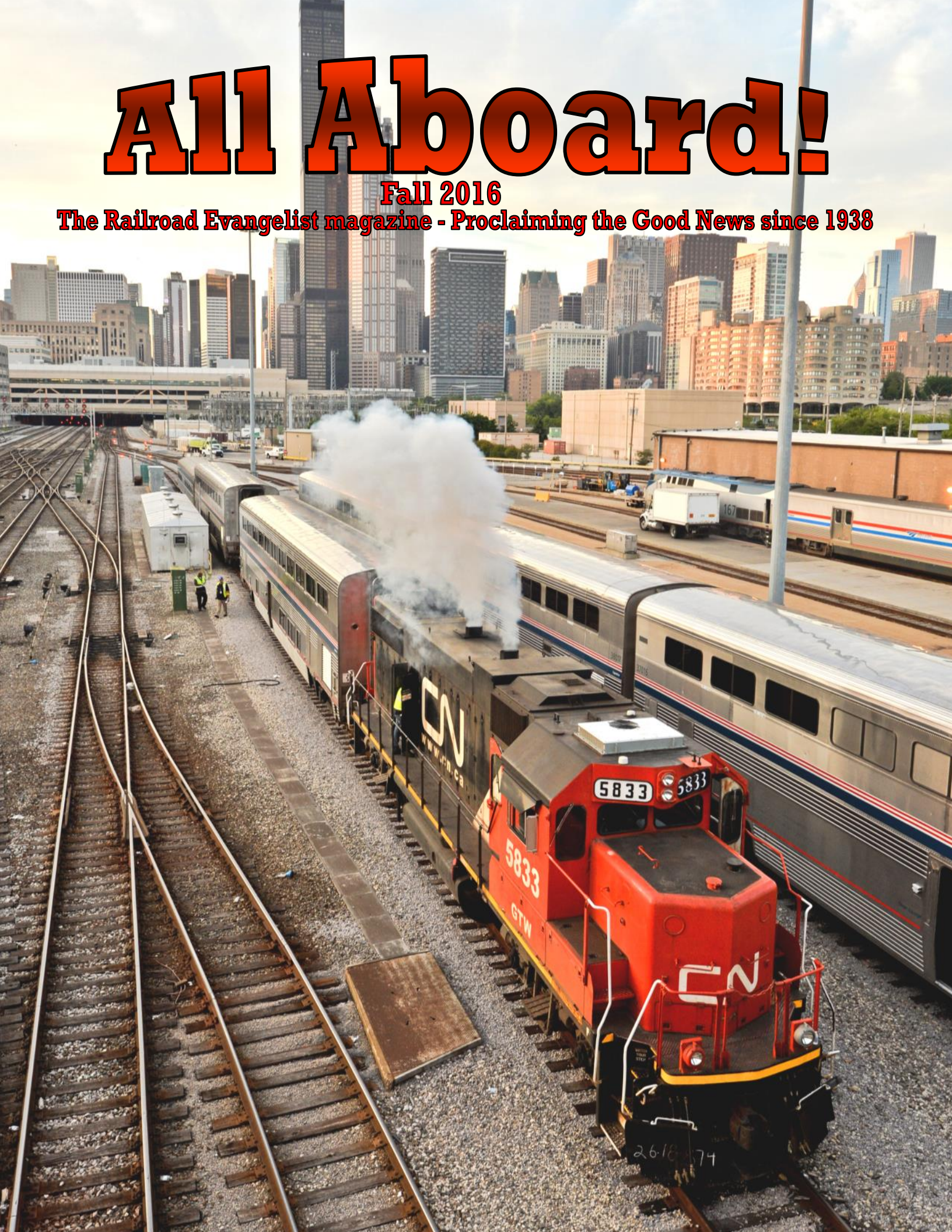


All Aboard!

Fall 2016

The Railroad Evangelist magazine - Proclaiming the Good News since 1938





***“The Heavens
declare the glory
of God; and
the firmament
sheweth His
handiwork.”***

Psalm 19:1

I spent the greater part of my forty-one year railroad career working as brakeman and locomotive engineer for the Santa Fe and BNSF. The majority of my runs occurred at night. Whenever my train was stopped at a control point or placed in a siding to meet an opposing train or to allow a following train to pass I would climb down from my engine or caboose to give that other train a roll-by inspection. While waiting for the other train to pass I would always look up at the night sky and count as many named stars, planets and constellations that I could recognize. In the high desert of Western New Mexico and Eastern Arizona the stars and Milky Way Galaxy shine very bright away from the interference of city lights. It is very awe-inspiring. I was always eventually drawn to locate the six stars that form the Northern Cross that corresponds to the constellation Cygnus the Swan. The Northern Cross serves as a reminder that JESUS died on the Cross of Calvary so that we may obtain salvation and eternal life. It is not by chance or coincidence that the Mighty GOD of the Universe has placed the cross to shine so bright in the firmament.

“When I consider Thy heavens, the works of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which Thou hast ordained; what is man, that Thou art mindful of him? Psalm 8:3-4a “He telleth the number of the stars; He calleth them all by their names. Great is our LORD, and of great power: His understanding is infinite”...Psalm 147:4-5


In the Southern Hemisphere seafarers and aviators navigate the seas and the skies at night by looking to the constellation Crux (Latin for cross) which forms the Southern Cross that leads them to safe harbor. There are occasions in our journey of life in which we find ourselves wandering in darkness and drifting on the choppy waters of life. It is comforting to know that during times of trial and tribulation we can look to cross and call upon the Savior to show us the way to the haven of rest. GOD has declared in his Word, ***“I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye”***...Psalm 32:8

We can look to the cross. Look to JESUS. He knows the way. He is the way, the truth and the life. (John 14:6)

May GOD richly bless each of you.
Yours in CHRIST,
David Wiegand

L-R is **Jim Bliss** REA Sec/Tres., **Rev. Paul Campbell**, REA National Chaplain, **Don Howell**, IRM Representative for REA, presenting REA President **David Wiegand** with the original certificate of our membership into IRM, August 2016. **Brother Arulraj**, International Railroad Evangelist for both REA and IRM from Chennai, India to the right.





**RAILROAD EVANGELIST
ASSOCIATION**

**"Proclaim
the good news
of His salvation
from day to day"**

Psalm 96:2

www.RailHopeAmerica.com

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Subscribe to the
**Railroad Evangelist
Magazine**

For \$10.00 a year you will receive one of the most unique non-denominational Christian Railroad magazines published. The Railroad Evangelist Association was founded by Luther S. Harkey (1885-1949) in 1941 with other Christian railroaders in Sanford, Florida.

