. Louis located on North Broadway in north St. Louis and seeing those red and silver tractor/trailer rigs and dreamed of being a truck driver. No matter what time of the day it was the terminal was a bee hive of activity. The terminal is still standing but today it is now a construction company storage yard.

Sometime during the early 1950's Riss & Company, Inc. pioneered a new way of moving trailers. I guess they were one of those early pioneers of "piggybacking" placing their trailers on railroad flat cars. By the mid to late 1950's they were shipping about 600 trailers a week in addition to their over the road operations.

By the mid 1950's Riss & Company, Inc. was the third largest trucking company in the United States. It was common to see a Riss & Company, Inc. rig rolling down a major highway with its red cab and silver trailers with RISS in big red letters on their sides.

In 1964 Robert B. Riss took over the company from his father. After his takeover he started making changes, some were visible and some were implemented to grow the company. One of the first visible changes was to take the big RISS off the sides of the trailers. In 1969 the company bought two cargo ships in Europe in an attempt to become an international shipper. Mr. Riss then changed the company name to Riss International.

Edward Riss was named President of Riss International in 1984 and in 1986 he purchased the company from his father Robert Riss. Unfortunately the company fell into bankruptcy and the operation closed its door for good in January 1990.

In addition to the release of the Weaver Models TOFC car there was another car offered back in 1958. It was an American Flyer Gilbert HO car #33509; Western Maryland flat car with a Riss trailer. Upon further investigation the car was offered only in two HO sets #30440 Hudson Freight set in 1958 and set # 30520 Challenger set in 1959. At the last York show I saw the Hudson Freight set which it appeared to be complete including a real good box. The price was right, well I think, but I didn't buy it, shame on me.

Membership Renewal: It's that time again to renew your annual \$10 membership to the Ozark Division. The procedure is real simple, complete the attached Ozark Division Order Form and mail it with your check payable to Ozark Division to the address on the order form. If you are not sure about your membership status check the mailing label and if a D-11 or lower number appears or there is no D or number it is time to renew or join the Ozark Division. Hopefully you will also order a car or convention gear.

Great St. Louis Before Christmas Train Show & Food Drive: You still have a little time to reserve your table(s) for this show. All you need to do is complete the attached registration form and get it postmarked by December 10, 2011.

Great St. Louis After Christmas Train Show & Food Drive: I am pleased to announce that the Ozark Division will be hosting along with the 8th Grade Youth at Zion Lutheran School on Saturday February 25, 2012. Please see the attached registration form with all of the details.

Trip to York: I made another trip to York this fall; you know Mecca for toy trains – if it was ever made it probably was there – for a price. I made the trip with David Osborn and David Aholt which was uneventful, we had good weather in both directions. It was what went on between the travel days. When we started out Wednesday the weather was cool with a cold light rain. Our first stop was at the Springettsbury Township Fire and Rescue fire house. We were about the only ones there, but it was early. That is where I saw the American Flyer HO set, should have bought it. Next stop was the “Billy Bud” and there was a little activity, some tables with stuff.

We left there and headed to the Best Western for the parking lot – but since had been raining there was only one seller, under a tent. Then on to the Holiday Inn, found a parking spot in front and set out on our safari looking for those hard to find treasures. I made a number of trips through the Ball Room, halls and side rooms looking for that illusive treasurer. No outside activity to speak of and it appeared that some sellers came inside as the front lobby had sellers. It was then on to the Reliance Fire House where American Flyer is spoken. It is worth the trip as you just don't know where you will find that treasurer.

We needed lunch so we decided to go to the “Plasticville” diner the Lyndon Diner, formally, the Starlight Diner. After leaving there we headed to the B & E Hobby Shop in downtown York. That trip didn't take long, and now what to do for the rest of the afternoon, with lite rain no outside activity we headed back to the hotel. After a short nap we headed off to the Toy Train Paper & Memorabilia meeting at the Liberty Fire Company – that is always an interesting couple of hours.

It's Thursday morning and we have headed off to the “Plasticville” diner for breakfast and met up with Rob English. Rob started off by saying that he left his credentials back in St. Louis and that is when I realized I left mine back at the hotel. I guess I should have known this trip was going to go downhill from there. I went back to the hotel to get my credentials and Rob was able to get replacement credentials. Off we went to the various

halls – I went off to the Silver and Blue in a lite rain. Got there a little before the bell rung and to my surprise the lines were very short. I was able to get around without much delay. Had the opportunity to visit with some people and not block any isles. I made my big purchased in the Purple Hall for the day. We headed back to the hotel and on to dinner at the Corner Stable.

It's now Friday morning; met Rob again at the "Plasticville" diner for breakfast – took off to the Fair Grounds in a lite rain. Once there my day went downhill from there, I committed the egregious act of stupid; I tripped and fell putting a gash in my head requiring 4 staples. I got to ride to the York Hospital in an ambulance and spend part of the day there, although I have to say the emergency room staff was comforting and helpful. David Osborn came over and waited and took me back to the hotel. I missed the convention planning meeting scheduled for Friday afternoon and giving a 2013 Convention up-date. That was one of the reasons for making the trip to York; the trains are the first and seeing old friends is second.

I was told that I wasn't the only person who had a bad day; there was another person transported to the hospital following a seizure or fall. There was a report of an individual who stole a "train" from the Charles Ro Display, he was captured and escorted off wearing silver bracelets.

