

The Crossing Gate

Winter
2006



Newsletter of the Twin Cities Division, Thousand Lakes Region, National Model Railroad Association • www.twincitiesdivision.org

Auction netted Funds and Fun

by Gerry Leone

There were over 90 items, almost 25 White Elephant gifts, and about a million laughs as the Twin Cities Division held its first Triple Whammy Auction at the December 8 meeting. This event, a special fund raiser, was attended by about 50 members and raised a whopping \$750 for the Division.

In the end, an informal survey showed that almost everyone went home with at least one item, many went home with piles of items, and all had a good time.

The auction was suggested and organized by former Crossing Gate editor Gerry Leone, MMR, who'd read about similar events that the Pacific Southwest Region's Cajon Division had sponsored for their meets.

The Triple Whammy Auction consisted of three parts. First was a "Chinese auction" in which TCD members donated brand new or slightly used items from their model railroad stashes. Auction participants bought special tickets at the usual normal door prize price (6 for \$5, 15 for \$10) and could put their tickets in the "drawing cups" for any prize or prizes of their choosing. Prizes included several brand new HO-scale engines, structure and car kits, craft paints, railroad t-shirts, vintage Model Railroader magazines, an NMRA "Rail Pass" membership (won by Jim Chinquist) and much more. A total of over 90 Chinese auction items were donated by Dennis Mills, Tim Klevar, Gerry Leone, Neil Maldeis, Greg Smith, Les Breuer, Dennis Rogers, and Bill Gisch. The Division owes a special thanks to Al Dowd, whose newly cleaned attic donated fully one third of the prizes.

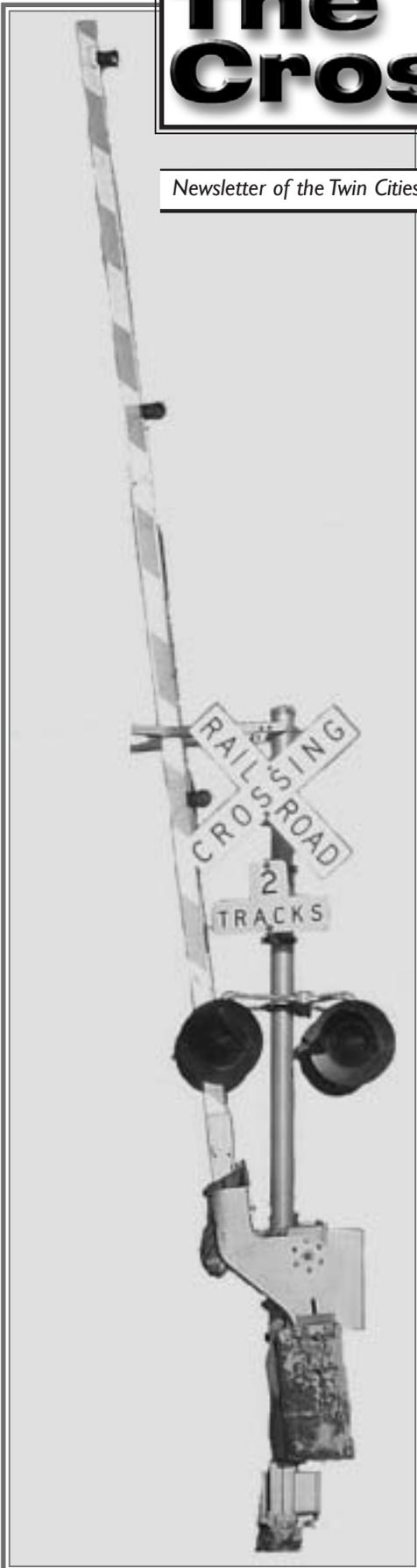


To keep things moving, the comedy team of Gerry Leone, Bruce Notman, and Taylor Peterson (the Division's youngest member at just 10 years old) made quick work of drawing the tickets, handing out prizes, and getting some laughs.

Part Two was the White Elephant open outcry auction. Generous TCD members brought in more than 20 wrapped hobby items, which the crowd bid on sight unseen. As with the Chinese auction, there were many deals to be had, and no one was disappointed.

The third part of the Triple Whammy was the silent auction, with items donated by local hobby shops. Here members could bid on everything from railroad DVDs to luncheon rides on the Osceola & St. Croix railroad. Special thanks goes to PR Director Don Smith for obtaining these prizes. In addition, our scale-changing member, Bill Schimmelman, gave the Division a generous percentage of the proceeds from silent auction items he sold.

