



NER
NORTHEASTERN REGION
NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

COUPLER

SPRING '78

SPRING CONVENTION



Williamstown, May 19-21



Activities will begin Friday evening at 7 p.m. with registration at the Treadway Williams Inn, located at the junction of Routes 2 and 7 in Williamstown, MA.

The portable layout of the Berkshire Model Railroad Club, several clinics, and the hospitality room will round out the evening.

Convention activities will start in full Saturday morning with a hobby show consisting of additional clinics, manufacturers' displays, hobby shops, portable layouts and dioramas, and a white elephant table. (This show will be open to the public in the afternoon.)

Registration for the model and photo contests will also be held in the morning. A special ladies tour of Williamstown will be conducted in the afternoon with a bus provided.

One of the highlights of the convention will be a special fan trip by bus to visit 4 outstanding layouts in the area. Two of the model railroads were open

during the May, 1974, convention in Albany, NY. These layouts have been extensively revised, and one of them (Dick Elwell's) appeared in the July, 1977, issue of Railroad Model Craftsman and will soon be featured as a cover story in the same magazine. Because only 5 bus tours will be given during the day, space is very limited; and this excellent tour is available only by advance registration, which must be received by May 9. These layouts will not be open at other times.

After the usual cocktail hour on Saturday evening, the roast beef banquet will be held, followed by a presentation on the Hoosac Tunnel.

On Sunday morning Dave Messer's Pennsylvania Northern and the huge RPI layouts will be open for visitors.

Further details will be sent directly to NER members in early April in the Hudson-Berkshire Division's Form 19.

CONVENTION Registration Form

Mail to: Irwin F. B. Lloyd
44 Lincoln Drive, Glastonbury, CT 06033
Make check payable to: NER - Conventions

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Number	Advance Registration	At door or after 5-9-78
___ Registrations	\$ 3.00	\$ 3.00
___ Banquets (Roast Beef)	10.00	12.00
___ Layout Tours (Bus)	5.00	Not avail.
___ Complete packages	18.00	
___ Family packages for 2	34.00	

HOTEL Reservation Card

Mail to: Treadway Williams Inn
Williamstown, MA 01267

Please reserve the following accommodations:

___ Double Bed ___ 2 Double Beds

Number of Persons ___

Arriving on _____ 1978

Day Month Date
___ a.m. ___ p.m. For ___ Days

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____

All reservations held until 6 p.m. unless secured by the receipt of an advance deposit.



NER BRASS

THE EDITOR'S DESK

President: Fred Driscoll
15 Cushing Street, Dover, NH 03820

Vice President: William G. Lorence, MMR
82 Edmore Lane, West Islip, NY 11795

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Treasurer: Charles Gerow
75 Geldner Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10306

Office Manager, Membership: Ted Ritter
42 Sunset Terrace, Vernon, CT 06066

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Permanent Convention Chairman: Jack Alexander
111 South Street, East Bridgewater, MA 02333

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G1S4M1

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NER COUPLER
#115 - March, 1978

Official publication of the Northeastern Region,
National Model Railroad Association. Published
4 times a year.

A. Murray Goodwin, Editor
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(203) 521-2677 (Home)
(203) 522-9265 (Office)

Hi!

There are many things I would like to say to you as I move the Coupler off the siding and back on the line, but I'll limit myself to two:

THANKS! To the previous editors who have done so much to develop the Coupler. To the contributors. To those who wrote and phoned with words of encouragement.

HELP! We need material (both to fill our regular columns and to include other facets of the hobby). We need advertising (both display and pike). We need your suggestions.

For those NER members who do not get to one of the semi-annual conventions (and they are the majority of the members), the Coupler is the vehicle of news, information, and keeping-in-touch. I want it to be that vehicle - to show the abilities and meet the needs and address the interests of the NER members.

Murray

WHY MODEL RAILROADING?

What's with these guys? Are they some kind of nuts playing with trains?

Consider them simply as modelers, because they model everything under the sun associated with rail transportation - trains, track, structures, hills, rivers, ships, even airports.

Modeling is a form of escapism - escape from day-to-day pressures and frustrations. This modern world tends to ask for a sacrifice of quality in the pursuit of quantity; modeling is a medium through which craftsmanship is expressed, admired, and encouraged. There is fellowship - the congregation of like-minded souls to discuss and test ideas and goods. There is also the practical engineering education of planning and building the various models, as well as the table support systems and control systems. Finally, modeling encourages one to take notice of the world about him, to scout abroad for interesting subjects to measure, photograph and possibly recreate in miniature.

Modeling is a method by which one shapes a world more to his own liking.

--Tony Steele

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



Merci d'abord à la revue "Coupler" (mot qui signifie "Attelage") et qui est l'organe officiel de la région Nord-Est, de me donner l'opportunité de jaser quelques instants avec vous en français et en anglais au sujet du territoire canadien.

En tant que directeur canadien à la réunion de Worcester, Massachusetts, il a été cité qu'un groupe de modélistes des Maritimes, principalement de la Nouvelle-Ecosse veut former la division des Maritimes y compris Terre-Neuve. J'ai immédiatement consenti à cette suggestion, à la fois pour le bénéfice de la division Alouette qui comprenait déjà ce territoire. Formidable, deux divisions au Canada. Nous souhaitons de tout coeur la plus grande chance possible à la division des Maritimes et espérons que les deux divisions canadiennes pourront partager des activités communes dans le futur.

Donc, à l'avenir la division Alouette comprendra seulement la province de Québec.

