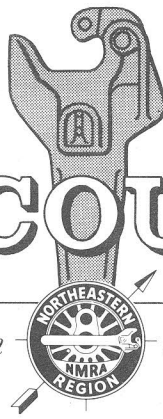


THE COUPLER



Official Bulletin of the Northeastern Region of the National Model Railroad Association

ELMIRA EVENT HAS FRATERNAL FLAVOR

Neighbor Regions Enjoy Combined Program

The Spring convention of the Northeastern Region was held jointly with the Niagara Frontier Region at the Mark Twain Hotel in Elmira, N.Y., on May 20-21-22. Approximately 80 members of NER and 75 members of NFR attended this first of two joint conventions to be scheduled by NER this year. Many new friendships were started, and it is hoped that other combined programs can be arranged in the future.

There was some confusion in the handling of the Friday evening and Saturday morning programs caused undoubtedly by the committees having originally planned only for the period from Saturday noon to Sunday noon. Although unable to get to all the places which they had expected, everyone enjoyed himself and plenty of pictures were taken. Visits were made to the PRR Southport Yard and the DL&W* ERIE station. Those at the station were treated to an extra thrill and a demonstration of the advantages of train radio when a westbound freight arrived with one Piggyback trailer half off its flatcar and was stopped while entering the yard before any more damage was done. It is safe to add, however, that, had the train not been halted in this manner, the conductor would have had to have been blind to miss all the "washouts" that would have been given.

Although it had no connection with railroading, the Saturday afternoon tour of the Corning Glass Works was very interesting. It was possible to watch the making by hand of the company's famous Steuben glassware as well as view the huge displays of antique and modern glass products. Several demonstrations of special types of glass manufactured for many unusual uses were exhibited.

A magnificent Silver Anniversary cake presented by the hotel was the climax of the excellent banquet. Following the contest awards and the drawing for door prizes the Presidents of the two Regions gave brief speeches of greeting and introduced their officers and convention chairmen. The panel discussion led by members of the New York Society of Model Engineers and an auction completed the evening.

Clinics on Scenery Building, Switch Construction, Transistor Track Indication, Layout Design and Rolling Stock Painting were presented on Saturday and Prototype Operations and Prototype Signalling on Sunday. The necessary simultaneous scheduling of some of these prevented attending them all, but all were reported to have been excellent.

Other features of the program were the Ladies' Railroad Novelty Display, the Drawbar Contest, the special Silver Anniversary Model Contest and the regular Regional model contests. All entries in the competitions were exhibited in one room, but the judging and awarding of prizes was done separately for each Region. Quality was high, but the quantity of items was disappointingly small; particularly as the room was open for public inspection and it would have been a perfect chance to show off.

Many thanks to Convention Chairman Bruce Coughlin and his committee as well as the members of the NFR committee for their efforts.

ELIZABETH TO BE QUEEN OF CONVENTIONS

The Fall convention of the Northeastern Region will be held jointly with the Mid-Eastern Region at the Elizabeth Carteret Hotel in Elizabeth, N.J., Friday through Sunday October 28 - 30. There will be a great variety of activities, often running in parallel, to suit all interests. For the train watchers, the hotel is only two blocks from the crossing of two four-track main lines. The top varnish of the Pennsylvania, Southern, Atlantic Coast Line, Seaboard, Lehigh Valley, Jersey Central, Reading, Chesapeake & Ohio and New Haven will parade by day and night. (Ed. note: So who sleeps at conventions, anyway?)

Activity will begin at 800PM Friday with a bull session led by a panel of experts from both Regions. In addition the layouts of several clubs and individuals are expected to be open for visitors. A series of clinics on Saturday morning will include as an experiment an advanced technical session on cab control in an effort to determine whether those already informed on the subject are interested in exploring it further in the manner of the engineering societies' conferences. After lunch a fan trip on the Jersey Central will feature a tour of the Elizabethport Shops, a ride across the Newark Bay bridge from which the commuter train took its dive (the committee guarantees NO repetition) and a tour of the Jersey City facilities including the transfer bridges. There will be time for a ferry ride to New York City and return.

A variety of activities have been arranged to follow the traditional banquet. On the schedule are the NER Drawbar Contest, an auction which will operate until all the items brought in for that purpose have been sold, and an operating clinic on the layout of the Summit-New Providence HRR Club. It is hoped that everyone attending this clinic will join in operating a way freight using the most advanced techniques for duplicating prototype operation. The models entered in the contests and displays will be on view all evening.

Sunday morning breakfast will be followed by the respective business meetings of the two Regions. In the afternoon local club layouts and a few large private layouts will again open to visitors.

