



The Columbus Garden Railway Society

ON TRACK!

FEBRUARY 2019



All Aboard! The annual Banquet pulls in the station on February 23

information & photo provided by Michael J. Conner

SATURDAY February 23 BANQUET

6:00 Gathering,
Cash Bar

6:45 pm Dinner
8:00 pm Program,
Recognition, Raffle

Our 2019 banquet speaker is **Michael J. Conner**,

a fourth-generation career railroader.

A native of Allegany County, New York, Michael was born about 1,000 feet from the main line of the Erie Railroad.

*“The Three P’s
of Railroading
in Columbus”*

Michael’s railroad career began while he was earning a Transportation Economics degree at John Carroll University in University Heights (Cleveland), Ohio. Service with a number of railroads followed, including a two year tour with the United States Army where he served as a Lieutenant in the Transportation Corps Military Railway Service.

Of special interest to us is the twenty years he served as vice president of the Ohio Central Railroad System where he was instrumental in the negotiations that saw the acquisition from Conrail (the “Blue Plague” as Michael refers to it) of the Columbus to Mingo Junction main line, which came perilously close to being made a “bike trail” instead of the busy and growing railroad it now is. Michael is still very active in railroading as a consultant and the organizer of new short-line freight and passenger railroads. Michael will focus on the “Three P’s of Railroading in Columbus,” a ride he hopes you will enjoy. *All Aboard!*



And the raffle winners are . . . ?



Scratch-built treehouse by Dennis Roth

RAFFLE PRIZES

Update by Dan Hill

Member donors now (2/5/19) have increased nicely from a month ago. In addition to the two scratch-built buildings from Jim Kimmel, a planted fairy garden by Judy Roth, and the custom-made quilting items from Shirley Breitzman and Dawn Wells, we now also have a scratch-built treehouse from Dennis Roth. More member donations will help ensure the success of CGRS, but please let Katy or me know danmhill@columbus.rr.com or 614-488-9025 what you will be donating before the banquet so we can prepare the raffle ticket bags in advance.

To date, we have received commitments from five corporate donors, and already have in hand items from three of those donors. We will be calling eleven other corporate donors to confirm they received our initial email queries and to find out what their plans are; we are hopeful of receiving donations from at least some of these additional corporate donors. We also expect to have train/accessory catalogs or brochures and plant listings available.

There will be raffle prizes of interest to everyone at the banquet. One free raffle ticket will be provided to each attendee. Additional raffle tickets will cost only a dollar each or a bargain strip of six tickets for \$5; there will be separate ticket bags for each item. **You could be the lucky winner of the item or items of your choice if you attend the banquet and join in the fun!! #**

BANQUET
 Saturday, February 23, 2019
 Worthington Hills Country Club
 920 Clubview Blvd. South
 Columbus 43235
 6:00 pm Cash Bar
 6:45 pm Dinner

MENU
 Tossed salad with choice of dressing
 Hot dinner rolls
 Red wine braised beef short ribs
 Poached salmon with dill sauce
 Au gratin potatoes ** Corn
 California vegetable medley
 Pecan ball
 a scoop of vanilla ice cream
 rolled in crushed pecans
 topped with hot fudge sauce

