



# READING COMPANY

PUBLICITY DEPARTMENT

READING TERMINAL

PHILADELPHIA 1, PA.

July 27th, 1948.

Dr. John P. Roberts,  
The Museum of Transport,  
304 Belt Avenue,  
St. Louis 12, Missouri.

Dear Doctor Roberts:

At long last we are able to give you definite information regarding the engine "Black Diamond". The management of Reading Company has decided to loan this engine to you for exhibition at the Museum of Transport upon certain conditions.

It will not be possible for us to make an outright gift as conditions may arise in future years which would be to the advantage of the company to have this engine exhibited in our territory or, possibly, in Washington, D.C. However, these plans are very remote and it is our belief that we would not request return of the engine for several years.

Much to the amazement of our management, as well as officials of the Philadelphia & Reading Coal & Iron Company, our Legal Department has dug up records showing that this engine belongs to the P.&R. C.&I. Company. It will be deeded to Reading Company in order that we may take advantage of Section 22 of the Interstate Commerce Commission laws permitting shipment at no cost. A number of minor details must be cleared before our Legal Department can prepare the agreement with your Society and I would appreciate it if the following information can be forwarded:

- (1) - Exact corporate name and names of officers.
- (2) - Will your organization cover the locomotive by insurance while enroute to St. Louis and while in your custody? (Our Motive Power Department is preparing an actual estimate of present value - not the historical value)
- (3) - Will your Society guarantee proper loading of the engine, insurance, etc., if and when Reading Company might desire its return?
- (4) - Is there any particular rail movement you might desire to St. Louis?

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These are simply points raised by the lawyers and I would appreciate a reply, as well as hearing from you on any other points you may care to present.

We also have in mind your suggestion that our company might consider the sale or some arrangement whereby a "Camelback" could be obtained for the Museum. This matter is under consideration.

I am very glad that our management has agreed to permit this engine to be shipped to St. Louis. As you know, I have been greatly impressed, not only with the Museum, but the high type of officers representing your Society.

With kind regards, I am

Very truly yours,

*I L Gordon*

I. L. Gordon,  
Publicity Manager

ILG/ebc