

NEW TRACKS MODELING

OBSERVATIONS

February 2025



Sponsored by:
Brennan's Model Railroading
<https://www.brennansmodelrr.com/>
(816)-252-4605



The Conductor's Corner by Tom Farrell

Model railroaders are a uniquely talented group, combining diverse skills such as carpentry, electrical work, analog and digital electronics, painting, photography, and sculpture. Whether assembling kits or scratch-building locomotives, rolling stock, and structures, this multifaceted hobby pushes creativity and craftsmanship.



What truly sets model railroaders apart is their relentless pursuit of fresh ideas, innovative techniques, and cutting-edge technology. New Tracks Modeling (NTM) leads the way by showcasing traditional model-making artistry alongside the latest advancements in the hobby.

For example, NTM regularly features segments on wireless dead rail systems. Powered by advancements in battery technology and miniaturized wireless components, these systems eliminate the need for track power, allowing hobbyists to focus on creativity rather than maintenance. Similarly, 3D printing is a frequent topic, as it has unlocked new possibilities for creating custom parts with precision and at low cost, enabling modelers to bring their most imaginative ideas to life.

Artificial intelligence (AI) and virtual reality (VR) are also beginning to influence the hobby, offering tools to visualize and plan layouts before construction even begins. Meanwhile, smartphone apps and advanced sensors now allow modelers to control trains, switches, and lighting, while adding realistic operations such as signaling and automated grade crossings. Upcoming NT presentations will explore these topics and their practical applications in model railroading.

At NTM, we strive to discover and share these technological advancements, enhancing the realism of model railroading and making it more exciting and accessible for hobbyists of all experience levels. This mission is especially vital for inspiring young modelers, the future of the hobby.

The New Tracks Modeling show airs live every Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM ET, on YouTube and Zoom, with all episodes recorded, segmented, and available on YouTube for convenient viewing anytime.

From the Editor's Desk

Welcome to the February 2025 issue of the New Tracks Modeling Observations Newsletter.

As usual, there are announcements of new products from vendors and news about trains shows and conventions, and New Tracks Modeling Scholarship news, and its travel about the country are included. Updates, additions, and changes to our regularly scheduled program segments are within. As always, send your articles, tips or “tricks” about any aspect of model railroading, or just share a photo or two of a model you are building directly to me at: Martin.Brechbiel@newtracksmodeling.com

Also, please contact me with your articles, comments, suggestions, details of new products you are producing in any scale, upcoming events and Train shows, or any of your views, opinions, and comments. Getting this sort of information shared and distributed to the modeling community by all means possible serves all!

And now this is your chance to have your modeling on the cover. Just send me a good quality portrait format photo and your modeling can be on the cover of an upcoming issue of the newsletter.

As always a special thanks to our proofreaders Greg Cassidy and Joel McCurry as well as our vendor liaison, Eric Kennedy.



Cover Photo: an “A” train running on elevated tracks coming into the Liberty Avenue station in Brooklyn on the Gowanus & Northern Railroad – Bob Davidson

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Sending Your Articles!

From the Editor

We are always looking for new articles, tips, ideas, photos, and comments from our readers. We always enjoy looking at new layouts, dioramas, and models that our members have created. If you would like to contribute to *Observations*, please send an email containing your article and photos to the Editor. *Observations* welcomes and encourages articles, photographs, and model railroad related material as contributions to our readers' education and enjoyment of the hobby. Topics should have a broad appeal. If you are unsure of possible interest, contact the Editor (Martin.Brechbiel@newtracksmodeling.com)!

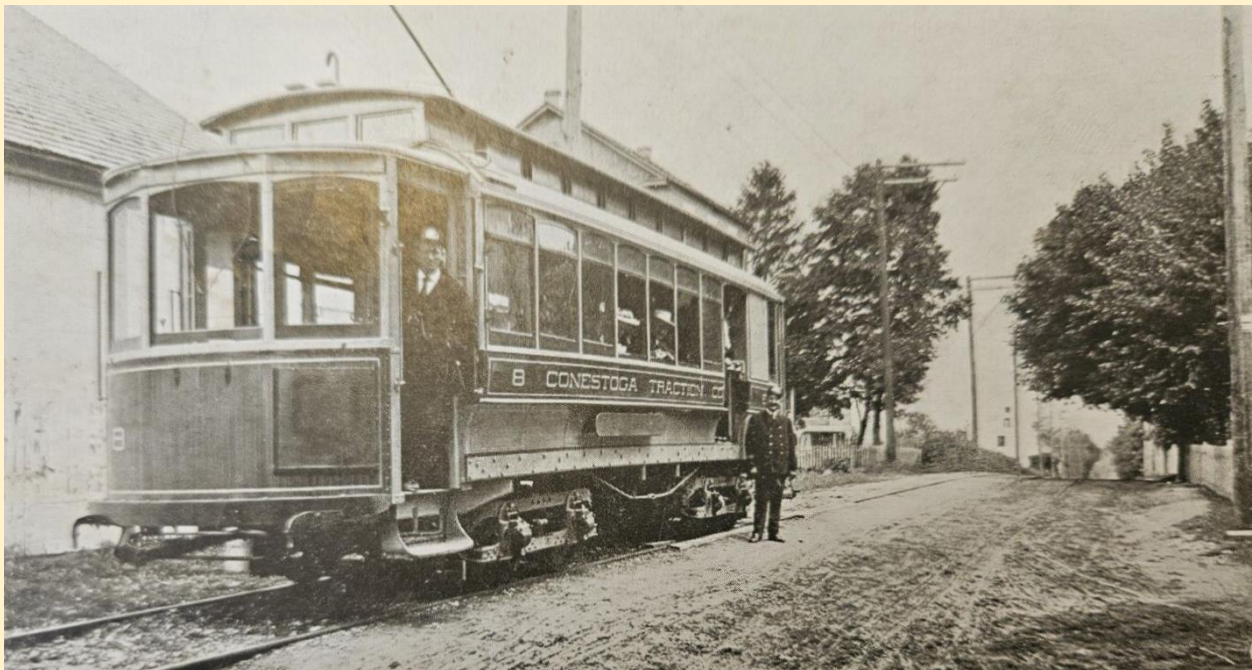
Do not send paper/photo originals. Editors, by definition, reserve the right and have the responsibility to make corrections, deletions, and changes to accommodate space. If your item is time-sensitive in any way, please advise the Editor. Otherwise, stories and photos are published roughly in the order they were received. We love our authors and we love our jobs in creating *Observations* for you to enjoy.

However, many articles may not be in a good format and require many hours of work to get them ready for publication. When you are preparing your article, please follow the instructions presented here.

