

No. 197. July 1999

THE
NER Coupler



A Publication of the Northeastern Region, National Model Railroad Association



Larry Cannon Earns Master Model Railroader Award

by Paul Allard, NER AP Chairman

Larry Cannon, NER Board Secretary, Seacoast Division President and AP Chair, Charter Member of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club in Lewiston, Maine, and model railroad builder. Congratulations on being the 284th NMRA member to earn the prestigious title of Master Model Railroader since the beginning of the program over 30 years ago.

Larry started his modeling at the age of six with a Marx windup train. Within a few years he progressed to an American Flyer layout and then moved on to HO gauge in 1960. By 1993, he was mastering G gauge. One of his key characteristics is that he is never afraid to try something new. He is one of the few NMRA members to earn the Prototype Modeler Achievement Certificate.

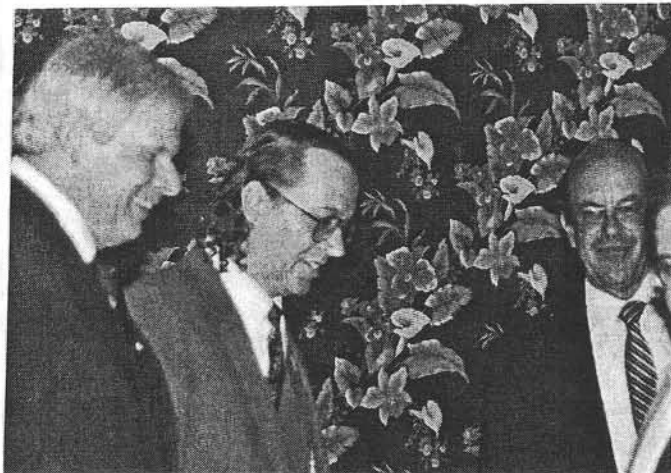
If you attended the Cape Cod convention, you had a chance to see Larry Cannon's Edaville Railroad scene which earned him his Civil Certificate in G gauge. He earned a similar certificate in HO Scenery and that tells you he's a talented and diverse modeler. His modeling interests are focused on building. He earned the Motive Power and Car certificates in an era when most layouts were filled with ready-to-run locomotives and screwdriver assembly cars. It's always a pleasure to view his models in the Contest Room or earning their keep on the layout.

In congratulating MMR#284, I hope some of his energy and enthusiasm may rub off on you, and that you'll find yourself on the adventure of a lifetime: exploring the many aspects of model railroading in the NMRA's Achievement Program. Call or write me to find out how to participate in the AP program.

Baldwin Trophy Winners Honored at Utica Convention

Three recent (and frequent) winners of the Baldwin Trophy were singled out for their achievements at the Utica Convention. They are: Ed Bommer, Brian Curry and Bill Mischler. Achievers and Contest winners are listed elsewhere in this issue.

**Don't miss the
Unconventional Convention
in North Conway, New
Hampshire, 15-17 October.
Details on pages 10-11**



NER BRASS

Officers

President: Glenn Glasstetter, 655 Hillview Rd., Richmond, VT 05477. 802-434-3316. glenn.glasstetter@cwix.com

Vice-President: Kenneth H. May, 71 Buff Cap Rd., Tolland, CT 06084-2605. 860-872-3441. kmay@casualcorner.com

Past President: Brian Whiton, MMR, 94 Spring St., Windsor Locks, CT 06096. 860-623-8512. brian.whiton@snet.net

NMRA Trustee: Stan Ames, 8 Higate Rd., Chelmsford, MA 01824. 978-256-3062. stanames@geocities.com

Secretary: Larry Cannon, 64 Skillings Corner Rd, Auburn, ME 04210. 207-786-3929. ruthcannon@ime.net

Treasurer: James T. Ferguson, 197 Great Northern Rd, North Troy, VT 05859. 802-988-2859. pjfergus@together.net

Directors

Eastern Canada: Position unfilled.

Connecticut & Rhode Island: Albert Daley, 193 Coppermill Rd, Weathersfield, CT 06109-4012. 860-721-9371. alrmdaley@worldnet.att.net

Long Island & New York City: Ludwig Riemenschneider, 4039 Wicks Ave., Seaford, NY 11783. 516-781-3534. grandpaerie@juno.com

Massachusetts: Don Howd, 48 Arrowwood St., Methuen, MA 01844. 978-689-9102. dvdngcrkrr@aol.com

New Jersey: Robert McQueen, 124 Crease Rd, Budd Lake NJ 07828. 973-448-9752. robert.mcqueen@worldnet.att.net

Northern New England: Terrence P. King, PO Box 188, E. Livermore, ME 04228-0188. 207-933-2477 & FAX. tking@megalink.net

New York State: Robert Hamm, 40 Michael Dr., Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. 518-587-0743 (H) 782-7700 x133. rhamml@nycap.rr.com

Dept. Chairpersons

Achievement Program: Paul Allard, 53 Rollin Irish Rd., Milton, VT 05468. 802-893-2228. allardp@ibm.net

Convention: Kenneth May, 71 Buff Cap Rd., Tolland, CT 06084-2605. 860-872-3441. kmay@casualcorner.com

Model Contest: Richard Laube, 6 Worthington Dr., Trenton, NJ 08638. 609-882-7341. rlaube@cpm.dot.state.nj.us

Photo Contest: Brian Whiton, 94 Spring St., Windsor Locks, CT 06096. 860-623-8512. brian.whiton@snet.net

Crafts Contest: Linda May, 71 Buff Cap Rd., Tolland, CT 06084-2605. 860-872-3441. kmay@casualcorner.com

Divisions

Nutmeg: Albert Daley, President, 193 Coppermill Rd., Weathersfield, CT 06109. 860-721-9371. alrmdaley@worldnet.att.net

Bob Van Cleef, MMR, AP Chairman, 46 Broadway, Coventry, CT 060238. ravanclief@msn.com

Bob Van Cleef, Member Aid Chairman.

Hudson-Berkshire: Ken Nelson, President, 15 Washington Rd., Scotia, NY 12302-2412. 578-377-7176. kennernel@aol.com

Robert Hamm, AP Chairman 40 Michael Dr., Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. 518-587-0743 (H); 782-7700 x133 W rhamml@nycap.rr.com

Frank Dietz, Member Aid Chairman, 30 Sandra Ave., Plattsburgh, NY 12901. 518-562-8058.