The Division officers and Gerry Leone would like to thank everyone for their enthusiasm and generosity. Based on dozens of positive comments, it appears that the Triple Whammy Auction will become an annual Division event. So start saving up your "extra" model items and your spare change... December is only 11 months away!



**And battling for the Home Team:
Twin Cities Division
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Popular Vote Contest Chairperson

Pam Notman

NMRA Contest Chairman

position open (hint hint)

THE CROSSING GATE is published quarterly by the Twin Cities Division of the Thousand Lakes Region of the National Model Railroad Association. Material may be reprinted with permission.

Articles, photos, tips, or ideas are heartily encouraged and will be enthusiastically accepted in any format (PC or Mac; Word, Simple Text, typed, handwritten, scribbled on the back of a bar napkin, etc.). Send it to your editor by regular mail to THE CROSSING GATE, 6459 Smithtown Road, Excelsior, MN, 55331, by email to editor@twincitiesdivision.org, or hand it to him (along with a \$5 bribe) at the next Division meeting.

Be part of the Division! If you're an NMRA member, become a Regular member of the Division (you get a year's subscription to THE CROSSING GATE, plus voting privileges) for only \$10 per year. If you're not an NMRA member, become a Subscriber (you get a year's subscription to THE CROSSING GATE) for only \$10 per year.



From the Superintendent

Well, it has been a pretty good year so far. Last months (Dec 05) Auction brought in close to \$750.00. As I stated at the November meeting, "I will not be seeking nor will I accept reelection as your Superintendent." Other officer positions that will coming open this year are: Chief Clerk Layout Tour Coordinator, and NMRA Contest Chairman. Three of these positions have to be filled or the Division could fold. Please submit any nominations for the offices with the current Chief Clerk by e-mail (clerk@twincitiesdivision.org) or contact at any of the future meetings including the May 2006 business Meeting, for general membership vote and approval .

I would like to welcome Dennis Rogers as the new editor of the 'Crossing Gate'. Please join me in welcoming him into a difficult, but rewarding job. Also like to thank Gerry Leone for his work and what he has done to improve the 'Crossing Gate' to what we have now.

I would like to hope that we can keep the division going. To do this we need to recruit younger members. This is a great hobby, but it is hard to compete with the video games. But if we (the Division) and pass along our skills to keep this hobby alive. Not many young people are dealing with kits anymore, as the market and what is on the shelves at your local hobby shops show. One of the last great things to happen to this hobby is the acceptance of DCC.

Good Luck to all and lets finish out this year on a good note.

- Lynn



From the Editor

Greetings! It is with a great deal of anticipation and a little trepidation that I take over from Gerry Leone as the editor of The Crossing Gate. Gerry's tenure as the editor has been an outstanding one. As editor, he tried some new things like color photos and new formats, and as a board member he promoted our division with some new and creative ideas, some of which we are just beginning to enjoy. And although he may no longer be the editor of our newsletter, his contributions have not ceased. In this issue, Gerry has submitted articles and a whole lot of advice to help me to get started. On behalf of myself, the board, and the membership, I want to extend a heartfelt thank-you for your service.

As for me, I have always regarded myself as somewhat of a neophyte to model railroading, despite the fact that, like many of you, I have been modeling railroads since I was a kid. So, it came as a surprise to learn (from Gerry) that because I have attended TCD meetings since the days at the Countryside Restaurant I am an "old timer." Recently retired, it wasn't until this year that I felt that I had the time to commit to do something to aid the division on a regular basis. So, no matter if I am perceived as freshly out of the paint shop or well weathered, I hope that I can continue to keep The Crossing Gate a useful and interesting newsletter.

Over the years, I have met many people in the division, but since taking the throttle of The Crossing Gate, I've already gotten to know some members a lot better which got me to thinking. As it's the members themselves that make the Twin Cities Division what it is, one of my objectives as editor, is to get you to know a little more about some of the other members. We are, after all, an organization whose purpose is to promote the hobby of model railroading through (among other means) camaraderie. With that in mind, I am introducing something in this issue that I hope will become a regular feature...a brief biography of some of the people who have helped to promote the hobby in the Twin Cities metro area. The people in this feature may be noteworthy for any number of reasons, like people who helped to get the division off the ground, like those who are outstanding modelers, like those who have opened up their homes to layout tours, like those who have served as officers, or like those who just have a love for model railroading. I'm calling the feature "One of our own." I have chosen as the subject of the first article a person who fit many of these criteria, Jim Perske. I hope you enjoy getting to know others in the organization a little better.