It won't make any more work for you and it will save us many hours of proofreading and publishing time. We can save a lot of time if you prepare your article according to the instructions.

1. Compose and submit your text in Word format (.doc or .docx).
2. Use Calibri font in 14 pt size single spaced for all of the text without any extra spacing before or after lines.
3. Enter your text with no paragraph indents.

4. In your text, refer to your photos this way: **(Photo 1)** - in parentheses, bold and blue.
5. Between paragraphs in your text, write “**Insert Photo 1 here**” where you want the photo to appear. **DO NOT** put your photos into the text file!!! Otherwise, we just have to take them out.
6. Include the number of the Photo in the file name of the Photo so we know which one goes with which number.
7. Photos must be clear and sharp, and JPG, GIF, TIFF and PNG formats are acceptable. Nobody wants to look at blurry photos.
8. Photo captions should be listed at the end of your article, or in a separate Word file, correspondingly numbered to the photo.
9. Send your text and your photos separately by email to Editor (Martin.Brechbiel@newtracksmodeling.com). They can all be sent in the same email as long as the total file size is less than 25 MB. If the size is larger than that, you will have to split them into two or more emails.



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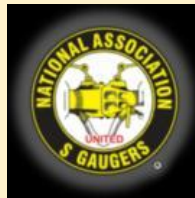
Thanks to our current Sponsors for their financial support to help pay for Shows, Zoom, YouTube, and other related out of pocket costs.



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National Association of S Gaugers
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American Models
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Millhouse River Studio
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Individual and Company Donors for our 2025 Scholarships

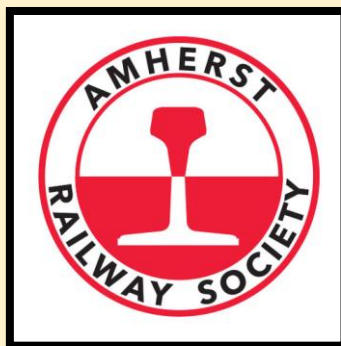
Individual donors in 2024 for our 2025 scholarships are: David Menard, Gerald and Linda Feeney, Jim Kellow, MMR, Fr. Ron Walters, Bob Charles, MMR, Jeff Zigley, Bob Davidson, Jim Foley, Anonymous, Greg Cassidy, Jamie Bothwell, Michael Gorczynski, Rich Randall, Steve Sherrill, Jeff Jordan, Pat Rivard, James Koryta, Bill Bunce, Martin Brechbiel, MMR, the Anonymous 2024 kick-off donor, Phil Edholm, Dave and Evelyn Sweeny, and Jeffrey Peck.

Thank you all so much for the leadership and financial commitment you have made to our young future modeler's education. Your help is greatly appreciated!

Company donations are greatly appreciated and will be recognized. Companies that donate \$250 in any annual scholarship cycle will be identified as Brass Donors; Silver Donors will be recognized for a \$500 contribution, Gold Donors for a \$750 contribution and Platinum Donors for a \$1,000 contribution. Donors who contribute at least \$2,000 will be listed as a specific scholarship sponsor. Please contact us at: nttms@newtracksmodeling.com to arrange for your corporate donations. Donate early to maximize your exposure. Remember, your contribution will help the young modelers who are the future of our hobby.

**We are most pleased and grateful to announce a 2025
\$1000.00 Platinum Donor:**

Platinum Corporate Sponsors



Amherst Railway Society

<https://amherstrail.org/>

We are pleased and very grateful to announce our 2025 \$500.00 Silver Donor:

Silver Corporate Sponsors



Great Scale Model Train Show

<https://www.gsmts.com/>

<https://sites.google.com/view/greatscalemodeltrainshow>

produced by Scott Geare

We are pleased and very grateful to announce our current 2025 \$250.00 Brass Donors:

Brass Corporate Sponsors



Brennan's Model Railroading

<https://www.brennansmodelrr.com/>

owned by Dennis Brennan

American Models

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3D Resin Castings In O and S Scale

Custom Resin Printing

We can print the following:

Parts ready for priming and painting

Parts ready for casting/wax molds

Parts ready for direct burnout

The Model Railroad Resource LLC

407 E. Chippewa St. Dwight, IL 60420
815-274-8809 or 815-584-1577

info@modelrailroadresource.com

The Model Railroad Resource LLC

<https://oscaleresource.com/WP/>

owned by Amy and Dan Dawdy

Kershaw Craftsman Kits

<https://kershawcraftsmankits.com/>



WiFi Model Railroad

<https://www.wifimodelrailroad.com/>

owned by WiFi Model Railroad



NEW TRACKS MODELING MENTORING SCHOLARSHIP

Reaching Applicants for the NTM Scholarship – Getting the Word Out!

We're very grateful for all the financial support we've received from both the business and individual communities. As we've reported previously, we'll be able to award three \$2,000.00 scholarships for the 2025-2026 academic year to young modelers studying Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts or Mathematics (STEAM) on an undergraduate level. Now our big challenge is to make sure that EVERY young modeler is aware of the scholarship and is encouraged to apply.

Every reader of this newsletter can help get applicants for our scholarships both at their local HS and college levels. Promoting scholarship availability and reaching out to college students can be done through various effective methods. Here are some suggestions:

1. Your local train group. There are several ways to help spread the word with your local train club or group:

- Make an announcement at your next meeting
- Include a message in your newsletter
- Mention the scholarship at your next ops session

2. Your local hobby shop. Ask the owner if they can share information about the scholarship on their web page or physically in their store. We'll provide flyers and artwork to help make this happen. Just ask (email below).

3. Local train fairs/shows. There's always an information table with news about future shows and events. Ask the organizers if you can leave scholarship flyers on the table and ask them to help publicize the scholarship in their advertising.

4. Local schools. If you have a local high school, ask if you can speak with a guidance counselor and make them aware of the scholarship. Direct them to our website. If there's a local college (2-year or 4-year) or trade school, speak to the folks in financial aid and let them know about us.



Please Help Our Next Generation of Model Railroaders by Donating to our Scholarship Program. Information can be found at

<https://newtracksmodeling.com/scholarship/>

If you have any questions, please contact Bob Davidson at NTMMS@newtracksmodeling.com



NEW TRACKS MODELING

Where Mentors Help Modelers Build



LIVE WEEKLY On YouTube & Zoom

REGULARLY SCHEDULED PROGRAMS:

- **Scratch Builder's Corner** by Martin Brechbiel, MMR
- **My Build** by Chris Course (Monthly)
- **The Rustic Buff & Old Gothic** by Tom Farrell
- **Narrow Gauge Modeling** by Steve Sherrill, MMR
- **News & Views – All Scales** by Invited Guests!

