



Coupler



IN MEMORIAM

It is with deep regret we note the passing of a good friend and fellow model railroader, W. WATSON HOUSE, on Monday, February 23, 1976. Besides his well-known contributions to our Region, having served as its President, and having achieved the title of "Master Model Railroader," Watty also served his community as President of the Connecticut Society for Crippled Children and Adults, and was a noted Rotarian and insurance agent. Watty was a Yale University graduate, and had attained the status of a 32nd degree Mason.

Watty will be missed greatly by the Coupler staff, as he was a continued supporter of our efforts and constantly wrote us, encouraging the work we did, praising and criticizing as he felt necessary. His opinions were always appreciated and greatly respected, his letters sometimes were the only things that made this job worthwhile.

Donations in his name may be made to the Easter Seal Society, 682 Prospect Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

new members

MASSACHUSETTS

Richard W. Eagleston, Reading
 John F. Fleming, Jr., Milton
 Edward T. Gay, Jr., Hingham
 Kevin Gay, Hingham
 James L. Poage, Arlington
 Thomas Reilly, Jr., Dalton

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Edward Robert Gauthier, Manchester

NEW YORK

Robert E. Adler, Ridgewood

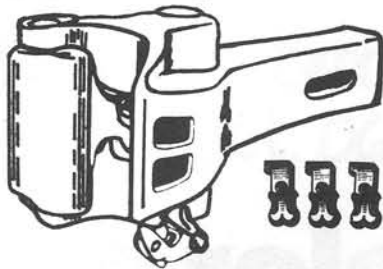
CANADA

William R. Jones, La Salle, Quebec



**BALLOT
 ENCLOSED**

the coupler



NER BRASS (Plated)

Graham K. Harvey, MMR, President
2473 S. Seamans Neck Road
Seaford, New York 11783

Fred Driscoll, Vice President
39 Cushing Street
Dover, New Hampshire 03820

Douglas Handy, Secretary
P. O. Box 798
Springfield, Vt. 05156

Charles Gerow, Treasurer
75 Geldner Avenue
Staten Island, N. Y. 10306

Ted Ritter, Off. Mgr., Membership
RR 3 42 Sunset Terrace
Vernon, Connecticut 06066

Robert Van Cleef, Achievement Pgm.
RR 3 Box 250 Morrow Road
Coventry, Ct. 06238

Jack Alexander, Perm. Convention Chm.
111 South Street
E. Bridgewater, Mass. 02333

DIRECTORS

<u>Canadian -</u> David Mealey 487 Red Cross LaSalle 650 P. Q.	<u>Northern New England -</u> Henry P. Groth Groth's Hill Woldoboro, ME 04572
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<u>Past President -</u> Richard Towle Box 328 Manchester, Mass. 01944	<u>Connecticut - R. I. -</u> Charles Bettinger 29 Foster Drive RR1, Vernon, Ct. 06066
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<u>LI & N. Y. C. -</u> Marilyn Lorence (see Ed. Offices)	<u>New Jersey -</u> Charles Gerow (see Treasurer)
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Marilyn Lorence
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Battle of the Gauges

Dear Harold Ferguson:

I read with considerable surprise your letter in the last Coupler about resigning from NMRA and NER due to the "brush off O-gauge members are getting from the hobby in general" as you put it.

Harold, I have known you for a long time. I believe we first met at the second NER convention in Schenectady back in 1947 when you were in the Navy and I was with the Coast Guard. We went because we enjoyed modeling and/or operating miniature trains and all the other things which go into the building of a model railroad. We never asked about gauges--nobody particularly cared. We were interested in enjoying the hobby with others having similar interests, whatever their gauge.

When I saw the trend toward HO as the popular gauge, I commenced concentrating on that, although I still have several O gauge items and an N gauge layout as well. A substantial number of the old timers, and most of the newer addicts, were bitten by the HO bug. The manufacturers followed suit, and today most of the published magazine articles are likewise slanted--not because of any ignoring, but because the author happens to be working in HO.

You say that you can't be a good member of an organization which is "ignoring a person who was one of the beginners back in 1927." I really don't follow you. Last year you and I had a nice conversation and you invited me up to Mayfield "next time I was in the neighborhood." I have not yet fulfilled that invitation because of not being in your area recently. But who is ignoring whom? You seemed to be in a conversation with many of the members at that convention. I did not observe any ignoring, and I fail



Are we coming or going?