Contributors to this issue:

**Gerry Leone, Lynn Mc Call, and
Thomas Mossbeck
THANKS!**

Deadline for next issue: **April 11, 2006**

- Dennis

First-ever "Show and Tell" to be held in April

The April Twin Cities Division meeting will be unique in two ways. First, as this issue goes to press, plans are to hold it on Saturday, April 8, at 2:00 p.m. This is the first time in recent memory that a TCD meeting hasn't been on a Thursday.

Second, that meeting will feature our very first "Show and Tell" session.

"Show and Tell" is a very popular meeting activity in Divisions all around the country, and, like the Triple Whammy Auction (see page X), was brought to the TCD by Gerry Leone, MMR. Gerry has spent a lot of time researching other Divisions' websites, to see what new and different kinds of activities could be adapted to the TCD.

The idea behind Show and Tell is the same for today's TCD model railroaders as it was when we were all in grade school: bring in a model you've worked on, tell us a little about it, and answer any questions. The amount of time each person will have for his or her description depends on the number of models brought in and the number of people who participate. The more people who bring in models, the more fun it will be for everyone. However, we ask that each modeler limit themselves to two items, maximum, to allow everyone a fair chance to show off his or her model. Each person will have the opportunity to describe one of the items he or she has brought. Then, depending on time remaining, we will move to the second item. Dioramas are also welcome.

All items will be on display before the meeting begins, so everyone who comes will have a great chance to see the models close-up.

This will be "something different" for the Division, and a lot of fun for everyone who comes. So plan to bring a model or two!

One of our own

Jim Perske, a "Model" Railroader

Over the years, many of you have met Jim Perske. He's been hard to avoid (not that you would want to). Jim is TCD member number 3 and was among the small group who got the Twin Cities Division going along with De Smith-Lindeen, Fred Holzapfel, Les Breuer, and others. He is also a member of TLR, a life member of NMRA, The Twin Cities Model Railroad Museum at Bandana Square, the Minneapolis Society of Model Engineers, and the list goes on. To say that Jim is an active participant in the model railroad community would be an understatement.

Jim has not slowed down much over the years, in fact one might say he has the "Spirit of 76" seeing as how he was born that many years ago. He grew up in



Wausau, Wisconsin, a town whose railroad depot became an icon, and he has been a railroad enthusiast since he was very small. A picture hangs in the basement of Jim and his brother (about age 5) standing in front of Milwaukee Road's Atlantic No. 1 which pulled the Hiawatha. His earliest recollection of model railroading is in 1933 with a Lionel tin plate layout. Jim's family eventually had an extensive three rail layout with seven concentric ovals of track. It also included a Hell's Gate Bridge that Jim's grandfather scratch built and which Jim still has.

He enjoys both prototype and model railroading. He's done his share of rail fanning as evidenced by the bookshelf

dedicated to his collection of railroad slides which he has shared at clinics in the past. A movie, taken by Jim's father, showing the Hiawatha coming into Wausau has been transferred to video and is being marketed by a company in Florida.

The rivalry among the various gauges that we model does not seem to bother Jim; he has modeled in O, HO and G in narrow and standard gauges. He currently is building a brass O-gauge model of a Southern RR PS-4 which is his most prized model. Although he claims that scratch building has not been a part of the hobby that he has pursued, Jim has had to fabricate many of the parts for this engine. Jim gained an appreciation in

southern railroads while he was working and living on the east coast where he joined a model railroad club that met at Union Station in Washington, D.C. His favorite railroad became the Clinchfield, but the adjoining Southern, Chesapeake and Ohio, Norfolk and Western, and Louisville and Nashville railroads also piqued his interest. His layout is named "The Clinchfield and Ohio," and it reflects his experience in Appalachian railroading. The pike has become a work-in-progress ever since Jim acquiesced to the trouble that he was having getting under the

tables which necessitated raising the layout's height. He managed to salvage the backdrop which is a beautifully done example of distant mountains and stenciled clouds.

One of Jim's latest endeavors is as a member of the G-Whiz Club, a modular layout that has been seen at numerous events in and around the Twin Cities for the past decade or so. It will be on display next at the World's Greatest Hobby Show at the St. Paul River Centre on February 25 & 26. For a preview, the club has an outstanding web site (www.gwhiz-gang.org) created by club member, Mark Wilson. If you attend, stop and chat with Jim Perske. I am sure that you will find, as I did, that it is time well spent.