Central New York Superintendent: Vacant

Jim Heidt, Member Aid Chairman, PO Box 25, Clockville, NY 13036. 315-697-6227. jheidt@aol.com

Brian Curry, AP Chairman, RR#1, Box 51, Chamberlain Rd., Weedsport, NY 13166.

315-689-1303

Seacoast: Larry Cannon, President, 64 Skillings Corner Rd, Auburn, ME 04210. 207-786-3929. ruthcannon@ime.net

Larry Cannon, AP Chairman,

HUB: Ken Belovarac, President, 14 Lincoln Ave., Quincy, MA 02170. dchb12a@prodigy.com

Don Howd, AP Chairman, 48 Arrow Wood St., Methuen, MA 01844, 508-689-9102. dvdngcrkrr@aol.com

Sunrise Trail: Fernand Washington, President, 179-65 Selover Rd., St. Albans, NY 11434. 718-528-2308.

John MacGown, AP Chairman, 32 Liberty Blvd., Valley Stream, NY 11580. 516-285-4712.

Green Mountain: Dave Camber, President, 514 Leroux Rd., South Wheelock, VT 05851. 802-626-9294. dav@together.net

Paul Allard, AP Chairman, 53 Rollin Irish Rd., Milton, VT 05468. 802-893-2228. allardp@ibm.net

James Ferguson, Member Aid Chairman, 179 Great Northern Rd., North Troy, VT 05859. 802-988-2859. pjfergus@together.net

Metro North: Clayton Luf, Superintendent, 8 Glenbrook Dr., Monroe CT 06468. 203-268-3418. (333-2250, days). clayluf@alo.com

Hudson Valley: Jon Decker, Superintendent, 121 Vineyard Ave, Highland NY 12528 914-691-7130

Bill Brandt, AP Chairman, 14 Evergreen Lane, Woodstock, NY 12498. 914-679-8328. xwgm12a@prodigy.com

Alouette: Benoit LeClerc, President and AP Chairman, 2335 St. Clement, Beauport, PQ, G1E3W7. 418-661-7377

Little Rhody: President, Justin Maguire, 233 Narraganset Ave, Barrington RI 02806. 401-246-0381

Inactive Divisions

Garden State, Maritimes, Pioneer.

NER Working Crew

Editor: Joseph T. Popecki, 33 Woodridge Drive, Burlington VT 05401-2741. 802-863-4121. popecki@globalnetisp.net

Coupler Distributor: Terance P. King, PO Box 188, East Livermore, ME 04228-0188. 207-933-2477 & FAX tking@megalink.net

Convention Registrar: John C. Campbell, Jr., 63 Alexander Dr., East Hartford, CT 06118. 860-568-5075.

Office Manager: Joseph Lecaroz, PO Box 7150, Newburgh NY 12550. 914-564-4626. jlchoochoo@aol.com

Club Dispatcher: Dave Camber, 514 Leroux Rd, South Wheelock, VT 05851. 802-626-9254. dav@together.net

Webmaster: Wayne Karns, #8 Putnam Terrace, Brewster NY 10509. 914-279-5689. waynekarns@compuserve.com

Translator: Denis Fortier, 1 rue Duschesne, Cap-a-l'Aigle Quebec, CANADA G0T 1B0 418-665-4284. capaigle@netrover.com

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**Deadline for next
issue, 15 Aug. 1999**

Joseph T. Popecki, Editor 33 Woodridge Dr., Burlington, VT 05401-2741. 802-863-4121. popecki@globalnetisp.net

Your contributions, articles, photos, sketches, filler & ideas are most welcome. The Editor may accept, reject or edit copy as received. Accepted items will appear in the Coupler as space permits. Letters to the Editor of a constructive and professional nature are welcome. If you wish your submission returned, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. If you send a disc, include a hard-copy.

WEB PAGES: English: <http://home.computer.net/-waynerep>

French: <http://www.cite.net/-capaigle/fnerhome.html>

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DOWN AT THE ROUNDHOUSE



**President Glasstetter Welcomes Diners
at the Utica Awards Banquet**

Model Contest We've had several personnel changes within the NER and it's nice to be able to recognize those who have contributed to the Region as well as those who have stepped in to fill the openings. After three years of serving as Model Contest Chairman, Don Howd has stepped down to spend more time with his family at our conventions. The amount of time the Model and Photo Contest Chairmen put in at each convention is probably not known or appreciated by most convention attendees, but these people generally forgo all Saturday morning and afternoon activities, as well as some Friday nights, to provide these contests to the membership. *Thanks Don for a job well done!*

Rich Laube was my first choice to take over for Don. Lucky for us he accepted. Rich has been a judge at our model contests for many years as well as having experience beyond our Region. As luck would have it, the contest at Utica was one of the most prolific in many years. Rich handled it like he had been doing it for many years. See his report elsewhere in this issue and look for more information about the Model Contest from Rich in future issues.

It goes unsaid that we are always looking for new entrants in our Model, Photo and Crafts Contest, but we are also looking to increase our base of judges so that we don't always have to rely on the same people all the time. If you think you might be interested in helping out, or have any questions, please contact Rich, Brian Whiton, or Linda May. They can be found on the BRASS Page in the *Coupler*, or you could speak to them at one of our conventions. I have enjoyed judging both the Model and Photo Contests in the past and have seen some of the best talent our Region has. Judging these contests gives you a real appreciation for the effort the entrants put forth and it can help improve your own modeling, photography or craft work.

WebMaster Mike Saunders, who created the NER Web Page along with Denis Fortier, (who generated and still maintains our French Canadian NER Web Page) recently stepped down due to increased personal commitments. Wayne Karns, who recently developed the NER Convention Web Page, has taken over from Mike. If you haven't already checked out these

sources of information, please do so. They can be accessed through the NMRA Web Page, or you can find the addresses at the bottom of the BRASS Page. Wayne is looking for more information to put on the site, especially names of Division officers and news of upcoming division events. Please remember to contact Wayne, as well as Joe Popecki with updates on division leadership or upcoming events. An informative, up-to-date web page is one easy way we can attract new members to our organization. Thanks both to Mike and Wayne, as well as Denis, for their efforts.

