

THE FARE BOX

A Monthly News-Letter for

Transportation Token Collectors

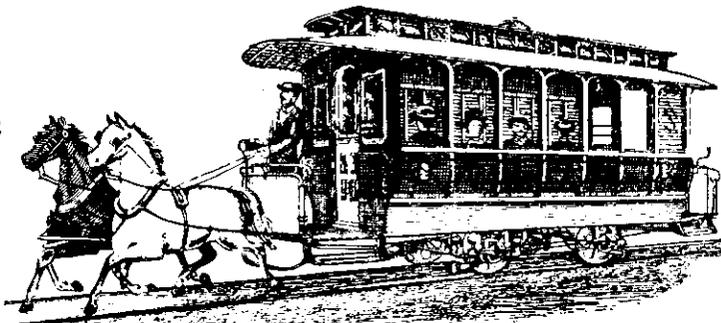


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Volume 20, Number 8

AUGUST, 1966

Our 230th Issue

This issue is being mailed to you direct from Los Angeles, California. We are keeping the number of pages small, but wanted to bring you news of the annual convention at Disneyland while it still is new. To accomplish this purpose, the production and mailing of this issue is being done by Robert Ritterband, with assistance from members of the California Association of Transportation Token Collectors. Our Fare Box for September will be mailed from Boston about September 20; all material for that issue should be received by the Editor in Boston by Saturday, September 10.

The 16th Annual A.V.A. Convention had the largest attendance of any our Association ever held, and it was certainly the best organized and most interesting of any of them. This is not meant to detract in any way from previous meetings, but only to emphasize the magnificent job done by Convention Chairman Robert Ritterband. The standing ovation given Bob at the conclusion of the business sessions on Saturday was well earned! Full minutes of the business meetings are included in this issue, and ballots for proposed constitutional changes will be mailed early in the Fall.

The Editor of the Fare Box wishes to congratulate our newly elected officers, President Duane Feisel, Vice-President Ralph Hinde, and Curator Sam Rabinowitz..... as well as the other candidates, all of whom waged vigorous but friendly campaigns for their respective offices. It was one of the most interesting elections ever held by the A.V.A. And to those of you who didn't make it this time, remember there is always next year!

The Editor also wishes to congratulate Gerald Johnson, recipient of The Fare Box Literary Award, and Stephen Album, who received Honorable Mention for the same honor. Others who deserve our gratitude are Kenneth Smith, for managing a large and complicated auction with his customary efficiency; Elaine Willahan, who served long hours as Official Greeter; and Harold Ford, for a skillful chairmanship of the Resolutions Committee. But every member of the California club had a hand in this gathering, and to all of them the A.V.A. is deeply indebted for a grand convention.

-- John M. Coffee, Jr. (Editor)



APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

- 874 Harold W. Kilpatrick - 1148 S. Locust St. - Grand Island, Neb. 68801
Age 45; Railroad Executive. Collects U.S. only. (Bolz & Jorgensen)
- 875 Paul J. Schieck - 3215 Edgmont Ave. - Brookhaven, Chester, Pa. 19015
Age 60; Training Supervisor. Collects U.S., Canada, Parking. (Kotler)
- 876 Miss Ylla Lee - 56 S. Raymond Ave. - Pasadena, Calif. 91101
Age 42; Store Owner. Collects all. (Mazeau)
- 877 Charles O. Evanson - 172 Schiller St., Elmhurst, Ill. 60127
Age 60; Retired. Collects all. (Coffee)
- 878 Bob Sellards - 306 Lincoln Drive - Fredericktown, Missouri 63645
Age 39; Water Plant Operator. Collects U.S. and Canada (Ritterband)
- 879 George Brown, Jr. - 4685 Normandie Place - La Mesa, Calif. 92041
Age 54; Retired. Collects all. (Mazeau)
- 880 Donald Duke - P.O. Box 8136 - San Marino, Calif. 91108
Age 35; Book Publisher. Collects U.S. only. (Ritterband)

Reinstatements To Membership:

