

Rochester Model Rails

Dedicated to Quality Model Railroading

VOL. 4, NO. 29

ROCHESTER, N.Y.

MAY 2005



Loco # 407, a 4-8-2 Y class, at the NYO & W Livingston Manor passenger station and freight shed on the model railroad of Bill Schneider of Higganum, CT. *Digital image by Bill Schneider.*

Bath and Hammondsport RR – the Fishing Shack and Dock

Thomas the Tank Engine Comes to Medina, NY

Photo Gallery – ***Bill Schneider's NYO & W RR***

The R W & O - Part 6

Ask Doctor Dick – Building a Cityscape

Train Events - Updated 2005

For past issues of

Rochester Model Rails

www.trainweb.org/rmr

ALL ABOARD!!—A Day Out with Thomas

by Betty James

The Island of Sodor is located off the mainland of Great Britain. This is an area where the sun usually shines and where dark clouds do not linger long. The terrain is that of rolling hills and green valleys. It is an agricultural, mining and fishing area. Reverend Wilbert Awdry used this island for the setting of his fictional stories about Thomas the Tank Engine and the many characters that make up the series.

Rev. Awdry was a railroad fan and delighted in telling stories to his young son. Characters like Sir Topham Hatt, Lady Hatt and locomotives with names of boys and girls abound in his stories. Each has his or her distinct personality and contributes to each exciting adventure. The writings started in 1945.

Today's young children, through storybooks, videotapes and television programs, are familiar with the multitude of names and personalities of each of the engines and characters. These stories teach the virtues of friendliness, responsibility, cooperation and accomplishment to the children.

Thomas is portrayed as a fussy blue engine with the number one emblazoned on the side. He has a pleasant looking face with moveable eyes that grace the front of the locomotive. He tends to be over-eager and frequently gets into scrapes due to his trying to do things that are meant for larger more capable engines. However, he does work well with all of the engines.