Help spread the word by ordering the **Railroad Evangelist** magazines in bulk.

BULK COSTS

(Based upon per issue)

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**REA
255 State Route 49
Cleveland, NY 13042**

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Jesus said

"Go into all the world and preach the gospel."

Your membership, subscriptions and tax deductible donations are greatly appreciated, as they are the only means we have to continue publishing and proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ to the entire railroad community worldwide through the *Railroad Evangelist* magazine. Your financial gifts also underwrite the cost and make it possible for us to send the *Railroad Evangelist* magazine out individually and in bulk supply as our home and missionary outreach. We thank God for each and every one of you who have joined with this railroad literature evangelistic ministry with your prayers and support.

NOW that we have a new web page: **RailHopeAmerica.com** where one can DONATE online. We ask you to consider making a monthly contribution that can be taken out automatically each month as we continue to co-labor with God in the Railroad Community mission field.

We pray and trust God will abundantly bless you for your sacrificial giving as He **"is able to make all grace abound towards you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, have an abundance for every good work."**
2 Corinthians 9:8

"A LITTLE IS A LOT WHEN GOD IS IN IT" Luke 9:12-17

All Aboard!

Membership in the Railroad Evangelistic Association is open to all who desire to reach the railroad community worldwide with the Good News of Jesus Christ. For \$15.00 you will receive your REA Annual membership card (\$5.00) and a one year subscription (\$10.00 - 3 issues) to the **RAILROAD EVANGELIST** magazine. REA has no paid staff, all proceeds go to printing and mailing the Good News. Thank you.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN REA

Please check the appropriate box.

- ☐ I am an active railroad employee.
I am a former/retired railroad employee.
- ☐ My spouse is/was an active/former/retired railroad employee.
- ☐ I am a model railroad hobbyist.
I am a rail fan enthusiast.
- ☐ My interest in REA is _____
Sending \$5.00 for REA membership for one year.
Sending \$10.00 for a one year subscription.
- ☐ I would like to make a donation. _____

Please cut, photocopy or send appropriate information pertaining to the above application form and mail it to:

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Cleveland, NY 13042

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- Mission Statement -

The Railroad Evangelistic Association exists to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to the entire railroad community worldwide and to promote mutual Christian fellowship among, though not limited to, those of the railroad industry, the model railroad hobbyists and the rail fan enthusiasts.

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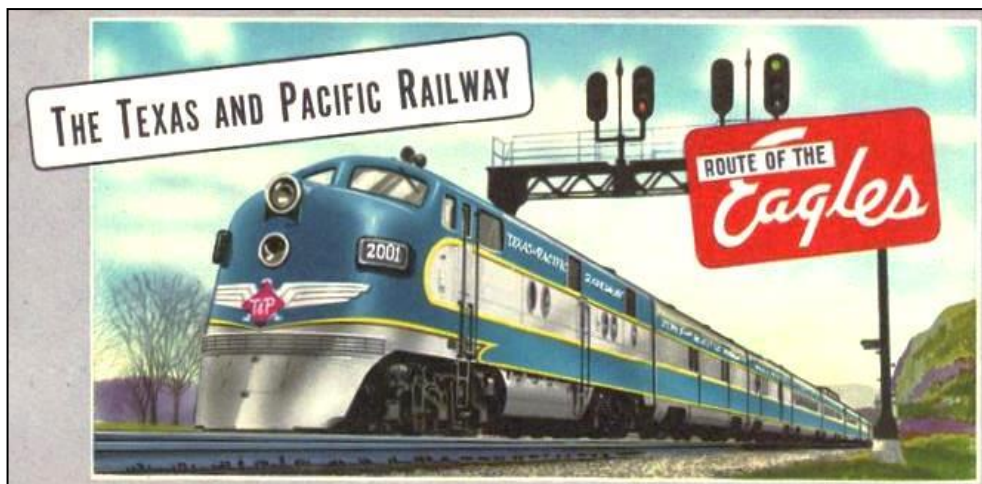
WE BELIEVE

1. We believe in the Scripture of the Old and New Testaments as verbally inspired by God, and inerrant in the original writings. They are the supreme and final authority in faith and life.
2. We believe in one God eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
3. We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, and is true God and true Man.
4. We believe that man was created in the image of God: that he sinned, and thereby incurred, not only physical death, but also Spiritual death which is separation from God. All human beings are born with a sinful nature, and in the case of those who reach moral responsibility become sinners in thought, word, and deed.
5. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice. In addition that all who believe in Him are justified on the ground of His shed Blood.
6. We believe in the resurrection of the crucified Body of our Lord, in His Ascension into Heaven and in His present life there for us, as High Priest and Advocate.
7. We believe in "that blessed hope," the personal, premillennial, and imminent return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
8. We believe that all who receive by faith the Lord Jesus Christ are born again of the Holy Spirit and thereby become children of God.
9. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved, and the everlasting, conscious punishment of the lost.

- The Railroad Evangelistic Association Inc.

FERRO-EQUINOLOGY AT PRAYER TIME

While preparing this article, my wife and I celebrated 50 years of marriage in Branson Mo, taking a trip on the Branson Scenic Railway. The train was pulled by two former Baltimore & Ohio EMD units. The consist was all Budd-built cars and we were privileged to ride in the dome car, *Silver Island*, which Budd built for the CB&Q to operate on the *TWIN CITIES ZEPHYR*. The first car behind the locomotive ran on the Texas & Pacific *TEXAS EAGLE*. I became enamored with the T&P when I ran across an article in the 1950s, titled, "The Iron Horse (ferro-equinology) That Prays."



American Flyer 'S' gauge #377 Texas & Pacific GP-7 power diesel unit

and Silver." I managed to secure one GP7 and it still operates on my AF layout.