Reservations needed by February 14 — see form on page 5

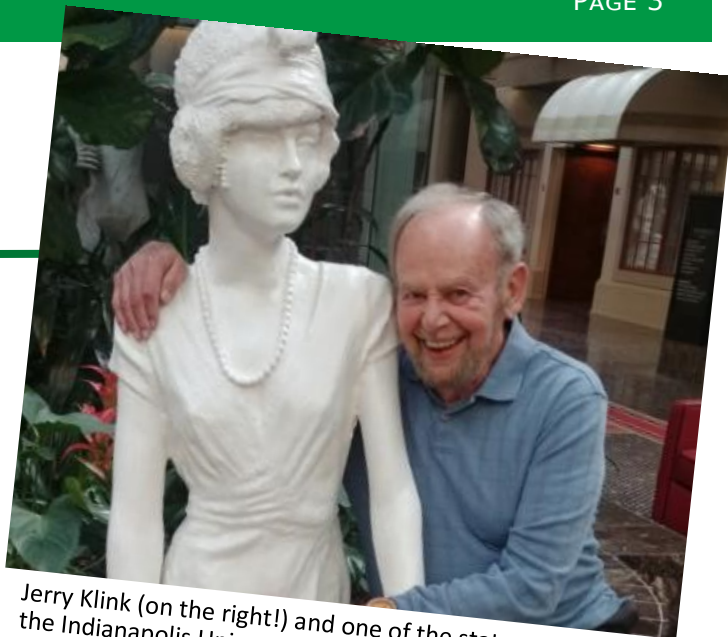


Indianapolis Union Railway Station

article and photos by Gail Klink

If you're looking for a mini-vacation, try Indianapolis, Indiana. It's a beautiful city, not too far from home, and really close to Watts Trains in Zionsville. The highlight is staying in, or at least touring, the old Union Station, which is now a Crowne Plaza Hotel.

We recently met some friends from Illinois there because it was halfway. We pre-booked to stay at the Crowne Plaza and sleep on a train. Our two trains were not quite adjoining; we had a coupling platform between us.



Jerry Klink (on the right!) and one of the statues at the Indianapolis Union Station/Crowne Plaza Hotel



Left photo: looking from upper level into lobby of Indianapolis Union Station/Crowne Plaza Hotel and at right, the lobby (internet photo)

There are three tracks of stationary trains that have been converted into hotel rooms. We were in the Cole Porter car and they were in the Amelia Earhart car. I was a little disappointed because the cars were not specially decorated like they used to be. Years ago we stayed in the Emmett Kelly car and it was decorated with circus pictures and a clown border.

The hotel was built on tracks 1 thru 8 leaving tracks 9-10-11 operational. Only three of the original iron beams were cut in order to construct the hotel. The many skylights there today were originally open to release smoke and steam from the trains. The 1920s Pullman train cars were brought from southern

Indiana and were driven into the building using the existing railway. After they were locked in place, construction of the west wing of the hotel was completed around them.

Union Station was originally built in 1853 and rebuilt in 1888. The tracks were then elevated in 1918, but the project wasn't finished until 1922 because World War I had used up much of the necessary resources. By 1936, business had diminished, and after a temporary increase of traffic during WW II, it continually decreased.

Union Station continued on page 4

Indianapolis Union Station

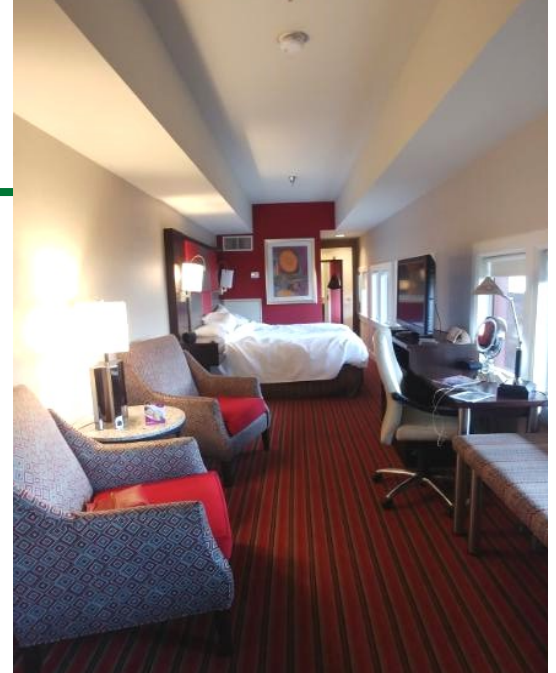
continued from page 3

Union Station stood empty and faced demolition by 1970. A local architect formed a Committee to Save Union Station, and its doors were reopened in 1986 as the Festival Market Place. In 1999, the original station became the Grand Hall for the Crowne Plaza Hotel and Conference Center. The train shed became the hotel.

The cost of the reconstruction of the intricate plaster work of the original station was greater than the original construction cost of the entire Union Station. The original terrazzo floors are still there. The original stained-glass wheel windows have a slight grey tint because they were “blacked out” during WWII.

All over the hotel are ghost statues. The mannequins are dressed in authentic clothing from the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s, the heyday of train travel, and fiber glassed over to give them a ghost look.

This structure is well worth the trip. While we were there, we took a narrated trolley tour of the city, with a stop at the Indianapolis Speedway. We want to return to see some of the places pointed out to us by our very informative driver. And we will definitely stay in Union Station. After all, we made friends with some of the ghost statues! #



Above photo: a room in the Indianapolis Union Station/Crowne Plaza Hotel

Below photo: one of the many statues in the Union Station; Bottom left: Union Station, Indianapolis, IN of Romanesque architecture, photo obtained from the internet



Thank You!