Single Membership, whereby you have the ability to send one dues payment to National for both your national and NER membership, has been in effect since April 1, 1999. If your national and regional renewal dates are within one month of each other, they will be merged to the later date with no prorating. If the difference is greater than one month, either your national dues or regional dues will be prorated, to merge the two dates. Unfortunately, due to previous problems with the new computer at National, they have just recently been able to begin prorating dues to merge the renewal dates. If your Region dues are paid up beyond your national dues, you will be asked to pay up your national dues to that date, due to the requirement of national membership to be a Region member. I have written about this program in the last several issues of the *Coupler* and National should be including another letter from me explaining this program, although I understand that some notices went out without it. Please bear with us through this transition phase and support this program, as this will ultimately benefit the whole organization.

If you need new NER membership applications with Office Manager Joe Lecaroz's address and the new dues structure, please contact Joe. He can also be found on the BRASS page.

Fall 1999 Convention Please do not forget that the Twenty Fifth North Conway Railfan Weekend pass for our Fall Convention will be limited to the first one hundred registrants and that all registrations must be received by Registrar John Campbell by September 1, 1999. (See registration form elsewhere in this issue, or download it off the NER Convention Web Site.) This is a very popular weekend at the Railroad and it will probably sell out quickly.

Glenn Glasstetter, President, NER

NER Loses Two Stalwart Members



ROGER RAMSDELL, JR. died in Rockville Ctr., Long Island at age 80. A Con-Edison engineer, Roger graduated from the University of Vermont and loved the water - almost as much as model railroading, a hobby that dates back to his Lionel trainset in 1926. He was a talented artist and his illustration has graced the *Coupler* as well as *Model Railroader*. We have a good stock and we'll keep using them. Roger leaves his wife Isabelle and four stepchildren. Goobye, Old Friend. Our condolences to his family.

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Achievement Program Roundup

Paul Allard, NER AP Chairman

Let's take a minute to congratulate the North-eastern Region members who have earned recognition through the NMRA Achievement Program since the Spring of 1998. First off, ten members have earned the Golden Spike Award: Larry Cannon, Dwight Smith, Bernie Messenger, John Giangiacomo, Paul Lodge, Tim Byrne, Marcel Zucchini, William Brown, Paul Saulenas and Richard Breton.



If you have built or are actively working on a layout or a module, you should consider applying for this award. The requirements include building six units of rolling stock, eight square feet of scenery, five structures and three types of trackage. None of the models must be judged. They should be of good quality construction and the trackage must be able to reliably operate two trains simultaneously. The application is a single page, check-the-box form, requiring your signature and the signature of a witness. Both you and the witness must be current members of the NMRA. If you need the form, it is available from the NMRA Web pages or it can be requested from any of the NER Division Achievement Program Chairs.

Since my last report, I have issued 29 Merit Awards. To earn this award, the model must be judged and earn 87 1/2 points out of a maximum score of 125 points. Merit Awards were issued to Harry Smith and Dwight Smith for Scenery on their layouts in New York and New Hampshire respectively. Four awards were issued at the NER Fall Convention in Stratford, CT, and fifteen awards were issued at the NER Spring Convention in Utica, NY. The remaining eight were issued based on judging at Division Meetings.

Two Motive Power Merit Awards were issued. One each to Ed Bommer and Brian Curry. Eleven Car Merit Awards were issued. Bob Bird received four, Dwight Smith received three, Bill Mischler received two, plus Richard Breton and Larry Cannon received one apiece. Fourteen Structure Merit Awards were issued. Dwight Smith received five, Robert Hamm received three, John Bortle received three, plus Howard Dwyer, Bill Mischler, and Paul Lessard each received one.

These nine NER members have earned sixteen Achievement Program Certificates in these categories: *Edward Bommer*, Cars & Author; *Herm Botzow*, Chief Dispatcher & Author; *Larry Cannon*, Prototype Modeler, Volunteer & Author; *Kevin Feeney*, Volunteer & Author; *Terrance King*, Volunteer; *Kenneth May*, Volunteer & Official; *Michael Siegel*, Author; *Dwight Smith*, Cars; *Harry Smith*, Structures & Scenery.

A majority of the eleven Achievement Program categories are represented. Only three categories are missing: Motive Power, Civil and Electrical.

The NMRA Achievement Program is a member service. It is available only to NMRA members. If you are active in almost any phase of the Model Railroading hobby, you can qualify for recognition through the AP. Please consider applying for the Golden Spike Award or having one of your models judged for a Merit Award. You will find the program offers a challenge plus an opportunity to increase your involvement in the hobby while improving your modeling skills. Many of the NER Divisions have Achievement Program Chairs. You can contact them for additional information to get started. If you are in a Division without an AP Chair, consider volunteering for the position. Openings are available in the Adirondack, Garden State, Little Rhody, Metro North, Maritimes and Pioneer Divisions.

Don't wait for my next report to join in the fun of the NMRA Achievement Program. Start today, your NMRA membership is your ticket to board the train. A seat is waiting for you in FIRST CLASS. Come on board!

AND THE WINNERS ARE:



MODEL CONTEST RESULTS

by Rich Laube,
Model Contest
Judge

The Model Contest at Utica had 25 entries from 13 members. There were 6 Master Level entries, 13 Craftsman Level entries, and 6 New Modeler Level entries. We had entries in each of the 6 categories that we judge. Of these models, 4 had scores over 100 points, and 17 earned Merit Awards by scoring more than 87.5 points.

The Contest results are as follows:

Master - Freight Cars: *Bill Mischler*, 1st for HO Swift Reefer #4258 (107 pt.); 2d for HO Swift Reefer #4241 (106.3); *Bob Bird*, 3d for On3 SR&RL Log Rack #223 (94.6 pt.).

New Modeler - Freight Cars: *Edwin Eggleston*, 1st for S Gauge Heinz 57 Insulated Box Car (61 pt); 2d for S Gauge NASG #1974 Insulated Box Car (57.7 pt); 3d for S Gauge NMRA #1973 Bulletin Reefer (56.3 pt).

Non-Revenue Equipment: *Bob Bird*, 1st

(Master) for HO Big Moose #899 Side Dump Car (102 pt); **Larry Cannon**, 1st (Craftsman) for G Gauge Maine Central Rusell Plow (97.3 pt); **Herb Klein**, 2d (Craftsman) for O Gauge BW #2345 MOW Rail Cleaner (64 pt); **Richard Breton**, 1st (New Modeler) for HO B&O Caboose #1946 (88.3 pt).

