

# 2016 CONVENTION UPDATE



**Bob Carter**  
Convention Co-Manager  
RM 6620

## Five Months and Counting!

**Y**ep, that's right! July will be here before you know it, and with it comes the 46th annual LCCA Convention.

It's been 44 years since the LCCA has had a convention in Kansas City, Mo. Many things have changed in those 44 years. For us, changes that come to mind include weight and hair. Personally, I know I have more of the first and less of the second. How about you? When it comes to the sights to see, we will all find new and different attractions to see and enjoy in Kansas City in 2016.

Here is our big news for the 2016 convention: we will be able to ride the BNSF Special Train. This wonderful train is also known by its other names, such as the BNSF Employees Special or VIP Train, and BNSF is making this outstanding train available to us to ride from the Argentine yard in Kansas City, Kan., to Topeka, Kan. The two and a half hour roundtrip in the modern stainless steel cars of the 50s will take us for a ride on the steel rails of history. This is a trip you will not want to miss, so register early as seats are limited and there will be no reserved seating. You will have your choice of coach, dome and diner. The last two cars will be reserved for the BNSF guests, city and state officials and the charity supported by BNSF. Other than those two cars, the rest of the train is ours. You are encouraged to walk the train once we get underway and enjoy the polished brass and wood that make up this beautiful consist.

In addition to the modern and shiny train, Kansas City has an old and sunken steamboat. The Arabia Steamboat Museum has more than 200 tons of recovered treasure from the 1856 steamboat that sank in the Missouri river. You'll see china, jewelry, clothing, food and hardware. Some of the treasures are in remarkable condition. This museum has even been consulted by the Smithsonian because of its excellence in restoring artifacts

Kansas City is also home to the only World War I Museum dedicated only to preserving the objects and personal experiences of "The Great War". When you enter, you walk on a glass floor under which lies a field of poppies representing the thousands who perished during the war. You'll see a French Renault FT-17 Tank the Americans used during the war, with a huge hole in its side from being hit by a German shell. If history and especially WWI history interests you, this is one tour you will definitely want to see. It's interesting, educational, and emotional. You can also take an elevator, plus 45 steps, to the top of the Liberty Memorial Tower for a scenic view of Kansas City and a great view of Union Station and the iconic Western Auto sign atop the Western Auto Building.

Without going into any more detail, there is a lot to see and do in Kansas City, and I haven't even mentioned barbeque and the famous Burnt Ends of Kansas City BBQ. So, make your

plans now to reserve your hotel room at the Hilton KCI Airport hotel and your convention registration with the business office. It's an easy airport to get into and out of, and the hotel provides a FREE shuttle, so there is no need for a car, although the parking is free if you drive. Remember, many tours have limited capacity, so sign up early!

There is no excuse for not coming to this great Midwestern city. There will be no snow...I promise! I can't promise no rain or no hot weather, but I can promise a great time in a great hotel with some great friends at the 46th Convention of the Greatest Toy Train Club on the Planet. See you there.



**Dienzel Dennis**  
Convention Co-Manager  
RM 6710

## Good Things Usually Come in Threes

**I**f this statement is true, then our Home Layout Tour at the 2016 LCCA Convention will really be great. We have three outstanding stops on this adventure with three completely different, but equally outstanding models. Following is a description of the layout at the home of Jim and Ruth Eudaly.

Watch the next issue of *The Lion Roars* for news of the other two layouts on the Tour. Remember, many tours have limited capacity, so sign up early!

On Saturday, July 30, we will visit a pure two-rail O scale miniature railroad representing the C&O Hinton Division. There are hidden staging tracks under the layout running between Russell, Ky., (just across the Big Sandy River from Huntington, W.V.) to Clifton Forge, Va. to the east. From the hump yard in Russell, the Hinton Division travels east through the beautiful and renowned New River Gorge Division.

The visible part of the layout begins at Gauley, W.V. on the west and ends at East Alleghany, Va., on the east side. Hinton, W.V., stands in the middle of the layout dividing the New River Gorge Division to the west and the Alleghany Division to the east.