January 27

Many thanks to Pat Waddell for hosting the January 27 event at Epworth UM Church. Kudos to Bob Duggan for leading the clinic as our skilled members created their office building from a purchased kit. Also, thanks to all who attended!



Coming in 2019



Save the dates

Trip details are on the CGRS website and you may send your deposit today!

Next year's fall bus trip will take us to Tennessee on October 17, coming home on Monday, October 21. The star attraction will be a double-headed steam trip from Chattanooga, Tennessee to Summerville, Georgia.

Time to pay your 2019 membership dues! AND to make your February 2019 Banquet reservations

Name (s) _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____

2019 dues \$ 24.00

Feb 23, 2019 banquet \$32 x # _____ = \$ _____

Check # _____ TOTAL enclosed \$ _____

Make check payable to **CGRS** and send to
Bob Collins, 924 Middlebury Drive
Worthington, OH 43085-3466

Thank you!



NEWS TABLE News

January 17, 2019 Easterday Home



Thanks to Cecil Easterday for hosting the January 17th meeting.

Doug Clark passed out copies of the meeting agenda and Cecil passed out copies of the treasurer's report and discussed the report.

Dan Hill gave an update on the number of members donating raffle prizes, and noted he will soon begin contacting vendors regarding donations from them.

Everyone was encouraged to submit a photo suitable for the front page of the banquet program. Bill Logan volunteered to coordinate with JoAnne Hamblin and get the programs for the banquet printed.

Ginny Clark and Kathy Shepherd volunteered to take photos at the banquet and Deb Sweet volunteered to write the newsletter article on the banquet. Bill Logan summarized possible "rainy day" indicators on the 2018 garden railroad tour plaques to be distributed at the banquet.

Bill discussed the status of establishing a private CGRS Facebook site, and will be contacting Gail Klink further about this.

Bob Duggan discussed future meeting locations plus possible clinics at same, and will submit that information to JoAnne for the newsletter.

Deb advised that most of the sources she contacts to publicize the annual garden railroad tour do not have enough space to include any indications of possible rainy day cancellations/delays. It was agreed such indications would best be placed as latest current information on the CGRS website. #

NEWS TABLE, 7:30 pm Thursdays

February 14 — Cecil Easterday
7320 Macbeth Drive, Dublin 43016;
614.582.3099
March 21 —

Who's Who in Columbus Garden Railway Society

Articles & Classified Ads

Editor JoAnne Hamblin
 newsletter@thecgrs.org

Principal Business

Contact Bill Logan
 business@thecgrs.org

Request for invoice payment Cecil Easterday
 bills@thecgrs.org

Newsletter
DEADLINE 5th
 of the month

All Payments made payable to CGRS and send to Bob Collins, 924 Middlebury Drive, Worthington OH 43085. Contact Bob Collins membership@thecgrs.org

Meetings & Programs

Bob Duggan
 meetings@thecgrs.org

Address Changes

Bob Collins
 addresschange@thecgrs.org

Webmaster Wayne Beedle
 webmaster@thecgrs.org



The Columbus Garden Railway Society

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On Track deadline is 5th of month

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
www.thecgrs.org

ON TRACK is intended as a medium in which to air the news and views of the Columbus Garden Railway Society members. CGRS is an informal group which meets monthly or thereabouts to share a common interest in garden railroading and to socialize. Membership is open to all interested persons. All articles in this newsletter are provided by the editor unless otherwise noted. Photographs by Dave and JoAnne Hamblin.

2019 CALENDAR



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- February 14, Thur 7:30 pm News Table, Easterday Home, Dublin

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 Reservations due for Feb 23 Banquet
- February 23, Saturday Banquet at Worthington Hills Country Club
- March 21, Thur 7:30 pm News Table-location to be announced
- March 31, Sun 2-4 pm Clinic by Bill Logan on DCC and switches, Epworth UM Church hosted by Pat Waddell
- April 18, Thur 7:30 pm News Table-location to be announced
- April 28, Sun, 2-4 pm Spangler home, Mount Sterling
- September 8, Sun, 1-5 pm Annual Garden Railroad Tour
open to the public
- October 17 to October 21 Fall bus tour to southeastern USA