Motive Power - Steam: **Edward Bommer**, 1st (Master) for O Gauge B&O #1447, 4-4-2 (87.6 pt); **Brian Curry**, 1st (Craftsman) for Nn3 CNY #8 2-truck Shay (84.3 pt).

Craftsman - Motive Power - Other: **Brian Curry**, 1st for HOn30 MOW #04 Diesel (102 pt).

Craftsman - Structures: **Robert Hamm**, 1st for HO Bakersville Station (97 pt); **John Bortle**, 2d for HO Ice House (94.7 pt); 3d for HO Bucket Coal Station (94.3 pt).

New Modeler - Diorama: **Harry Smith**, 1st for N-TRAK Rural Country Scene (92 pt).

Baldwin Trophy - Best In Show (Highest Point Score): **Bill Mischler**.

HUB Division Award (2d Highest Point Score) **Bill Mischler**.

Sunrise Trail Award (Highest New Modeler Score): **Harry Smith** (see photo below: Ludwig Riemenschneider makes the Banquet award).

New England Railway Consortium Award (2d Highest New Modeler Score): **Richard Breton**.



Several models in the contest have features worth highlighting. Larry Cannon's G Gauge snow plow had working wings and flanger that were operated by radio control. Herb Klein's O scale MOW Rail Cleaning car had a custom-made motor and gear drive system that ran rotating wheels to clean not only the running rails, but also the outside third rail

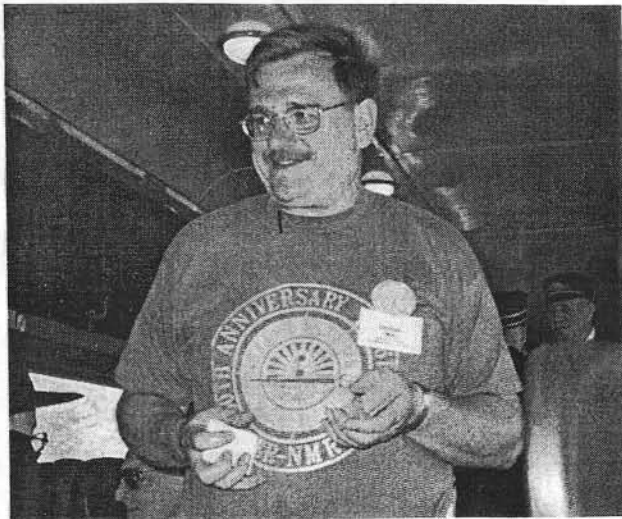
that Herb uses for power pick-up. Brian Curry continues to build small operating engines in Nn3 (Z track). Rich Breton kitbashed a steel caboose back into a wood one by removing all of the existing details and scribing the sides to look like wood.

In the Masters area where we have come to expect excellence, Bob Bird built a very delicate wood side dump ballast car with working side dump doors and latches. Bill Mischler made two Swift reefers that were virtually identical except for the car numbers. The slight difference in the point scores was due to a very minor difference in the finish of the cars. If not for that difference, Bill would have had a tie for First Place and for the Baldwin Best in Show Trophy. It almost seems fitting that Bill gets to keep the Trophy for two more contest cycles (no contests this Fall in North Conway) since he essentially won it twice in this contest. Moreover, Bill had just brought the Trophy back after winning it in Stratford last fall for his G Gauge Ball Signal.

I would like to thank Bill Brandt, Paul Allard, Glenn Glasstetter, Larry Cannon and Jim Heidt for their participation as Judges, Brian Whiton who helped with the contest entries, and Ken May who helped with the Award Certificates.

I would also like to thank everyone who entered the Model Contest. Without your hand work and willingness to enter the Contest, we would not have a contest at all. Anyone can enter the contest no matter his or her skill level, so get to work and build a model and enter it next year.

In future issues of the Coupler I'll have more to say about the Model Contest and some possibilities to make it more interesting for everyone.



VP and Convention Chair Ken May sells 50-50 chances to a captive audience on the railfan trip to the mountains (Bob Bird photo).

AND THE WINNERS ARE:



PHOTO CONTEST RESULTS

by Brian Whiton,
Photo Contest
Chairman

Black & White Print - Prototype: (Master), 3d Ron Palmquist for "UP Train at Denver;" Honorable Mention, for "Colorado Southern Passenger Train;" **(Craftsman):** 2d, Jeff Turner for "NYS&W #142 at Chester, Vermont."

Color Print - Model: (Master), 1st, John Bortle for "View from on High."

Color Print - Prototype (Master): 1st, Pat Lecaroz for "Train on Moodna Viaduct"; 2d, Ralph Gabler for "Passenger Train at Crawford Notch Station;" 3d, John MacGowan for "Ohio Central #1293 front view;" Hon. Mention, for "Ohio Central #1293 3/4 view;" Hon. Mention, Rudy Slavacek for "Engine #142 on GMR at Rutland."

(Craftsman): 2d, R. E. Breton for "Steam Loco Drive Wheel;" 3d, for "B&M #4268 at North Conway;" Hon. Mention, for "North Conway Station."

Color Slide - Model (Master): 1st, John Bortle for "The Meet", a stereo slide; 2d, Rudy Slavacek for "Scene on a Modular Layout."

(Craftsman): 1st, Larry Cannon for "Russell Snow Plow, Snow Scene."

Color Slide - Prototype (Master): 2d, Ron Palmquist for "Maine Central Freight at Richmond;" 3d, Rudy Slavacek for "CSX #6255 at Walpole, Massachusetts;" Hon. Mention, for "Steam Engine #142."

(Craftsman): 1st, Larry Cannon for "BAR Engines at Northern Maine Junction;" 3d, Dave Keim for "Oiling the Switch at Arcade and Attica;" Hon. Mention, for "Oiling Around at Arcade and Attica."

Best in Show: John Bortle for his color slide, "The Meet", a stereo slide exhibiting special effects.

Congratulations to all who competed. Not all awards are given if there are insufficient numbers or if the judges conclude an award is not deserved.

Surviving the Photo Contest

I'm sure some of you have your doubts as to the methods used in the photo contest after watching me have multiple derailments at the Utica convention. We had 35 entries to judge, so we needed helpers write from the git-go. There were none. We even had opposing traffic in our block. Departing from our normal schedule, we registered most of the entries in a 2-hour stretch on Friday evening to allow people time to catch an early fan trip on Saturday. So we were trying to make passenger train speed with too little horse power. Add to this numerous entries with the same subject, often barely distinguishable from each other, and throw in a computer crash and you have a chance to stall on the main line with little hope of doubling the hill.

