

Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen

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English

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Summary Information

Repository:	University Libraries Division of Special Collections, The University of Alabama
Creator:	Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen
Title:	Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen letter
ID:	MSS.0216
Date [inclusive]:	1921 March 16
Physical Description:	0.04 Linear Feet (1 item)
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	Letter dated 15 March 1921 from Brotherhood of Trainmen Vice President, Val Fitzpatrick, to union members concerning a strike against the Atlanta, Birmingham, and Atlantic Railway Company.

Preferred Citation

Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen letter, University Libraries Special Collections, The University of Alabama.

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Biographical / Historical

In 1883, eight men met in Delaware & Hudson R.R. Caboose No. 10 at Oneonta, New York, to talk about working conditions. A few days later on 23 September 1883, the Grand Lodge of the "Brotherhood of Railroad Brakemen" (BRB) was organized. The Oneonta lodge was called "E.V. Debs Lodge No. 1" in honor of Eugene Victor Debs, Grand Secretary and Treasurer of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen. He provided a great assistance in forming the infant organization. On 1 January 1890, the name of the organization was changed to the "Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen" (BRT).

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers (BLE) was North America's oldest rail labor union when it merged with the Teamsters in 2004. It had members in the eastern half of the United States and parts of Canada. Conductors were able to enter, but the union was not specialized to deal with their issues. The BLE was the first of the "Big Four" of railroad worker brotherhoods:(1) Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers (BLE, 1864), organized as Brotherhood of the Footboard in 1863;(2) Order of Railway Conductors (ORC, 1868);(3) Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen (BLF, 1873), later the Brotherhood

of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen (BLFE, 1904); and(4) Brotherhood of Railroad Brakemen, (1883), later the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen (BRT). In 1969, all except the BLE joined with the Switchmen's Union to become the United Transportation Union (UTU). In the era after the founding of the Big Four, some sixteen other "brotherhoods" of railroad trades organized. Membership qualifications across trades shifted, and the alliances among the brotherhoods (and their chapters) are not always clear. After 1877, the BLE was considered less militant than some other brotherhoods, as well as the Knights of Labor and the American Railway Union.

In the 1920s, the members of Lodge 1 (which incidentally had changed its name to "Daniel Hopkins"), in order to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the formation of the Brotherhood, located Caboose No. 10 which had deteriorated over the years. With the help of the Delaware and Hudson Railroad, the caboose was brought back to Oneonta, restored to its original condition, placed under a pagoda in Newahwa Park in Oneonta, and on 23 September 1924, a ceremony was held there to celebrate the occasion. Four of the original eight founding members were still living and attended.

Sources:Larry Buchan. "Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen 120th Anniversary." Internet Horology Club 185, <http://ihc185.infopop.cc/eve/forums/a/tpc/f/6366042471/m/6906061434>. 23 Sep. 2003. Web. 26 Nov. 2012.

Wikipedia contributors. "Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen." Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brotherhood_of_Locomotive_Engineers_and_Trainmen, 29 Oct. 2012. Web. 26 Nov. 2012.

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Scope and Contents

The collection contains a letter dated 15 March 1921, from the Brotherhood of Trainmen Vice President, Val Fitzpatrick, to union members concerning a strike against the Atlanta, Birmingham, and Atlantic Railway Company.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Conditions Governing Access

None

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Controlled Access Headings

- Business and Labor
- Commercial correspondence
- Organizations
- Railroads -- Employees -- Labor unions -- United States -- History -- 20th Century
- Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen
- Atlanta, Birmingham & Atlantic Railroad Company

General

To provide faster access to our materials, this finding aid was published without formal and final review. Email us at archives@ua.edu if you find mistakes or have suggestions to make this finding aid more useful for your research.

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Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances
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Letter

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