- 497 Robert H. Gaarder - 1041 Alexander Circle - Pueblo, Colorado 81001
- 543 Jack T. Painter - P.O. Box 224 - Pasadena, California 91102
- 708J Keith Bildstein - 11 Round Top Road - Warren, New Jersey 07060

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AUGUST SUPPLEMENT TO ATWOOD'S CATALOGUE

CALIFORNIA

Anaheim 25 (Reported by Robert Ritterband) \$1.00
 A A Hx Sd 16th ANNUAL CONVENTION AMERICAN VECTURIST ASSOCIATION AUGUST 5-7, 1966
 Good For Round Trip Disneyland To Buena Park California

Buena Park 105 (Reported by Robert Ritterband) \$1.00
 A B Ov Sd GHOST TOWN & CALIGO RAILWAY KNOTT'S BERRY FARM, BUENA PARK, CALIF.
 Good For One Ride American Vecturist Day August 7, 1966

TOKEN NOTES:

The only new tokens reported this month are the two used at our annual convention. A chartered bus carried conventioners on the fifteen-mile round trip between the hotel and Buena Park, with the first token required for boarding the bus. After a stopover at Movieland Museum, the bus continued on to Knott's Berry Farm, where the second token was honored for a train ride ticket. For the return bus trip, the hexagonal token had to be shown again by each passenger.

Both tokens were designed by Mr. Ritterband, convention chairman. The large, oval train ride token is particularly good looking, with an actual picture of the Ghost Town locomotive on the obverse. Cast in reddish brass by Kaag Trophy Co., Torrance, Calif., the axis dimensions are 1 1/4" and 1 5/8". The aluminum hexagonal token has measurements of 1 1/8" between sides and 1 1/4" from point to point. They were produced by Meyer & Wenthe Co., Chicago, with Joseph Kotler as coordinator.

Exactly 400 tokens of each design were made, with every piece sealed in a plastic bag to protect the surfaces. About one hundred of each were still available at the end of the conclave. Members of the New Issues Service will receive their two kinds direct. Others wanting copies while they last may obtain same by purchase or swap from Norman E. Sherman, AVA L-611, at \$1.00 each plus postage.

(-RMR)

The 16th Annual Convention of the American Vecturist Association was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 6, 1966, at the Charter House Hotel, in Anaheim, California. In the absence of the Association's president and vice-president, the A.V.A. treasurer, R. K. "Toby" Frisbee, acted as presiding officer. A total of 50 members were registered, as follows:

Stephen Album, H. Don Allen, Joseph Allis, Roland Atwood, Wayne Bamford, George Brown Jr., Robert Carlisle, Robert Carter, John Clymer, John Coffee Jr., Andrew Crusen, Edward Cutler, Robert Dewey, Donald Duke, James Dunlap, Duane Feisel, Harold Ford, Ralph Freiberg, R. K. Frisbee, William Gallagher, Fred Glaze, George Gould, Clarence Heppner, Robert Kubach, James Manning Jr., Robert Marvin, Edrick Miller, John Niccolosi, Stuart Paddock, Robert Rice, Robert Ritterband, Bernard Rohrer, Frank Roselinsky, Harold Schmal, Norman Sherman, Arthur Smith, Edward Smith, F. Gordon Smith, Kenneth Smith, Kirk Smith, Robert Smith, Paul Targonsky, Don Thrall, Edward Vickers, W. A. Whitfield, Robert Wigger, Elaine Willahan, Gordon Yowell, and Frederick Zell.

Wives and families of the following members were present: Allis, Brown, Carter, Clymer, Cutler, Dunlap, Gould, Heppner, Miller, Ritterband, Roselinsky, E. Smith, F. G. Smith, K. Smith, Targonsky, Whitfield, and Yowell. Also twenty additional guests signed the visitors lists, to bring the total attendance to 95, a high score in A.V.A. convention history.

Edrick Miller, president of the California Assn. of Transportation Token Collectors, welcomed all the conventioners, in behalf of the host club. Mr. Frisbee then asked John Coffee to assume the chair for the balance of the business meetings.