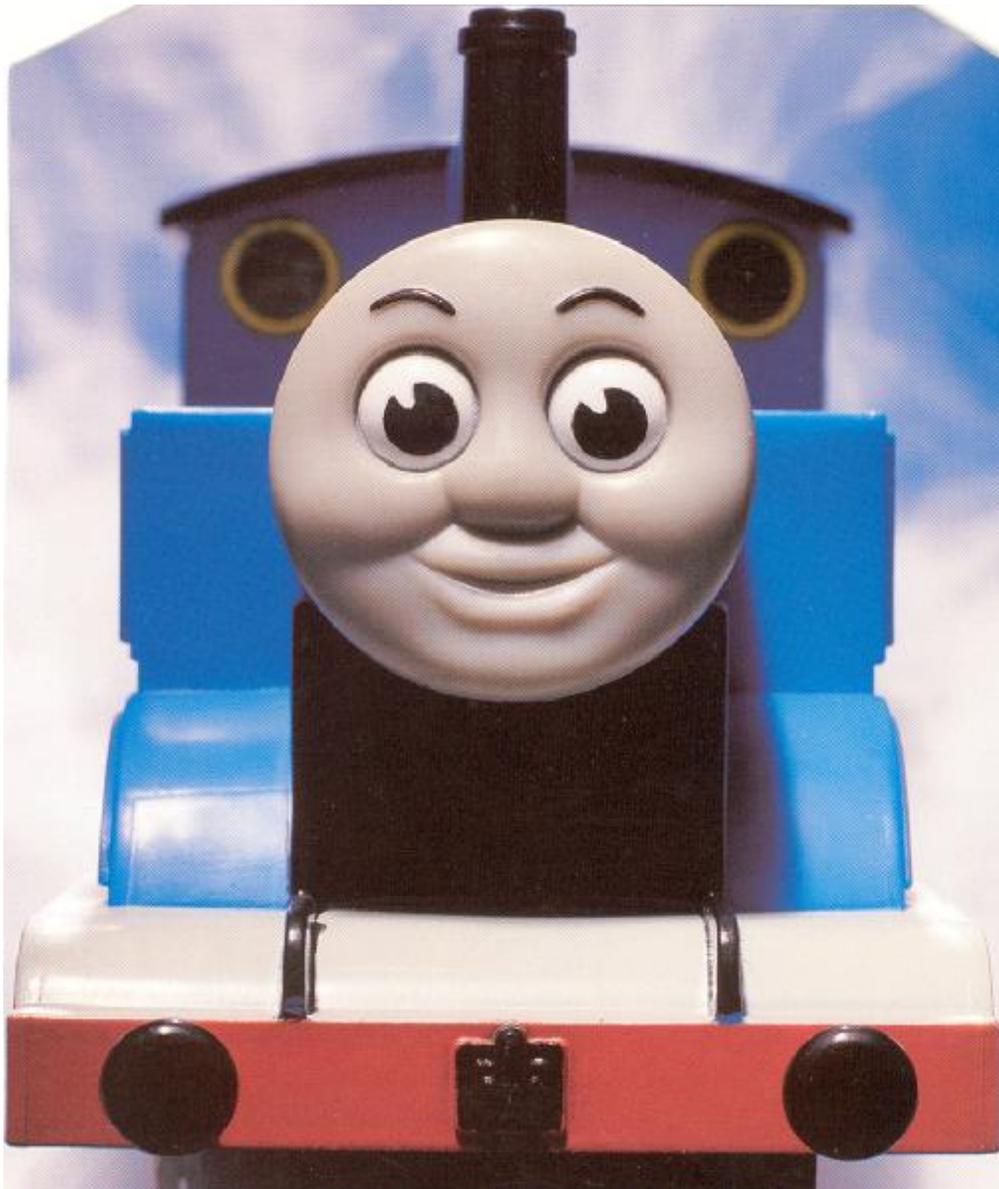
Henry is portrayed as sickly and tends to be high-strung. Percy is happy and content with staying within his environment and has no desire for outside adventures. As a result, other engines tend to take advantage of Percy. There are several other engines. Ask any child to describe his favorite.

Sir Topham Hatt, known as "The Fat Controller" because of his rotund appearance, is a kind man. As a young man, he came to Sodor and worked as a railway engineer. He quickly moved up to become "Chairman of the Railway." He is responsible for making sure the trains run on time. Lady Hatt is not seen too often as she tends to those duties of a noble lady.

We do not have to travel to the Island of Sodor to meet these characters. Each year, Thomas chugs into approximately 40-45 villages with Sir Topham Hatt. The Medina Railroad Museum is proud to have been accepted as one of the host villages for 2005. This is also the 60th Anniversary of "The Railway

Series" written by Rev. Awdry. A Day Out with Thomas will be held on May 6-8 and May 13-15. The events feature not only rides with Thomas, but also activity centers, videos, temporary tattoos, pictures with Thomas and Sir Topham Hatt as well as other entertainment stations.

It is expected that thousands of people will flock to the Medina area during these two weekends, as Thomas is sure to engineer miles of smiles for every guest. Tickets went on sale February 1st and are selling fast. Three of the scheduled trains have already sold out. Tickets have been sold from as far away as Montreal, Canada and West Virginia. Tickets for the train rides may be obtained by calling Ticketweb.com (1-866-468-7630), visiting the railroad museum's web site (www.railroadmuseum.net) or the Medina Railroad Museum at (585) 798-6106.



Scenes from the Model Railroad of Bill Schneider

Bill Schneider is the Product Designer and General Manager of *Branchline Trains*.

See more photos at Bill's web site: The Old Woman in the Back Bedroom



Bath and Hammondsport Railroad – Part 7

Constructing the Fishing Dock

Three docks or wharves had to be constructed for the Bath and Hammondsport Railroad waterfront area. One for the Fishing Shack, one for the Boathouse and one for the Wharf Shed. All three had similar construction.