A cette même réunion, j'ai appris qu'une campagne a été mise sur pied afin d'inciter les divisions à faire du recrutement pour la région Nord-Est. Présentement cette région compte 3800 membres de l'association nationale et seulement 1100 membres de la région Nord-Est pour une proportion de 28,9%. Dans la province de Québec, nous dénombrons 113 membres de l'association nationale et seulement 34 membres pour la région Nord-Est pour une proportion de 30%. Ce pourcentage devrait être grimpé jusqu'à 50% durant la prochaine année, niveau déjà atteint par les Maritimes qui possèdent des statistiques de 48 membres au niveau national pour 24 membres en faveur de la région Nord-Est.

La province de Québec a toujours été une bonne source de modélistes avertis pour la région du Nord-Est, ayant organisé une convention régionale en 1968 et une convention nationale en 1962. Pourquoi ne pas continuer dans ce même optique et avec le même enthousiasme caractéristique des fervents modélistes du Québec.

De plus, les concurrents de la province de Québec aux concours de modèles présentés durant les conventions semi-annuelles se sont toujours fort bien tirés d'affaires gagnant de nombreux prix, mais recevant surtout des félicitations pour leur bon esprit de compétition et de camaraderie.

La preuve en a été faite à Worcester où deux modélistes de la ville de Québec ont participé pour la première fois à un de ces concours et ont remporté des prix. Selon les règlements, votre première participation vous vaut le titre de Artisan dans la catégorie où vous participez. Si vous remportez la palme vous devenez Maître dans cette même catégorie. Sincères félicitations à Raymond Lydon et Robert Bourassa qui deviennent Maîtres dans la catégorie à laquelle ils ont participé. Les organisateurs de ce concours nous disent qu'il faut toujours essayer. Il ne s'agit

First of all, many thanks to the review NER Coupler (which means "Attelage" in French) for allowing me to have a little chat with you in French and English about the Canadian territory.

As Canadian director attending the NER's BOD meeting in Worcester, Massachusetts, it was mentioned that a group of model railroaders from the Maritimes, mostly from Nova Scotia, expressed the desire to form their own Maritime Division, including Newfoundland. I agreed without any hesitation to this proposition, by the same token for the sake of the Alouette Division which included this previous territory. Great, two divisions in Canada. We wish the Maritime people the best of luck in their venture, and let us hope that both divisions will share common activities in the future.

So all of a sudden the Alouette division comprises from now on only the province of Quebec.

At the same meeting, I learned that a campaign was set up to promote NER membership in the different divisions. Actually the Northeastern Region comprises 3800 NMRA members with only 1100 of these belonging to the NER which represents 28,9%. In the province of Quebec, there are 113 NMRA members with 34 NER members amongst its group which gives a 30% average. We should be able to make this figure climb to 50% during the present year, figure shared by the Maritime people with 24 NER members out of a possibility of 48 NMRA members.

The province of Quebec always supplied talented modelers to the NER, mainly due to the fact that a regional convention was organized in 1968 and a convention on a national scale was organized in 1962. Why not further this goal with the same enthusiasm which characterizes all Quebec model railroaders.

Furthermore, participants from the province of Quebec to the different model contests that we find at the semi-annual conventions have always figured prominently and received congratulations on their spirit to compete and their friendliness.

This was proven once more in Worcester where 2 members from Quebec City who competed for the first time won prizes. According to the rules, your first entry in the category of your model is considered Craftsman and if you win you become Master in this specific category. Thus, congratulations to Raymond Lydon and Robert Bourassa who became Masters in their respective categories according to NER contest rules. Organizers for this contest tell us that we must always try. The idea is not only to win prizes, but to participate in order to have a better idea of your own capabilities vis-à-vis model railroaders in the NER.

By the way, if you enjoy this little conversation, let me know or better still send in your comments. Articles concerning Canadian divisions, clubs, or



pas seulement de gagner des prix, mais bien de participer et faire évaluer son habileté vis-à-vis d'autres modélistes de la région du Nord-Est.

En passant, si vous aimez cette petite rubrique, laissez-le-moi savoir et faites-moi connaître vos suggestions en même temps. Des articles sur les divisions, les clubs et même des individus composant l'est du Canada sont les bienvenus.

Le 30 avril dernier, 3 clubs de Montréal et un de Yamaska ont assisté à un cocktail offert par la Société de Modélisme Ferroviaire de Québec à la gare de Lévis, dans le cadre d'une activité pour la division Alouette. Le tout fut couronné de succès et je remercie tous les participants qui ont bien voulu se déplacer pour cette journée. Depuis ce temps, un groupe de Trois-Rivières et un de Rimouski veulent former un club dans leur région respective.

L'année prochaine, nous pourrions organiser un congrès d'un jour pour la division Alouette et même la division Maritime à Lévis et avoir comme invités spéciaux les membres du conseil d'administration de la région Nord-Est. Parmi ces membres il y a des Maîtres Modélistes qui pourraient nous donner des cliniques à leur choix. Nous ferions les réservations nécessaires pour nos invités, à l'hôtel de leur choix et s'ils ont une réunion de leur conseil de prévu à cette époque-là de l'année, ils pourraient la tenir à Québec. Nous pourrions couronner cette journée par une bonne dégustation au Château Frontenac.

En voiture!

--Denis Fortier

modelers themselves are more than welcome.

On the 30th of April, 3 clubs from Montreal region and one from Yamaska attended a cocktail party which was given by the Quebec Model Railroad Society at the Lévis station, as part of activities for the Alouette division. It was a great success, and I thank all those who gave themselves the trouble to come down and enjoy this day with us. Interestingly enough, groups from Trois-Rivières and Rimouski are thinking of forming their respective clubs.