Mr. Coffee read letters of greeting from Floyd and Martha Barnett, Roy Irwin, Joseph Kotler, Julius Kurtz, and the Midwest Token & Ticket Club. Oral greetings on behalf of William and Corinne Black were delivered by Duane Feisel, and for Quincy Laflin by Robert Smith. A brief pause was then called in remembrance of deceased members.

Next the following committees were announced: Auditing, with Norman Sherman as chairman, assisted by John Niccolosi and Robert Rice; Elections, with Ralph Freiberg as chairman, assisted by John Coffee and Edrick Miller; and Resolutions, with Harold Ford as chairman, assisted by R. K. Frisbee and Don Thrall. All were instructed to report back to the second session.

Reports from President DiMichael and Secretary Mazeau were read by Mr. Coffee. The secretary reported a net increase in membership of 112 since the last convention report. Mr. Frisbee read his treasurer's report for the period ending July 1, 1966. The total cash on hand was given as \$4330.32, showing a net gain of \$453.97 from the report of last year. This gain was attributed primarily to the dues increase of \$3 to \$4 per year. A six-month report on The Fare Box, covering January 1 to June 30, was read by Mr. Coffee, showing an operating deficit of \$121.53. He also read a report on the Catalogue Fund, with a balance indicated of \$4168.19, not including bank interest. A Curator's report was given by Mr. Ritterband, who stated that during the past twelve months the assets and archives of the Association had been greatly increased. He called attention to a convention display of 23 token and medal pieces of Association significance now owned, as compared to just two pieces at the beginning of the term. Motions to accept all of these reports, pending audit, were properly moved and carried.

Six resolutions and by-law changes were proposed by members, as follows:

1. That the granting of life memberships in this Association be limited to individuals rather than to any clubs or organizations. (Targonsky)
2. That voting privileges in the Association be allowed only to individuals, and not to any member clubs or organizations. (Targonsky)
3. That effective with elections in 1967, all officers shall be named for two year terms instead of annually. (Targonsky)
4. That the Association shall begin at once to pay the full rental of the editor's post office box in Boston, Mass., instead of the present one-half cost. (Targonsky)

- 5. That Sec. 1 of Article VI be amended to include the Editor of The Fare Box as a seventh voting member of the Executive Board. This is intended to avoid any tie votes on the Board, as well as to give official voice to the importance of the editorial position. (Ritterband)
- 6. That the Executive Board designate Roland Atwood to make all price evaluations of tokens in future editions of the Catalogue. (F. G. Smith)

All six proposals were referred to the Resolutions Committee.

Invitations to hold the '67 convention in Minneapolis and the '68 convention in San Antonio were announced. Clarence Heppner gave greetings from the Seattle Club, with hope for another convention there in the near future. No action was taken on any of these invitations. Kenneth Smith announced progress in the Foreign Tokens Catalogue, with some specific results scheduled for mid-November. George Brown Jr. and Donald Duke, two new members who joined the Association at this convention, were introduced by Mr. Ritterband. On motion by Mr. Targonsky, the first session was adjourned at noon.

The Saturday afternoon session was called to order at 1:30 by the acting chairman, Mr. Coffee. He announced that the Election Committee had received 409 valid ballots, with the following results:

President:	Duane Feisel	226
	Robert Ritterband	183
Vice-President:	Ralph Hinde	221
	John Clymer	122
	Neil Shafer	62
	Blank ballots	4
Curator:	Samuel Rabinowitz	249
	Alexander Erickson	153
	Blank ballots	7

Mr. Ford reported the following recommendations from the Resolutions Committee:

- That Proposal #1 (Life memberships only to individuals), Proposal #2 (Voting privileges for individual members only), and Proposal #5 (Adding the Fare Box editor to voting membership on the Executive Board), all be approved, with by-law changes to be ratified by the entire membership;
- That Proposal #4 (Full payment by the Association of post office box rental) be carried out by Executive Board action;
- That Proposal #3 (Two-year terms of office) and Proposal #6 (Mr. Atwood to set all token prices in future Catalogues), both be disapproved. Reasons given were that #3 had failed to pass the membership only last year, and that in #6, Mr. Atwood was already a regular member of the Catalogue committee which sets all values according to combined judgements.

