

R&LHS Announces Prestigious History Awards

MADISON, Wis.--The Railway & Locomotive Historical Society national awards for 2017, announced today, recognize outstanding work of lasting value to the interpretation of North America's railroading history. These awards are for senior achievement, article, photography, and documentary videos. R&LHS has presented the awards--the only national railroad history awards--annually since 1982.

The recipients are **Robert J. Church**, Gerald M. Best Senior Achievement Award; **Norman Carlson**, David P. Morgan Article Award; **Joe McMillan and Steve Patterson**, Fred A. and Jane R. Stindt Photography Award; **Richard W. Luckin**, "Grand Central, an American Treasure, professionally produced video with a budget; and **Evan Lofback and Chuck Chambliss**, "And Then There Was One," hobbyist/student produced video. R&LHS did not make a book award in 2017. Citations will appear in *Railroad History*.

Church, DDS, Wilton, California, who received the Senior Achievement Award, is an author, publisher, and long-time chairman of the Pacific Coast Chapter of the R&LHS. He has served on the national R&LHS board and after a break of at least a decade, has stepped back into the PCC chairmanship. He has been editor for the last 7 years of the PCC's bi-monthly magazine, *Western Railroader*.

His books have covered Southern Pacific's larger classes of steam locomotives, with titles as: *Cab-Forward*, *The 4300 4-8-2s*, *Southern Pacific Daylight Locomotives*, and *Southern Pacific Ten-Coupled Locomotives*. Other subjects include *Steam Days in Dunsmuir* and *Snowbound Streamliner*; *Rescuing the 1952 City of San Francisco*. He is co-owner with Tony Thompson in Signature Press, railroad book publishers, founded in 1994.

Carlson, Lake Forest, Illinois, received the article award for *A Transportation Miracle*, an issue-length article he edited for the Shore Line Interurban Historical Society about the International Eucharistic Congress held in Chicago in 1926. On the last day of the congress, 275,100 arrived and departed Mundelein, north of Chicago, on the railroads and interurban serving that community for the closing mass.

Carlson is president of the Interurban Historical Society. He is the chairman of the board of directors of Metra, the commuter railroad in Northeastern Illinois, a member of the Business Advisory Committee to the Northwestern University Transportation Center, and member of the board of directors of the Center for Railroad Photography & Art.

Patterson, Arvada, Colorado, acquired his first 35mm camera in 1956, and since then has gone through six Pentax cameras, a Graflex 4x5, a Koni-Omega, 3 Nikons and 4 darkrooms (due to moving so much). He aims a Nikon today and still has a Mamiya 645 encased on a shelf. Patterson has written and illustrated several magazine articles as well as one book, and his photographs have appeared in 145 railroad books. A year after graduating from East Tennessee State University, he began a career with Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway at Topeka in March 1965, and retired from its successor BNSF in March 2007 with 42 years of service. He and Maxine, his wife, settled down in Arvada, Colorado, 38 years ago and Joe and Nickie McMillan followed them next door 26 years ago. There is an intercom system between and in the two homes.

McMillan, also of Arvada, graduated from Texas Tech University at Lubbock, Texas, with a degree in civil engineering. After graduation in 1964, he went to work as a draftsman in Santa Fe Railway's office of the Eastern Lines chief engineer in Topeka, Kansas. He retired in 1995 as the assistant director of safety and rules. He moved his family from Chicago to Arvada, Colorado, and built a house along the old Rio Grande Moffat Route. He stays busy with his publishing business, McMillan publications, and traveling.

He authored his first book, *The 5:10 to Suburbia*, with Bob Olmsted in 1975. His most popular book, *Route of the Warbonnets*, was a black and white look at the Santa Fe in the 1970s, with seven printings since it was first released in 1977.

Luckin, Golden, Colorado, has been in video production for 36 years, and for the last 18 years his programs have aired on many PBS stations nationwide. Three of those programs have been nominated for a Regional Emmy. Other productions have garnered 44 national and local video awards. He received the award for 20th Century Limited: America's Most Famous Passenger Train, shown on many PBS stations nationwide in 2016. His new program, *Selling Sunshine: The Florida Trains*, will air nationally in early 2018.

Before his early retirement from the Coors Brewing Company, Luckin was a producer director for its Corporate Television Department, producing employee training and informational programs.

Lofback, Maryville, Tennessee, videographer, and **Chuck Chambliss**, Hueytown, Alabama, executive producer and editor, received their award for a documentary about locomotive 4501.

Lofback moved from Florida to Tennessee in 2011. He works as the assistant director of technology at Equis Financial in Asheville, North Carolina. After seeing the news that 4501 was being restored at the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum in 2012, he decided to create a high-quality, no-budget, documentary using volunteers from the railfan community and upload it for free to YouTube.

He established a Facebook page to reach out to individuals and the community in general, telling them about his idea and asking for help. That's how Chambliss joined the team. Shortly after, Robert Soule III became the first significant contributor to provide classic media to the project, mostly covering 4501's early restoration and operation by his father and Paul Merriman in the mid-60s. Several organizations, including TVRM, Norfolk Southern, and the Southern Railway Historical Association, gave access to their archival documentation. "All the while, I was diligently researching for and writing the script. What started as a documentary about a machine quickly evolved into an emotional story of human persistence and triumph, and that is what we tried to convey," Lofback said. The first showing was September 9, 2016, at TVRM.

Chambliss is a supervising video editor for Spectrum Reach in Birmingham, Alabama, managing other video editors in various states in the Southeast US. He has 20 years of video production and graphic design experience, in addition to eight years of active duty in the U.S. Air Force.

Recipients were announced by John Gruber, Madison, Wis., awards chair. The Railway & Locomotive Historical Society, founded in 1921, is the oldest railroad history organization in North America. More information about R&LHS and the awards is available on its website, <http://rlhs.org>.