

Members Loan Trains to the National Toy Train Museum

By Mike Frieders

Photos by Mike Frieders except as noted.

WVMGRS members Mike Frieders and Jerry Lawson have each loaned parts of their collection of LGB trains to two new G-scale exhibits at the TCA's National Toy Train Museum in Strasburg, PA. The Museum is presently undergoing a major expansion that has greatly increased the amount of display space for exhibits.



Photo by Ron Morris

Part of Jerry's collection of LGB F7 A-B-A diesel consists will be on display at the Museum's G-Scale layout. The diesels will be displayed in a stair-step fashion on a background of dark green felt. This impressive display of motive power includes the New York Central, the B&O, and the Pennsylvania road names.



Mike has loaned a large number of colorful and interesting European prototype trains including the "Bottle Train", and the popular Blue Train and Red Train starter sets from the early 1980's. Mike's trains are on display at the very center of the Museum's exhibit area in a tall display case that is visible from all sides. The case actually accommodates a full circle of R1 track on 3 levels. Along with the Bottle train and starter sets on the first level is a small yard of electric pantograph engines under model catenary wiring. The second level of the display features an LGB work train and a short train of 2-axle container cars being pulled by the colorful Nicki and Frank S. locomotive and tender. The third

level features three different short trains back to back on R2 curves, including the Campbell's Souper Express, and the LG&B Bumble Bee pulling the 1998 Garden Railway Convention coach.



Both exhibits were designed and created by Mike and Twila Frieders, and will be on display through the end of the year.



Construction at the Museum is nearing completion, and the Museum should re-open at the end of July. Be sure to drop by and take a look at the new exhibits and the recently renovated G-Scale operating layout. The National Toy Train Museum is just one of the many train-related destinations in Strasburg. The Museum adjoins the Red Caboose Motel, and is just a few blocks from the Pennsylvania State Railroad Museum and the Strasburg Railroad.

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