

# Drumhead Submission Examples

## *The Wabash Cannonball*

Picture:



Description:

The *Wabash Cannon Ball* was a high-speed express passenger train that ran from 1950 to 1971. Its route was between St. Louis Missouri and Detroit Michigan. Before 1950 the *Wabash Cannon Ball* did not exist. It was named after a song with a long history. The song “Wabash Cannonball” was a song sung by Hobos and travelers since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The song was about a mythical train called the Wabash Cannonball that could travel everywhere and anywhere. A couple of artists have made their own versions of this song, but the most popular one was from the 1930’s by an artist named Roy Acuff. After this song came out, it became very popular and sparked interest in the Wabash Railroad. Because of this renewed attention, the railroad decided to capitalize on that fame. In 1950 the Wabash railroad dubbed a train the Wabash Cannonball and started running it daily for passenger service. The company had been struggling for a while, so it was also hoped that this would help raise ridership. The name Cannonball was also used on different railways for trains that were considered high-speed. This train was known for its luxuries. It had air conditioning, fine dining cars, and pristine sleeping quarters.

## *Empire Builder*

Picture:



Description:

The *Empire Builder* was built in 1929. It was a passenger train run by the Great Northern Railway. This train was named after the Company's founder James J. Hill. He was a remarkably successful railroad man at the time who took a couple failing railroads and brought them back to life by turning them into the only successful privately funded Transcontinental Railroad. Because he had such an impact on industry and had a railroad that reached both sides of the country, he was given the nickname of "The Empire Builder." This long-distance passenger train ran through some beautiful mountains such as the Cascade Mountains and Glacier National Park. Because of the scenery on its route, it was given a drumhead with a mountain goat on it named Rocky. It was not a high-speed train, running at an average speed of 50 mph and reaching a top speed of 79 mph. It was made to be a leisure train. It traveled from Chicago, Illinois to either Seattle or Portland. It's a 46-hour long ride which may seem very tedious, but the route was made to be scenic with beautiful views out the window and not get people to the West Coast fast.