In previous issues of **ALL ABOARD**, we have detailed that this railroad was operated on the principle of faith - encouraging Bible reading and church attendance. (See Summer and Fall 2015 issues.) This was my kind of railroad! Then the new American Flyer S-scale catalog came out and the featured train was a 2-unit, GP7, resplendent in a T&P "Swamp Holly Orange & Black" paint scheme. AF did some units in parent company Missouri Pacific "Blue

Here is the article, "**The Iron Horse that Prays**," written by Lewis Nordyke as it appeared in the 1950s. It was reprinted from **TEXAS PARADE** magazine and copies were distributed by the Texas & Pacific Railway. Lewis is gone; the Parade magazine is not printed; the T&P disappeared into the Missouri Pacific which became part of the Union Pacific. With a few changes and some corporate deletions for readability, here is what Mr. Nordyke wrote in the 1950s:

"We lived on a farm in Callahan County, several miles from the Texas and Pacific Railway. On particularly clear evenings, we heard the far-off rumble of the trains. On still, frosty nights, the moan of the whistle reached our ears; it sounded as if it were a thousand lonely miles away. Often when farm work seemed a drudgery, I listened for the sounds of the trains and promised myself, hopefully, that some sweet day the railroad would carry me far away, and eventually it did.

In a way that was very real to a boy, the railroad connected our isolated little farm with the world on the other side of a ridge of hills. Having felt on friendly terms with the railroad when I was a boy, I have retained a certain affection for it. So, it was with awe born of these boyhood experiences that I recently ventured into the T&P head office on Elm Street in Dallas. Upon entering the office of J.B. Shores, the Director of Employee and Public Relations, I somehow was not surprised to see a large placard with this wording:

IN GOD WE TRUST

...DO WE OR DON'T WE?

I had seen timetables and posters telling of some special services around rail line offices and depots, but this was the first time I had observed a church-like sign in such a place. Well, it turned out that the T&P, my railroad friend of boyhood, is an **iron horse that prays**. The placard was a part of an advertising program through which the T&P has been fostering, with nationwide success, the idea of faith, prayer, Godliness and good, solid citizenship. W.G. Vollmer, a veteran railroader who is the T&P President, and Shores, inspired this unusual program, which has proved false the theory

that all corporations are cold and soulless. Later, while on a trip of many miles along the T&P, I learned that the locomotive bells that used to make boys and horses prance, now call folks to church on Sunday. The bellowing belch of the diesel horn is now heard on the long line of the T&P – between New Orleans and El Paso. When diesels replaced the plunging, hissing old steamers, the locomotives were dismantled in the shops at Marshall TX. There was a keen demand among collectors for the brass bells, but Vollmer gave them to churches along the railroad right-of-way.



My long-harbored feeling that the smoke and rumbling of the T&P were symbols of friendship, has been shared by others. For years a little girl in a rural section of Louisiana ran out every day and waved gleefully at T&P trains. Crewman came to expect the pleasure of this greeting from a lonely child. When Vollmer heard of the little girl, he set up a special train trip for the youngster and her mother. They rode in great style into New Orleans and toured the old city as guests of the railroad.

When another little girl, Marlene Wendt of Oxford, LA, wrote the T&P in Dallas, she posed a problem that perhaps no other railroad had ever faced. Marlene reported that a T&P engine had run over and killed Cinder, her cat. Cinder was coal-black except for one white whisker. The T&P set out to find a cat that would replace Cinder. An exhaustive search of the feline world of Dallas failed, and the railroaders headed for the next city, Fort Worth; there they found a black cat with a single white whisker, but it belonged to a child that loved it. The railroaders were stuck until they learned that the owner of the cat might be willing to swap it for a certain kind of puppy. They bought the pup and finally made the trade. Then one day a passenger train slowed down to a stop at Oxford. Engineer W.R. Hargrove leaned far out his cab with a black cat in a basket in his hands. He placed Cinder II in the waiting arms of the overjoyed Marlene.

I used to laze on the curb at the little town of Putnam, and watch, and listen to, the passenger trains go thundering through. On those days, a good many blue-bellied farmers were in town, chewing the fat, whittling or just killing time on the shady side of the street. Nearly every man in sight pulled out his watch when a train breezed by, and at least one remarked: "She's right on the dot." You could set your watch by the **Sunshine Special**. Folks along the way – within hearing distance – naturally came to depend on the railroad and to consider it a friendly neighbor of long standing. It had a certain warmth of character and a disposition to help people who needed help. The T&P hasn't changed in this respect; it still runs errands. Not long ago a lady in eastern Texas who had been reading the spiritual messages of the road's advertisements, wrote the T&P of her difficulty. She had a dear friend in a Dallas hospital but was unable to get to Dallas. So, she was sending some money and would the T&P please see that a bouquet of rosebuds was sent to the sick friend? Mr. Shores lost no time in getting the rosebuds delivered.

In some circles, this may look like a crazy way to run a railroad, but it has paid off. Not only has the T&P won and kept a lot of friends, it has enjoyed increasing business. All of its life it has been a lively, almost personable railroad. It covers 1,834 miles as part of the Missouri Pacific System, but it is operated independently. It connects with the MoPac at Texarkana for St. Louis, Chicago and the East; with the Illinois Central at Shreveport for points north, east and southeast; and at New Orleans will all railroads for points in the south and east. Perhaps the most historic connection is at El Paso, where the T&P joins the Southern Pacific for the West Coast run.

What is known today as the friendly and progressive old T&P had its first run on a January day in 1858 over 23 miles of track that wound through the pine-clad hills between Swanson's Landing and Marshall TX. The T&P wasn't



established until 1871, but it grew from that early little road. When the line was chartered, one of the main stipulations was that service start by February 1, 1858. The track was ready by deadline. A few railway cars were on hand, but the river boat commissioned to haul in the locomotive had not arrived. For miles around the people crowded into Marshall to witness the arrival of the mighty choo-choo. The train simply had to run. With the diligence that later found in Fort Worth a black cat with a white whisker, the railroaders rounded up three yoke of oxen and hooked them to the train, which consisted of two boxcars and a flat car. The engineer crawled aboard, cracked his bullwhip, and the train squeaked to a start. On level ground and uphill, the

oxen tugged the train. At the top of each hill the train was stopped and the oxen were tethered on top of the flatcar. The handbrakes were released and the train went high-tailing it down the hill. In this manner it rolled into town, much to the delight of the throngs waiting there. The T&P came into being by that name in 1871, and in 1873 it built into Dallas. On July 19, 1876, the Fort Worth Cornet Band and a lot of other folks were out to greet the first T&P train, which was pulled by a snorting, steamy locomotive ---old Number 20.