Next year, we could organize a mini-convention in

Lévis for the Alouette Division combined with the Maritime Division and receive as special guests the board of directors members for the Northeastern Region. There are MMRs amongst these directors who might be glad to give a clinic on a subject of their choice. We would make the necessary reservations for our guests at the hotel of their choice, and if ever for that time of year they have a meeting planned, they could hold it in Quebec City. A wonderful meal at the Château Frontenac would be a perfect climax for this day.

All aboard!

--Denis Fortier



ADS

We need them. Contact the Office Manager or the Editor.

PIKE ADS

Prices are for typewritten listing of 5 lines (about 3/4 of a column inch). No commercial ads.

<u>1 issue</u>	<u>4 issues (same copy)</u>
\$ 4	\$12

+ + +

DREW, SIS AND DAD RAILROAD

"The Low Overhead Line"

Murray, Nancy, Glenda, and Drew Goodwin
57 West Point Terrace, West Hartford, CT 06107
(203) 521-2677

+ + +

DISPLAY ADS

The prices below include typesetting of a typical ad by our printer. Prices of ads with special requirements (such as photos) will be somewhat higher.

We can offer a discount for camera-ready (typeset, not typewritten) copy. Check with the Editor for pre-reduction size of copy and for prices.

<u>Column inches</u>	<u>1 issue</u>	<u>4 issues (same copy)</u>
1	\$ 7	\$ 21
2	11	33
3	15	45
4	19	57
5 (1/4 page)	22	66
10 (1/2 page)	40	120
20 (1 page)	75	225

57 West Point Terrace, West Hartford, CT 06107
(203) 521-2677

ROCKLEDGE STAMPS

*Fine used United States; Worldwide;
Trains on Stamps and other Topicals*

Nancy M. Goodwin

ATA, APS, NMRA

Members

The Northeastern Region welcomes the following new members:

California: James W. Sofford III

Connecticut: Gary Thomas, George L. Muller, Brian C. Whiton, J.B. Elwood, Paul Rivers, Philip A. Amaio, James A. Lenart

Maine: Linwood Adams Jr., William C. Drake, Carl Steinmeyer

Massachusetts: Craig Pitman, Ellis E. Wentworth, Bradford T. Hudson, John B. Hudson, George A. Bishop, John A. Tisdale, John T. McIlwaine, John Carbone, Charles M. Kelso Jr., Winston Mooney, Edwin R. Permon, John J. Heffron, Robert O. Moore, Jeffrey J. Breton, Joseph A. Dube, James Mt. Kelly, Frank J. Cristallini Sr., Richard A. Farrell, D. Michael Sullivan, James F. Staples, Ernest Degel, Theodore Martin

New Brunswick: Abel V. Bastorache

New Hampshire: Vincent Hayden, Gardner Lamson, Loren Johnson, P.S. Garrett, Omer J. Chicoine Jr., D.B. Valentine Jr., David S. Lyons, Scott McGrath, Roy K. Heitman, Chris Stohldrier

New Jersey: Donald W. Mayer, Joseph F. Conroy

New York: William St. John Jr., Joe Jaworski, John C. Haeberle, Fred Neil Peck, Robert Hanun, Thomas P. Felten, Michael Greenfield, Walter Connell

Nova Scotia: Gordon Clark, Ron MacDonald, Joe MacDonald, James M. Jones, Robert Pearce, John Speelman, John D. Atkins

Quebec: Norman Delisle, Roger Delisle, Pierre LaFond, Robert Gauthier, Robert Bourassa, Pierre Parent, Raymond Lydon, Lucian Bernier, Yves Ouellette, Jean Pierre McLean, Serge Narbonne, Guy L. Levesque

Rhode Island: Earl W. Appleton

Vermont: Larry Warren, Roger Dumas

Virginia: John A. Peterson

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The NER records with sorrow the death of 2 of its members: Raymond A. Yerks (2-7-77) and Walter Syrett (12-20-77).

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ADVANCE INFORMATION ON

BANGOR in October

The NER's Fall Convention will be held October 20-22 in Bangor, Maine.

While further information will be included in the next 2 issues of the Coupler, we can whet your appetite by telling that plans include:

- Tour of the MEC yards in Bangor
- Special contest for Maine-related railroad structure, car, or motor power
- Extra fare bus tour to BAR yards at Northern Maine Junction and shops at Derby
- Choice of steak or boiled Maine lobster for dinner

Further information: Aaron S. Greenwald, 451 Union Street, Bangor, ME 04401.

WALTER WESLEY SYRETT, 1912-1977

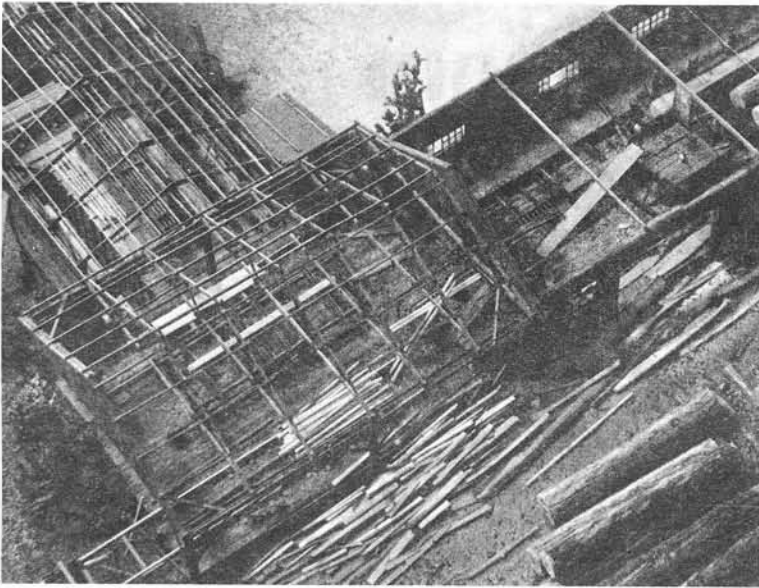
Walt Syrett of Barre, VT, died December 20, 1977, at his home.

