

Machines of Iron

A railroad video and DVD producer with a link to railroad history

Machines of Iron owner and founder Charley Whitcomb not only has a deep interest in trains dating back to his childhood, he is distantly related to a man who started a company that manufactured locomotives.

Charley's grew up in the Chicago suburb of Evanston with the trains of the Chicago & Northwestern on one side and the Chicago Transit Authority rapid transit on the other, his interest in railroads began to grow and would later become both an avocation and vocation.

Meanwhile, a large theater, a music department, a radio studio and television studios at Evanston Township High School gave Charley another passion.

Charley's professional television career began in 1967 at the University of Illinois where he was a technical director and editor. After a two year break for military service in Vietnam, he was co-founder of Mediatech, a post production service company in Chicago.

Charley worked for several media firms in both Chicago and Washington, D.C., before moving to the Los Angeles area in 1976 when his career took off as a TV editor working in Hollywood as a TV editor. His credits ranged from sitcoms to the Whoopie Goldberg talk show, and he was recognized for his work editing national commercials for a number of national auto, beer, food, airline and computer companies.

Despite his success, as time went on, Charley sought something more fulfilling that would allow him to pursue his interest in railroading. Responding to an ad in the *Hollywood Reporter*, he was hired by a railroad video production company as an editor/producer. Joined by his bride Diane, who

share his love for railroads, he wrote scripts, developed sound effects for the tapes and shot programs.

In 1997, Charley and Diane decided to strike out on their own, creating Machines of Iron, an endeavor that allowed them to work together on something that they both loved doing.

Sadly, Diane became ill in July 1999 and passed away ifour months later. However, her

sprit is very much alive in Machines of Iron today and many of her thoughts on design and narration are reflected in the current productions. Her memory is honored in the closing credits of every program.

As for Charley's genetic link to the railroad industry, he is a distant relative of George Dexter Whitcomb, founder of the Whitcomb Locomotive Works. And Machines of

Iron is situated in Glendora, Calif., a town that George founded.

Charley has dispatched crews all North America, Europe, Asia, and South Africa to obtain material. The current catalog for Machines of Iron includes not only railroad programs but also tapes and DVDs on historic steam farm tractors.

Charley continues to develop new programs, fielding crews and using the latest technology to make the finest tapes and DVDs possible. "Diane wouldn't have it any other way," he says..



Contact Information

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