In the grand scheme of things this trip was a good one; didn't hurt myself that bad - not that I wanted too. I had a good time. I got to bring home something different than anyone else – 4 staples. During our ride home we talked about the show - we though the attendance was thin.

I need to thank David Osborn and David Aholt for all of their help – without them it would have been very difficult to manage.

Convention Up-Date: "*Celebrating the Magic of Toy Trains*" is the theme for the 59th Annual TCA National Convention scheduled for June 23 – 29, 2013, so mark your calendars now, put those dates into your Franklin Planners, Blackberry's and iPhones. Probably the most difficult part of the planning is putting together and pulling off the excursions away from the host facility. We are planning a trip to Columbia, MO for the dinner train; trip to Springfield, IL for the Abraham Lincoln Museum and Library with two possible means of transportation - Amtrak or bus; and a dinner cruise. All of these activities will be sold on a first come basis.

The Ozark Division fund raising is going well, our first offering the Frisco TOFC is about sold out. Most of the car sales are going outside of the Ozark Division borders. We are now offering some Convention attire. Please see the Ozark Division Order Form for the attire or go to the Ozark Division Store at <http://ozarkdivision-tca.org> for pictures and descriptions. Hopefully you will order some of the convention gear.

Welcome Aboard: The following individuals have made application for membership to the TCA residing within the Ozark Division borders:

11-66637 Dan Cropp
1107 N. State
Norton, KS 67654
785-877-5415
wdobri@att.net

11-66642 Christopher M. Parsonage
14717 Kulkarni Ct.
Chesterfield, MO 63307
314-495-5600
cparsonage01@charter.net

11-66529 Wayne Ruland
401 So. 12th St.
Heber Springs, AR 72543
501-362-6342
smtnr@att.net

11-66785 Michael A. Shockey
8904 NE 36th St.
Newton, KS 67114
620-837-3006
mshockey@hughes.net

11-66569 Lale Shultz
1417 Sycamore Ct.
Gardner, KS 66030
913-484-2555
axleshultz@yahoo.com

Raymond Weber
1112 Rock St.
Little Rock, AR 72202
501-375-5677
rayweber@aol.com

Members Dropped: Listed below are members dropped by National for non-payment of membership renewal. If you know any of these individuals let them know we want them back:

93-37998 Linton Bayless
Cookingham

75-8185 C. Robert Bogardus

99-48929 John

96-42471 Charles Ekrut
Kubel

84-17061 James Keith

99-48731 Scott

92-36010 Kevin Kulaitis
Dennis E. Nord

76-8792 Joseph M. LaFata

81-17061

07-61850 Harry L. Osborn
W. Porter

78-12910 William Peters

99-48944 Tom

80-15683 Timothy Racz
Wagner

07-61680 Rick V. Swanter

09-David

Christmas Display: I have listed a few Christmas displays from around the Ozark Division:

St. Louis, MO: Macy's in downtown St. Louis, 7th and Locust St., windows once again are hosting the American Flyer display – not sure if it will return for 2012.

Gardenland Express at Missouri Botanical Garden, 4344 Shaw Blvd. thru January 1, 2012. Display open during the normal business hours of the Garden.

Kansas City, MO: Holiday Model Railroad Experience is going on at Kansas City Union Station, 30 W. Pershing. Display open during the normal business hours of the Station.

O'Fallon, MO: Jehling Hardware, 1137 N. Main St. (Hwy M); it is a sight to see with all the animation and lights. Display open during normal business hours.

St. Peters, MO: Santa's Trainland is now open at the St. Peters City Hall, 1 Saint Peters Centre Pkwy, Display open Monday thru Friday during normal city business hours.

North Little Rock, AR: LCCA Train Display at the William F. Laman Public Library, 2801 Orange St. The display will be open all day on Sunday December 18, 2011. For more information call 501-758-1720.

Oklahoma City, OK: The Christmas Train is Coming on Saturday December 17, 2011 at the Oklahoma Railway Museum, 3400 N.E. Grand Blvd. For more information call 405-424-8222.

Godfrey, IL: The Santa Train featuring the smiling tank car "Rudy" on a flat car that carries Santa's sleigh. The train will arrive at 4 pm on Tuesday, December 13, 2011 at the Pearl St. crossing on the Kansas City Southern Railroad. Off-site parking will be at Lewis & Clark Community College with buses to transport patrons to and from the train.

In Memoriam: On behalf of all members of the Train Collectors Association and especially from all members of the Ozark Division our deepest condolences to the families of William J. Krone (65-1191) and John D. Powers (00-50650) who passed away recently.

Future Events: Listed below are the planned dates for future events for the Ozark Division. All dates are also listed in the TCA National Headquarters Newsletter and at mvns.railfan.net and trainfinder.com click on Shows.

Saturday, February 25, 2012
Zion Lutheran School
3866 Harvester Rd.
St. Charles, MO 63304
9 am to 3 pm

Sunday, March 18, 2012
The Pointe
1 Ballwin Commons Dr.
Ballwin, MO 63021
10 am to 2 pm

Sunday, September 16, 2012
The Pointe
1 Ballwin Commons Dr.
Ballwin, MO 63021
10 am to 2pm

This is the "*World's Greatest Hobby*" and don't forget to "*Support Your Favorite Hobby Shop*".

Jon Lundvall
Editor