Saturday, we held the doors open until the usual 12 noon closing of registration, confident that our manual methods and working past midnight Friday, had overcome the obstacles. In fact we had duplication of entry numbers resulting in some photos reaching the data base only after judging. I had several judges who had volunteered their services, then failed to show, and one who had to abstain from a category in which he was entered. Lucky for me Jim Heidt could give his last breath for the photo contest before his head burst.

Judging was very demanding. Our entrants are just too good. Of course, color-print-prototype was the largest field of entry. There was only a 30 pt spread among all the entries, with only decimal points separating the hot contenders. There wasn't a photo in the place that could be taken lightly.

Needless to say we arrived at the end of Saturday with a tally sheet flawed by manual methods and lack of a functional computer. The banquet was early, so there was little time to write awards. Add to that the fact that Jim and I were both quite ill, and you have the picture. Pardon the pun. I'm not looking for sympathy, just help.

I really feel that an entrant who has triumphed in the photo or model or craft contest should have the satisfaction of receiving his or her award personally and in front of their peers. The best we could achieve under the circumstances at Utica was to hand out the first place winners at the banquet and recognize the others who won awards by name.

I need your help in streamlining the Photo Contest. The most important role you could play would be to help me clerk during registration of entries. In addition, those of you who have had a lot of winning entries really need to be a judge occasionally. You can still enter, though you can't judge the category in which you are entered for obvious reasons. I'd therefore, ask that judges enter only one category, so they can judge in several. Then we need a clerk again in the late afternoon to help with determining winners, writing certificates and placing ribbons.

Frankly, without this help, the photo contest is going to become hopeless. It won't be fair or fun. That would be a terrible fate for such an interesting feature of the hobby.

Brian Whiton

THE PICTURE GALLERY

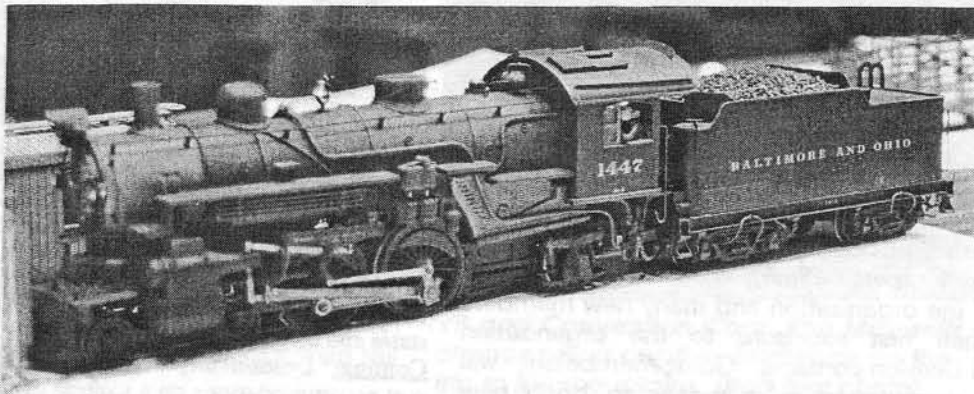
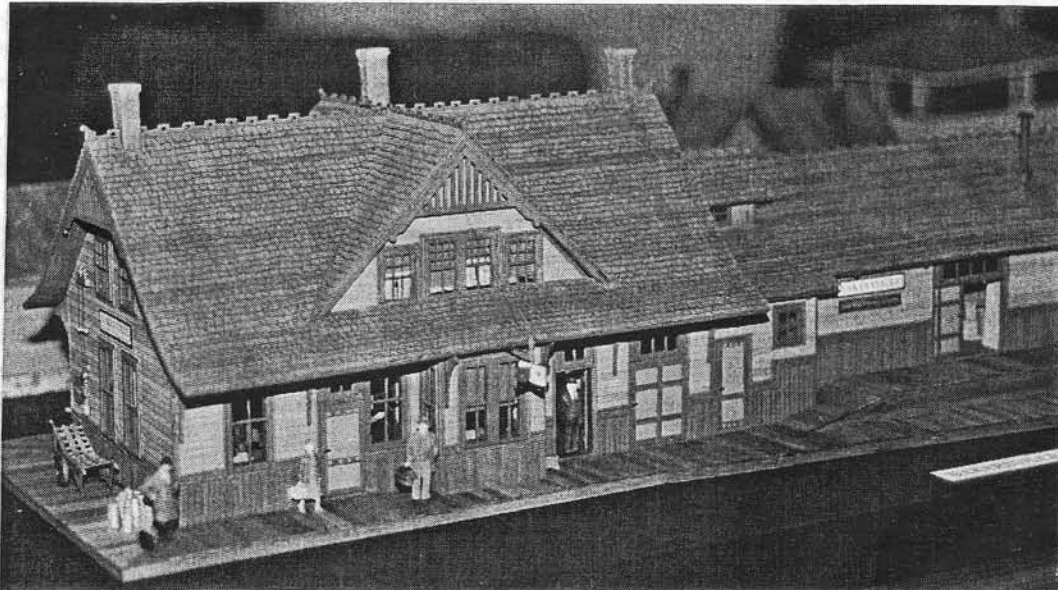
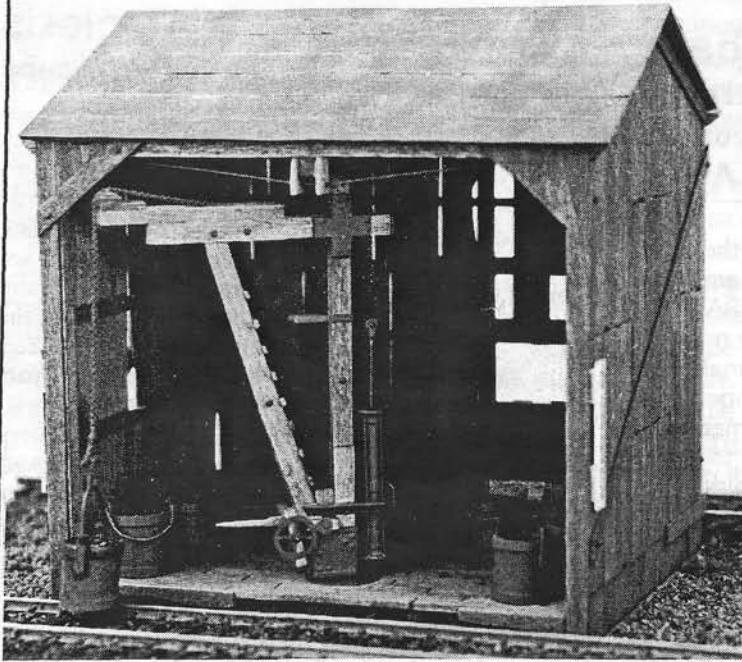
People, Models
and the Real
Stuff

Left: HO Bucket Coal Station, John
Bortle (photo, John Bortle).

