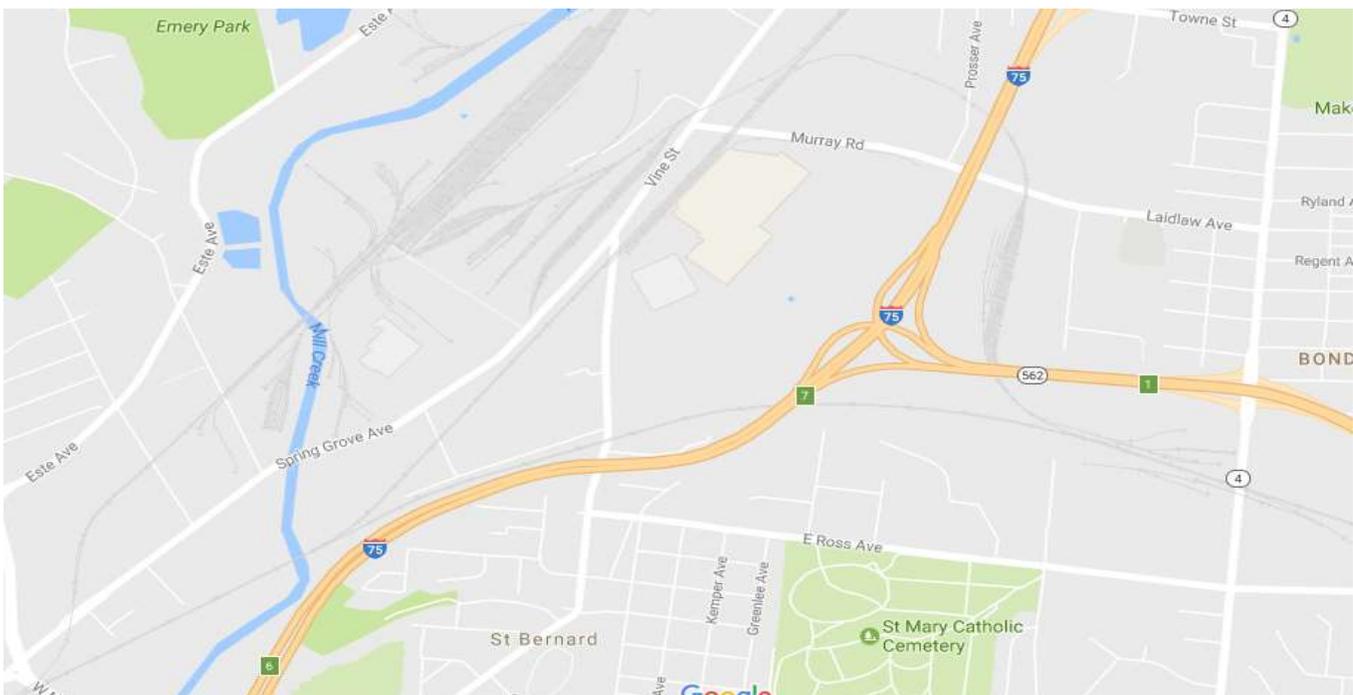


Trains, Kids & Lionel – Forever Friends
By Dale Witzeman & Tim Witzeman
Queen City HiRailers

In 1948 when I was 4 and my brother Tim was 6, Mom and Dad decided to splurge for Christmas and buy us a model train set. Lionel of course. Usually we would get a cap gun. We lived in St. Bernard, Ohio. We were a stone's throw away from the Procter & Gamble's Ivorydale plant with a large rail yard.