**EVERY
WEDNESDAY
7:00PM – 9:00PM
EASTERN**

**Subscribe on our website to receive links to the show:
www.newtracksmodeling.com**

Regularly Scheduled Segments on New Tracks Modeling

Scratchbuilder's Corner

by Martin Brechbiel, MMR (Martin.Brechbiel@newtracksmodeling.com)

Scratchbuilder's Corner presents aspects of scratchbuilding (and kitbashing) primarily with wood as the medium to build structures and rolling stock, but this includes the use of other materials such as styrene, brass, resin, and other casting materials as appropriate.

Intentions here are to teach & share techniques and "tricks" that can be adapted into your scratchbuilding projects working from simple projects through those of increasing complexity.



Scratchbuilder's Corner continued into January with the restoration (restoration of vintage rolling stock can easily count as scratchbuilding!) of a pair of Exakta kit cars of Wagner Sleeping Cars. After those cars were completed, a new structure building project was started in January.

Scratchbuilding a Layout – Company Houses on the RB & OG

by Tom Farrell (tfarrell60@comcast.net)

Join Master Modeler Tom Farrell as he brings history to life by scratch-building a pair of O scale company houses for the On30 Rustic Buff & Old Gothic Railroad. These structures, inspired by the worker housing of western Pennsylvania coal and steel towns, will feature authentic detailing that captures the character of a bygone era.

From weathered siding and coal sheds to porches where stories were shared after a hard day's work, Tom's craftsmanship will transport you to a time when these humble homes were the heart of industrial communities. Don't miss this opportunity to watch Tom blend history and artistry into these iconic additions to his layout!



The New Tracks Modeling Live YouTube show airs every Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM ET, with episodes recorded, segmented, and posted on YouTube for convenient viewing later.

New Tracks Modeling “MY BUILD” 2025

by Chris Course (railrunner130@hotmail.com)

Model railroading is about sharing and the monthly MY BUILD is your opportunity to share and show off your build with the world. Trains, structures, or boats, it doesn't matter. It doesn't have to be your latest build. Heck, it could even be something you found at a yard or estate sale and just thought was neat. Or, maybe if you're stuck on something, need a different technique, or are stumped on how to proceed on a project. This is a good part of the show to ask questions. Please ask. We can help.

Every other month we have a “theme.” These are not rigid. If you can find something to share that fits in a category, regardless of being “outside the box”, that is ENCOURAGED!

Build More Models with a Mentor

by Jim Kellow

I recently read an article in the NRHSA Hobby Merchandiser magazine by Gary Barker of Barker Leadership Institute that I believe can make everyone a better Modeler. Gary said:

“Failure is often the foundation for growth. The cycle of success I live by is this: try, fail, learn, improve, and try again. This consistence intentional process can help you get better every day.” Gary continued:

“People often say a wise person learns from their own mistakes, and a wiser one learns from the mistakes of others. While that's true I challenge you to go a step further. Learn from the successes of others. When you do you are not just avoiding pitfalls but also finding blueprints for accelerated growth.”

I interpret what Gary is saying to mean “To become a better modeler, build more models with the help of a Mentor.”

That's what ‘New Tracks Modeling’ is all about. Please follow Gary's advice and good luck with your modeling.

Selected Photos from the 2025 January “My Build”

From Martin Brechbiel



From Greg Cassidy



From Bob Farquhar



From Jeffrey Jordan



From Gary Shurgold



From Bill Stimson



The next MY BUILD will be on February 26, 2025

The Challenge Topic for this MY BUILD will be → Kitbashes, Scratchbuilds
E-mail railrunner130@hotmail.com to participate preferably by February 23rd

What's to Know About the Scales We Model In?

We have had many discussions with modelers who ask, “What is O scale or N scale all about? Does anyone really model in S scale? Can I really scratchbuild a model in N scale?” Your scale of choice may be G, O or O Hi-Rail, S, HO, or N, and there are others yet that modelers choose to build in today. However, we frequently know little about the details of other scales, are possessed of misinformation, or simple mythology.

To discuss this on a regular basis, New Tracks Modeling is running monthly segments on G, O, O Hi-Rail, S, S AF/Hi-Rail, HO, and N scale hosted by knowledgeable talented modelers in each scale. These modelers will try to answer your questions, present information about what is possible to accomplish, and then present what a new modeler entering a scale might need to consider.

Volunteers Working on the Real EBT Railroad

This constitutes an end-of-the-year track report for 2024.

Week of December 16th

On Tuesday this week, we had a shortened work session, during which we constructed a panel track in the Boney Pile yard so that the railroad's newly-acquired tie inserter (a Geismar, coming from Walkersville Southern RR) can be delivered on Thursday morning, December 19th. This machine, currently standard-gauge, can be easily converted to narrow-gauge, a process that will take place in 2025.

The temps were cold (you can see the snow!). It warmed up quite a bit later on during the day, but not enough to allow all the white stuff to go away so that we could continue work south of 994.



Train Show Schedule

<p>Great Scale Model Train and Railroad Collectors Show Feb 1st and 2nd, 2025 Sat. 9am-5pm; Sun 9am-3pm Admission Sat & Sun \$12; Sun \$10 Maryland State Fair 2200 York Rd. Timonium, MD 21093 Click here for complete map and directions from all points; https://www.gsmts.com/ https://sites.google.com/view/greatscalemodeltrainshow</p>	<p>O Scale March Meet March 20-23, 2025 Westin Lombard Yorktown Center Lombard, IL The March O Scale Meet is a 3 day gathering of vendors, customers, clinics, and fun held annually in March in the Chicagoland area. This is the Chicago O Scale train show you've heard of. Website: http://marchmeet.net/</p>
<p>Strasburg 2 Rail Train Show April 12th, 2025 9am-1pm Strasburg Train Show: Two-rail swap meet at the Strasburg Fire Co., 203 W. Franklin St, Strasburg, PA Admission \$7, wives/children/military with ID free Tables \$35 for first table, additional \$30 per. Great food, modular layout, clinics. Contact Richard Yoder EST evenings 484-256-4068 Click here for info.</p>	<p>Great Scale Model Train and Railroad Collectors Show May 3rd and 4th, 2025 Sat. 9am-5pm; Sun 9am-3pm Admission Sat & Sun \$12; Sun \$10 Maryland State Fair 2200 York Rd. Timonium, MD 21093 Click here for complete map and directions from all points; https://www.gsmts.com/ https://sites.google.com/view/greatscalemodeltrainshow</p>
<p>Strasburg 2 Rail Train Show August 9th, 2025 9am-1pm Strasburg Train Show: Two-rail swap meet at the Strasburg Fire Co., 203 W. Franklin St, Strasburg, PA Admission \$7, wives/children/military with ID free Tables \$35 for first table, additional \$30 per. Great food, modular layout, clinics. Contact Richard Yoder EST evenings 484-256-4068 Click here for info.</p>	<p>O Scale 2 Rail Indianapolis Train Show September 18-20, 2025 September 19, 2025 3pm-7pm September 20, 9am-3pm La Quinta Inn & Suites Indianapolis South Near the intersection of I465 and Emerson Ave. Indianapolis, IN O Scale 2 Rail/P48, Narrow Gauge/On30, 3 Rail Scale Website: https://www.indyoscaleshows.com Phone: (833) 410-3872</p>
<p>Strasburg 2 Rail Train Show October 11th, 2025 9am-1pm Strasburg Train Show: Two-rail swap meet at the Strasburg Fire Co., 203 W. Franklin St, Strasburg, PA Admission \$7, wives/children/military with ID free Tables \$35 for first table, additional \$30 per. Great food, modular layout, clinics. Contact Richard Yoder EST evenings 484-256-4068 Click here for info.</p>	<p>Send us your train show Information!!!!</p>