Center: HO Bakersville Station, Robert
Hamm.

Bottom: O Gauge B&O #1447, 4-4-2
Edward Bommer.

*(A selection from the Utica Convention
Model Contest.)*



Chattanooga Chew Chew



NMRA Headquarters
News and Views from
NER Trustee Stan Ames

As we move towards the next century many changes are happening within the NMRA. By now many of you have noticed the unified dues approach for National and Region membership. This provides members the benefit of having a single time when memberships can be renewed, which is intended to make it easier to join both organizations. It will also, over time, make our operation much more efficient.

Many other projects are in the works including a new updated version of our Data Sheets which will be released shortly. We are also looking into re-energizing several divisions within the Region and also at forming a virtual Internet Division open to all NER members. Our desire is that all members in the region who want it, have a division organization for modeling support. If you are in an area without a strong local Division, let us know and we will do what we can to energize activities in your area.

We are also looking at experimenting with different concepts for our conventions. Our fall region convention is one example. It combines the best of model railroading with the best of northeast railfanning to bring you a multi-day convention filled with activities. The attempt is to experiment with different formats in an effort to reach out and provide something which will appeal to a greater number of NER members.

One change that will affect all our Divisions is the requirement that all members of a Division be members of the NMRA. This has been a requirement for many years and most regions in the NMRA already comply. The NER is one of the few regions that has not yet fully implemented the requirement for Division membership and we are now in the process of complying with the rule. This requirement is necessary to maintain our insurance protection and is consistent with the policies of most other national organizations with which I am associated.

Change does not come without some difficulty and we are doing everything possible to implement this in an organized and gradual fashion so as to provide minimal impact on our current Division members. Clearly our Divisions form the basis of the organization and many new members have their first exposure to the organization through Division contacts. Guest membership will still be encouraged as a means to bring new members into our organization. Your thoughts?

Thoughts on Model Contests

by Rich Laube

Even though I attend the Conventions and frequently judge the models, I have felt that the presentations at the Banquets have left many of our members unclear as to what awards were given out. Expanding our Report helps everyone, and lets those who did not attend the Convention know what they missed, and maybe encourage them to attend sometime. Without the details, a lot is lost in understanding what the Models were really about. Open Judging helps, but is only part of the solution.

All too often I have seen what I call "Mystery Contests" where models were entered late and removed as soon a judging was completed. During Contest Registration I was able to convince several entrants of the importance of keeping their Models in the room until after the Banquet, so that everyone could see the models, the awards and the builders. Time in the limelight is very rewarding.

I have been contacted by the new National Model Contest Chairman to participate in discussions at the St. Paul Convention to try to bring uniformity to the contests. I have agreed to help in the hope that I can understand what is expected and we can serve our members better.

Anyway, in time I hope that I can help improve our Contests and increase participation and quality, while still encouraging first-time entrants to take the chance and give the Contests a try.

KEN MAY ON CONVENTIONS

Utica: Radisson Hotel, May 28-30, 1999. The weather was perfect for 165 NER members, family and friends. The Hospitality Room was well-patronized. There were far more than the average number of model and photo entries in the Contest Room. (No report from the Crafts Contest yet.) In fact, as you will read elsewhere in this issue, the whole contest process has become big and complicated enough to need attention. Clinics were given by Brian Curry, Don Andrews, Bernie Messenger, Doug Preston, John Taibi, Ed Bommer, Jim Heidt and Lenn Amrhein. Ten Video Clinics from the Kalmbach Library were shown. Ten local layouts were opened for visits on Friday and Sunday.

The "sleeper" was the non-rail tour of the Oneida Foundation in Sherrill, which housed a quasi-religious group that survives today selling silver-plated tableware. The Railfan trip by Adirondack Scenic Railroad took almost six hours to Thendara, with a shuttle ride to Old Forge. The ride was uneventful, the runby well executed, but the visit to the "Hardware Store" was worth the trip. Dinner was off-site at Alfredo's. 58% of the attendees were from New York State, the rest from 9 states and one Canadian province.

Coming: Lyndonville, Vermont, 9-11 June, 2000 ; low-cost accommodations on a College campus. Oct. 5-8 will be a multi-region convention in Altoona, Pennsylvania.

Ed/Op

The opinions of the Editor in this column are not necessarily those of the NER/NMRA-but they might be

The message is finally getting understood. There's a limit to the return on effort of trying to retread or recruit old dudes like me in order to halt the slow, but steady, loss of NMRA members. If you haven't learned to play at our age, you never will. The hair of the average member is getting grayer or whiter.

We've recognized that it takes young people to replace old-timers.

The NMRA conducted an educational / recruitment effort called the Junior College Program (JCP) at the Kansas City National meeting. The participants were given the opportunity to learn and enjoy as much as they wish about any and every aspect of the hobby. The program was greeted with enthusiasm and will be repeated at the 1999 National convention.

In the Divisions, there are other attempts to lure the younger generations into model railroading. One of the most popular is the Boy Scout Merit Badge program in model railroading which was brought back to life at the National Jamboree at Ft. A.P. Hill in 1997. These and other initiatives some of us haven't even heard of are rightfully encouraged by the Association and its Regions.

But what about the thousands of young people who don't have the benefit of predisposition and specific encouragement? Perhaps we can learn something from the American Association of Newspaper Publishers, or the Farm Bureau, for example, which prepare and distribute teaching modules to elementary and senior high schools. These are sought af-

ter by teachers because they are well done, accurate and reliable. In the early years of their education, so many youngsters don't have the opportunity to become acquainted with the role the railroads had in developing all of North America and of the technological drama they played out in every part of this continent.