KNOW YOUR CANDIDATES

PRESIDENT

Fred J. Driscoll

Fred's association with the NMRA commenced in 1969 and he became affiliated with the NER in 1966. He has been a continuous member of the Board of Directors of the Seacoast Division since 1968 and the Hub Division since 1970. From 1970 to 1974 Fred represented Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont on the NER Board of Directors and is current Vice-president of the NER. Fred Driscoll is employed as Chief Resident Engineer for a Boston consulting engineering firm.

VICE PRESIDENT

William G. Lorence, MMR

Bill and his wife Marilyn have published the NER Coupler for the past 4 years. He has served the Region as Nominating Committee Chairman and is presently co-chairman of the NER's 30th Anniversary Convention this fall. Bill has not missed a Region convention since 1969 or a Board of Director's meeting since 1970. Bill has served on the National level as Chairman of the NMRA Pike Registry Committee and on the Divisional level as Director, Vice President and President of the Sunrise Trail Division. He is a Master Model Railroader, holding achievement certificates for Motive Power, Cars, Structures, Scenery, Civil Engineer, Electrical Engineer, Volunteer and Author. He is a strong advocate of the Achievement Program. Bill is employed as a Civil Engineer for a Long Island consulting engineering firm. He is also an active member of the Suffolk County Chapter of the New York State Society of Professional Engineers and the National Society of Professional Engineers.

William S. Parker

Bill is a Registered Professional Engineer for Schoenfelt Associates, Inc., Consulting Engineers, where he holds the position of Principal Engineer, Traffic & Transportation Systems and Principal Engineer, Environmental Systems. Bill is married and has four children. Bill has been a member of NMRA, NER and the Hub Division since 1965. On the Divisional level, he has served as Secretary-Treasurer of Hub in 1969-1970 and as Chairman of Hub from April, 1970 to present, having just been re-elected to that office for the seventh consecutive time. On the Regional level, Bill was Chairman of the NER Spring Convention in May, 1975 and served on the committee for the NER Bellows Falls Convention and several others. He is presently NER Director for Massachusetts and has attended all BOD meetings held during his term.

AREA REPRESENTATIVES

Connecticut & Rhode Island

Charles Bettinger

Charlie is a 28 year veteran of model railroading. He is past president, vice president, secretary-treasurer and former director of the Nutmeg Division. He is presently serving the NER as Connecticut-Rhode Island director. He was chairman of the 1968 NER convention in Hartford and co-chairman of the 1973 NER convention in Springfield and chairman of the recent Chicopee Falls convention. Charlie is married (Pat is very active in model railroading, too) and has three children. In his spare time, he enjoys working on his own pike.

Frank A. Taylor

(No Biography Available)

Canada

Dennis Fortier

Dennis has always lived in Quebec City or nearby and is a pharmacist by profession. He has been into model railroading since a small child. In July 1965 he started the Quebec Model Railroad Society with five other members, which was then known as the Quebec HO Club. After 10 years on the Board of Directors for the QMRS, he feels he has done his job with the club, and is now ready for another challenge. Dennis is NMRA Life Member #1517.

Massachusetts

T. H. (Hank) Burke

Hank has been interested in prototype railroading since infancy and became interested in HO scale railroading when he joined the Boston Model RR Club. As a member of the Nashua Valley RR Association, Hank designed and wired the original layout of the association. He designed, built and installed the main cab controls of the layout, including installation of some experimental Twin T circuits. Hank has acted as clinics chairman for the NER conventions periodically for the last eight years. He has been a member of the Hub Division for ten years and has served the Division as clinics and displays chairman and also has been a member of Hub BOD since 1968. He has served as secretary and is now serving as Vice-Chairman of Hub. He is also in process of generating a clinic and display directory for the Region's use. Hank served as editor of Hub Headlight from 1969 to 1974. He is married and has worked for the past 28 years as a microwave antenna engineer for the Raytheon Company.

William P. MacIver, Jr.

Bill is single and is employed by Consolidated Rail Corporation as a Pricing Staff Assistant. He has been a member of NER and the NMRA since 1958. He has held many positions in the Region during this

time, including Region Secretary, Chairman and member of the Nominating Committee and various Regional Convention Committees. He has served on the Hub Division Board of Directors as Chairman, Vice Chairman and Director during the past 10 years. Bill is also a member of several other NER Divisions, the Mid-Eastern Region of NMRA and the National Railway Historical Society, as well as the Delta Nu Alpha Transportation Fraternity, a transportation-industry fraternal organization.