The Kalmbach Memorial Library: a primer (or refresher course)

This article appeared in the Fall issue of the Thousand Lakes Region's newsletter "The Fusee," but I thought it was so informative it deserved to be reprinted here. If you're an NMRA member, you may learn something. If you're not, the Library is a good reason to join. -Gerry

**By Thomas Mossbeck
KML Research Associate**

This article will introduce you to the Kalmbach Memorial Library (KML) and its resources. After reading this you should have a basic understanding of the library, its contents and services, and how they can be utilized. If you need additional information about the library, or have comments, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Welcome to your Kalmbach Memorial Library, the research library of the National Model Railroad Association. The library houses a unique collection of railroad material which is used by model railroaders and historians to gain further knowledge of the many facets of the hobby.

There are two basic ways that the library can be used; in person or long distance. You can either come to the library to do the research yourself, or you can have the staff do the work and mail the material to you. To submit a research or photocopy request you can call, write, fax or email, or you can use the online fill-in form you'll find on the library's website at www.nmra.org/library. Other contact information is listed at the end of this article.

Requests come in many forms. They can be as simple as a copy of a certain article that you may have heard of or seen a reference to, or they can be as complex as finding out the type of water column used on the Reading Railroad, the number of different manufacturers who have produced models of Big Boys, or information on how to scratchbuild live catenary systems. Frequently, questions also involve plans of locomotives and rolling stock, as well as information about a specific location, such as a yard or passenger station.

In order to answer these questions, the staff has a variety of source material from which to get information. I will begin by listing of some of the collections and resources available at the library then briefly discuss each one and explain their uses to the modeler

- = The book collection
- = Historical society, club, museum and SIG publications
- = The video collection

- John Kentlein - H.K. Porter Collection
- = Bruce Meyer - EMD Collection
- = The photo collection
- = The periodical collection
- = Car and Locomotive Builder's Cyclopedias
- = Official Guide of the Railways
- = Official Railway Equipment Registers
- = Poor's Manual of Railroads and Moody's Railroads



John Kentlein - H.K. Porter Collection

This collection has over 780 builders' photos, catalogs, blueprints and other data chronicling the history of the premier industrial locomotive manufacturer. We have published a

reprint of the 13th if you are interested in Porter locomotives, catalog Porter Steam
"Library" Continued on page 7

Railfan & Hobby Show CALL BOARD

COMPILED BY DENNIS ROGERS

February 4, 2006 - Greater Upper Midwest Train Show, 9:00 am - 2:00pm, Century College West Campus, 3300 Century Ave. N., White Bear Lake, MN. (Hwy. 120, one block north of I-694) \$4, under 13 FREE. For more information, contact Tom Jefferson, 651-429-2885

February 11, 2006 - Railroad Prototype Modeler's Meet, 9:00 am set-up; 10:00 am - 6:00 pm clinics. Rosemount Community Center, 13885 South Robert Trail, Rosemount, MN (1 mile north of County Road 42 on State HWY 3. Admission is \$10.00; children under 16 are FREE with an adult. Contact Greg Smith at smithvmn@jumo.com or (952) 891-1013. Check it out on the web at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Minnesota_RPM

February 18-19, 2006 - GRVS Great River Valley System, Saturday 9:30 am - 5:30 pm, Sunday 11:00 am - 5:30 pm, Oakdale Center, just west of I-694 at the 10th Street exit in Oakdale, MN. Admission is FREE. For more information, contact Steve, 651-433-3039.

February 18-19, 2006 - MAD City Trainshow, Saturday 10:00 am - 6:00 pm, Sunday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, Alliant Energy Center - Exhibition Center, Madison, WI Admission is \$8.00 for adults; \$7.00 for seniors; \$2.00 for children 5-11; and children under 5 are FREE.

February 25-26, 2006 - World's Greatest Hobby on Tour, Saturday 10:00 am - 6:00 pm, Sunday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, Saint Paul RiverCentre, Kellogg Blvd, Saint Paul, MN Admission is \$9.00 for adults; children under 17 are FREE when accompanied by an adult. For more information, check the web site at <http://www.vghshow.com> or call (630) 279-5094.

March 18-19, 2006 - La Crosse & Three Rivers Railroad Club's 25th Annual Model Railroad Show, Saturday 10:00 am - 6:00 pm, Sunday 10:00 am - 4:00 pm, La Crosse Center, 2nd and Pearl Street, La Crosse, WI. Admission is \$4.75 for adults (\$4.25 with a non-perishable food item); children under 12 FREE when accompanied by an adult. For more information check the web at <http://www.13rclur.rdepot.com> or call (507) 894-4787.