By a two-thirds vote of those present, the entire report of the Resolutions Committee was accepted and approved.

In new business, Mr. Sherman reported that a survey by the Audit Committee had found all accounts to be in proper condition. John Nicolosi made presentations to Mr. Ritterband and Mr. Clymer of pattern tokens from Brattleboro, Vermont, for their continuing efforts in behalf of all vecturists. Gordon Yowell presented to the Association a set of original dies used to strike the rare Channel Bus Line tokens (Alaska 400-A), which he had purchased in Juneau. This valuable memento was accepted by Mr. Coffee on behalf of all A.V.A. members.

There being no further business, a motion was made and carried to give thanks for their labors to the A.V.A. officers now retiring,-- President DiMichael, Vice President Shafer, and Curator Ritterband. Further appreciation was expressed towards Mr. Ritterband and his convention committee for their outstanding efforts to make this gathering a great success. At 2:00 p.m., again on motion by Mr. Targonsky, the business sessions were declared to be finished.

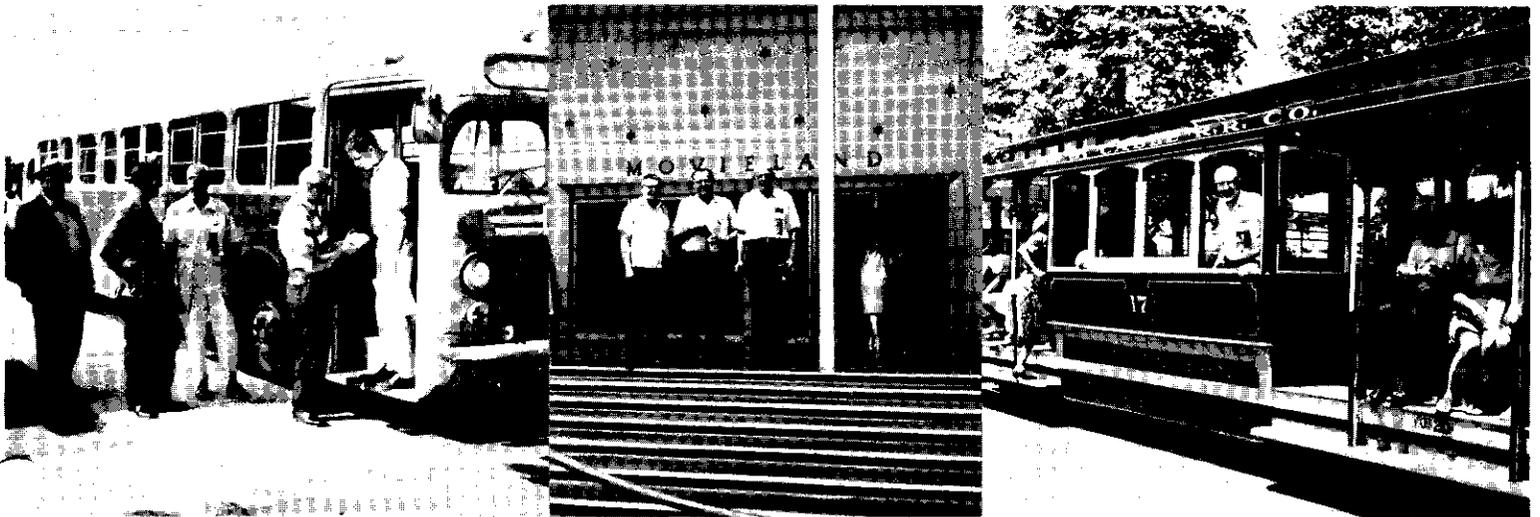
-- From notes of Edrick Miller, Acting Secretary.



1. Some serious swapping at Friday session.
2. Gallagher and Willahan study auction displays.
3. Gould and K. Smith taking auction bids.