The setting is late October 1949, and the mountain foliage is spectacular. All structures are scratch-built and are full-scale models of the actual buildings at the locations modeled. A bridge modeled from the actual C&O blueprint is a sight to behold. The gorge is huge, and the scenery goes from floor to ceiling.

This model railroad is housed in a 35 by 50 foot Butler building in the back yard of the home. It has a 9 x 12 foot room containing the dispatcher's office and a Computerized Train Control (CTC) machine controlling the mainlines. The railroad cannot be seen from this office, but everything is controlled by telephones. No radio was available in 1949. This railroad operates on NCE DCC. There are working signals, and the trains run by these signal indications.

This railroad operates about twice each month using a clock ratio of 2:1. A six-hour train schedule results in a three-hour operating session, and four sessions constitutes a 24-hour cycle of trains. Each session runs 25 to 30 trains, averaging 100 trains





each 24 hours. All crews and engines change at Hinton. Each train uses an assigned track, and all trains cycle through and terminate on the track they started on and therefore never need re-staging. It takes a crew of 9-12 people to run a session (2 dispatchers, 2 hostlers, and the rest are road crew.)

There are approximately 30 steam engines, 22 diesel units, 75 passenger cars, and about 300 freight cars. All locomotives are complete with light and sound. The freight trains are up to 40 feet long, and the passenger trains consist of up to 16 cars. There are over 130 switches and 3200 feet of track and 775 feet (seven scale miles) of staging track out of sight.

Jim and his wife Ruth (who personally created over 2,000 handmade trees) are excited about our members coming to view their working masterpiece. They are welcoming us with open arms.

Sign up early as this tour will surely sell out. You will not be disappointed.

*Photographs by Dienzel Dennis*



# LCCA TOURS

**Monday, July 25, 2016**

**Tour #1A: BNSF Special Train and St. Joseph, Mo., Tour 8 a.m. - 5 pm., Lunch at 3:45 p.m.**

**Tour #1B: BNSF Special Train AND St. Joseph, Mo., Tour 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Lunch at 12 noon**



If you're a student of history, then today's full day tour will be right up your alley! PLEASE NOTE: The following tour to St. Joseph is ONLY available to LCCA attendees participating

in the morning's BNSF Special Train trip (see description in Trip #2) to and from Topeka. After the Special pulls back into the Argentine Yard, you will have a short bus ride to St. Joseph. Tour 1A will go directly to St. Joseph since they saw the Hump Yard before the train ride. Tour 1B will visit the Hump Yard immediately after departing the Special Train ride, before having lunch and continuing to St. Joseph.

The historical sojourn continues with a trip to St. Joseph, Mo., with stops at the Pony Express National Museum, the Patee House and the home of Jesse James. From 1860 to 1910, the Pony Express, originating in St. Joseph, was largely the only mail delivery service to the western United States. The Pony Express museum in St. Joseph brilliantly illustrates the Pony Express and its role in our nation's western history. The Pony Express's original headquarters was the Patee House. Built as an actual hotel, the Patee House is St. Joseph's only National Historic Landmark, earning its designation because it housed the famous mail service company in its infancy. Inside you can climb aboard an 1860 locomotive, take in the sights of an Old West train depot as well as model train displays. Adjacent to the Pony Express Museum, you'll visit another St. Joseph gem—a 288-ton 4-8-4 steam locomotive built in 1937 for the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy line.

Housed in Patee Park, this beauty was used for both passenger and freight service for over 20 years and was officially donated to the city in 1962.

If that wasn't historically significant enough for you, St. Joseph is also the home of the infamous outlaw Jesse James. During the 1860s James was responsible for several bank robberies, many murders and was one of the leaders of the guerilla warfare group called the Buskwickers. You'll visit the Jesse James Museum, which details the life and death of one of America's notorious villains. He was shot and killed, by the way, in the very home you'll tour. You can still see the bullet holes in the room where he died!

Tour 1A and 1B are identical except for start and lunch times. Tour requests accepted where possible. If tour is full, alternative tour will be assigned by business office.