April 1, 2006 - Greater Upper Midwest Train Show, 9:00 am - 2:00pm, Century College West Campus, 3300 Century Ave. N., White Bear Lake, MN. (Hwy. 120, one block north of I-694) \$4, under 13 free. For more information, contact Tom Jefferson, 651-429-2885

April 15, 2006 - Prairie Lakes Division Spring '06 Meet, Saturday 8:30 am - 3:00pm, Cherokee Community Center (lower level), 530 W. Bluff Street, Cherokee, IA, \$3.00. For more information, contact Ron Peterson, (712) 225-4780 or write at 604 W. Willow, Cherokee, IA 51012 or e-mail at pete31545@yahoo.com

April 22, 2006 - Newport Model Railroad Club Flea Market, Saturday 10:00 am - 3:00 pm, Woodbury High School, 2665 Woodlane Drive, Woodbury, MN. Admission is \$4.00; children under 11 FREE when accompanied by an adult. For more information call (952) 200-9729 or check the web at <http://newportclub.us>

April 29-30, 2006 - Trainfest 2006, Luce Line RR Club, Saturday 10:00 am - 6:00pm, Sunday noon - 5:00 pm, Hutchinson Mall, Hutchinson, MN Admission is FREE, tables available for \$10.00. For more information, contact Bruce Crosby at (320) 587-8073

May 5-7, 2006 - NorthStar '06, Thousand Lakes Region of the NMRA, See enclosed flier and registration form for details and times. Additional information at the web site at <http://www.thousandlakesregion.org/> or write Pat Walker, NorthStar '06 Registration, 1116 Randolph Avenue #16, Saint Paul, MN 55105-2516



Join Us for
NorthStar '06
May 5-7, 2006



in
Saint Paul, Minnesota

The 2006 Thousand Lakes Region, NMRA, Convention will be hosted by the Twin Cities Division (TCD) of the NMRA at the Holiday Inn East, located on Burns Avenue at McKnight Road in Saint Paul (easily accessible from I-94).

The hotel features many amenities, including an indoor pool, sauna, and whirlpool, exercise facility, game room, laundry, business center, and in-room high speed internet connections. We have blocked rooms at the hotel with room rates at \$79/night. For reservations call 651-731-2220, and be sure to ask for the NMRA rate. (The Region's costs at the hotel are based on the number of rooms we fill.) Reservations must be made by April 5th. After that date rooms may not be available.

The Convention will start out with the traditional Friday Social, at the historic Great Northern Jackson Street Shops, now a museum owned by the Minnesota Transportation Museum. We'll have tours of some of the normally non-accessible areas, including the restoration and painting areas.

Saturday morning brings an array of clinics, both model- and prototype- related, and some non-railroad at all! New this year is a non-rail Luncheon (although rails will certainly be allowed as long as they watch their topics of discussion). We're planning some special surprises, so this will be something the non-modelers will not want to miss!

Saturday afternoon is layout tours. Our focus is quality not quantity. The crew is hard at work setting up the tours, and is hoping most will be a reasonable distance from the hotel. We're also looking at ideas for the non-rails, and non-layout tour interested folks. There will (probably) be video clinics available for those rails not interested in touring.

Saturday evening will be the banquet, awards and door prizes. 'Nuff said!

Sunday morning will be the TLR Board and General Membership meetings (believe it or not, these are the main reason for the whole weekend!). In the afternoon will be more layout tours, this time a bit farther afield from the hotel... places to stop at on your way home.

For updated information before the convention, visit www.NorthStar06.org. Complete timetables will be in your registration packets at the door.

All-in-all, a fun and busy weekend is being planned so that everyone will enjoy the TLR's return to the Twin Cities!

Tentative Timetable:

Friday	2:00 - 8:00	Registration
	5:00 - 8:00	Contest Room Open
	6:00 - 9:00	Social
Saturday	Morning	Clinics
	Noon	Non-Rail Luncheon
	Afternoon	Clinics
	Afternoon	Tours
	Evening	Banquet
Sunday	Morning	Meetings
	Morning	Clinics
	Afternoon	Layout Tours



NorthStar '06 Registration
May 5-7
The Thousand Lakes Region Annual Convention
Saint Paul/Minneapolis, Minnesota

Name: _____

Have you ever attended a TLR Convention before? Yes _____ No _____

Additional Names: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State/Prov: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____ NMRA # _____