The basic construction was just like building a deck. Posts or pilings, beams, joists, and decking. The challenge was how to hold up the post while assembling the beams to the posts.

First a scale drawing was made locating the exact location of the posts. Some posts would be short and flush with the deck and some long to be used to tie up boats. These post locations were transferred to a piece of 1/4" plywood. Holes were drilled using a 0.0128" drill bit.

Wood doweling was used for the posts. The wood was distressed using an old small saw and then stained with a mixture of denatured alcohol and black leather dye.

The posts were then inserted into the holes – a pressure fit - using no glue. This allowed some movement in case the posts were not quite properly aligned.

The next step was to cut the 10 beams using 6" x 12" scale lumber. These were also stained before cutting. The beams were attached to the post using white glue – see *Figure #1* on the next page. Care was taken to make sure the beams did not stick above the top end of the short posts and that the height of the beams was the same.

Next the 7 4" x 6" joists were glued to the beams making sure the joists were as straight as possible.

After the glue was dry, the 1" x 6" decking was glued down. In between the long posts, 2" x 12" planking was used which fit in the space between the posts – see *Figure #1*.

The cut ends of the wood will be touched up using the alcohol and dye mix. The base will be buried in "Keuka Lake" covering the wood base with a dirt slurry and then small stones to match the rest of the lake bottom.

Figures, boats, and the fishing shack, shown on the next page, will be added to the scene.