Maine-New Hampshire-Vermont

Douglas Handy

Doug was born and is a lifelong resident of Springfield, Vermont. He is a graduate mechanical engineer and has studied electronics. He is a Navy veteran of WWII. He is Manager of Pricing for and has been employed by Jones & Lamson/Textron, Inc. for 33 years. Doug is presently Quartermaster of 400-member Post 771, Veterans of Foreign Wars, President of Precision Valley Bowling Association, Treasurer of J & L Management Club and holds office in two Masonic Lodges. Also, he is a member of the American Legion, Loyal Order of the Moose, Society of Manufacturing Engineers, American Security Council and the North American Family Camping Association. He is married and has three daughters. Doug joined the NMRA and NER in 1962 and is a Life Member of both as well as a member of the Hub Division. He has served as Ballot Chairman of the NER and has been Secretary of the NER for the past three years.

New Jersey

Charles F. Gerow

Charlie has been a model rail since 1947 in HO gauge. He has been an Officer, and also President of the Summit-New Providence HO Model RR Club; he has also been Activities Chairman, Veep, and Chairman of the Garden State Division, as well as publisher of their newspaper, the Whistlepost. Charlie was also Chairman of the NER East Orange, N.J. convention in 1969.

Charlie has been Treasurer of the NER since 1970, and Area Representative for New Jersey and Agent since 1974.

Charlie has been active in Division and Region affairs since 1964; he is currently a member of 3 Divisions in the NER, a Life Member of both the NER and the NMRA.

Charlie has been licensed as a ship's Master by the Federal Government since 1966 and is self-employed as a Harbor Pilot. He is a member of the Sandy Hook Pilots Association, the Council of Master Mariners, and the N. Y. Maritime Academy Alumni Association. He is also the owner and operator of two other businesses in resort areas.

Long Island-New York City

John A. MacIntosh

Jack is married and has two children and has been a member of the NMRA for 25 years, the NER for 18 years and Sunrise Trail Division for 10 years (founding

father). He has served the NER as a member of the Pike Registration Committee, Nominating Committee, Convention Committee, a Sunrise Trail Division Charter member and has held most all Division offices in the past 10 years. Jack holds memberships in several transportation-related organizations and in line with his profession as a Professor, New York Community College of City University of New York, teaching marketing, physical distribution and Transportation. He is also a member of several organizations related to his profession.

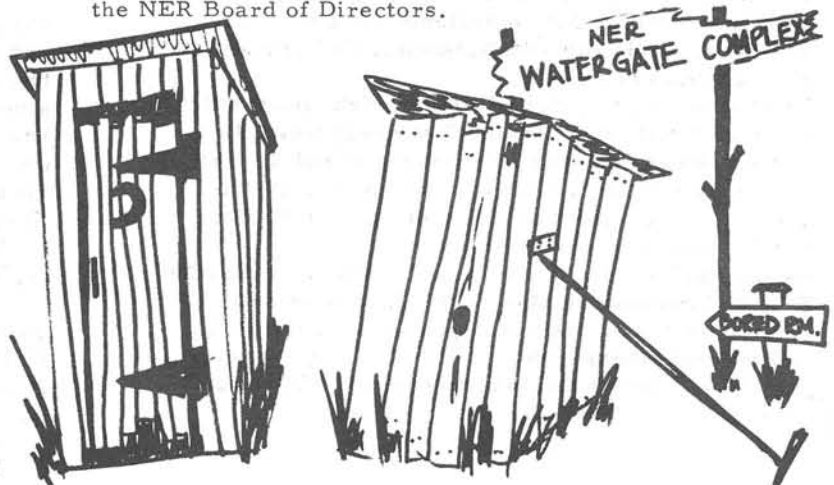
New York State (excluding LI, NYC)

H. William Brundage

Bill has been a member of NMRA and NER since 1949 and is a Life member of both. He served as chairman of the NER Fall convention in Paterson, N. J. in 1962; secretary of Garden State Model R. R. club from 1959-1963; vice-president of Berkshire Model R. R. club in 1964. He served as a member of the NER Tape-Slide Committee in 1965 and NER Chairman of Regional Membership Committee in 1966. Bill was Director for N. Y. State from 1972-74 and was founder and first president of the Skaneateles Model RR Club in 1971. Also founder and President of Empire Division, NER from 1972-76. Bill was Chairman of the 1975 Fall Convention in Syracuse, N. Y. sponsored by Empire Division, which was the first Syracuse, central-New York area NER activity since 1952. Bill holds Master Builder certificates for Cars and Structures.