He was a life-long model railroader. In the 1930's he started a model railroad hobby shop in the Springfield area. He was a charter member (and in 1966 president) of the Berkshire Model Railroad Club. In 1968 he organized the Winooski Valley Model Railroad Club in Barre, and he was president of this club until his death.

A member of the NER since its early days, Walt attended almost all regional conventions as well as many national ones. This experience was put to good use when he chaired the successful 1971 Spring regional convention in Montpelier.

Most of all he will always be remembered fondly by us as a person in the hobby who would patiently answer any beginner's question and kindly work with even the slowest to promote the hobby. We will miss him very much.

--Whit Maxfield



BEST IN SHOW: Sawmill - David Busch

CONTEST

WORCESTER

MAY 20-22, 1977

CONVENTION PHO

*

ATTENDANCE STATISTICS

Connecticut	43
Maine	28
Massachusetts	117
New Hampshire	24
New Jersey	6
New York	45
Rhode Island	9
Vermont	13
Canada	7
	<u>292</u>

175 persons attended the Banquet.

MOTIVE POWER - STEAM

1st M	Harry Frye	B&M 2-10-2
2nd M	David Newcomb	On3 Shay

MOTIVE POWER - OTHER

2nd M	William Lorence	S&T Oil-Electric
1st C	A. T. Worcester, Jr	B&M GP-18
2nd C	Robert Bourassa	CP C-630

PASSENGER CARS

2nd M	Andrew S. Miller	PRR Diner
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FREIGHT CARS

2nd M	Mark Hall	WNY&P Box Car
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NON-REVENUE CARS

1st M	Robert Bird	Big Moose Flat Car
2nd M	Robert Bird	Big Moose Derrick

STRUCTURES

1st C	Art Curren	O'Vell Bearing Co.
2nd C	Eric Doerschler	Wharf
3rd C	Ernest Degel	Water Tower

DIORAMAS

1st M	David Busch	Sawmill
1st C	John B. Elwood	Sawmill
2nd C	Art Curren	City Street
3rd C	Raymond Lydon	CN Levis Station

PHOTOS

Color Model	William Lorence	S&T Oil-Electric
Color Prototype	John Prestopino	PC FL9s
B&W Model	Henry Groth	STL Caboose
B&W Prototype	Don Howd	NYS&W Engine Terminal

BALDWIN TROPHY (Best in Show)

David Busch	Sawmill
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HUB DIVISION AWARD

Robert Bird	Big Moose Flat Car
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NEW MODELER AWARD

John B. Elwood	Sawmill
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JUDGES

Model Contest: David Messer, Harold Fossum,
Don Howd
Photo Contest: Doug Adams

M = Master C = Craftsman

WINNERS

CONCORD

OCTOBER 14-16, 1977

TOS by DON HOWD

*

ATTENDANCE STATISTICS

Connecticut	51
Maine	28
Massachusetts	74
New Hampshire	61
New Jersey	8
New York	30
Rhode Island	3
Vermont	25
Canada	25
other	7
	<u>312</u>

243 persons attended the Banquet.

MOTIVE POWER - STEAM

1st M	Harry A. Frye	USRA 0-6-0
2nd M	Harry A. Frye	B&M 4-6-0
3rd M	Walter Ronfeldt	NNE&A 2-10-4
3rd C	David Mealy	North Coast Shay

MOTIVE POWER - OTHER

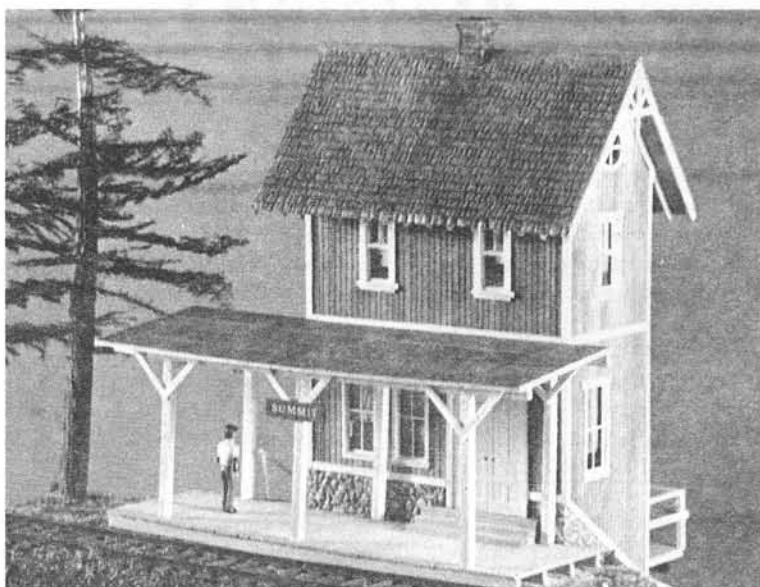
Best in Class		
M	William Lorence	WG&M Frgt Motor
Merit Award		
C	Harry A. Frye	B&M FT

FREIGHT CARS

1st M	William Lorence	Rothberg Winery Tank Car
2nd M	Harold Fossum	Ore Car
3rd M	Ray Muntz	Rutland Milk Rfr
1st C	Adolf Bien	Ore Car
2nd C	Adolf Bien	LHR Gondola