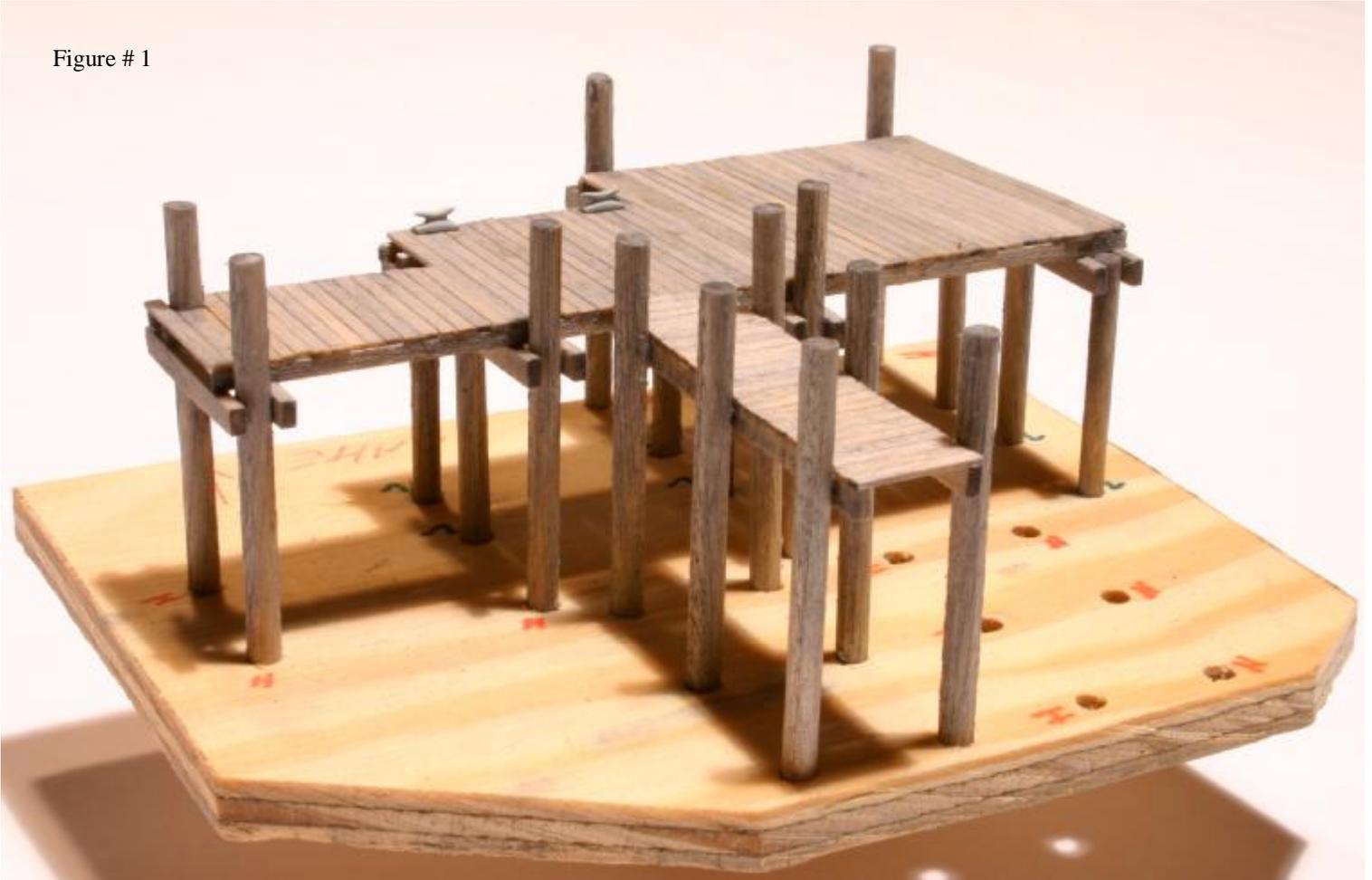
Fishing Dock

Materials List

<u>Item</u>	<u>Qty.</u>	<u>Description</u>
Base	1	1/4 " plywood
Posts	19	1/8" (.0125") wood dowel
Beams	10	6" x 12" scale lumber
Joists	7	4" x 6" scale lumber
Decking	82	2" x 6" scale lumber

White glue, water, sifted dirt, and small lake stones were also used.

Figure # 1



The Rome, Watertown and Ogdensburgh Railroad – Conclusion

Reprinted with the permission of the Semaphore – a publication of the Rochester Chapter, NRHS

The New RW&O

Three months later, the railroad's headquarters offices were move back to Watertown and the property unified into a single division. Gradually, its officers either retired, took similar jobs with other roads or were placed in similar positions on the parent NYC.

For the next six years the RW&O continued to operate much as before – as a separate railroad. In 1908, road was divided into two divisions called the *St. Lawrence* and the *Ontario*. Watertown Junction was their dividing point. Locally, the *Ontario Division* is called the Hojack Line. How the name originated is the subject of much speculation.

The separate corporate existence of the railroad remained until 1914, when the Vanderbilts made a complete corporate entity of their holdings under the name of the New York Central Railroad.

Once the Vanderbilts had acquired the RW&O, they began to upgrade its facilities with new shops and depots, roadbed and bridges, and double tracking where necessary. Contrary to the past, there seemed to be no lack of money.

Decline and Fall

The old RW&O continued to operate extensive freight and passenger trains through the 1920's. The depression in the 1930's put a damper on all business. Passenger service was gradually reduced and then eliminated. There was resurgence during World War II but after that freight service was sporadic.

Eventually rails were removed west of Rochester but the NYC (Conrail) still maintained a coal hauling operation whereby it transferred coal for the Rochester Gas and Electric's Beebe Plant. Cars left the NYC mainline and traveled down to the west side of the Genesee River in Charlotte. The cars then ran east, across the swing bridge to a small yard in Irondequoit. From the yard, on the original RW&O route, the coal trains ran up the east side of the river across the trestle north of Bausch Street to a small yard at the Beebe Plant. This operation ceased with the closing of the power plant in the early 1990's. The swing bridge last operated in 1991 and remains in its open position.