David W. Messer

Dave has been an active model railroader for over 25 years, having modeled in S, O, TT, and currently HO. He joined NMRA and NER in 1961 and has attended two National and most NER conventions since then. He was a founding member and first President (5 yrs) of the Hudson-Berkshire Division of NER. He was a committee member of the Spring '66 Albany convention and Chairman of the Spring '74 Albany convention. A recognized modelbuilder, Dave has won the Delaware Trophy and two NER Runner-up awards, and holds NMRA Achievement Awards for Master Builder-Cars, -Structures, and Association Volunteer. Dave is currently serving as Director of his area on the NER Board of Directors.



OFFICIAL BALLOT

PRESIDENT

FRED J. DRISCOLL..... 0

WRITE-IN _____

VICE-PRESIDENT

WILLIAM G. LORENCE, MMR..... 00

WILLIAM S. PARKER..... 00

WRITE-IN _____

AREA REPRESENTATIVES

Note: Vote for only YOUR Director (one vote).
More than one vote voids ballot.

Connecticut & Rhode Island

CHARLES BETTINGER*..... 00

FRANK A. TAYLOR..... 00

WRITE-IN _____

Canada

DENNIS FORTIER..... 0

WRITE-IN _____

Massachusetts

T. H. (Hank) BURKE..... 00

WILLIAM P. MacIVER..... 00

WRITE-IN _____

Maine - New Hampshire - Vermont

DOUGLAS HANDY..... 0

WRITE-IN _____

New Jersey

CHARLES GEROW*..... 0

WRITE-IN _____

Long Island - New York Metropolis

JOHN A. MacINTOSH..... 0

WRITE-IN _____

New York State (excluding LI, NYC)

H. WILLIAM BRUNDAGE..... 00

DAVID MESSER*..... 00

WRITE-IN _____

Ballot must be postmarked not later than July 15, 1976.

*Incumbent

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Code _____

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*MUST BE POSTMARKED
BEFORE July 15th*

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42 SUNSET TERRACE
VERNON, CT 06066

===== FOLD FIRST =====

More letters.....

to see what gauge has to do with it. My radar screen does not seem to pick you up.

Perhaps your trouble is the same as mine. All the old timers that we knew are gradually passing on, and there are not many left with whom we can still "shoot the bull!" The younger ones have their own groups and speak a different language. You just can't seem to mingle.

That's not the fault of the organization, Harold, it's a state of mind. We are growing old, my friend. Our fires are banked and we are about ready to get shoved into the cripple track. We have to let the younger people take over. But that does not mean crawling into a hold and dropping dead. It's much too soon for such a fate.

The NMRA is still the same, dedicated to the interests of model railroading, and having fun doing it. Join me at the Spring Bicentennial, and we'll take a high ball for a fast run on the main line.

Stanley W. Bradley
Tenafly, New Jersey

Ed. Note: Harold, we hope you take these "answers" in the light they have been written. But, as a good suggestion, why not help us all out by becoming a regular contributor to the Coupler by writing a column for us specially for "O" gauge. You might be surprised at how much interest you could create!

To Harold J. Ferguson:

I have just read your letter of June 14th to Ted Ritter, published in the Coupler. I am truly sorry that you feel you can no longer be a member due to "the brush off O-gauge members are getting from the hobby in general." I am also sorry that you feel it is a "brush off" because really, it isn't! Model Railroad Magazine has a circulation of well over 200,000 and the NMRA membership is up around 26,000. As a hobby dealer I can tell you a few of the cold, hard statistics that govern the hobby industry regarding Model Railroaders: 76% are in HO, 11% are in N gauge, 8% are in O gauge and the other 5% is divided among S, HO_{N3}, etc.

It would not only be foolish, but at today's production costs, it would be inviting bankruptcy, for any manufacturer to concentrate on 11% - 8% or less of the market. It's simply a fact of life that the majority rules. I can well understand your feeling, having

been in from the beginning, at a time when the other gauges were almost non-existent. President Kennedy was the only one I have ever voted for who was elected! I do not like the way the country, our government and the attitudes of the young, our schools, our big business and politicians have changed over the past 40 years, but it is nevertheless so.