From this wild stage of railroading in the rough, the T&P grew into the great line it is today. It took on some very big names – Jay Gould, Russell Sage, George Pullman, Charles Woerishoffer, William T. Scott and the great railroad builder, General Grenville M. Dodge. In the long, pioneering era the road had only five men as president before Vollmer took that job. These men were tough old financial wizards and industrial moguls and bold railroaders. None was more of a fighting pioneer than Vollmer, the man who approves religious programs and advertisements, placing Bibles in the lounge cars of his luxurious trains. Vollmer doesn't have to close depots to keep cowboys from shooting out the lights, but he figures that the ways of free life which instilled in men the determination to build railroads and nurture settlement in wide new lands are under attack by forces many times more violent than the sting of a six-gun slug.

Vollmer is a mild-appearing man who shies away from personal publicity. He looks a good deal younger than his 68 years. He came up the slow, hard way. He was born in Cincinnati. His college training was limited to a course in a business school. In 1902, when he was 16 years old, Vollmer took a job as stenographer on the Pennsylvania RR. In his early days he worked in passenger traffic, maintenance, engineering and operating; he was with the B&O and the Rock Island before starting a 40-year stint with the Missouri Pacific. In 1917, he became assistant to the president of the MoPac, and 26 years later he was made its senior vice-president. In May, 1945, he was sent to Dallas to take over as president of the T&P. In the troublous period after the 2nd World War, Vollmer realized that a good many employees were harassed by fear and uncertainty – a dread of what the future, with or without war, might hold. He saw further that a lot of employees elsewhere harbored fears. To Vollmer – a lifelong Christian – it was fairly plain that what anxious people needed was a good dose of whatever it takes to rekindle faith, courage and citizenship.

Vollmer and Shores started thinking along this line – two religious men pondering on what one railroad could do to preach the gospel of old-time faith. They hit on the idea of institutional advertising designed to renew faith in God, country and fellowmen. Before Vollmer, the railroad had not been a big advertiser and had a meager budget for such activities. He decided to spend some money to back his convictions, and soon the T&P was expending \$200,000 annually on advertising that said not a word about wanting business for the railroad.

In May, 1951, newspapers along the T&P carried the first advertisements, which were titled, "How You Can Make America Strong." Later, some of the ads were published in national magazines. Prior to this unusual railroad advertising, Vollmer had published an article, "The Four Pillars of Freedom." It was printed in a booklet and offered gratis. Before Vollmer and Shores could realize what was happening, there were covered with bales of mail – requests for the booklet and for copies of the ads. The inspirational message touched off something in hundreds of thousands of persons. Another series of ads, and a booklet by Vollmer, discussed the **Four Great Faiths – Faith in God...Faith in Ourselves...Faith in our Fellowman...Faith in Freedom.** More mail – great sacks of it. By now, printing presses have turned out millions of copies of the ads and booklets. The heads of great industries have written Vollmer – praising him highly for inspiring and distributing the straightforward message on faith, character and citizenship. Many an industrial concern has ordered hundreds of thousands of copies of the booklets for distribution among employees and customers.



And the program goes on. To me this doesn't seem odd; it sort of matches up with my boyhood opinion of the Texas & Pacific. But I did pick up one piece of economic information. Last year, a time when business was generally good all over the country, the T&P paid its shareholders an \$8 per common share dividend, the biggest in all 83 years of its history."

Texas & Pacific E7 2000 posed at Dallas Union Terminal, March 1947; in blue livery, porthole windows and metal nose emblem as ordered by T&P parent Missouri Pacific for their Eagle Passenger trains.

Much of the T&P storied history was deleted in this article, so if you would like a complete copy, please contact me and I will send you the complete article by Lewis Nordyke from the 1950s.

IRM 2016 Report

Goslar, Germany
By Donald Howell

As your Railway Evangelistic Association Representative to the International Railway Mission (IRM), I attended the 2016 IRM Conference and Retreat in Goslar, Germany, this past August. This was a wonderful experience and it was a great honor to represent the REA and the United States as a new member into the IRM organization. We were accepted by unanimous vote! Through your generous gifts, we also presented a gift blessing to the IRM for use in producing Railway Employee Bibles.



During the formal ceremonies, I carried our National Flag into the General Assembly. I also participated in daily Bible devotionals, morning, and evening worship services and of course, some business meetings. We also had opportunities to travel to nearby sites, such as Saint John's Cathedral and the Church where Martin Luther led the Reformation and also to Hartz Mountain, the highest mountain in Germany on a 1799 steamer! This was the location of Soviet/East Germany observation post and traveling there was especially significant to me, as a former US officer stationed in Germany during the "Cold War."



The fellowship, friendship and love for each other was incredible as the Railway Mission ministries from many different countries met together to share God's greatness in our profession of serving the Lord Jesus in carrying the Good News through the vast railway systems around the world.

The next IRM Convention/Vacation in 2019 will be held in ??? The USA is one possible choice. We **have** to pray about this!



Don Howell, Goslar, Germany 2016

Meet Daniel Saarbourg

Germany

Daniel is a professional photographer and graphic artist. His excellent graphic designs and photographs are evident in every publication of recent years in the International Railway Missions publications and calendars. I (editor) met and took this photo of Daniel when I attended the IRM convention/vacation in 2007 at Eastborne, England. Daniels web page is listed below. It helps if you know German!

<http://www.daniel.saarbourg.de/>



RailHope South Africa



Newly formed and accepted into the IRM network of Railway Missions is RailHope South Africa. The mission of RailHope South Africa is to pray for all employees, management, commuters, the safe handling of freight, a crime free work environment and for the profitability and sustainability of our companies. We undertake to evangelize within our industry and represent the love of Christ for the lost thereby bringing them HOPE.





2016 75th REA Convention SnapShots



REA President David Wiegand

Rev. Alan Harkey

Rev. Keith Holt

Rev. Robert Glass

Rev. Magead Salloum

Donald Howell

Joanna Salloum

Jim Bliss & Rev. Paul Campbell

Craig James

Phil Hannum

Jim Bliss

Dr. Ben Salloum

Rev Alan Harkey & Joe Spooner

Allan Carpenter

REA/IRM Evangelist Arulraj

Beverly Salloum

The "Cathedral Singers" Evie, Juanita, Beverly and Rosalee

Rosalee Wiegand

Evie Bliss

Mary Clifton

Marlene Sampson & Jim Bliss

Dr. Ben Salloum & family

Marlene Sampson

Juanita Thomas

Janet Harkey



The REA Hallelujah Gospel Band



First time at REA. L-R, Sally Wiltsie, Harry & Barbara Hassler



Joe Spooner & Rev. Paul Campbell



Rev. Keith & Linda Holt



Trucker Chaplain Carl Cook



Last evening together in a closing circle of prayer



Chaplain Carl Cook ministers to truck drivers in the trailer Chapel to the left. Carl is an REA member and has been coming to the Conventions each year. Carl's photo is directly above wearing that good looking white beard!