	Postmarked by April 1, 2006	Postmarked after April 1, 2006*	Number of People	Total
Rail Registraton -- NMRA Member**	\$65	\$80	x _____	= \$ _____
Rail Registration -- Non-NMRA Member**	\$75	\$90	x _____	= \$ _____
Non-Rail Registration**	\$55	\$65	x _____	= \$ _____
Youth Registration (under 18)***	\$10	\$20	x _____	= \$ _____
Saturday Luncheon	\$15	\$25	x _____	= \$ _____
Additional Friday Social Tickets	\$15	\$25	x _____	= \$ _____
Additional Banquet Tickets	\$45	\$55	x _____	= \$ _____

Total Registration:

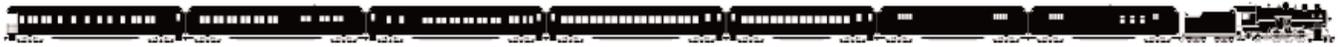
Notes: **Rail Registration includes one admission to the Friday Night Social, all tours and clinics, and one banquet meal.**
 Banquet, Social, and Luncheon Tickets MAY NOT be available for on site registrants. Please register in advance.
 Non-NMRA Member fee includes a six month "Rail Pass" membership in the NMRA.
 * Must be postmarked by April 1, 2006. If not, please plan on registering at the door.
 ** There must be at least one Rail Registration per family.
 *** Youth Registration does not include Friday Social or Banquet.

Enclosed is check number _____, made payable to the Twin Cities Division, for the Total Registration amount shown above.

Banquet Choices:	Number
Chicken Marsala	_____
Prime Rib	_____
Vegetarian (Pasta)	_____

Mail completed form and payment to:
 Pat Walker
 NorthStar '06 Registration
 1116 Randolph Ave. #16
 Saint Paul, MN 55105-2516

You will receive a registration acknowledgement by mail or email. **See you in the Twin Cities!**



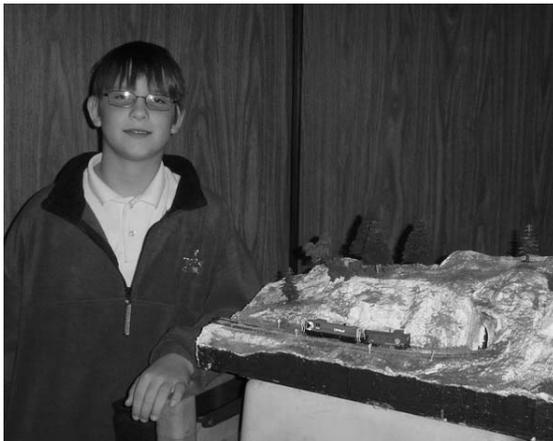
The New and the Old Blood; or What Happens when Flintstones® Vitamins Meet with Geritol® Tabs

an editorial by Dennis Rogers

As one surveys the landscape at a typical TCD meeting, one notices that there is a lot of gray in the horizon, and those are the lucky ones. The average age of people attending our meetings has been going up, and as our Superintendent pointed out in his note to the membership

(page 2) it has become increasingly clear that model railroading has found it difficult to compete very well with X-boxes, iPods, computers, and other innovations of the digital age. While we who are involved in the hobby know well that model railroading is a unique endeavor that develops expertise in

drafting, woodworking, electronics, research, and a host of other skills. We do this to get to the point of producing a the finished product (okay, most of us never get to the point where the term "finished" is appropriate) that we call "the layout." But the skills the hobby develops are life skills that can benefit anyone of any age. That is why, when Taylor Peterson showed up at our October meeting, it was a rare, but meaningful occasion. Not only is this young man a ray of hope for the continuance of the hobby, but we have in Mr. Peterson, an exuberance that we need to see more often. Think of it, a ten-year old modeler took it upon himself to build a diorama, display it and explain the techniques he used to a room full of strangers, considerably older strangers. He has become a regular part of our membership, attending every meeting since.



So, Taylor's appearance has posited some questions that I believe have some profound implications on the future of model railroading. I have no doubt that everyone in attendance at a TCD clinic believes that ours truly is "The World's Greatest Hobby," but if that is what we believe, then why isn't having a youth show up and participate in our meetings a much more common event? Is his presence an anomaly? Has the hobby itself, like so many of the railroads that we model, become a fallen flag? Consider for a moment where we have been and where we are now. When I first attended a TCD meeting in the early '80's, we held the clinics at the

Countryside Restaurant. There eventually came a time when we were forced to move because so many people showed up that we were violating the fire codes. There were train shows at major malls including Northtown and Har Mar which drew such crowds, that it was hard to find a parking place. And, layout tours included three and four layouts each time and there were three sets of tours per year.