2025 HARRISBURG Narrow O Summer Meet

On3 – On30 – On2 - On18

A two day event focused on anything and everything O scale narrow gauge.

Friday June 13 (11:00 to 6:00)
and **Saturday June 14** (9:00 to 3:00)

LOCATION: New Hope Church
584 Colonial Club Drive
Harrisburg, Pa. 17112

Guest admission: \$20 for both days – *Spouses and children under 12 free.*
Clinics and Maker Spaces demos on going throughout the event.

"The best train show food in North America"

Due to church rules and insurance restrictions: NO alcohol will be allowed

Vendors: For table information, availability, admission and fees
please email us at millcreekrr@yahoo.com for detailed information.

For updated information on the event, including the vendor list, Clinic topics, Maker Space presenters
and layouts along with any additional information or updates can be found on the Meet's
Facebookpage under the title "Harrisburg Narrow O Summer Meet".

Most attendees have used either the **Quality Inn Harrisburg-Hershey Area**,
200 N Mountain Rd, Harrisburg, PA 17112 (717) 540-9339 or **The Ramada Inn**,
300 N. Mountain Road, Harrisburg, Pa. 17112 (717)-461-9602 in the past and
found it to be a clean, friendly and a good value. Best of all they are located
only .9 of a mile or about 3 minutes from the New Hope Church venue.

The largest all O scale Narrow Gauge event in North America

“Watch Me Build” New Track Live Modeling Sessions with Tom Farrell

Join us for the "Watch Me Build" sessions on New Tracks Modeling Live, where Master Modeler Tom Farrell takes center stage to lead us through the step-by-step creation of the Turtle Creek Depot—a charming O scale structure—and a pair of “Company Houses” overlooking his renowned “Shantytown.”



This month’s program promises to showcase Tom's exceptional scratch-building skills, creative vision, and years of experience as he transforms ideas from his mind’s blueprint into contest-quality finished models.

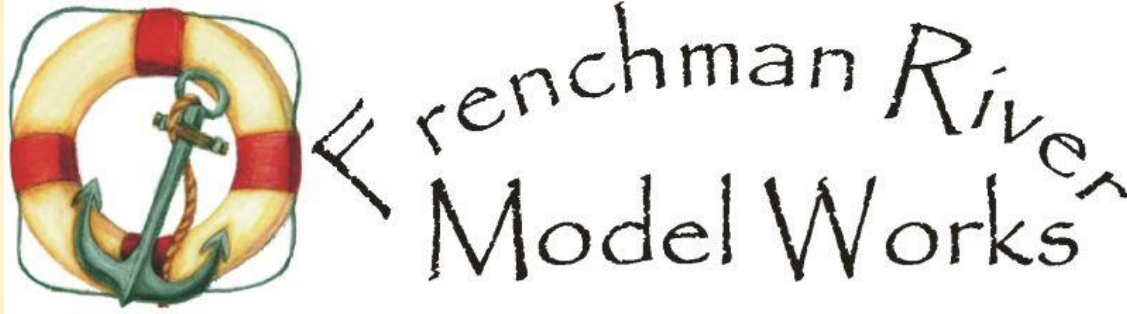
Whether you're an experienced modeler or just starting out, these sessions provide invaluable insights into every stage of the modeling process, from planning and construction to detailing, weathering, and layout placement.

Witness the artistry that embodies On30 Scale Narrow Gauge railroading and gather fresh inspiration for your own projects.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn from one of the best and take your modeling to the next level. The New Tracks Modeling Live YouTube show airs every Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM ET, with episodes recorded, segmented, and posted on YouTube for convenient viewing later. See you there!



Vendor's Corner



O/On30 1:48 Scale Bulk Unloader

designed by Thomas Yorke

2024 50th Anniversary

"Ever wonder why your covered hoppers run around your railroad with no place to go? Well, we've changed that! This Bulk Unloader with accompanying Silos (sold separately) is the answer. This system can be used in conjunction with an on-site industry, or if your pike doesn't have the room for a large industrial complex, use this system as an off-site facility. Hoppers are unloaded and material stored in the silos for pick-up by truck and taken to the plant. Many industries used such systems including feed, sand, chemicals etc." -Thomas Yorke





This all new Bulk Unloader kit designed by Thomas Yorke is just one part of the APEX Bulk Unloader and Storage Yard set. Highly detailed resin parts along with styrene, wood and other parts build into a very realistic model that will add great industrial options for loading and unloading your hopper cars. Lends itself to multiple industries with ease.

Kit Contents:

17 Resin Parts

Styrene Square and Round Tube Stock

Styrene Angle Stock

Styrene Strips

Styrene Ladder

Screen

Actual dimensions are approximately:

3.5" Wide (without the loading grate)

1.5" Deep

11 3/4" Tall



O/On30 1:48 Scale APEX Storage Silo

*designed by Thomas Yorke
2024 50th Anniversary*

This all new APEX Storage Silo kit designed by Thomas Yorke is just one part of the APEX Bulk Unloader and Storage Yard set. Highly detailed resin parts along with styrene and decals build into a very realistic model that will add great industrial options for storing all kinds of bulk materials from seed, feed, chemicals, sand and many other industry essentials. Lends itself to multiple industries with ease.

On Sale Now!

THOMAS YORKE
50 YEARS
1974-2024
DESIGNED

Frenchman River
Model Works

APEX
Bulk Unloader
& Storage
Yard

SET INCLUDES:
1 Bulk Unloader
2 Silos
1 Yard Office
1 Grain Truck Body
*All Kits Sold Separately

Pairs perfectly with the Bulk Unloader!