NON-REVENUE CARS

1st M	Robert Bird	Big Moose Ditcher
2nd M	Robert Bird	Big Moose Dump Gondola
HM C	Adolf Bien	Frozen Ridge Caboose



BEST IN SHOW: Jeffries Station - Ray Muntz

STRUCTURES

1st M	Al Westerfield	E-L Bridge
1st C	Adolf Bien	Summit Station
2nd C	Patty Muntz	Abandoned House
3rd C	Blair Foulds	Junction Station
HM C	Larry Cannon	Diesel Service Platform

DIORAMAS

2nd M	David Busch	Logging Repair Shed
1st C	Ray Muntz	Jeffries Station
2nd C	Jeffrey Breton	CNE Station
3rd C	Blair Foulds	19th Century Brick House

PHOTOS

Color Prototype	Ricky Towle	"Twilight of the GG1s"
B&W Model	Ray Muntz	Rutland Alco & Caboose

BALDWIN TROPHY (Best in Show)

Ray Muntz	Jeffries Station
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HUB DIVISION AWARD

Al Westerfield	E-L Bridge
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NEW MODELER AWARD

Adolf Bien

CANADIAN PROTOTYPE AWARD

Robert Bourassa	CN FP-9B
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JUDGES

Dave Messer, Dave Roberts, John Johnson, Jack Alexander

M = Master C = Craftsman

FROM THE **DIVISIONS**

ALOUETTE DIVISION

Paul De Launière is Editor of the Signal, official bulletin of the Division. The first issue was published in November, with subsequent issues planned for February and May. A variety of articles, many ads, beautiful photos, news, a puzzle, and an interesting series of CN technical sheets were included.

Well done!

--M. G.

HUB DIVISION

Once again the Hub Division has had a very busy and successful year.

We sponsored and conducted the NER Spring 1977 convention in Worcester. With our ever-present NMRA/NER/Hub membership drive table in full view there and at 3 other events during the year, we obtained 25 new members each for NMRA and NER and about 70 for the Division. The other 3 meets were the South Shore Model RR Club show in Weymouth, Trainfair 77 in Methuen, and our own annual Open House in Fitchburg.

There were 17 Hub Division members at the NMRA convention in Denver in July, including your reporter and his wife. We drove out right through that all-USA furnace and spent the first day in Denver having an air conditioner installed in the family chariot! So guess whose car chairman Rod Brown and his charming wife rode in for the rest of the week. What a smash hit that convention was - 3500 people at the Saturday evening banquet! We also met with a lot of old NER friends, like old Bill Lorence, old Ted Ritter, and old Graham Harvey. We, of course, are very young.

Our annual Open House held in Fitchburg in November was also a big success. Over 1200 visitors came to the one day show, and they certainly took in a great event.

Our next event will be the annual one day Spring convention April 8 at the Tewksbury Holiday Inn. We hope to have a visit to the B&M Billerica shops and a Lowell yard tour. Write to the office manager for details. And all of you NER stalwarts who live in Hub Division territory but who are not yet Hub members, can become one by sending a long SSAE to: Office Manager, Hub Division, 238 Sudbury St., Marlborough, MA 01752. Hub territory is basically the eastern two-thirds of Massachusetts, but you can live anywhere in the world and still be a member.

Our sincere thanks to the Northeastern Region for another great year, to Murray Goodwin on his appointment as Coupler editor, to Doug Adams for his interim editorship, and once again to Marilyn Lorence for the

many fine years of her stint as editor.

--Glenn Owens

MARITIME DIVISION

As Canadian director, I received a copy from the Maritime Division newsletter, courtesy of their president Lou Simard. Fact worthy to be noted, they want to publish 6 such newsletters a year.

Interestingly enough the Maritime Division organizes their own 3-day conventions in Spring. On the 13th of May 1977 at the Atlantic Inn, they held this year's Spring convention, with 23 members attending and a model contest with awards in different categories and even a "Best in Show".

Their president states also, through the newsletter, that the policy statement of the Maritime Division for the coming year includes an expansion of membership, more participation in the outlying area of the club, to build a modular layout and pursuit of enjoyment for all members.

The address of the newsletter is: The Maritime Branchline, P. O. Box 2096, Dartmouth, N.S.

In conclusion, they now have 36 NER members out of a possibility of 48 NMRA candidates, which is 75%.

Bravo. Well done!

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En tant que directeur canadien, j'ai reçu la copie du journal de la division Maritime de Lou Simard le président de la division. Fait à souligner, ils veulent avoir 6 publications par année.

Points intéressants au sujet de la division Maritime, c'est qu'ils organisent leur propre convention au printemps. Le 13 mai 1977, au Atlantic Inn, ils ont tenu une convention de trois jours pour leur division. Vingt-trois membres ont participé avec des prix dans différentes catégories pour le concours des modèles et même des récompenses spéciales pour la meilleure participation.

En passant, le président L. P. Simard nous laisse savoir à travers son journal que la principale politique de leur division sera d'augmenter leurs membres, d'obtenir plus de participation dans l'élaboration de leur région, de construire un réseau modulaire et la poursuite de l'agrément du hobby en tant que tel.

L'adresse de leur journal est: The Maritime Branchline, P. O. Box 2096, Dartmouth, N.S.

En terminant, ils possèdent 36 membres pour la région du nord-est sur 48 ANMF, ce qui est une proportion de 75%.

Bravo. Bien joué!

--Denis Fortier

NUTMEG DIVISION

The Annual Meeting and Dinner was held January 21 at the Brownstone Restaurant in Portland. Speaker was Mike Robinson, Curator of the Connecticut Valley Railway Museum.

New members of the Board of Directors are Phil Amaio, Clark Benson, and Charles Bettinger. Bruce Meulendyke was re-elected.