**Monday, July 25, 2016**

**Tour #2: BNSF Excursion 8:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**

In the 1950s we liked Ike, hula hoops and doo-wop music. We also liked "riding the rails" as the best way to travel and see America. The LCCA has made it possible for its members to take a step back in time and see first-hand how special train travel was back then.

The BNSF Special Train is available for this exclusive 2 1/2 hour excursion from the Argentine Yard in Kansas City, Kan., to Topeka and back. While aboard, you'll marvel at the exquisite detail of the fixtures, interior furnishings and the cars themselves, all perfectly restored to their original sheen and beauty. Once underway, you're welcome to explore all the cars in the consist, which includes lounge and business cars as well as a dining coach and a domed sightseeing car. BNSF is asking that LCCA members utilize seats in the front sections of the train as the dining and business cars in the rear are reserved for state, local and charitable dignitaries. Please note: open-toed shoes, sandals and flip-flops will not be allowed on board. Also, please keep in mind the Special Train is made up of vintage railroad cars which are not wheelchair accessible.

Don't miss this once in a lifetime opportunity to travel in style and luxury, just like the barons of industry once did, on the BNSF Special! Space is limited, so please reserve your seat today and kick off the LCCA convention on a high note! This tour will visit the BNSF Hump Yard after the train ride.

**Tuesday, July 26, 2016**

**Tour #3: Union Station's Railroads, National World War I Museum and the "Arabia" Steamboat Museum 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.**



WWI Monument—Courtesy of Visit KC

We'll get some walking time in today, so wear your pedometer or Fitbit. Our first visit of the day will be to Union Station. Built in 1914, Union Station opened with 850,000 square feet of amazing space that originally featured 900 rooms. In its prime as a working train station, it accommodated hundreds of thousands of passengers each year. During World War II, an estimated one million travelers – many of them soldiers – passed through the station.

Union Station was closed in the 1980s and sat empty and neglected – narrowly escaping demolition on several occasions. In 1996, a historic bi-state initiative was passed to fund the station's renovation, which was completed in grand fashion in 1999. We'll see everything Union Station has to offer today, including the Model Railroad Experience – 8,000 square feet of model trains, from tiny N-scale models to the big G-scale giants of the model

train world. Don't miss the Lionel layout.

Next, we'll visit the only public museum in the United States solely dedicated to World War I. Following the end of World War I in 1918, the citizens of Kansas City were inspired to build a memorial in honor of those who had served in defense of liberty and our country. Local citizens raised \$2.5 million dollars to design and construct the Liberty Memorial, and it formally opened in 1926. On October 28, 2004, President George W. Bush signed into law legislation formally designating Liberty Memorial as "America's National World War I Museum." This designation firmly establishes the Liberty Memorial Museum as THE resource for World War I in the United States. The museum features a world-class collection of historical objects and provides visitors with the opportunity to learn about WWI through the eyes of those who lived through it.

Standing watch over the Liberty Memorial high atop the 24-story tall Memorial Tower\* are four carvings of the Guardian Spirits, representing the high ideals of honor, courage, patriotism, and sacrifice. The tower elevator takes visitors up to the observation deck for a dramatic view of the Kansas City skyline. And an even more panoramic view is available to those wishing



Arabia Steamboat—Courtesy of Visit KC, Bill Cobb

to climb an additional 45 steps to the very top of the tower.

We'll have time for lunch (on our own) and shopping at the Hallmark Crown Center which also features the interactive Hallmark Cards Visitor Center.

After lunch, we'll take a journey

back through time to 1856 and the Steamboat Arabia Museum. Loaded with 200 tons of cargo, the Arabia was making her way up the Missouri River when a large log pierced her hull. Sinking in minutes, the Arabia lay entombed for the next 132 years until her remarkable recovery.

During this tour we'll learn of the efforts and techniques leading to her salvage and see firsthand the remarkable treasure of that era's day-to-day goods preserved by river mud through the years. Cargo included china, jewelry, clothing, tools, firearms, spirits, bottled fruits, boots and shoes plus hundreds of other items – all in pristine condition and now beautifully displayed.

\* The Memorial Tower is not ADA-compliant.