O/On30 1:48 Scale Bulk Bagging Warehouse



New Kit from CMR

The Plaza Theater -- Available in N and HO scales.

Now available on our web store.

Want to make it taller? Add-On kits are available in both N and HO scales.



HO Plaza Theater \$315.00

N Plaza Theater \$265.00

Custom Model Railroads

<https://www.cmrtrain.com/>

3937 Keswick Road, Baltimore, MD, 21211

MONSTER modelworks

New S Scale J&L's Diner Kit



J&L's Diner the perfect destination any town.

Loads of signs and a detailed Storefront will make this kit standout.

The 3D front sign and the custom Cornice give this kit a unique touch

Dimensions: 4.35"W x 6.95"L x 5.35"H

Kit Includes:

- 3D Laser Engraved Old Brick
- 3D Laser Engraved Old Brick Corners
- 3D Printed Roof Vent
- 3D Laser Engraved Terra Cotta Coping
- Laser Cut Cornice
- Laser Cut Diner Sign
- Peel & Stick Laser Cut Window & Door
- Laser Cut Storefront
- Sign Sheet

New HO Scale Flat Kit

HO Scale

Edmunds Hardware Co & The Olde Tavern Inn

Background Flat Kit

Save \$10 for a Limited Time



STARTS SHIPPING February 21st 2025

Edmunds Hardware Co & The Olde Tavern Inn Storefront Flat Kit.

Loads of signs and detailed Storefronts will make this kit standout.

Build them together or as two separate kits.

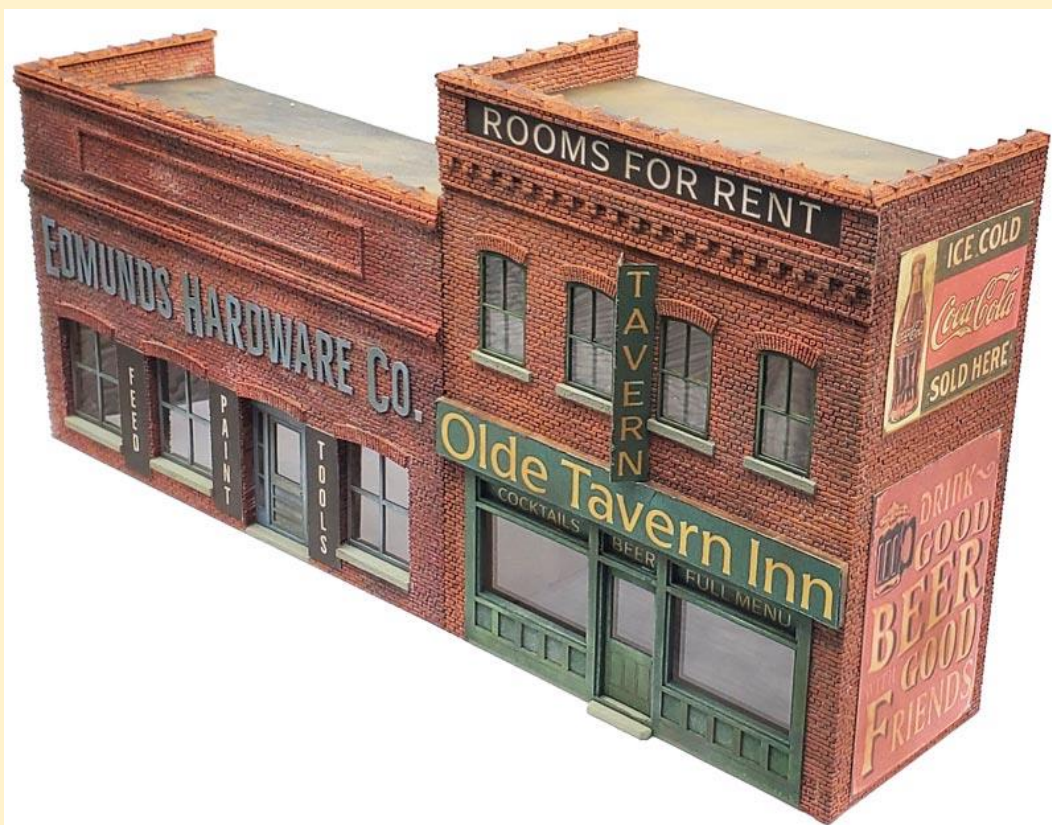
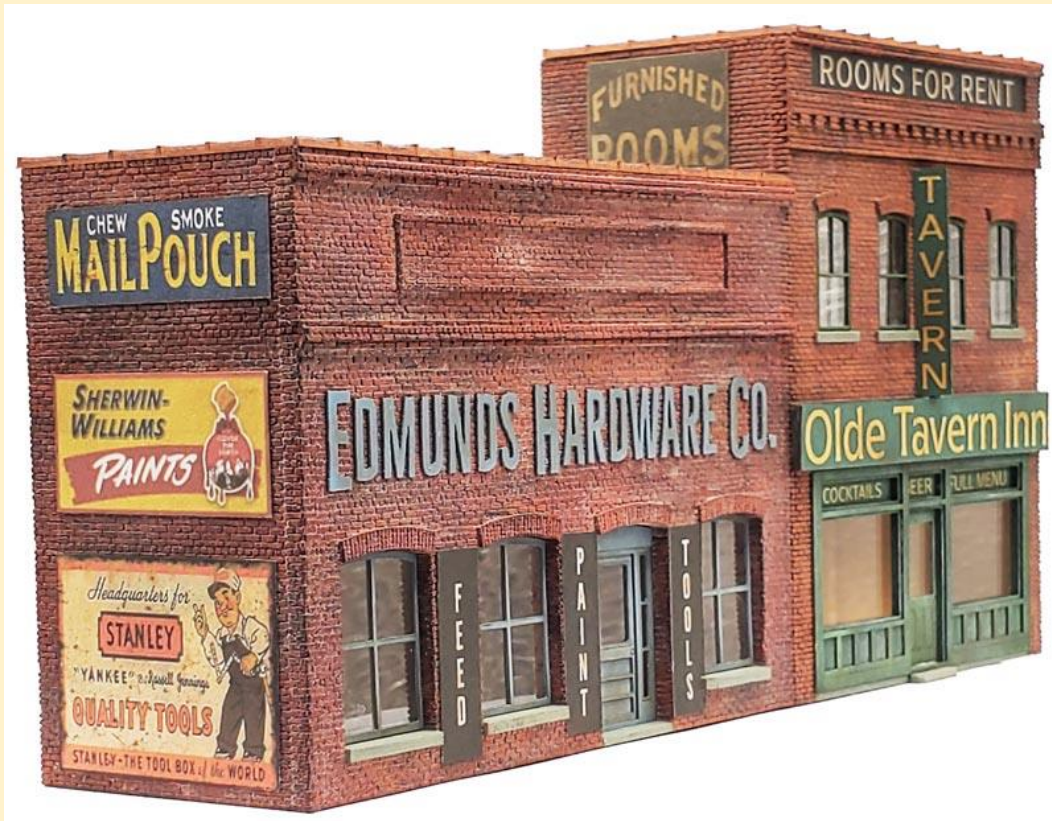
Dimensions:

2.125"W x 9.625"L x 4.875"H

Kit Includes:

- 3D Laser Engraved Aged American Brick
- 3D Laser Engraved Aged American Brick Corners
 - 3D Laser Engraved Terra Cotta Coping
 - Laser Cut Cornices
- 3D Laser Engraved Lintels
 - Laser Cut Sign
- Peel & Stick Laser Cut Windows & Doors

- Laser Cut Storefronts
- Sign Sheets





New Kit Release PIER 7 Food & Fuel



We are excited to bring you our next structure in the Echo Point Harbor series. It compliments **Crown Transfer LRK1** perfectly.

PIER 7 Food & Fuel represents an important structure on the harbor scene of your model railroad or diorama. The kit includes all new resin details created for the cafe and pier dock scene. The pier is configurable into several shapes. Covering an area of **4.5"x2.5"x11.5"** as shown in the pictures,

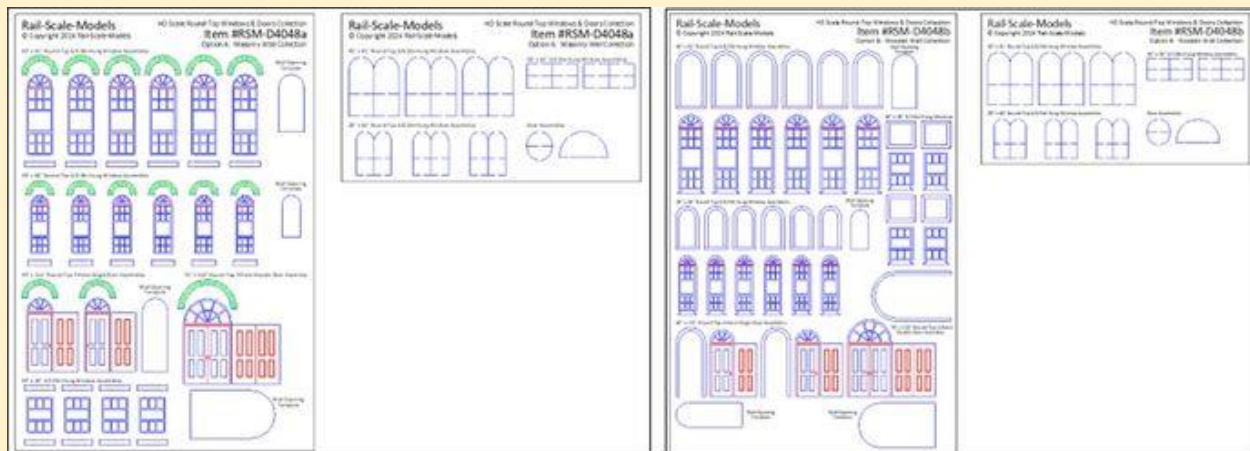
Check out the [PIER](#) for more details and pictures.
Order yours today.

Rail-Scale-Models**News & Notes****...from the RSM Studios**

We originally designed this set of windows & doors for a masonry structure, so they didn't have a trim frame around the perimeter. We've taken the same base design, and offer it in both design styles - masonry and wood-framed. These are a nice set of 6-over-6, double-hung, round-top windows and doors - with either a brick header/sill, or a wood trim frame. All of our custom-designed window sets include pre-cut acetate window glazing as well.

Check these window and door sets out at the ***Rail-Scale-Models*** website... as well as the many other designs available - in all the different scales.

Don't find what you're looking for ?? ...just drop us an email at ***RailScaleModels@yahoo.com***, and we can work together to get you whatever you need

***www.Rail-Scale-Models.com******RailScaleModels@yahoo.com***

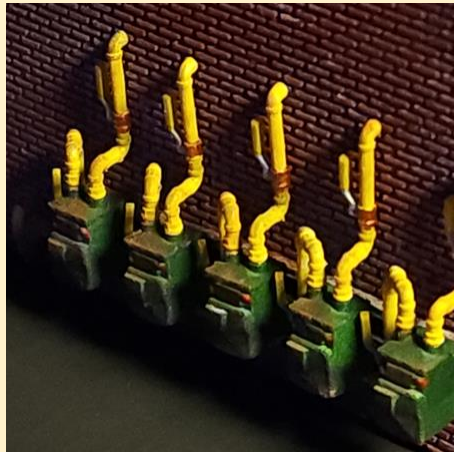
Diorama Hobbies

SPECIAL OFFER

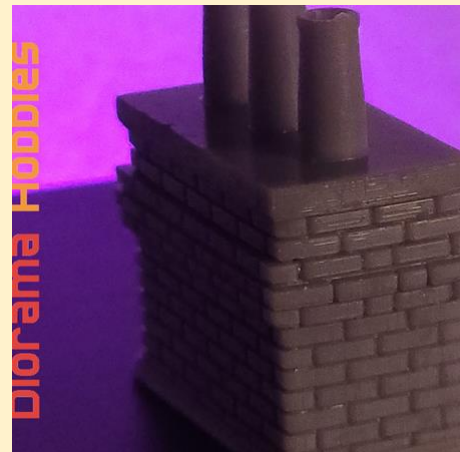
100% off Electrical Distribution Transformer Boxes HO, S & O Scale (3 variants)
Use code: **Noob** at checkout, or click the link below to automatically apply the discount to your order.

Requires minimum purchase of \$35.00

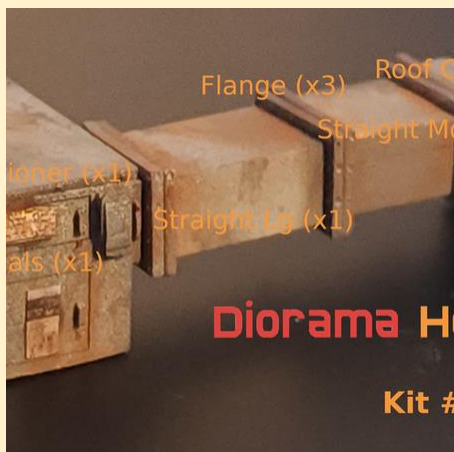
Offer valid from May 28, 2024



5 Gas Meters (2 Pack) HO Scale 1:87



Clay Pot Chimney Triple Stack - HO, S and O Scales



HVAC Kit 1 - Air Ducts & Air Conditioner HO Scale 1:87



Turbine Exhaust Roof Vent Large (9 Pack) HO, S & O Scale

Diorama Hobbies
3624 South Nepal Street
Aurora CO 80013
United States

Daylight Limited **PACIFIC COAST REGION CONVENTION**

**MARCH
27-30
2025**



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Master Modeler Series

Len Eberwein's 19th Century Stamping Mill

By Tom Farrell

Len Eberwein's 19th Century O scale Stamping Mill is a masterpiece of model railroading craftsmanship, earning national recognition at the 34th National Narrow Gauge Convention held in Overland Park, Kansas, from September 3-6, 2014. Competing in the highly competitive Structures category, this meticulously detailed model took home 2nd Place, a testament to Eberwein's exceptional skill and dedication to creating museum-quality works of art.