The Twin Cities Division has as a part of its articles of incorporation "...to promote...the hobby of model railroading, to engage in educational, recreational and social activities..." The prototype railroads have had to change to stay viable. Do we need to make some changes to ensure our viability as a hobby and as an organization? Take a little time to con-

template what we as the TCD can do collectively and individually to promote model railroading. Invite a guest (a friend or a grandchild) to a clinic or event. Open your home or club to a layout tour. Let the leadership and me know what you think can be done to increase the social and recreational aspects of promoting the hobby. There may be a bunch more Taylor's out there, but without our activism, they may never know how to become a part of "The World's Greatest Hobby."

Subscribe or renew NOW!

Send \$10 per year (two year max) to: Twin Cities Division,
PO Box 2065, Maple Grove, MN 55311

Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____ year(s)

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*We have a new PO Box.
See the return address
on the back page!*



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(715) 755-3570 www.trainride.org

Expires April 1, 2007

“Library” Continued from page 7

Locomotives, Light and Heavy, which is available for sale at the library. The book also contains a roster of Porter locomotives including an indication of the photos in the collection.

Bruce Meyer - EMD Collection



If you are looking for paint diagrams of locomotives from GM's Electro-Motive Division, then the Bruce Meyer collection is for you. With over 1,400 EMD paint scheme drawings from various railroads, operation manuals and other diesel locomotive items, this collection is a valuable tool to the model railroader wishing to paint and letter EMD equipment. A complete listing of available diagrams can be found on the library website under "Our Collection," or you may call us and we will be glad to check on the availability of any drawing which may be of interest to you.

The photo collection

There are approximately 100,000 prints, slides and negatives in the library's photo collection, with approximately 25% currently cataloged. Notable is the Miller Negative Collection, which includes 4,347 images representing 110 railroads. Developed by Harold B. "Dusty" Miller, it covers the years 1934-41 and therefore documents the peak of steam power development. All views are static, and in some cases show the locomotive in stored or partially dismantled condition. The bulk of the

images are of western roads, with particular emphasis on the Southern Pacific, Santa Fe and Western Pacific. Some of these photographs were highlighted in the book *Steam on the Feather River Route*, which is still available for sale at the library. We can offer prints of any photo, slide or negative in our collection. If you are interested in finding out if we have the pictures you are interested in, all you have to do is contact us and we will gladly do a search and mail you a list of relevant images for your review.

The periodical collection

Over 50,000 modeling, prototype and historical society magazines, as well as vintage *Railway Age*, *Railroad Gazette* and *Railway Review* publications make up the Kalmbach Memorial Library's periodical collection. Most are indexed so the material is easy to locate. The periodicals can be used for copying specific articles or as sources for answering research questions. If you would like articles on handlaying turnouts we will be glad to mail you two or three examples, or if you are looking for original primary material about the electrification of the Pennsy, we can look up information in vintage publications describing the efforts to carry out this huge task.



Car and Locomotive Builder's Cyclopedias

These are great for finding information about freight and passenger cars, and locomotives, and all their components. Information, drawings and photos of brake systems, underframes, boilers, wheels, and everything else that makes up the finished products. We have cyclopedias from the 1880s to 1997, so all eras are well

represented.

Official Guides of the Railways

If you are in need of passenger train schedules then this is the publication for you. Our website lists all the years in the collection so you can request specific copies. The publication lists all passenger train stations in North America, and has schedules for all trains serving those stations, sorted by railroad. Many also have maps of their lines.

Official Railway Equipment Registers (ORERs)

Published quarterly, the ORER is a complete listing of freight cars owned by the railroads and private car companies. Cars are sorted by railroad and listed according to their numbers. The following information is provided for each listing: AAR mechanical designation, markings and type of car, numbers, inside and outside

dimensions, door dimensions, capacity, and the number of cars in each series. Freight connections and junction points are also listed, as well as a recapitulation of all the freight car equipment for an

easy overview of the total number of cars sorted by mechanical designation. The website lists all the ORERs in the library's collection. Again, it is just a matter of contacting us and letting us know which railroad(s) and year(s) you would like copies of, and we will mail them to you. This information is useful when trying to accurately number your freight cars, finding out which cars were owned by a given railroad, and for putting together a prototypically accurate freight car mix on your layout.

Poor's Manual of Railroads and Moody's Railroads

These publications have great information on the railroads' finances, track mileage, equipment holdings, traffic, histories and comments on operations and finances. The amount of information varies with the size of the railroad, but everyone should be able to find useful data in these publications.