## Tuesday, July 26, 2016

### Tour #4: "Chicago" at the New Theatre Restaurant 5:30 – 11 p.m.

Enjoy an evening at Kansas City's New Theatre Restaurant. Your theatre experience begins with your arrival at the theatre. You will move into the surreal park-like setting of the lobby. Bright, intermittent flashes of colorful neon radiate from recesses in the ceiling. These flashing lights are being "studied" by wall-mounted human forms, a version of trompe l'oeil, literally "fool the eye," which creates an immediate sensation that one has entered a carnival funhouse. Once inside the main theatre, your

imagination takes flight. Colorful Art Deco chevron-styled lighting, featuring 1,200 colored bulbs, zigzags across the ceiling. Human forms are once again playfully posed in faux opera boxes and other locations, providing a "shadow audience."

The dining room wait staff prides itself on quick service for appetizers, salads and beverage orders. Fine dining awaits in the "Walk through Menu," with mouth-watering options and a delightful area on either side of the theatre where eye-popping graphics combine for more video wizardry.

All of this and a great performance of the musical "Chicago" after dinner will prove to be a novel and entertaining evening. The ticket price includes the performance, dinner with a nonalcoholic beverage, tax, gratuity, and round trip transportation. Dessert and additional beverages are available and not included in the package.

## Wednesday, July 27, 2016

### Tour #5: Kansas Speedway, Topeka's Great Overland Station Plus Vintage Planes & Military Vehicles 9:30 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.

The tour begins with a short drive to and around the Kansas Speedway for a brief look at Kansas City's home to NASCAR. We'll make a brief drive through the oval track and stop at one of the banked turns. Find out first hand what a 20 degree banked incline looks like. In 1997, Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kan., were selected as the site for the new speedway. Located at the intersection of Interstates 70 and 435, construction began



Kansas Speedway—Courtesy of Visit KC

in May, 1999, on the 1.5 mile tri-oval, 75,000-seat Kansas Speedway. The speedway's inaugural racing season was 2001 and currently hosts two annual NASCAR races.

Then we're off to Topeka, capital of the state of Kansas, to tour and have lunch at the Great Overland Station which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as the Union Pacific Railroad Passenger Depot. Designed by renowned architect Gilbert Stanley Underwood, the Overland Station provides a beautiful setting with its soaring ceilings and intricate ornamentation. Ever-changing exhibits are designed to bring stories to life with hands-on activities, docents and photographs.

Lunch will be at the Harvey House, which is housed within the Great Overland Station. At the age of 15, Fred Harvey, an Englishman, immigrated to America and became an agent for the Burlington Railroad. As he traveled on the train, he became disgusted with the way the meals were served. In the spring of 1876, Harvey took over the restaurant at the Santa Fe depot in Topeka. Preferring the term Harvey Girl to waitress, Fred Harvey

recruited single women to work at Harvey Houses along the Santa Fe Railroad line from Kansas to California. Between the 1880s and the 1950s, more than 100,000 women, many Kansans, proudly wore the black and white uniform of the Harvey Company.

Following lunch, we're off to visit the Combat Air and adjacent Kansas National Guard Museums. The Combat Air Museum is one of a handful of major aviation museums in the United States located on an active airfield. The museum is dedicated to the collection, preservation, conservation and exhibition of aircraft, information, artifacts, technology and art associated with the military aviation history of the United States. Exhibits at the museum include 36 aircraft ranging from WWI to present day, aircraft engines of many sizes and types and an extensive display of artifacts and military aviation art. The National Guard Museum has over 125 inside displays and 35 outside equipment displays including the M-60 main battle tank, M109A5 155mm self-propelled howitzer and a CH-54 heavy lift "Sky Crane" helicopter.

### Wednesday, July 27, 2016

#### Tour #6: "PLAY BALL" 2015 World Champion Kansas City Royals vs Los Angeles Angels 6:15 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. (estimated)

Founded in 1969 and based in Kansas City, Mo., the Kansas City Royals compete in Major League Baseball's American League Central division. Since April 10, 1973, the Royals have played at Kauffman Stadium, formerly known as Royals Stadium. The Royals have participated in four World Series, winning in 1985 and 2015, and losing in 1980 and 2014.