4. Making new friendships during the banquet.
5. Part of head table. (Coffee, Mrs. Wigger, Wigger, Mrs. Ritterband)
6. Interested spectators at annual color-slide show.



7. Boarding charter bus. "Show your tokens, please."
 8. Targonsky, Heppner and Yowell at Movieland Museum.
 9. Vecturists try out cable car at Knott's Berry Farm.
- (ALL PHOTOS BY RITTERBAND)

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

The official minutes of our Disneyland convention and the pictures on the preceding page give only a slight indication of this gathering's many fine features. It was a conclave emphasized by numerous innovations, of which the page of snapshots in this Fare Box is but one example. Extensive promotion in our bulletin, publicity pictures and news stories in many trade journals, the use of specially printed convention stationery and postage meter plates, and the "Early Bird" pre-registration discounts, were just some of the many alert moves which helped this meeting break all A.V.A. attendance records. A high score of 50 members registered, plus enough wives, families and interested friends to bring the total turnout to 95 people, exceeding by far any previous Vecturist affair.

Following our custom, the event began with a huge swap session on Friday, with hundreds of tokens changing hands. Although it was scheduled for 7:00 in the evening, many there could hardly await the setting up of tables early that afternoon, and the excitement went on until after midnight. In the same room were many excellent token displays, laid out by California members, and augmented handsomely by the wonderful array brought across the country by Joseph Allis of New York City. He proudly carried home one of the exhibitor's ribbons, presented by Robert Carter, displays chairman.

On Saturday the first real excitement was felt during the wait for an Election Committee report. The intensity of the campaigning had resulted in a total of 409 ballots received, almost entirely by mail. This was a significant contrast with the 134 ballots of our last contested presidential election, back in 1959. After the scores were announced and the winners congratulated, it was time for one of the most detailed auctions in Vecturist history. Ken Smith was "scorekeeper" for this segment, with James Dunlap and George Gould alternating efficiently as the "callers". Bidding was spirited, with numerous lots going for exciting amounts. (Prices realized for the various items will be listed here soon.)

The third excitement for Saturday was the annual banquet, with 67 on hand to set another high score. A quick survey showed the presence of Vecturists from twelve states of the Union, plus one Canadian member. For a real study in contrasts, Chairman Bob Ritterband introduced the member who had travelled furthest, Don Allen of Arvida, Quebec, plus Robert Marvin, who lives just a mile from the convention hotel. As an indication of the "token wisdom" present, he then introduced as a group our three catalogue compilers, Roland Atwood, Duane Feisel, and Kenneth Smith; the News Issues experts, Ralph Freiberg and John Nicolosi; census statistician Harold Ford; and perennial editor John Coffee. Other introductions eventually had every A.V.A. member there onto his feet, ranging from "A" (Stephen Album) to "Z" (Frederick Zell).

After the meal, Editor Coffee displayed the sterling silver pattern of the convention's train ride token, which he was awarding to Gerald Johnson for his Fare Box literary contribution. Newly-elected president Feisel spoke briefly, stating that he hoped for 200 new members in the Association this year. He also told of his hope to publish a reprint book of leading transportation articles from the past 20 years of the Fare Box.

Next came the evening's highlight, in a talk and film by one of our A.V.A. members, Robert Wigger, president of Advance Data Systems, a division of Litton Industries. Mr. Wigger's firm designs and manufactures automatic revenue collection systems, which promise to revolutionize transportation ticketing through computer controls. His film showed installations already operating in Chicago and London, with magnetic encoded tickets that a vending machine can issue and a computer-gate can analyze and rewrite in split seconds, to wipe out any hand-to-hand exchanges of money or tokens. Several used samples of these "tokens of the future" were given out to lucky listeners in the audience. After adjournment came the traditional showing of Association-owned color slides of token rarities, with narration by Ralph Freiberg.

Well, we haven't mentioned a word yet about the Fun Tour on Sunday, but now we are running out of space. You can either ask one of the conventioners for details... or better yet, start making your plans now to attend next year's equally exciting convention!

(-RMR)