MAINLINE SERVICE

REA's 4 TRACKS OF OUTREACH TO THE RAILROAD COMMUNITY

1. Freight service

2. Passenger - Amtrak service

3. Model RR / Rail Fans

4. Light / Commuter Rail

PRAY: Ask God for REA to have an increase influence into the four MainLine Railroad Community tracks listed above.

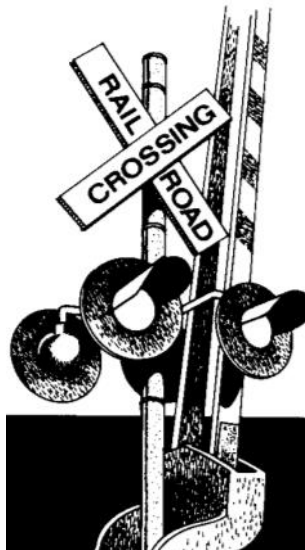
PRAY: Ask God to awaken those Christians to begin reaching out to their co-workers and friends involved in one of the four tracks listed above in a new and effective way. We believe everyone, everywhere needs to be on the right track to Heaven through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. (see page 12)

PRAY: Ask God to bring in new and additional financial support as REA expands with a renewed focus and dedication to proclaim the Good News of the everlasting gospel through the printed page and beyond. Amen!

Evangelistic REA Railroad Association

"And God is able to make all grace abound towards you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work."

II Corinthians 9:8



1 Savior + 3 Nails = 4 Given



Letters from the Mail Bag

Send correspondence to editor:
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Vancouver, WA
or e-mail
RailroadEvangelist@comcast.net

REA,
Thank you for the great job on my article (Spring 2016 page 8). I like the poem next to it. I hope it will make a difference in someone's life. The article "Derailed" touched me because I have been there several times not only on my train but in real life as well. Thanks for your wonderful ministry. I am looking forward to my next issue.
Yours in Christ,
Lester Igou
Rincon, GA

REA,
I just ran across a laugh track from you folks. We have been going through many health issues. There is a light at the end of the tunnel, even though it is a tiny candle, it is still a light. The Laugh Track, this week, during a very difficult recovery time from some heart issues along with Proverbs 17:22 and John 16:11 popped out.
Sue and Doug Barns
Estacada, OR

REA,
Many years ago I went to the Malaga REA Chapter with Charles and Evelyn Green. I have been receiving "All Aboard!" ever since. Thank you, we enjoy reading it then pass it on.
Margaret Caldwell
Port Norris, NJ



The 4:52 to Penn Station

By
Harry Hassler

*When the evening sun goes down,
I'll find a place to lay me down.
But when the train comes by at dawn
"It's 'so long pal, I'm moving on'.
I'm going somewhere I ain't never been.
And when I make my final run,
To that land beyond the sitting sun.
I know I won't be coming back,
When I see Jesus at the end of the track.*

Helping Hand

By Harry Hassler
Retired New York
City Transit Police.
Volunteer Amtrak
Chaplain



Sometime ago while driving home I switched on the radio to catch the news and weather report. When the news broadcaster had finished giving the news, his final comment really got my attention, "I hope you did something of value today. You wasted the whole day if you didn't". There are so many ways we can be a blessing to others that books could be written about them, and the really good thing is that most of the blessing would cost us nothing. The following true story illustrates how a little act of kindness can bless the giver as well as the receiver. Late one night at around 11:30, an older African American woman was standing on the side of an Alabama highway trying to endure a lashing rainstorm. Her car had broken down and she desperately needed a ride. Soaking wet she decided to flag down the next car. A young white man stopped to help her, an occurrence that was not that common in the 1960's. The man took her to safety, helped her to get assistance, and put her in a taxicab. She seemed to be in a big hurry. She wrote down his address, thanked him, and the taxi drove away. About seven days later, there was a knock on the man's door. To his surprise a giant console TV was delivered to his home. A special note was attached. It read: Thank you so much for assisting me on the highway the other night. The rain drenched not only my clothes but my spirit. Then you came along. Because of you, I was able to make it to my dying husband's bedside just before he passed away. God bless you for helping me and unselfishly serving others.

Signed: Mrs. Nat King Cole

After reading the above piece, the following occurred to me: that my years working as a police officer offered me the opportunity to serve others, and for that I was deeply grateful.

NOTE: Harry Hassler wants to begin a REA Chapter in the Long Island, New York area. For more information contact Harry at: 1-516-795-1453.



For their first time at an REA Convention both Harry and Barbara Hassler from Long Island, New York shared a greeting to REA attendee's. They said, 'they'll be back!'



Cover Shot



The exquisite cover photo was taken by Sean McPherson of the CN # 5833 leaving Union Station, Chicago, Illinois on August 1, 2016. Photo used by permission. ©

The Canadian National Railway Company (CN)

is a Canadian Class 1 railway headquartered in Montreal, Quebec that serves Canada and the Midwestern and Southern United States. CN is a public company with 24,000 employees. CN was government-owned, having been a Canadian Crown corporation from its founding to its privatization in 1995. CN is the largest railway in Canada, in terms of both revenue and the physical size of its rail network, and is currently Canada's only transcontinental railway company, spanning Canada from the Atlantic coast in Nova Scotia to the Pacific coast in British Columbia.

Following CN's purchase of Illinois Central Railroad (IC) and a number of smaller US railways, it also has extensive trackage in the central United States along the Mississippi River valley from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico. Today, CN owns about 20,400 route miles (32,831 km) of track in 8 provinces. The railway was referred to as the **Canadian National Railways** (CNR) between 1918 and 1960, and as **Canadian National** (CN) from 1960 to the present. Information from Wikipedia.



REA is asking you to consider making a donation of any amount to the REA Scholarship fund. We believe it will not only be a help and blessing to the recipient but will also introduce REA to a new generation of future railway employees and to the ministry of REA in reaching the entire railroad community world-wide with the Good News of Christ. If you are able to help please send your donation to:

Jim Bless
REA Sec/Tres.
255 State Route 49
Cleveland, NY 13042

FRIENDS OF REA

Friend of REA is for those who are incarcerated or confined to a facility who receive REA's Railroad Evangelist, "All Aboard!" and would like to correspond with other REAers.