Officers for the year are: Ted Bossert, President; Murray Goodwin, Vice President; Phil Amaio, Secretary; and Bruce Meulendyke, Treasurer.

A train show is being planned for Fall.

--Murray Goodwin

Proposed VERMONT DIVISION

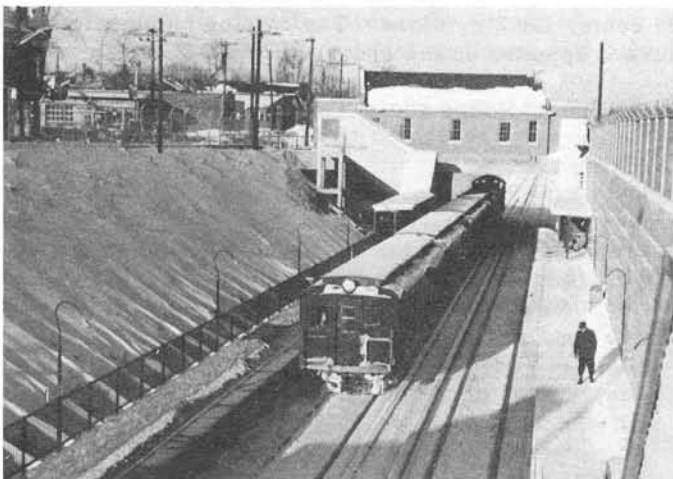
Any Vermont model railroaders interested in forming a division within the NER, please contact Peter J. Eaton, P.O. Box 258, Derby Line, VT 05830. If possible, try to contact him before the Spring convention.

DEADLINE

The deadline for receiving material for issue #116 (scheduled to be on its way to you by June 26) is FRIDAY, MAY 26.

If you can get material in before May 1, it would be especially appreciated, since the editor will be out of the country during most of May!

As soon as possible we hope to begin running a schedule of deadlines and publication dates for the following year (4 issues).



PROTOTYPE PRACTICES

by Charles Gerow

FIGHTING THE SNOWS

When late Fall's chilly winds roll in, the railroads begin to get ready to fight the snows that can be expected to accumulate.

The MOW force stocks up on brooms for sweeping snow out of switch-points, signal maintainers check their oil tanks at switch heaters, and roundhouse foremen assign men to double-check the condition of flangers, wedge plows, rotaries, and snow-melter cars.

Of course the different roads have various methods of preparation and of fighting the snow as it falls. Many roads now order their diesels with small plows mounted on their pilots. Fairly heavy accumulations of snow can be handled by ensuring that a plow-equipped diesel leads a train, provided that traffic is heavy. If traffic is not sufficient, extra movements of light engines and a caboose or 2 may be called out to run over portions of the line to keep it clean.

The trolley lines of Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, and at least one rapid-transit line in New York, had snow-sweepers (cars with rotary brushes) which were operated during and after heavy storms. Philly still uses their fleet.

The Long Island RR showed an NER fantrip an old steam powered rotary plow a few years back. On a trip to Montreal we saw Jordan Spreaders and wedge plows freshly painted one summer.

The Erie-Lackawanna's Susquehanna Division had 4 steam loco tenders with plows mounted on their fronts; 2 were large tenders with a page of clearance restrictions in the employees' timetable.

Penn-Central's Framingham, Massachusetts, Yard always seems to have a couple of flangers and a wedge plow handy. In addition, on a recent visit we spotted a propane-fired snow-melter built onto a small 4-wheeled self-propelled track car.

Boston's MBTA may still have several older trollies that were converted with wedge plows on their trucks, and wing plows on their sides, similar to Jordan spreaders (which require an engine to push them).

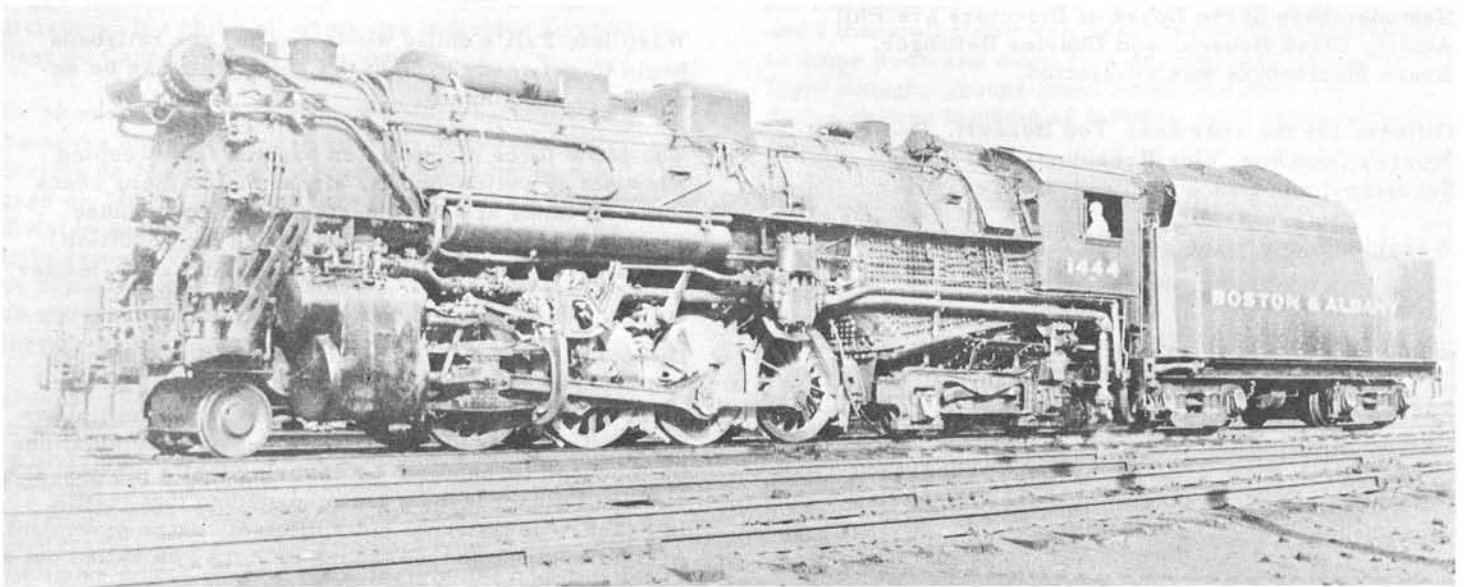
The use of any of these types of extra equipment calls for more entries on the train sheets. For the big roads it is a headache; but for the modeler it can be yet another source of operating interest.