The name "Royals" originates from the American Royal, a livestock show, horse show, rodeo, and championship barbecue competition held annually in Kansas City since 1899. Entering the American League as an expansion franchise in 1969 along with the Seattle Pilots, the club was founded by Kansas City businessman Ewing Kauffman. The franchise was established following the actions of Stuart Symington, then-U.S. senator from Missouri, who demanded a new franchise for the city after the Athletics (Kansas City's previous major league team that played from 1955 to 1967) moved to Oakland, Calif., in 1968.

The new team quickly became a powerhouse, appearing in the playoffs seven times from 1976 to 1985, winning one World Series championship and another AL pennant, led by stars such as Amos Otis, Hal McRae, John Mayberry, George Brett, Frank White, Willie Wilson, and Bret Saberhagen. The team remained



Kauffman Stadium—Courtesy Visit KC

competitive throughout the early 1990s, but then had only one winning season from 1995 to 2012. The team broke this streak in 2014 with franchise's first wild card berth and advanced to the World Series. The Royals followed this up by winning their first Central Division title in 2015 and won their first World Series title in 30 years.

### Thursday, July 28, 2016

#### Tour #7: Harry Truman's Independence 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

The tour begins with a short drive to Independence, Mo., home of our 33rd President of the United States and a visit to the Truman Library & Museum which features "Harry S. Truman: The Presidential Years" and an interactive exhibit which chronicles Truman's presidency. The Truman Library is one of only ten in the United States administered by the National Archives and Records Administration. Consisting of research archives, there are more than 14 million pages of manuscript



Truman Home—Courtesy Visit KC

material stored there, including 5 million from the White House files. The museum section of the library focuses on the career of Harry S. Truman and his administration.

Be sure to see the reproduction of the Oval Office as it looked during his presidency.

In addition to visiting the Truman Library, we'll also view the Old Independence Square and Courthouse (where President Truman's office as county judge in 1933 was located) and the "Summer White House" of Harry & Bess Truman. It was at this home on June 24, 1950, that President Truman was informed that South Korea had been invaded.

Our next stop in Independence will be the Chicago-Alton Depot and the adjacent National Frontier Trails Museum. Built in 1879, the depot was moved to its current location and underwent restoration from 1992 to 2002, after the Great Western Railroad threatened to demolish it. The two-story depot contains the waiting room, stationmaster's room and baggage room on the first floor, while the second floor housed the living quarters for the stationmaster and his family. The second floor living quarters are not ADA-accessible.

Independence was the jumping off point for the three principal trails which crossed the West - the Santa Fe, the Oregon, and the California Trails. The Santa Fe Trail, begun in 1821, was a 900-mile foreign trade route unique in American history because it went overland rather than via water. The 2,000-mile Oregon Trail began to be heavily traveled in 1843 by settlers wanting to establish new homes in the Northwest, while others took the equally long and grueling California Trail to seek their fortunes in the gold fields. Together, these three rugged pathways and their pioneers changed the face and history of America.

A boxed lunch (included) will precede our next visit to the Bingham-Waggoner Estate. Built in 1855 by saddle maker John Lewis and once the home of American painter George Caleb

Bingham, this magnificent house has been completely restored to its original Victorian splendor. The gas chandeliers plus the furnishings and paintings of the Waggoner family, who resided here for 98 years, are beautifully displayed throughout the home.

As we return to our hotel, we'll make a couple of brief detours. The first will be to view the Truman Sports Complex featuring side-by-side stadiums. Arrowhead Stadium is home to the NFL's Kansas City Chiefs while Kauffman Stadium is home to the MLB's Kansas City Royals. Then we'll continue on to SubTropolis, a 55 million square foot, 1,100-acre, manmade cave in the bluffs above the Missouri River that is claimed to be the world's largest underground storage facility. Developed by late Kansas City Chiefs owner Lamar Hunt via Hunt Midwest Real Estate Development, Inc., it has trademarked the phrase World's Largest Underground Business Complex.