The book collection

The library is home to more than 7,000 books and manuals, spanning all areas of model and prototype railroading. The books are classified according to the Drury system, a railroad-specific classification system named after former Kalmbach Publishing librarian George Drury. Books can then be categorized by such subject

“Library” Continued on page 9



TCD Timetable

THURSDAY, Feb. 9, 2006 7:00 pm

MODELING CLINIC - *How to Build A Helix, Hennepin Overland Style (Gary Braasch)*
PROTO PRESENTATION - *(to be determined)*
POPULAR VOTE MODEL CONTEST - *Weathered Boxcars*

THURSDAY, Mar. 9, 2006 7:00 pm

PROTO PRESENTATIONS - *Vintage Railfanning and M&St.L Depots (Doug Harding)*
POPULAR VOTE MODEL CONTEST - *Steam Engines*

SATURDAY, Apr. 8, 2006 2:00 pm

SHOW & TELL - *Bring a model to the meeting and let's hear about it! Details next issue.*
PROTO PRESENTATION - *(to be determined)*
POPULAR VOTE MODEL CONTEST - *Whimsical Railroads / NMRA Merit Point Judging*

THURSDAY, May 11, 2006 7:00 pm

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

For updates, visit our website at www.twincitiesdivision.org

“Library” Continued from page 8

matters as Cars, Engineering, Locomotives, Model Railroading and Model Building, General Railroading, Specific Railroads, Traction, and Foreign (non-North American), just to name a few. We rely heavily on the book collection, as well as the periodical collection when conducting research. The collection is constantly growing due to the generosity of members who donate books they no longer have a use for, and from families who are looking to dispose of material following a member's passing. We are also receiving a fair amount of newly published books from publishers who in return get their books announced in the monthly Library Car column in *Scale Rails*.

Historical society, club, museum and SIG publications

We have more than 275 different publications from railroad historical societies, clubs, museums and NMRA SIGs (special interest groups). We also have an extensive collection of NMRA region and division newsletters. The historical society and SIG publications are great sources for in-depth articles



on narrow subject matters. Chances are if an article on a particular subject has appeared in one of these publications, this will be the single best source of information on that subject, excluding books.

The video collection

Over 500 videos make up the library's video collection. They are divided into three categories: Modeling, Prototype, and Clinics. Just like photos, videos are a great source of inspira-

tion and prototype information to the modeler. Whether you are looking for videos on railroading in general, railroad- or area-specific videos, or modeling and how-to clinics, chances are the video collection has something for you. The best part is that they are all available for rent. The price for members in the United States is \$5.00 per tape, postage paid (note that some titles have two or more tapes, in which cases the price is multiplied accordingly). You can find a

complete listing on our website, or we will be glad to mail you printout if you do not have internet access. For members outside of the U.S., please contact your local A/V Dispatcher for price and availability.

Your Layout Tour Director needs help!

Applications are being accepted for an assistant position to help with setting up layout tours. Here's your opportunity to see first hand what the model railroading community in the Twin Cities has to offer!

Please seriously consider volunteering some of your time to continue making the activities of the TCD a success.

Let your TCD Layout Director know if you are interested. Thanks! (See sidebar on page 2 for contact info.)

I hope this article has provided you with insight into the library, its collections and how to use them. In upcoming articles I will go deeper into these resources with examples of modeling and research applications. If you have any questions or comments, please contact me any time.
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 Phone: 423-894-8144
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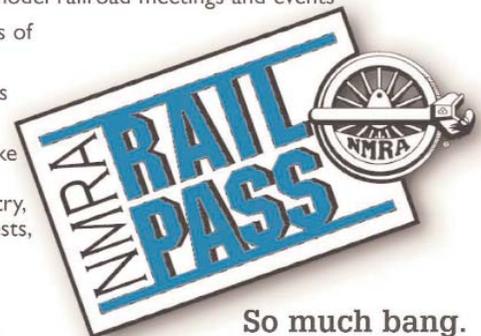
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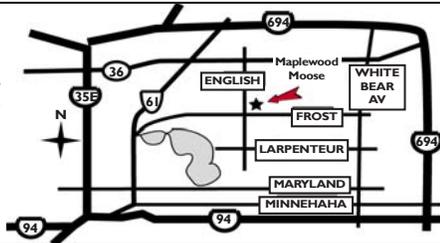
- ◆ December Auction results
- ◆ One of our own
- ◆ Kalmbach Memorial Library

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