Note: I can't help but wonder what managed to win 1st place!

Background

In the 19th century, while mercury amalgamation was a common method for processing gold, some stamp mills used alternative techniques that relied on gravity and mechanical separation to extract gold without mercury. These methods offered a safer approach for workers and the environment but were not without challenges.

Len's stamping mill is a prime example of a facility that operates without the use of mercury.





The Inner Workings of a 19th Century Stamping Mill

The actual process began with crushing and pulverizing. Heavy iron stamps in the stamp mill repeatedly pounded the ore, reducing it to a fine powder. This step was essential for liberating gold particles from the surrounding rock.

Washing and gravity separation came next. The finely crushed ore was mixed with water to create a slurry, which was then directed over riffled sluices or troughs lined with ridges or mats.

These features trapped the heavier gold particles while allowing lighter waste materials, known as tailings, to flow away. This method exploited the density difference between gold and the surrounding material.

Some operations employed concentration tables to further refine the gold. Devices like shaking tables or Wilfley tables vibrated and tilted, concentrating the heavier gold near the source while washing lighter materials to the edges for disposal. These tables improved recovery efficiency by providing a more precise separation process.





After initial separation, panning was often used to refine the concentrates collected from sluices or tables. By manually swirling the material in a pan, miners could isolate gold particles from any remaining sediments. This labor-intensive step ensured as much gold as possible was retrieved.

Finally, the gold was prepared for market through smelting. The concentrated gold was melted at high temperatures to separate it from impurities. This step avoided the use of mercury but required specialized equipment and skills.

While these non-mercury methods were safer and environmentally friendly, they had their limitations. They were less effective at capturing fine gold particles, leading to significant losses in the tailings. Despite this drawback, the reliance on gravity and mechanical processes proved effective for recovering coarser gold and remained a viable alternative to mercury-based methods in many operations.

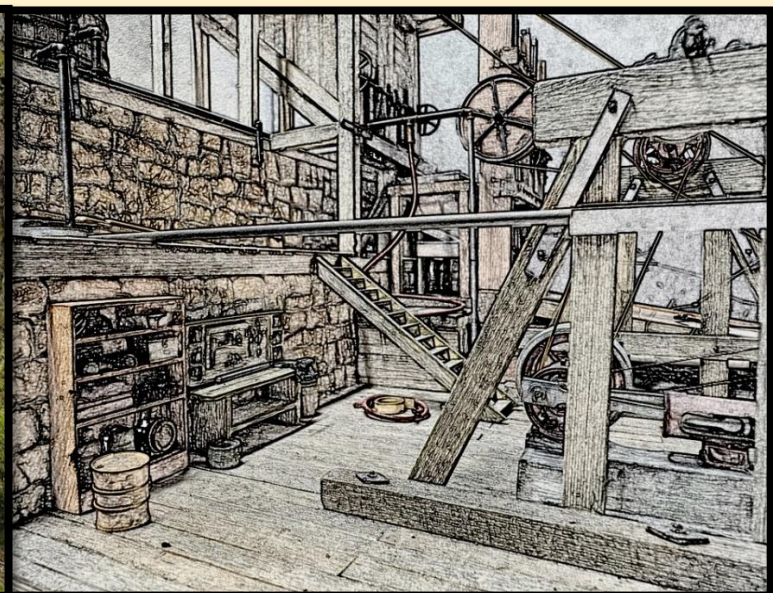
Every detail has been meticulously crafted making it all appear as if the mill could genuinely operate and process ore for gold production!



Intricate detailing of belts, pulleys, and drive shafts is showcased throughout the structure.



Len Eberwein 2024



Making Trees Stand Up with Ted Dimone

I use a 1/16th drill bit and a 1.75" nail. Cut the head off with a good solid tool,



cover the head with the palm of your hand so the head doesn't fly off. Drill a hole in the center of the trunk.

Go in about a half inch. Insert nail with the cut end in the trunk. Use a tool to insert twist clockwise for a nice tight fitting. Done...



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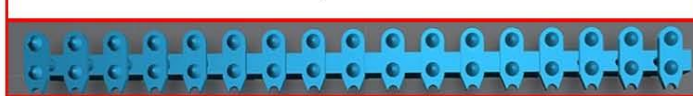


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Grab Iron Double Nut/Bolt for Caboose \$3.95



Grab Iron Double Rivet for Caboose \$3.95

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250 Gallon Propane Tank \$5.95

Not only for modern day homes and business, this will also go nicely with track heaters that are used outside of yards and on the main.



Harrison Mayes Roadside Sign \$3.95

Middlesboro, Kentucky's Harrison Mayes was a coal miner, folk artist, and evangelist. He started dotting the Appalachian landscape with handmade concrete crosses and signs in 1918 at the age of 20 until his death in 1986. As you can see by the photos, on one side the sign reads "PREPARE TO MEET GOD." On the other, it reads, "JESUS IS COMING SOON." Since I model part of that area in 1947 I thought this would be something unique and a bit of real history.

Air Hose w/ Angle Cock & Glad Hand \$3.95

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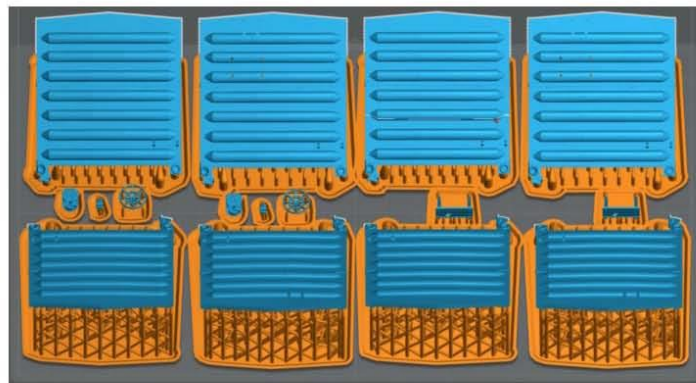
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Email: daniel@mrr-3d.com

Model Railroaders meet Interesting People and make Great Friends

By Jim Kellow, MMR

The email came out of the blue. It was from Dave Sweeney who read one of my **New Tracks Modeling** articles in the newspaper. He told me later he never thought I would reply to his email! Boy, was he wrong. Having conversations with readers is one of my greatest pleasures. If I hear from you, I will always reply.