New Dorp, Staten Island, rapid transit west-bound 4-car MU train with Alco switcher as power due to excessive arcing from ice on third rails. Engine is fitted with special coupler to mate with MU cars.

SOOT & CINDERS

by Richard M. Hanscha

THE BERKSHIRE



B&A #1444 A1C 2-8-4: Selkirk (Albany), NY, 5-47

The Berkshire was long a favorite of the Lionel group of modelers. In HO we often see the NKP Berkshire, which does not relate to New England.

The Boston & Albany was run as a road in itself for

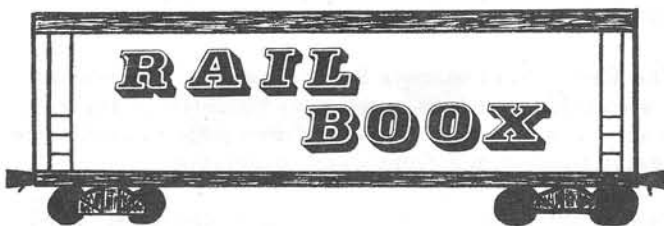
many years of steam operation, much like P&LE in the New York Central System. The 1400 class 2-8-4 was the beginning of the 2-8-4 (AIA). Modelers will note the B&A loco is quite different from the NKP engines.

Storrowsville, MA; Oliver Wight House, Sturbridge, MA; First Bank Building, Pittsfield, MA; and a bandstand and monument.

The dates and location of each building are also given. They look like just the thing for an early New England diorama or for background pieces. They could be detailed to suit. For \$2.50, how can one go wrong?

The 9 x 12 inch book is available from Dover Publications, Inc., 180 Varick Street, New York, NY 10014. Add 50 cents handling charge for one book; 85 cents, for 2 or more. The catalog number (make sure it appears on the order) is 23536-X.

--Donald F. Hodge



CUT & ASSEMBLE AN EARLY NEW ENGLAND VILLAGE is a book of cardboard cutouts of an early New England village in HO scale. I recently purchased one of the books, and although I have not yet constructed any of the structures, they appear to be very well done in color and detail.

The author, Edmund V. Gillon, Jr., has chosen buildings that would be found in any typical New England village. All are based on measured elevation views recorded by the Historic American Buildings Survey, an agency of the Library of Congress.

Included are: the Porter Store, Hadley, MA; Bullet Hill School, Southbury, CT; Lawyer's Office, Weston, MA; Stonecutter's Shop, Newburyport, MA; John Quincy Adams' Birthplace, Quincy, MA; Methodist Church, Newbury, VT; Cobbler's Shop, Boxford, MA; Beach Tavern, Cheshire, CT; Blacksmith Shop, Old

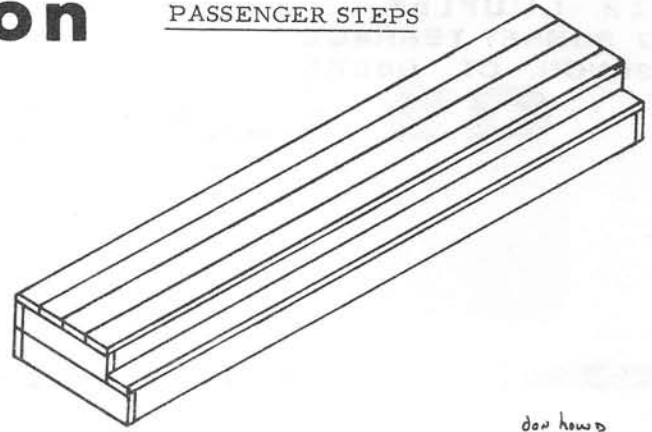
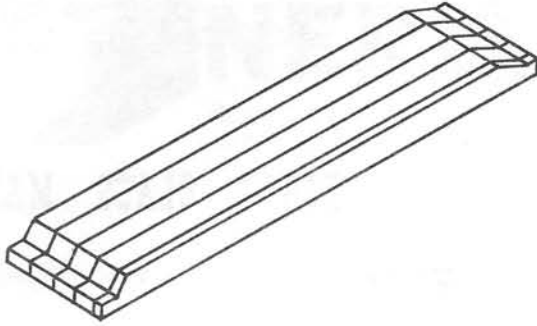
Bullet Hill School Southbury, Connecticut

Construction of the Bullet Hill School was begun in 1789. The upper floor has been restored and is now used for meetings. The ground floor will be a museum when restoration is completed.
The school consists of 9 pieces, keyed BHS, on plates N and O.