Please Note

Be patient in writing our railroad related inmates. Be consistent in writing to them as they need our encouragement, prayers and support. Mail your letters direct to them. If your letters are returned, there is probably no use in re-sending them as addresses change without getting new ones. REMEMBER, do not use address labels or REA stickers on envelopes unless you have the inmates say it is okay.

Jeremy Neff
1015 Commerce Ave.
Vero Beach, FL 32960

Michael Behn # 292354
PO Box 861
Trenton, NJ 08625

Richard F. Bryant #262261-P2-121-S
Gulf Correctional Institution Annex
Ike Steele Rd.
WeWahitchka, FL 32465-0010

Jay E. Glenewinkel #56817-280
FCI
PO Box 5000
Oakdale, LA 71463

Carl Sonne #77049 NCF
138 E. Milan Road
Berlin, NH 03570

David A. Meeks Larson 2 North
Logansport State Hospital
1098 South State Rd 25
Logansport, IN 46947

Michael B. Liebal DC
#979921 E2-125L
Holmes Correctional Institution
3142 Thomas Dr.
Bonifay, FL 32425

For more information on
"Friends of REA" contact:

Rev. Steve Seidler
810 18th Street SE
Owatonna, MN 55060



"I was in
prison
and you
visited
me"



> A Kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they were drawing. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's work. As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was. The girl replied, 'I'm drawing God.' The teacher paused and said, 'But no one knows what God looks like.' Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, 'They will in a minute.'

> The children had all been photographed, and the teacher was trying to persuade them each to buy a copy of the group picture. 'Just think how nice it will be to look at it when you are all grown up and say, 'There's Jennifer, she's a lawyer,' or 'That's Michael, He's a doctor.' A small voice at the back of the room rang out, 'And there's the teacher, she's dead.'

> The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun made a note, and posted on the apple tray: 'Take only ONE ... God is watching.' Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A child had written a note, 'Take all you want. God is watching the apples..'

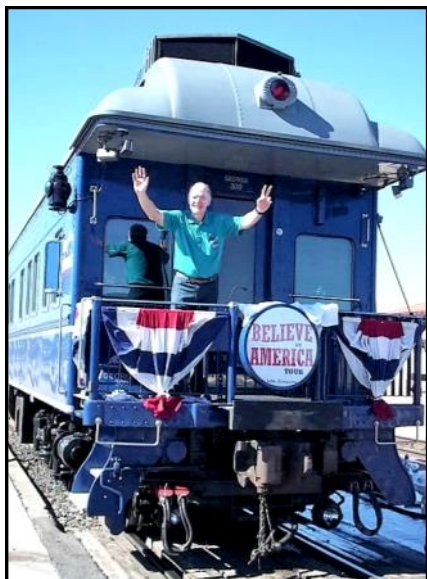
> A teacher was giving a lesson on the circulation of the blood. Trying to make the matter clearer, she said, 'Now, class, if I stood on my head, the blood, as you know, would run into it, and I would turn red in the face.' 'Yes,' the class said. 'Then why is it that while I am standing upright in the ordinary position the blood doesn't run into my feet?' A little fellow shouted, 'Cause your feet ain't empty.'

> Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her month, 'why is the bride dressed in white? The mother replied, 'Because white is the color of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life. The child thought about this for a moment then said, 'So why is the groom wearing black?'

*"A cheerful heart
does good like a medicine"*

Proverbs 17:22 - Living Bible

REA President
David Wiegand
on the "Believe
in America Tour"
train signaling,
'Victory Ahead'
for REA as God
increases the
influence of REA
in the Railroad
Community
around the world.
Begin now to
pray, plan and
prepare to come
to the next REA
August 2017.



Begin planning to attend the 76th National
Railroad Evangelistic Association
Convention - Everyone is Welcome!
August 14- 18, 2017

Located in the peaceful hills of Pennsylvania at the
Bongiorno Conference Center
430 Union Hall Road Carlisle, PA 17013

Room rate for the week - including meals & tax:

Double occupancy....\$320.00 (each)

Single occupancy....\$350.00

Three or more in a room....\$290.00 (each)
(Prices subject to change)

Please send in your \$20.00 (non-refundable)
deposit as soon as possible to:

REA Registrar

Mrs. Beverly Salloum
720 W. Thomas Street
Rome, NY 13440

(315) 525-4787 (cell)

E-mail: revsalloum@cheerful.com

If at all possible please have your convention expense paid
in full two weeks prior to the convention. Thank you!

REGISTRATION to receive name tag and room key is on
Monday August 15th from 2-5 PM. Dinner at 5:00 PM.

AREA ATTRACTIONS

Located within driving distance is:

- >Historic Carlisle - US Army War College - 15 minutes.
- >Gettysburg - About a 30 minute drive.
- >Hershey - About a 45 minute drive.
- >Strasburg RR community - A little over an hour drive.
- >Sight & Sound Theater in Lancaster - A little over an hour.
- >The heart of the Amish in Lancaster - A little over an hour.
- >National Civil War Museum - Harrisburg - About 30 minutes.
- >Washington D.C. - About 2 1/2 hour drive.
- >Valley Forge / Philadelphia - About 3 hours

-PLUS A WHOLE LOT MORE! -

JESUS

said

"I AM the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except
through Me." John 14:6

"I AM the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in dark-
ness, but have the light of life." John 8:12

"I AM the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he
who believes in Me shall never thirst." John 6:35

"I AM the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved..." John 10:9

"I AM the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the
sheep." John 10:11

"I AM the true vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in
him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing." John 15:5

"I AM the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he
may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never
die. Do you believe this?." John 11:25,26



FACT The Bible gives us the absolute truth that applies to all
people, of all nations, for all times. *"But God demon-
strated His own love towards us, in that while we were
still sinners, Christ died for us."* Romans 5:8

FAITH Just as you would place your complete and total trust in
your parachute before you jump from a plane you must
put your total and complete trust in Jesus Christ to for-
give you of your sins. *"For by grace you have been saved
through faith, and not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of
works, least anyone should boast."*

Ephesians 2:8,9

FEELING Our salvation is not based on the way we feel but in the
fact that our **faith** is founded in the word of God. But
Jesus did say, *"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you,
you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you...These
things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and
that your joy may be full."* John 15: 7&11

Please consider the words of Jesus carefully as your ultimate
conclusion and decision will have eternal consequences. You
can pray, right now, to receive Christ into your life today. You
will never, ever regret it and if you will "seek first the kingdom of
God and His righteousness, (Matthew 6:33) your life will dramati-
cally change for the best.