This is the email I got from Dave that resulted in our instant interest in him.

“Mr. Kellow, months ago I cut your email address from the paper. Perhaps you could be of some help to me. I go back to 1931. Around 1937-8, I received a set of Lionel Trains for Christmas. It is a dual set of Passenger and Freight. What extras accumulated, such as Tunnels, Stations, etc. I still have. The trains are willed to my daughter. After my father died in 1942, we moved to Brooklyn, and I never had extra space to set up my trains. My Mother died 8 years later. The trains had a “box home” until I returned from the Korean War in 1953 and married at 25. They would be set up, dismantled, and wrapped in paper and boxed (as they are now). I have no idea of their value. I was wondering if you might have some idea of their value some 80 years later. In my judgement the set remains in good shape. I hope you do not mind my inquisitive nature after all these years. This way my daughter will have a judgement as to their value. Thank you. Dave Sweeney.”

Since the attachment was not included, I had no idea what trains he was talking about, so I called Dave to tell him I got his email but without the attachment. I was leaving Dave a message when his wife, Evelyn, answered and asked me to hold a minute so she could get Dave on the phone.

After he said Hello it took less than 5 minutes in our first telephone conversation before, we were sharing childhood memories, laughing, and joking. I instantly liked Dave and wanted to get to know him better and try to help him. How often does this kind of instantaneous connection happen between two men? It's extremely rare for me, in fact, only a very few times in my lifetime. Now please meet a person I think of as a new friend, and whose email to me asking for help, represents one of the reasons I write these articles.

Dave Sweeney with his Lionel Trains

I came from a family of one daughter and four boys. We lived on Long Island until our Father died when I was 11 years old.

We moved to Brooklyn and our mother died some 8 years later. Six months after my mother passed away my sister married and relocated. As my brothers aged, they joined the military. The youngest was signed over into the Navy when he became older.

As for me, the government caught up with me and I was drafted into the Marine Corps. After serving in the Korean War, I managed to return home in one piece. My sister and brothers have since passed away.



I went to work for a Printing Company. I also attended St. John's University in Brooklyn. After six years (including 3 summers) | graduated with my BS degree.

In the meantime, I had married and had one son. The man I reported to at work had died. The President turned the East Coast over to me to manage. It was the biggest break I ever received. I stayed in this position until age 40.

I was then made a Vice President and put in charge of Sales for the entire Country. In the meantime, my wife Evelyn and I had one son and 2 daughters.

At age 50, I had my throat cut (in corporate slang), and lost my job. At age 50 I could not find employment due to my past success and earning history. Out of necessity I did something I never ever wanted to do - I sold Life Insurance. I was employed by the Knights of Columbus as a Field Agent. One year, I was the top producing Field Agent in NY State.

I ultimately had my own agency and retired at 65. FL attracted me because of golf. For 25 Years I played golf at a top country club on Long Island. Finally, at age 88 my back gave out due to a fall. The biggest loss is not the golf, but the companionship and of course the money I used to make playing golf. I finished playing in the low 80's with an occasional score in the 70's, Keep this in mind, if you can not hustle a Senior Citizen, what is left in life!

Please notice that I have not mentioned being a model railroader in my life story. Frankly, I never have considered my trains as a hobby. My trains were always a reflection of my Fathers memory, that and my father treating me to my first chocolate milkshake. That memory stayed with me and remains even today. When I returned from Korea, we docked in San Francisco. The first thing I did when landing was to purchase a chocolate milkshake!

My daughter Linda wants the trains. I initially contacted Jim to try and find out if the set of trains had any real value as a collectable so I could tell Linda their possible worth. So, I guess at 93 years old I am going to unpack my trains to find out their possible value in their current condition. Here is what some of the trains look like 80 years after I received them as a Christmas gift from Santa.

Some of Dave's passenger and freight trains



Dave and his daughter, Linda

On Dec. 7, Dave attended a local Citrus County Model Train show as he wanted to make sure Linda could run the trains he was giving her.



He needed a transformer and some maintenance lubricant for the engine. As luck would have it, he met Dave Zitnik of Zitnik Trains who owns an old-fashioned hobby shop in Pinellas Park, Florida. After going to the show, Dave asked me to help him select a transformer.

I talked to Dave Zitnik and found him to be exactly the kind of old-fashioned helpful Hobby Shop owner I enjoyed dealing with. I believe he and his wife, Gale, are customer focused and try to make sure the services they provide meet their customers' requirements. In addition, I agree 100% with Dave and Gale Zitnik's philosophy of:

"However, the best part about our business is not found on a shelf. We especially love watching parents and grandparents pass down their passion to the next generation. Memories trigger memories, and that's what we always tell them. You are building memories for those kids."

Since that is exactly what Dave Sweeney is doing for Linda, he could not have found a better person to help him find the right transformer to get Linda's trains going. I am also fortunate to have made another new model railroading friend. Now I just need to find time to visit Zitnik Trains in Pinellas Park Florida. It is great to find a REAL Model Railroad Hobby shop close to where I live.

What's new in On30?

By Steve Sherrill

The real answer is probably little since Bachman has stopped producing new models for a while now. So what has entered the market to take the interest and creativity that On30 had inspired, I believe it's On18. With the availability of 3D printers at reasonable prices, new entrepreneurs have come forward to offer



production of affordable engines and rolling stock in On18. Along with the new models comes a new era of small layouts called micro-mini layouts, and this is just made for On18.

See: <https://newtracksmodeling.com/2024/12/16/steve-sherrills-layout/>

Modelers have been looking for small mine equipment to work at mines, large factory complexes, and other special need industries. On18 allows the use of N scale track and very sharp curves, so a layout takes up little space and gives freelance modelers ways to work their magic on these creations. There are new Facebook groups which feature the new inspiration. We at New Tracks will have segments which will feature On18 that we'll show and comment on some of the models and producers of this new popular scale. Get your pizza boxes, bookshelves, and glass top coffee tables because all can show your On18 layout build.

[Ed. I'm not sure I really agree with the hypothesis here – does Bachman not producing really equate with On18 happening? I for one have always thought that On30 was really supported more by filling the niche in between HO and O to gain the advantages of both while also promoting the creativity of modelers to build whatever their minds could envision as existing.]



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