Dug into the Bethany Falls limestone mine, SubTropolis is, in part, 160 feet beneath the surface. The mine naturally maintains temperatures between 65 and 70 degrees Fahrenheit year-round. With almost seven miles of illuminated paved roads and several miles of railroad track, there currently is 5 million square feet of occupied space. About 3.2 acres of available space is added each year as active mining continues.

### Thursday, July 28, 2016

#### Tour #8: Kansas Speedway and Vintage Train Lunch Excursion 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

There's fast and then there's really fast! How's 190 mph? Fast enough for you? That's how fast your car needs to go



qualify for the NASCAR events held at the Kansas Speedway. Twice a year NASCAR has major race weekends at the 1.5 mile Kansas City, Kan., track and also hosts Indy Car and off road events as well. We'll make a brief drive through the oval track and stop at one of

the banked turns. Find out firsthand what a 20 degree banked incline looks like. It will amaze you how cars at high speeds can hold to the track on these turns. This has to be seen to be believed! Then it's a short drive to Baldwin City for lunch on the Kansas Belle Dinner Train. This special three-course meal will be served in a restored 1940s railcar powered by a vintage 1950s Alco RS 3 locomotive. This will be a leisurely roundtrip to Ottawa, Kan. While the scenery may be a bit limited, we'll be there for the experience of train travel while eating lunch and listening to music from the 1940s. As noted on previous train tours, the Kansas Belle is a vintage train and is not wheelchair accessible.

### Friday, July 29, 2016

#### Tour #9: Behind the Scenes of Baseball & Jazz 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Friday's tour begins with a short drive to the Truman Sports Complex, home of the Kansas City Royals and Chiefs, where we'll experience a behind-the-scenes tour of Kauffman Stadium,

home of the 2012 Major League Baseball All-Star Game and the 2015 World Series Champions. In addition to having the largest HD video board in baseball, "The K" features a unique outfield plaza, the Royals Hall of Fame, an interactive Kids Area and the Rivals Sports Bar. A tour of this "Crown Jewel" of ballparks will take you to areas not normally open to the public including the Royals dugout, Crown Club, Press Box and visitor's clubhouse.

Our next visit will be to the historic district of 18th and Vine, home to a multiple tribute to Kansas City's heritage, including the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum and the adjacent American Jazz Museum. The Negro Leagues Baseball Museum is the centerpiece of the historical renaissance of the Negro Leagues baseball throughout the nation. The exhibit covers the Leagues' entire history, from its beginning after



Negro League Museum—Courtesy Visit KC

the Civil War through its final days in the 1960s. You will be able to follow the history of some of baseball's greatest legends that rose from the Negro Leagues and left an incredible mark on the game. These include household names like Willie Mays, Hank Aaron, Ernie Banks, Roy Campanella and the incredible Jackie Robinson.

The Horace M. Peterson III Visitor Center joins the Negro Leagues and American Jazz Museums. This center celebrates the African-American community that thrived at 18th and Vine for more than 40 years. While the national success of the baseball and jazz legends from this neighborhood are recognized, so too are the struggles and contributions of everyday heroes – teachers, parents, business people and clergy.

Kansas City's role in nurturing the development of jazz during the 1920s and 1930s is known throughout the world. Kansas City



Jazz Photo—Courtesy Visit KC

"Style" was first a musical term referring to that classic blend of blues and ragtime that came to identify and explain Kansas City to millions of jazz enthusiasts. Charlie "Bird" Parker, Mary Lou Williams, Benny Moten, Hot Lips Page, Julia Lee, Baby Lovett and Count Basie with

his "Kansas City Seven" were but a few of the musicians who helped nurture the Kansas City style. In addition to the interactive displays, the Kansas City Jazz Museum offers four major exhibits celebrating the memory of jazz greats Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald and Charlie Parker. These exciting exhibits include audio and video stations as well as memorabilia from the performers – including Charlie Parker's famous plastic saxophone.

**Saturday, July 30, 2016**

**Tour #10: Three Home Layout Tours**  
**Hourly departures beginning at 8 a.m., with the last departure at Noon, 5 1/2 hours per excursion**

From the Electric Express first built in 1900 to the most elaborate and sophisticated layouts of the current day, Lionel Trains have brought smiles and happiness to both old and young for over a century! Collectors with a meticulous touch keep their layouts fine-tuned and up-to-date with the latest trends in the Lionel legacy. Such attention to detail will be on display in the three layout tours selected for you.

The first stop is in Overland Park, Kan., home of Andy Dobil. Santa delivered Andy his first Lionel train set in 1956, and Andy has recaptured the spirit of those days with his layout he and his eight grandchildren enjoy today. You're sure to be



impressed with the detail of the layout, and don't forget to ask Andy about his impressive train collections as well as his other collectibles.

Moving on to the next impressive layout, our next stop is just a short drive away and the engines will be humming through this multi-room tour. Don Miller's scenic postwar collection has it all, from mountainous areas to cities and amusement parks. Both Andy and Don have been instrumental in getting a local train club started in the Kansas City area and are involved with the Train Collectors Association (TCA) well as the LCCA.

Finally the tour will head to Jim and Ruth Eudaly's home in nearby Kansas City, Mo. There you will find a massive layout of the New River Gorge in West Virginia. Each bend in the river is true to scale, complete with actual replicas of depots and coal mines from the area. This impressive layout also has over 2000 handmade trees and shrubs made by Ruth. Together they have created a masterpiece that needs to be seen to be believed!

Please keep in mind all three homes are not wheelchair accessible.

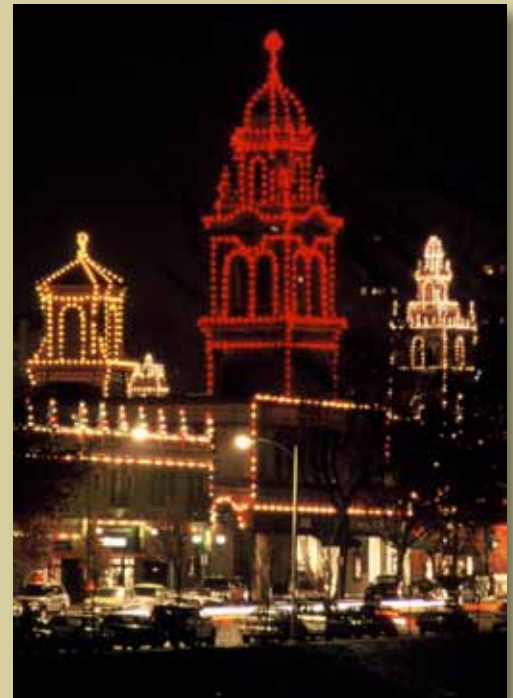
Our last stop after each home tour will be a quick drive

through the caverns of Subtropolis, the largest underground business facility in the world. With over two million square feet of workspace, Subtropolis is home to companies like Underground Vaults & Storage which keeps film classics like "Gone With The Wind" and "The Wizard of Oz" in its vaults.

**Saturday, July 30, 2016**

**Tour #11: Crown Center & Country Club Plaza Shopping**  
**8:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**

For our Saturday morning excursion, we'll be off to Crown Center Shopping Complex, home of the Hallmark Visitors Center. The shopping and entertainment complex features three levels of shops and restaurants, a set of grand open air fountains, live theatres, an ice skating rink and over-street walkways leading throughout the complex and to Kansas City's Union Station. One of the most notable stores is the Halls department store designed by Paul László. At the Hallmark Visitors Center, we'll travel through the Hallmark Cards' story and the humble beginnings of its founder, Joyce C. ("Mr. J.C.") in 1910.



*Country Club Plaza night shot—Courtesy Visit KC*

We'll also travel to the world famous Country Club Plaza. Modeled on Seville, Spain by developer J. C. Nichols, the Country Club Plaza was constructed in the late 1920s.

Encompassing over 55 acres, The Plaza is home to over 180 upscale shops, cafés and restaurants including Pandora, Kate Spade of New York, Vera Bradley, Tiffany & Co., H&M, The Coach Store, Tivol, Sur La Table, Michael Kors and Cole Haan. You will have time to visit your choice of the many stores, boutiques and dining establishments before we return to our hotel in time for lunch. 🚗

