A Storied History of Domed Discovery

1947 - The Debut of the “Olympian Hiawatha”

Due to strong competition in the Pacific West Coast and Atlantic Coast region, the Milwaukee Railroad (today a part of the Union Pacific) introduced a brand new streamlined train - the “Olympian Hiawatha” - stretching from Chicago, IL to Tacoma and Seattle, WA. This train, thanks to its sophisticated lounge car which offered an expansive view of the scenery, was renowned for its luxury.

1953 - The First Full Dome car in the USA

In order to enhance the attractive nature of the train, the Milwaukee Road added the first-ever “Super Dome” car to the train - this car allowed passengers to marvel at the American landscape from the comfort of this specialized lounge car, and was a big part of how this train became an icon of American Railroad history. Other railroads would later adopt the Super Dome idea, but the Milwaukee Road truly made it famous.

Today - A History Preserved

While eventually it was retired, the “Olympian Hiawatha” remains a beloved piece of railroad history and some cars have been preserved to this day for use with charter trains and other events.

Packaged as a 9 car set and including the classic Super Dome and Lounge Observation cars, the Milwaukee Road Olympian Hiawatha is the latest classic named-train-set from Kato USA!

Modelers can enjoy this beautiful and historic train on their home layouts, both with and without interior lighting, pulled by a prototypical trio of FP7 and F7B locomotives, available with standard DC and optional DCC and even DCC with ESU LokSound! Now in stock or available to order at your local hobby shop!