*Jesus come into my life, be merciful to me a sinner, forgive me
of all my sins and make Yourself real to me, fill me now with
Your Holy Spirit to help me live for You all the days of my life."*
In Jesus name. Amen."

If you prayed that prayer or something similar, please send for
the free brochure, **"Welcome Aboard!"** as it will help you begin
your journey on the right track. Also you can contact the Pocket
Testament League for further Bible helps at www.PTL.org



CROSS OVER

For a donation of any amount the Cross Over Memorial page is a place where both God and your loved ones will be remembered and will help us to continue publishing the Good News of Jesus Christ to the worldwide railroad community through the Railroad Evangelist magazine. All donations are tax deductible.

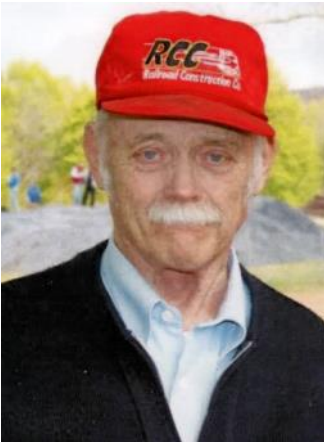
"Well done, good and faithful servant . . . enter into the joy of the Lord"



Norman R. Seidelmann by John & Elizabeth Mardirosian
Norman R. Seidelmann by Grace Presbyterian Church
Norman R. Seidelmann by Karen Naese
Norman R. Seidelmann by Jack & Ann Schaser
Norman R. Seidelmann by Ruth Seidelmann & family
Norman R. Seidelmann by his REA family

Norman R. Seidelmann by Lorraine Creamer
Norman R. Seidelmann by Craig & Bonnie James
Norman R. Seidelmann by Malaga REA Chapter
Norman R. Seidelmann by George & Marlene Sampson
Norman R. Seidelmann Ruth Lounsberry
Norman R. Seidelmann Joe Spooner

"Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning." Psalm 30:5



Norman R Seidelmann

Age 75 of Pennsauken, NJ died June 29, 2016 beloved husband of Ruth Seidelmann. Beloved father of Erik, Karin, Heather, Elizabeth and Kyle. Also a beloved grandfather of nine grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, contribution in his memory may be made to the Railroad Evangelistic Association, 255 State Route 49, Cleveland, NY 13042. Share your condolences via schetterfh.com

Norman Seidelmann loved all things railroad and that included REA. Norman was enthusiastic with promoting REA through a number of different ventures. Norman is the one who contacted "The Green Ridge & Big Spring Railroad" in Newville, PA that displays and hosts a huge model railroad layout. Norman never did get to participate in these two outings he arranged for REA members attending the 2016 Convention.

In Honor of our brother Norman, this page is dedicated to him and to the Harrisburg Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society who graciously gave a tour to REA members led by REA President David Wiegand. The photos on this page were taken by brother David as well.

One humorous note. Last year as I was taken a number of photos of different attendees I noticed in all the photos I had of Norman, he wasn't smiling. I asked him, 'Norman, how come you never smile', he said, "I'm a Presbyterian, we're not suppose to smile!" At that I burst out laughing, and I think, I actually saw a very small, faint smile under his mustache come across his face. So, in the photo above is about as big a smile you are going to get for Norman! - js

Harrisburg Historical RR Tower

tour report by David Wiegand

During our free time, while attending REA's 75th Convention some members of REA and I were given a special tour of Harris Tower, (arranged by our late brother Norman Seidelmann). The RR Tower was built by the Pennsylvania Railroad, the Standard railroad of the world to house the interlocking plant that controlled

switches and movements of trains and engines arriving and departing the passenger station in Harrisburg, PA. The Reading Railroad connected with the Pennsy east of the Pennsy passenger station. Today the tower is a museum. Amtrak and Norfolk Southern train dispatchers supervise movements. Amtrak operates the passenger service through Harrisburg. Norfolk Southern is the freight carrier. The departing Amtrak train shown in the photos is Number 43 the westbound New York City - Pittsburgh, Pennsylvanian.



REA TODAY



In the USA today The Railroad Evangelist magazine "**All Aboard!**" goes to all States in the USA except for five of them. The five are **Connecticut, Mississippi, Utah, Vermont and Wyoming**. Will you join with us in praying asking God to help us reach the Railroad Community in each of these States. That would be those working/retired from the rail industry, Model Railroaders and Rail Fans. Since our last REA Convention in August of this year, those who were there have a renewed dedication in seeing the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ ever increasing in reaching more souls for the Kingdom of God through the printed page. Currently we print 2500 magazines per issue with 425 people on our domestic mailing list.



Internationally

The Railroad Evangelist magazine "**All Aboard!**" is sent via internet or mailed to: Africa, Australia, Canada, Great Britain, Germany, Hungary, India, Norway, Switzerland, Scotland, and Sweden.

For information on how to begin a REA Chapter or a REA Fellowship in your area see our web page www.RailroadEvangelist.com or write the Editor.



"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins and heal their land,"

II Chronicles 7:14

New for REA!

Thanks to Donald Howell, Director of Development and Ministry Advancement for REA has made available very nice embroidered REA logo on either a blue or pink polo shirt.



For size, color choice and price (very reasonable) contact Don Howell via telephone or e-mail.

703-988-1966
RailHopeAmerica@gmail.com
(soon to be available online)



CURRENTLY REA HAS TWO ACTIVE CHAPTERS

Alexandria, VA Chapter meets the 3rd Monday of the month. For more information call Geneva Campbell at (540)-869-7019.

Malaga, NJ Chapter meets the 2nd Saturday of the month, For more information call Marlene Sampson at (609) 561-6922.

AREA CONTACT PEOPLE

Lakeland, Florida call Sara Harkey at (863) 940-9360

MN (Minnesota) in North St. Paul or the Twin Cities call John Stewart 651-592-8478 or Mark Lorenz at 651-592-6065. In the Owatonna area call Rev. Steve Seidler at (507) 413-3334

Long Island, New York area call Chaplain Harry Hassler at (516) 795-1453.

Albuquerque, New Mexico area contact REA President David Wiegand at E-mail: dmwj@abq.com

Model Railroaders & Rail Fans

Rev. Steve Seidler

LITTLE DAVID & GOLIATH MODEL RR

(507) 413-3334 E-mail: srseidler@g.com

NEW DEVELOPMENT FOR REA

REA (West Coast Office)

PO Box 5026

Vancouver, Washington 98668

Joe Spooner – Editor.

