



## Newsletter

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### Train Day a Big Success

Despite the lack of support from Amtrak due to budgetary issues, Train Day in Memphis was once again a big success. Attendance was estimated at over 3000.



On display was an interesting lash up of locomotives: CN C40-8 2007, originally CNW 8508, built in 1989;



IC SD70 1000, the first SD70 purchased by the Illinois Central in 1995 and one of the few still painted in IC black and R J Corman GP9 9009, originally B&O 6591, built in 1958.



Once again we need to thank the CN Railroad for their support and assistance. Thanks also to R.J. Corman for their beautifully maintained GP9. Thanks also to Mr. Hamilton Smythe for the 1931 White Motor Company touring Bus, David Gold for his "Speeder", Double JJ Smokehouse and Saloon for the food, all the volunteers and everyone else that helped.

Unveiled on Train Day was our new Train Simulator. A constant stream of "engineers" tried their hand at handling a train into Central Station.



*Our New Simulator*



## **NEW TRAIN SIMULATOR NOW UP AND RUNNING**



*The view from the engineer's seat. Approaching Central Station*

Train Day marked the inaugural run of the museum's new train simulator. A short ribbon cutting ceremony was held with Shelby County Mayor Mark Luttrell doing the honors. His grand daughter was the first "engineer"

Using Microsoft Train Simulator software, the simulator duplicates the route on the Illinois Central between Memphis South Yard and Dyersburg Tennessee. The track layout inside the city are like they were in 1957, while trackage outside the city are based on track diagrams of the mid 1980's, before the IC was "single tracked".

Initially the only activities on the simulator are runs from South Yard to Central Station, South Yard to Poplar Street Station, and South Yard to Millington, TN. Future plans are to add additional controls to provide more views besides the one "Cab View" presently provided. The ability to throw switches is also in the works. These enhancements will allow for more interesting activities. Some activities being considered are making up a Cotton

Belt train in South Yard, switching the coach yard and switching industries at Woodstock Tennessee. We intend the simulator to be an ongoing project, being improved as time goes on. Incremental changes every week or so will add up to new activities and new experiences on your next visit.

The train simulator is included in the admission to the museum. You must be twelve years of age or older to use the simulator.



*Additional controls will allow views like this rather than the "Cab View" (upper left)*

### ***It's Still Only \$3.00***

Recently the Board of Directors voted on a proposal to adjust our admission price. After discussion the proposal was voted down. It was decided that our prices would not be increased until (1) we have more to offer the public to justify an increase or (2) our leasing arrangements changed. We want to be a family friendly place and part of that is to remain affordable.

Our prices remain \$3.00 for adults, \$1.00 for children under 12, and children 3 and under free.

***Biggest Bargain in Town!***