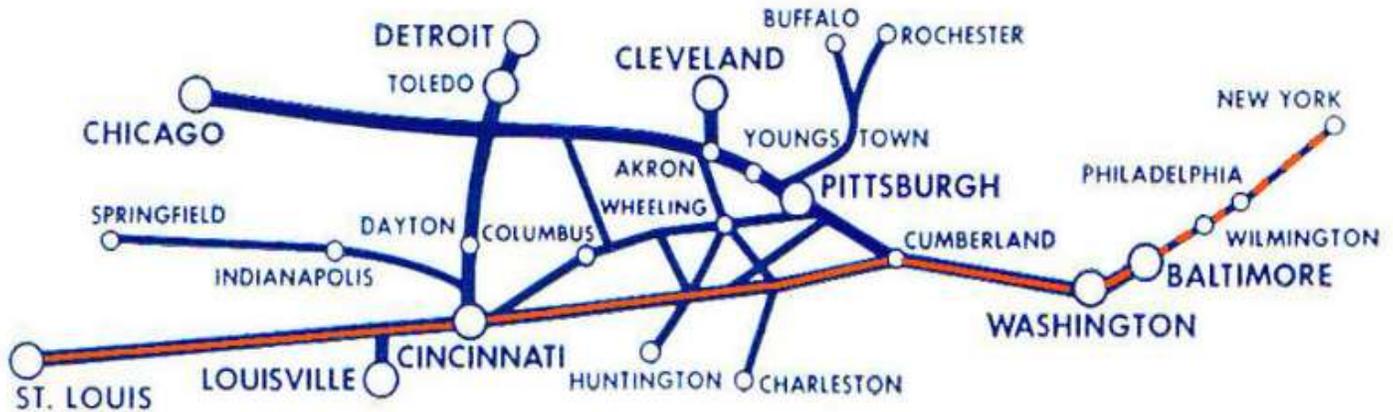
And there were 5 railroad lines that passed very close to our house.



My brother and I would spend hours sitting in a park marveling at the trains, especially the steam engines. One train though was special. The B&O National Limited, on it's way to Cincinnati Union Terminal. It was dieselized. EA's and EB's.



The National Limited



BALTIMORE & OHIO RAILROAD

Sample consist

June 28, 1940

Location Washington, D.C.

Train Westbound #1

- EMC EA #53
- EMC EB #53X
- Baggage-dormitory-buffet-lounge #1302
- Coach #3550 (54 seats)
- Coach #3554 (54 seats)
- Dining car-lounge #1077
- Sleeper-buffet-lounge *Merchants Club* (8 sections)
- Sleeping car *East Akron* (12 sections, 1 drawing room)
- Sleeping car *Emerald Brook* (8 sections, 4 double bedrooms)
- Sleeping car *Loch Earn* (10 sections, 1 drawing room, 2 compartments)
- Sleeper-buffet-observation *Palm Islands* (1 drawing room, 3 compartments)

[6]

City	Departure time
New York (Rockefeller Center)	12 noon
New York (42nd Street Station)	12 noon
Brooklyn, NY	12 noon
New York (42nd Street Station)	12:05 p.m.
Jersey City, NJ	12:55 p.m.
Elizabeth, NJ	1:11 p.m.
Philadelphia, Pa.	2:37 p.m.
Wilmington, Del.	3:05 p.m.
Baltimore, Md. (Mt. Royal Station)	4:16 p.m.
Baltimore, Md. (Camden Station)	4:25 p.m.
Washington, D.C. (Union Station)	5:30 p.m.
Cincinnati (Union Terminal)	6:15 a.m.
Louisville, Ky.	9:55 a.m.
St. Louis (Union Station)	12 noon

source: *Baltimore and Ohio System Timetable*, July 6, 1947^[5]

Since we both had a great interest for steam engines, for that Christmas, Mom & Dad bought outfit #1447WS, a 2020 Steam Turbine engine and some cars as shown here in the 1948 Lionel catalog.



We loved it. All the neighborhood kids were envious and thought we were rich. That could not have been farther from the truth.

As time went by, Dad built a layout on a ping-pong table in our bedroom. Being kids, we ran it as fast as it would go until it flew off the tracks and hit the floor. Picked it up, put it back on the tracks and it ran perfectly. Maybe a few scrapes on the paint.

The engine still runs and we have all the original cars. A tribute to Lionel quality that still exists in their products.



Currently we run conventional, early TMCC and now Legacy systems. They were easy to install and run very well.



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