Continued on Page 4

NUTMEG DIVISION HAS PICNIC

Look Memorial Park in Northampton, Mass., was the location chosen for the annual family picnic of the Nutmeg Division NER on June 25th. Joining with them were the Pioneer Valley Model Railroaders of Springfield. An invitation had been issued to the Hub Division, but none of their members were present.

The cloudy and chilly weather following the tornado alert of the previous day was undoubtedly responsible for there being only ten families there. Late in the day the situation improved, however, and everyone had a good time. Among those attending were Pres. Smith of NER, Pres. Benoit and Treas. Blood of Nutmeg and Ye Ed.

Elizabeth:

The Elizabeth Carteret is a large (by our requirements) convention hotel. We shall have a private lobby, a large and lockable room for the display of models and other facilities to make a comfortable and enjoyable convention. Located a mile and a half from Exit 13 on the N.J. Turnpike, four miles from Newark Airport and two blocks from two railroad stations, it is easy to reach regardless of your means of transportation.

The package price for all events for Region members and families is expected to be nine or ten dollars. This includes the fan trip, banquet and breakfast. The exact price together with additional details on arrangements will appear in the Fall issue of the COUPLER.

Dispatcher's Tower:
HO Locomotives Class. Why? Because there were only four entries as well as because he did a beautiful job. These were all kit built, by the way; there were no prizes awarded to scratch built engines because there were no entries. So why don't YOU enter the Fall model contest and perhaps take home a prize and a certificate. You might be surprised to find out how good you really are.

Another reason for attending the Fall convention is the annual business meeting of the Region which will follow the Sunday morning breakfast. This is your chance express your views and to elect your Directors.

How about it? Will I have the pleasure of getting acquainted with you newer members as well as renewing old friendships?

DOUG SMITH

NER CONTEST WINNERS

25th Anniversary Contest

- O Gauge: 1st. Earl Smallshaw
2nd. Irwin Lloyd
- HO Gauge: 1st. Douglas Smith
2nd. Jeff French
3rd. Dave Finnegan

Regional Contest

- Delaware Trophy for Best In Show* - Vincent Vasta
- HO Structures: 1st: Vincent Vasta
2nd. Earl Smallshaw
3rd. Vincent Vasta
- O Scenery: 1st. & 2nd. David Sawyer
- HO Cars: 1st. James Johnson
2nd. John Pryke
3rd. Leonard Frankel
- HO Locomotives: 1st, 2nd & 3rd John Pryke
- O Cars: 1st. James Johnson
2nd. David Sawyer

Hearty congratulations are extended to all of the above for their excellent work.

Originally, it was my intention to inflict upon you herein an account of my Spring trip to Colorado, but, because I am feeling lazy, you are spared the ordeal. All I will say is that I had a swell time, rode on and behind steam engines, and took a raft of pictures some of which you may get to see eventually.

This paragraph is directed to the officers of other Regions who read the COUPLER. It is my desire to effect an exchange of publications with all the other Regional Editors. To this end I have had our mailing office send a copy in my name to each whose name I could obtain asking for reciprocation. Until now the response has not been very good and there are still some names I do not have. Therefore, I am requesting your co-operation in this matter as I am sure it will be of mutual benefit. Thank you.

I regret that I will be unable to attend the Anniversary Convention in Chicago so enjoy it for me. Have a good Summer, everyone!

DON ROBINSON

HOW DOES YOUR MEMBERSHIP STAND?

There has been considerable misunderstanding in recent months relating to the above question.

When the Mailing Office was set up the membership was changed to a quarterly basis by a vote at the business meeting. This meant that from that date we were gradually to divide the membership until the desired situation was achieved. It was accomplished by accepting membership to extend one year from the date received. This meant that for about two years many members actually got 15 to 18 months for their one dollar. We have now reached the point where the split has been completed, and dues will now apply for twelve months from each due date. The methods used for notification of expired membership are:

1. Stamp in red on the COUPLER - "This is your last issue until membership is renewed."
2. Send invoice with unnumbered and undated membership card. (The card is held by the member and upon payment he is notified of his number.)
3. Final post card as a reminder.

The above should answer most of the questions we have been receiving of late regarding getting only a portion of a year for your dollar. The point is you may have been late in paying last year's dues or even those of the previous year.

WAYNE ROUNDY

EAST BROAD TOP WILL RUN TRAINS!

The narrow-gauge EBT will operate over about three miles of line during the Bi-Centennial of the towns of Orbisonia and Rockhill Furnace, Pa., from August 13 to 20. If supported this year, the restoration will be extended for annual operation.

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Ans. C.W. Stamm
USS Sunkacht AE-21
A.P.O. N.Y., N. Y.