You say you attended "O" conventions with 465 members present. How many were true "O" gaugers and how many were Lionel collectors masquerading as "O" gaugers? Please note that our spring convention has an "O" gauge layout listed on the activity tour--I have visited beautiful "O" scale layouts at conventions in Atlanta, Montreal, Hartford, New Haven, Kingston, and many others. It is impossible to concentrate on "O" gauge interests however, when "O" only comprises 8% of the market, i.e., hobby.

I sincerely hope you will reconsider and attend our convention. After all, we need all the good scale railroaders we can get--of any gauge.

Bill Brundage, Pres.
Empire Division

Canadian Counter

To: Marilyn Lorence, Editor, The Coupler
From: Ira D Rothberg, MMR
Subj: Letters to the Editor, Winter '76 Coupler

I read your... letter from Mr. Jack Clarke and was both confused and angered. I am not sure, but from your quote, I assume that Mr. Clarke has stated that the Judges did not "like the idea of a Canadian taking the prize."

Well, Mr. Clarke, since I was one of those Judges and know that I and the other Judges awarded the prizes on the basis of the models' excellence without regard or knowledge of who or what did them, I do therefore, take umbrage at your implication on professional grounds.



Stephen A. Mintz
18 CHERRY PLACE
NUTLEY, N. J. 07110

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Please report any change of address to the Office Manager as soon as possible.

More letters.....

And furthermore, since an anti-Canadian bias is also implied, I would challenge you to ask Dave Mealey and the rest of that crew whom I am proud to call friends, what their opinion of your inference is.

Mr. Clarke, model railroading and especially model railroaders, occupy too important a place in my heart for prejudices of any sort to be allowed to lessen my enjoyment of the hobby. Knowing Dave Mealey fairly well, I believe he feels the same as I and I think I resent most the fact that your letter puts him in the middle, a position he neither merits nor deserves.

I sincerely hope you can see the error of your misplaced accusations and realize the harm they can do.

BICENTENNIAL CONVENTIONS

Spring Convention in Chicopee Falls attended by 321 model rails: Massachusetts--94; Connecticut--66; New York--63; Maine--29; Canada--27; New Hampshire--22; Vermont--9; New Jersey--6; Rhode Island--4; Missouri--1. Full coverage and pix in next issue.

30th Anniversary Convention this Fall in Ronkonkoma, Long Island to have Live Steam fan trip, traction clinics--and FUN. Raffle for \$175.00 brass locomotive; \$1.00 per chance--advance sales with your check and SSAE to W. Lorence, 82 Edmore La., W. Islip, N. Y. 11795. Attendance not required to WIN.



'Railroaded' again

Chicago (AP) -- "Retirement should be barred by the Constitution as cruel and unusual punishment," says John W. Barriger who was fired for old age after serving three railroads as president.

At age 76, he has been railroaded back out of retirement by the Rock Island Lines. This week, Barriger became the Rock's senior traveling freight agent. Officials of the financially troubled railroad said they need his expertise.

"I was president of the Pittsburgh & Lake Erie, but they fired me in 1964 because I was about to turn 65," said Berriger. "I became president of the Missouri-Kansas-Texas, but they fired me in 1970 because I was 70. I was president of the Boston & Maine, but they fired me in 1973 because I was 73.

"And I was retired from the Federal Railway Administration this year because I'm 76. I'm thinking of suing the Federal government for age discrimination," he chuckled. "They could charge me money to let me work as a railroader and I'd still do it. For me, railroading comes under the heading of organized sport."

TIMETABLE

September 19 (Sunday)--Valley Stream, N. Y., Long Island Train-A-Rama and Auction. 12 noon to 5 p. m. Knights of Columbus Hall, Father Thomas Carroll 4566, 1 E. Lincoln Ave. corner Rockaway Ave. With Hal Fletcher, Auctioneer. Over 3000 sq. ft. of trains. Door prizes; refreshments; free parking. Full tables: \$7. Admission: \$2. Sponsored by Rockville Centre Model Railroaders, Inc. Info: Remo A. Rossi, 54 Peterson Pl., Lynbrook, N. Y. 11563.