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Club-A-Rama v2.0 WEEK 48

COAL CAR TRAIN

1967-69

Hiawatha, The Milwaukee Road Brookfield Zoo, Brookfield, IL



This is what I refer to as the **COAL CAR TRAIN** (as opposed to what I call the **STEAM TRAIN** which is shorter because it doesn't have the coal car - and much more common.)



An extremely rare look at the original plaster casting from which the **COAL TRAIN** moldset was made! (Also seen in the image is the **STANDING FRANKENSTEIN** casting, and the **GIRAFFE** casting!)

The source of the COAL CAR TRAIN had been a mystery for many years, but I think research by a good friend of MOLDVILLE (Alex Webb) who is writing a fantastic book on the subject of the original Mold-A-Rama, has solved the mystery. The emblem on the cab door is the emblem used by THE MILWAUKEE ROAD of the HIAWATHA trains in the 1930s and into the 1950s. (See below images.)

(This image courtesy Alex Webb, who if you don't know already is currently writing a fantastic book on the original Mold-A-Rama figures!)





This advertisement from 1945 shows in the lower left the same unique emblem from the cab door of the COAL CAR TRAIN.

Here's an advertisement from 1935. Interestingly, in my research I haven't been able to locate any advertisement or other materials using this symbol dated later than around 1952, which leads me to another possibility...

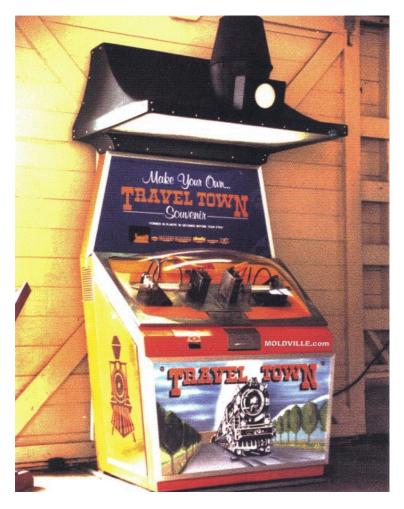




... the OTHER symbol on the **COAL CAR TRAIN** - the slanted square one on the side of the coal car, appears to be quite similar to the logo of a SOO LINE train, but it says "THE MILWAUKEE ROAD".



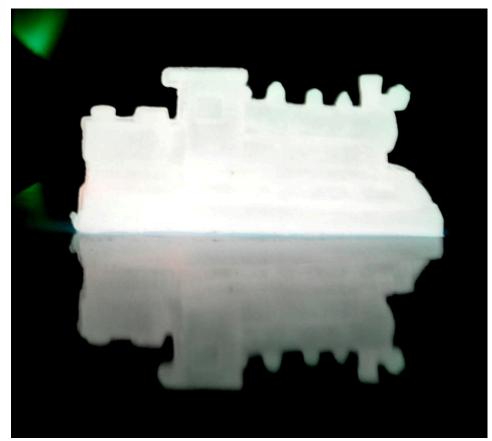
This is the "Hiawatha" Milwaukee Road #1 on one of her first runs at Brookfield Zoo in 1969. (Source Alex Webb, and discoverlivesteam.com)



The **STEAM TRAIN** (not the **COAL CAR TRAIN**) was vended in the 1990s at Travel Town. This photo, from the early 1990s, was taken of the machine at Travel Town, which is in the Griffith Park area of Los Angeles, CA (Griffith Park Observatory is up the mountain from Travel Town.)



The COAL CAR TRAIN moldset is unnumbered, most likely dating it to the 1967-1969 era of MOLD-A-RAMA.



And the best part - the COAL CAR TRAIN GLOWS in the dark!!

Disclaimers: The color and/or exact condition of the MOLD you get in the CLUB-A-RAMA may or may not be as shown. Not for children under 3.

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