Many of us who were excited by the gift of a toy railroad in our childhood, also learned the value of play as a social virtue. I don't mean to denigrate the computer (one of my grown-up toys) or computer games, but the building and operation of a model railroad satisfies so much of the urge to use our imagination and to enjoy a sense of accomplishment. Why don't we give this strategy a try?

Deja Vu (all over again)



In addition to model railroad stuff, I received as a Christmas present a Scanner - a piece of equipment which should allow me to manipulate and screen my pictures for the *Coupler*. However, I made the all-too-common mistake of using it before I read the instruction book. This is how this picture should have looked in the last issue.

What's at the other end of a railfan trip?

Most of us in the NER are pretty familiar with the General Store. Some are just great, and others just won't replace Wal-Mart. The Utica trip took well over a hundred of us to a place by the name of Thendara in the Middle of the Adirondacks. Most of us shuttle-bused to Old Forge, New York (10 minutes). There we discovered the mother of all general stores, "Old Forge Hardware." You have to see it to believe it!

**THE UNCONVENTIONAL
CONVENTION, NORTH
CONWAY RAILFAN
WEEKEND,
FOLIAGE SEASON
THE FALL 1999 NER CONVENTION,
NORTH
CONWAY, NEW HAMPSHIRE, 15-17
OCTOBER**

Having planned a Railfan Weekend for the middle of October, the HUB Division generously invited the entire Region to join it in celebrating fall and model railroading in elegant style. We'll have the opportunity of riding the "Notch Train" on the North Conway Scenic Railroad, visiting local layouts, attending clinics, and participating in an after-dark photo session. The formal Saturday banquet will be replaced by a Sunday morning Awards Breakfast with all sorts of great prizes for convention attendees. There won't be the usual Photo, Model or Crafts contests because of the very different nature of this program.

Convention Headquarters will be the Red Jacket Mountain View Inn located on the east side of Route 16/302 in the heart of the Mt. Washington Valley. The Inn has a restaurant and lounge, indoor pool, tennis courts and other recreational facilities. It will offer a fixed-price dinner on Saturday evening, allowing selections from a special menu. Because the area is very crowded at this time of year, this represents a great convenience. After dinner, there will be something new of a social nature, the NER President's Reception, from 9-11 pm.

Registration will begin early on Friday and clinics will begin in the afternoon. Local layouts will also be open (maps will be in your registration packets). For the non-rail minded folks, there will be Friday night Bingo (bring a wrapped package for the prize pool). The registration packets will also contain information on the area's fabulous specialty shops and factory outlets, most within walking distance of the Inn.

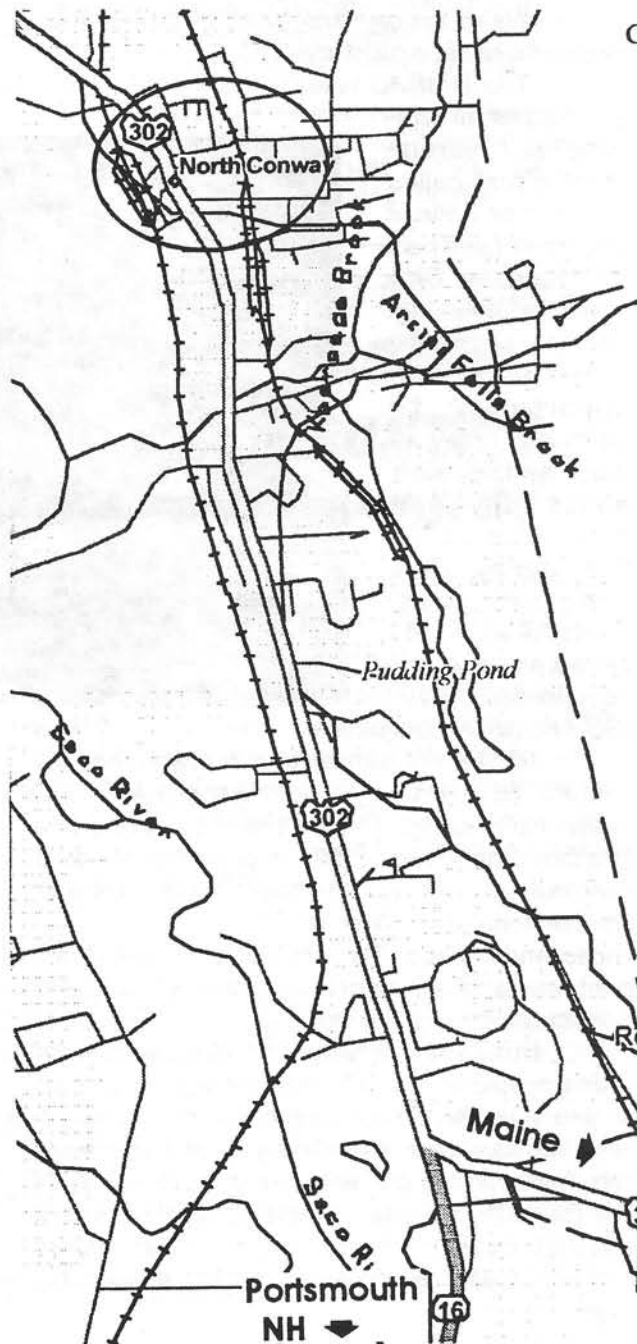
Railfan Weekend Activities

The HUB Division has reserved a block of passes (tickets) for the famous Notch trainride. Space is limited, so send in your reservation form early in order to assure you aren't left behind. This is a 9 am to 6 pm affair. There is one very important thing to remember about this "unconventional convention": *No registrations will be accepted after September 1, nor walk-in registrations.* At this time, the program features one-hour clinics by Mike Tylick, Dave Frary, Ed Pierce Ben Merry, Pete Davis, Ben English, Ron LeBlanc, and Stan and Debbie Ames. Larry Madson will do his special "make it and take it" clinic. So far, one non-rail clinic is scheduled: a cooking session with the Inn's chef. On Sunday morning after breakfast, you are invited to attend the NER's Annual Meeting. The restored depot of the North Conway Scenic Railroad is a sight to behold, and

there is a wonderful model railroad museum just a few miles north of the village.