The Railroad Evangelist magazine "All Aboard!" Send all Railroad Evangelist magazine material to the Editor.

Phone: (360) 699-7208

E-mail: RailroadEvangelist@comcast.net

REA (East Coast Office)

14561 Stephen Street

Nokesville. VA 20181

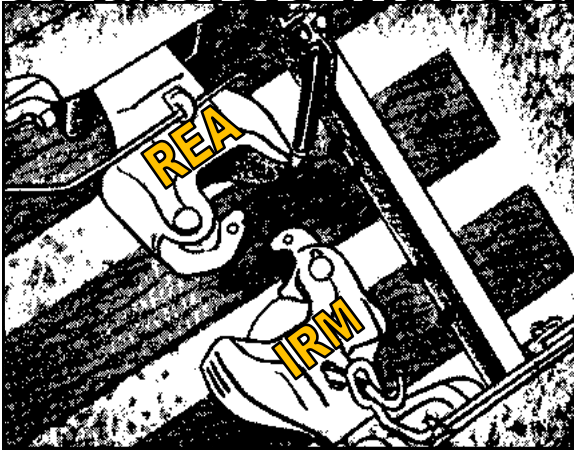
Don Howell - REA Representative to IRM and Director of Development and Ministry Advancement

Phone: (703) 988-1966

E-mail: RailHopeAmerica@gmail.com

Please continue to send all **membership**, **dues** and **donations** to REA's Secretary/Treasurer
Jim Bliss
255 State Rd. Route 49
Cleveland, NY 13042

Co-laborers with God



This past REA Convention was exceptional as we celebrated our 75th year as a Railroad Ministry. Each speaker gave a challenging message as we look to the future of REA. Rev. Paul Campbell our National REA Chaplain and REA member for over 50 years gave a very clear and bold challenge: **"WE MUST CHANGE!"**

I believe we all agree that throughout the ages our message will always be the same; Jesus died on the cross for our sins, and was resurrected the third day that we may have life eternal with Him but our methods in sharing the message through the ages will and do change with each generation. You who are reading this realize we are living in a very different world for the one we grew up in, things have changed drastically.

And so it is with REA, now living in the Techtronic age, everything is done differently with everything faster, newer and better, (I think), for the most part. **CHANGE** is not easy, everybody seems to say that 'change is good' but they don't want to do it themselves! For some it will be like trying to pour new wine into old wineskins - "just won't work", **BUT GOD** is the God of the impossible, is there anything too hard for God? Absolutely not, God is a God of change, (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8) and the God of increase (1 Corinthians 3:5) as we co-labor with Him and continue to plant the seed of the everlasting gospel and water them with our prayers. Amen!

New changes are coming to REA and I believe they are **GOOD** and needful for the furtherance of the gospel of Christ into the world-wide Railroad community that includes the Rail Industry, Model Railroaders and Rail Fans that are in the millions around the world. We also can add a fourth group and that is those who work for and ride the Light Rail systems through out the world. We believe everyone, everywhere needs to be on the right track to Heaven through a relationship with Jesus Christ, (see page 12). We will be calling out **"All Aboard!"** (John 3:16) to a much broader audience being coupled with IRM as co-laborers with God. The future for REA is both very exciting and challenging!

Remember, the reason REA exists is to reach lost souls with the Good News everywhere and to encourage the Christian Railroad Community to unite for mutual fellowship and to live and share the gospel with others.

NEW EVIDENCE OF COMING CHANGES

1. **RailHopeAmerica** of the Railroad Evangelist Association. See back page for further explanation.
2. Brand new and appealing REA web page with the options to donate safely online. See **RailHopeAmerica.com**
3. New: A West Coast and East Coast REA office. See page 14.

My dear friends, I believe God wants to wake up the entire Railroad Community world-wide with the glorious light of the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ, our only **HOPE**. I fully embrace RailHopeAmerica as a new expression for REA, it's the dawning of a new day for REA! **"All Aboard!"** (John 3:16)

- Joe Spooner



Picture left is **Don Howell**; REA representative for IRM with **Ueli Berger**, President of IRM each holding the others flag as a symbol of acceptance & unity in reaching the world-wide Railroad Community with the Good news of Christ.



Publication Guidelines for the Railroad Evangelist magazine

We are always looking for original railroad related photos, drawings and stories, articles, personal testimonies (300 - 800 words) or poems that would be of a spiritual interest to our readers of the **Railroad Evangelist** magazine. Currently the **Railroad Evangelist** magazine is published three times a year. Material received will be returned upon request. For further information or questions contact the editor.



Introducing RailHopeAmerica

What is RailHopeAmerica?

This is a new initiative for REA as we became a member of the International Railway Missions (IRM). In 2015, at the National REA Convention in Carlisle, PA, we voted overwhelmingly to apply for membership with IRM and we were unanimously accepted in August 2016 by IRM as a new member, along with South Africa. We are now part of a dynamic, outreach focused, 24-nation coalition of railway evangelical missions.

Most importantly, **RailHopeAmerica** is not a name change for the Railroad Evangelistic Association and RHA is not going to replace or take over REA. RHA is a new way to increase REA's presence and influence in the global railroad community.

In August of 2016, IRM held their tri-annual Conference in Goslar, Germany, celebrating their 90th year as IRM. IRM connects and unites established Railway Missions and encourages and helps start new missions in other countries. Nineteen countries were represented and voted unanimously to accept the United States Railroad Evangelistic Association into their international network of railway missions. We are global! Praise the Lord!

REA will continue to be REA. The **RailHopeAmerica** logo is phrase similar to our "All Aboard!" phrase for our Railroad Evangelist magazine, in order to gain people's attention.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us about this new venture. We also invite you to check out the IRM web page at www.Railway-Mission.net and the brand NEW REA webpage at www.RailHopeAmerica.com. REA now has two offices to serve you—East and West coast, for prayer and encouragement! See page 14.

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Change Services Requested



Wir wollen nicht nach links oder rechts
schauen, sondern allein auf Jesus.

Aus Hebräer 12,2

Gardons les yeux fixés sur Jésus,
qui nous a ouvert le chemin de la foi.

Hebréux 12,2

Fixing our eyes on Jesus,
the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

(taken from Hebrews 12:2)

INTERNATIONAL RAILWAY MISSION



Local Contact: