

READING COMPANY

OFFICE, SUPT. MOTIVE POWER AND ROLLING EQUIPMENT

READING, PA. May 19, 1949

IN YOUR REPLY PLEASE REFER TO.....

Mr. J. M. Whalen,
Special Representative,
Locomotive Maintenance Officers' Assn.,
3863 Lafayette Avenue,
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Mr. Whalen:

Have noted your letter of May 15th to Mr. E.P. Gangewere, as well as newspaper clippings, regarding the "Black Diamond" locomotive.

Wish to advise that the first "Black Diamond" was built in June 1858 by the P. & R. Railroad Company.

The second was built in September 1868 by the P. & R. Railroad Company. This was retired in March 1886 and immediately replaced by a new one with the number 199.

The fourth "Black Diamond" was built in May 1889 by the Baldwin Locomotive Works for the P. & R. Coal and Iron Company, and is the one now on exhibition. This is verified by Mr. John Scheifele, retired Road Foreman of Engines, who ran the locomotive from 1900 to 1906.

There was still another or a fifth "Black Diamond", which was similar to our 100, 101 and 102 observation locomotives.

Investigation has developed that when locomotive was being prepared for shipment to St. Louis, a board or sign was found on the floor of the cab on which were painted various items of data, and among these items the date "1868" appeared. Have been unable to ascertain when this data board was painted, but it was not prepared to accompany the "Black Diamond" locomotive to St. Louis, and should have been removed from the cab of the locomotive prior to shipment.

As information, there were at least six other locomotives, similar to the "Black Diamond", as follows:-

"Witch"	1855
"Transit"	1867
"Ariel"	1872
"Gem"	1864
"Fawn"	1860
"Stag"	1851

Wish to thank you for the information contained in your letter, and trust that the above data explains the present "Black Diamond" locomotive.

Sincerely yours,



Howard Hill
Supt. M.P. & R.E.

Copy to Mr. E P Gangewere