Under Construction

PASSENGER STEPS



don howd

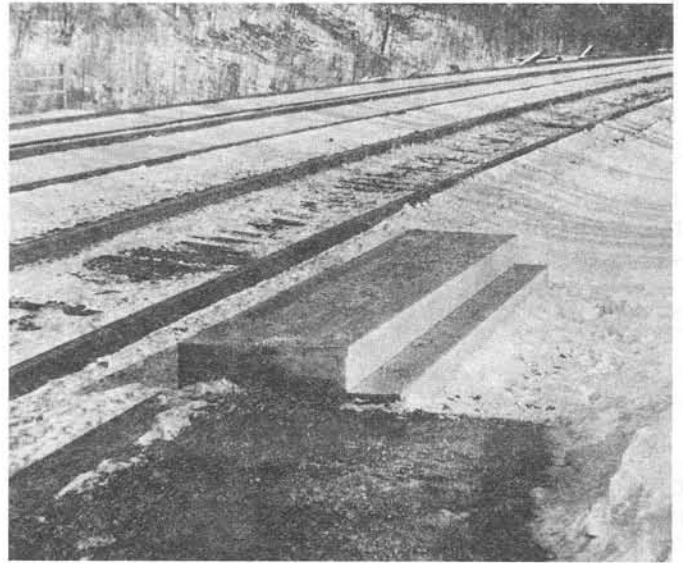
If your passenger stations have rail-high platforms, why not add these easy-to-build steps to help the passengers board and leave the cars? The prototypes are located at Crugers, NY, on what used to be the Hudson Division of the Penn Central.

The drawings show how the two types are constructed. One is simply four 8" x 8" and one 2" x 8" timbers about 13'6" long and beveled on the ends. This type is built directly on the existing asphalt platform.

The second type is made entirely of 2" x 8" lumber and is 3'6" wide by 16' long. As shown in the photo this type is next to the platform.

Both are painted yellow and can be weathered as desired.

--Don Howd



CHAIRMAN INTRODUCES THE

Achievement Program

Through this message I would like to introduce you to the Achievement Program; and for those of you haven't participated in the AP for a while, to reintroduce you to the Program.

The Achievement Program was developed and is maintained to further the goals of the NMRA and the NER - that is, to promote and foster interest and activity in the hobby of model railroading. Through the Program it is hoped to recognize those individuals who have achieved significant success in several areas of craftsmanship and service to the hobby. As a result of the Program thousands of model railroaders now hold certificates in one or more categories. A total of 72 modelers have reached distinguished status by having been named Master Model Railroader.

As AP Chairman for the NER, I would like to see an increased level of activity in the Program through participation in model contests at both the regional and local levels. You cannot imagine the thrill of being announced as a contest winner. And like so many other things in our lives, you cannot do it just once.

Achievement Program regulations are in the latest NMRA Directory or are available from me, as well as Statements of Qualifications to apply for an Achievement Award. I soon hope to have these materials in the hands of Division personnel also.

Remember, Model Railroading is Fun, and participation makes it better.

--Harry J. Wagner
NER Achievement Program Chairman

WANTED!

Copies of the NER Coupler issues #1 (December '47?) and #36 (Fall '54?) to complete our official file. Photocopies perfectly acceptable. Please write the Editor.

NER COUPLER
42 SUNSET TERRACE
VERNON, CT 06066



ROBERT STROBEL
1203-89TH ST
NO BERGEN NJ 07047

9-989

FIRST CLASS MAIL

ON THE SCHEDULE

NATIONAL

July 31 - August 6, Dearborn, MI: NMRA "WOLVERINE EXPRESS '78 (James O. Williams, 220 Collingwood, #140, Ann Arbor, MI 48103)

NORTHEASTERN REGION

May 19-21, Williamstown, MA, Spring Convention, Williams Inn, US 7 & MA 2. (Don West, 15 Patricia Avenue, Pittsfield, MA 01201, 413/443-0112)

October 20-22, Bangor, ME, Fall Convention, Holiday Inn, 500 Main Street 04401. (Aaron S. Greenwald, 451 Union Street, Bangor, ME 04401)

Spring, 1979, Granby, Quebec, Canada, Spring Convention.

NER DIVISIONS

April 1, Sunrise Trail Division, Mini-Convention, Cathedral of the Incarnation, Cathedral Avenue, Garden City, NY. 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. All activities. (Robert Spohn, 87-48 259th Street, Floral Park, NY 11001)

April 8, Hub Division, Spring Convention, Holiday Inn, Rt. 38 & I-495, Tewksbury, MA. Full program with banquet. B&M tour. (Glenn Owens, 238 Sudbury Street, Marlborough, MA 01752)

April 23, Division Alouette Quebec, Mini-Convention, Canada Central Model RR Club, 891 St. Paul St., W., Montreal, QU, Canada. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Clinics, displays, operating layout. (Jean Claude Mallette, 10980 Tolhurst Street, Montreal, QU, Canada H3L 3A7)

OTHER

March 31 - April 16, New York Society of Model Engineers, Annual Show, 341 Hoboken Road, Carlstadt, NJ. Weekdays 7-10 p.m.; Saturdays 1-10 p.m.; Sundays 1-6 p.m. O scale operating; Erie RR display.

(NYSME, 341 Hoboken Road, Carlstadt, NJ 07072)

May 6, New Haven RR Historical & Technical Association, Annual Reunion on the Valley RR. Model display, slides, swap. Registration: \$1.50 advance; \$2 at door. (G. Cochrane, 256 Central Street, Foxboro, MA 02035)

June 9-11, O Scale National Convention, Valley Forge Holiday Inn, King of Prussia, PA. Layout tours, clinics, manufacturers' displays, trade and sell. (John F. Breuer, Registrar, 40 W. 8th St., Lansdale, PA 19446)

RAIL FUN

Tom Shaffer



Just say "Hocus Pocus"
and shake the box.