Getting There

Regardless of what direction you come from, you want to reach the intersection of routes 16 and 302 in New Hampshire. That's just north of the sleepy little village of Conway, and the location of some of the area's biggest traffic jams. If your route takes you through Conway, allow some extra time in your schedule. North Conway is just a few miles up the road. Boston is about 2.5 hours and 130 miles away; Portland is 1.25 hours and about 60 miles away. New York City area travelers have the longest trip, about 315 miles and 6 hours. Canada folks are just north of the border.



"The Unconventional Convention"

NER Fall 1999 Convention
North Conway, NH - October 15-17, 1999

Photocopy these forms for your convenience

Registration Form

Name 1 _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
NMRA # _____ NER # _____

Name 3 _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
NMRA # _____ NER # _____

Name 2 _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
NMRA # _____ NER # _____

Name 4 _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
NMRA # _____ NER # _____

Item	Cost	Name 1	Name 2	Name 3	Name 4	Total \$
Member Registration (if NMRA & NER Member)	\$ 18					
Member Registration (if NMRA Member only)	\$ 25					
Member Registration (if NER Member only)	\$ 34					
Guest Registration (includes NMRA & NER membership)	\$ 41					
Spouse Registration (with primary registrant only)	\$ 5					
Fan Trip (Weekend Notch Coach Pass)	\$ 50					
Turkey Club Box Lunch	\$ 8					
Build and take Red Caboose Flat Car	\$ 8					
Convention Awards Breakfast	\$ 12					
Total						

Enclose total registration fee
(make checks payable to: **NER Conventions**)
Send to: John C. Campbell Jr.
63 Alexander Dr.
East Hartford, Ct. 06118

Will attend NER President's Reception: Yes No

Fixed price dinner @ \$16.95 per person
Yes No Number Attending _____

Please complete registration form and mail to the address above on or before **September 1, 1999**

NER Fall 1999 Convention
Hotel Reservation Form
Red Jacket - Mountain View
Rt. 16, North Conway, NH 03860-2000
(800) 752-2538

Rates: \$89 Single \$89 Double for Model Railroad Convention
Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____ Number of beds needed per room: _____
Number of rooms: _____ Number of people: _____ Non-smoking _____ Smoking _____
Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Telephone: () _____ Check enclosed: _____ for \$96.12
Credit Card AMEX _____ MASTERCARD _____ VISA _____ Charge deposit to my credit card
Card Number: _____
Expiration Date: _____ (Signature) _____

Please complete and mail to the address above on or before **October 1, 1999**

Joseph Lecaroz
OFFICE MANAGER NER
PO BOX 7150
NEWBURGH NY 12550



The
NER Coupler

All the news that fits we print

FIRST CLASS

Moving or changing
your address?
Please tell the Office
Manager so we can
stay in touch.

11358-3921

p. 3 **IRWIN FRANCIS LLOYD** died 26 May 1999. His career was in the electric utilities in the Hartford, Connecticut area. Irwin spent much time in public service - for his United Methodist Church and the AARP. He served as President of the NER, and then, for over 20 years as Permanent Convention Treasurer. He was an avid collector of railroad lanterns and a strong supporter of the Nutmeg Division. Irwin leaves his wife Gladys of 44 Lincoln Dr., Glastonbury CT (06033). We'll miss you.

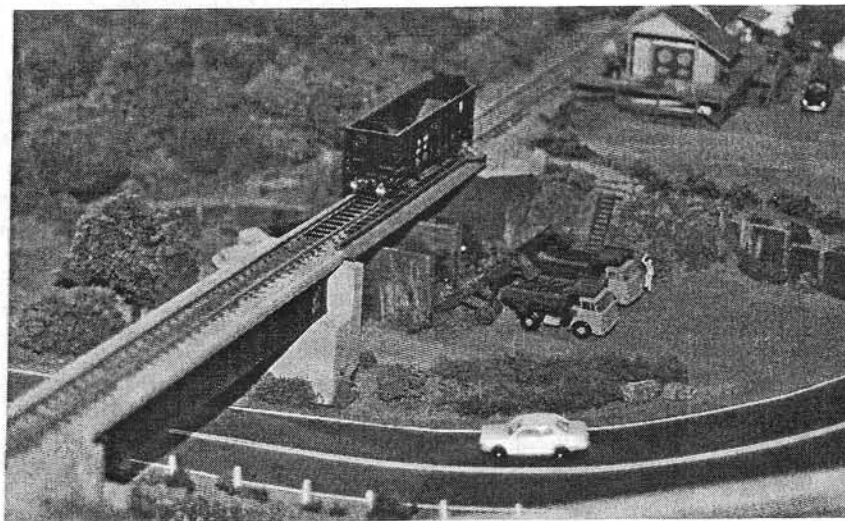
NEWS FROM THE OUTBACK

The **HUB Division** celebrated its 40th anniversary April 17. The guests at the Wessagussett Yacht Club included NER Pres Glenn Glasstetter and VP Ken May, as well as charter members Dave MacDonald, Bill Parker and Jack Alexander. HUB also announces the **Great Train Show** for 14 Nov. 1999 at the Marlborough HS Field House on Rt 85, Bolton St., 10-4. Admission: \$4 adults, \$3 seniors, Children 12+, \$1. Call Bill Baker, 781-862-8078 **Harwinton Westside VFD**, 7th annual Train Show, 11 Septem-

ber 1999, at the Harwinton (CT) Consolidated School, Rt 118. 10-3; admission, \$3.50 per person, \$7 family. For info, call Phil Lent, 860-489-8961.

Kingston Model Railroad Club. 62d Anniversary Open House, Saturdays and Sundays during November, Noon to 5 pm. The New York layout is located on Susan St, off Pine Grove Ave. Admission: \$3 for adults, \$1 for children under 12. For info, call Tom Scrivani, 914-331-4218.

Metro North Division. The new Super is **Clayton Luf**, who succeeds Kevin Feeney. In early May, Metro had a joint meeting with the new Mid-Hudson Division at the Danbury RR Museum. The Division has produced a **special name car** to commemorate the end of Conrail. It's a Bowser 100 ton, 45' 3-hopper in oxide red, numbered 19761999. Price: \$11, plus \$2 S&H, from Brian Sullivan, 209 Brookdale Rd, Stamford, CT 06903-4118.



Harry Smith's N-Trak Diorama, Country Scene, 1st Place, New Modeler.