In the immediate Rochester area, most of the RW&O trackage has been removed from Webster west. There are some overgrown depots and if one looks carefully, related railroad buildings such as crossing guard shanties or maintenance buildings can be found on adjacent farms. East of here, the Ontario Midland RR runs on the old RW&O from Webster to Wolcott. The massive terminal at Richland is now a grassy field. The rails south of Richland to Rome are gone. Some freight houses and depots remain. My railroad maps show that most of the trackage in the North Country remains. The branches to Cape Vincent, Sackets Harbor and Clayton have long disappeared. The branches from DeKalb Junction to Ogdensburg and Philadelphia to Ogdensburg have been torn up. There is no trackage between Pulaski, through Oswego to Red Creek. The section of the old Utica and Black River between Lyons Falls and Lowville and the section between Carthage and Watertown have been abandoned.



Ask Doctor Dick (The Scenery Doctor)

OCRR@frontiernet.net

Linda Writes:

I am just starting to build a model railroad. Can you review the basic steps in building a cityscape?

Doc:

Sure - relative to building a cityscape or city scene, I suggest the following:

Step #1 – The Backdrop

Here I would seriously look at *Walthers' Instant Horizons* backdrop preprinted sheets. These measure about 24" x 36" and come in various scenes.

For a city scene, consider the following:

#949-711 Freight Yards
#949-712 Hotel/Business
#949-713 The Docks

These pre-printed full color background sheets make a great addition to the plain wall of your layout and a good starting point for the *Walthers'* complete background system.

Step # 2 – Printed Buildings

The next step is to install some of the *Walthers' Instant Buildings*. These printed buildings fit between actual structures and the printed scenes, smoothing the transition from foreground to backdrop.

For a city scene, consider the following:

#949-722 Back Street Structures
#949-724 Industrial District
#949-725 Main Street Stores

Step # 3 – Background Building Kits

These *Walthers' Background Building Walls* are real plastic building kits and vary from 1.5" deep to 4.75" deep. Great for making that transition from the printed buildings to the full scale HO buildings.

For a city scene, consider:

#933-3160 Centennial Mills, back
#933-3161 Variety Printing Company, front
#933-3165 Shop Building No. 1, back
#933-3172 Armstrong Electric Motors, back

Step #4 – Real HO Scale City Buildings

Finally - the real thing. Here construct and install the many varied city buildings offered by *Walthers* and many other manufactures.

Install these in front of the *Background Building Walls* and closest to the viewing public. Add the detail to these buildings like sidewalks, streets, streetlights, figures, clotheslines, electric lines, downspouts, gutters, storefront and interior detail, etc.

For past issues of the

Rochester Model Rails

go to

www.trainweb.org/rmr

Any interest in an

Index

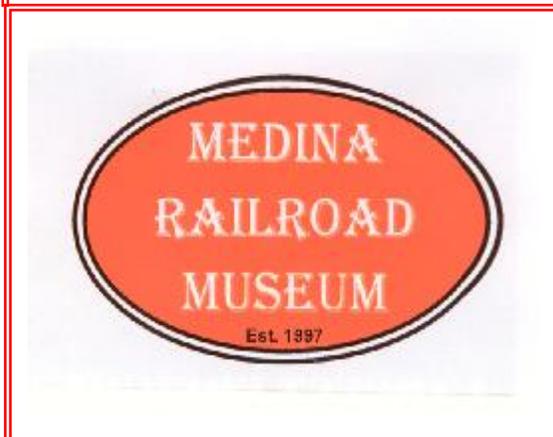
for the first 30 issues of the

Rochester Model Rails

→ e-mail: OCRR@frontiernet.net

Don't Forget to Visit

www.railroadmuseum.net



Coming Next Month....

Lake Side Structures on the B & H RR

Plan Before You Build – Part I

Photo Gallery

Ask Doctor Dick – the Scenery Doctor

Train Events – Updated

Rochester Model Rails

Editor and Publisher
Richard A. Senges

Web Master
Ted Larson

Digital Images
Matt Kovacic

Columnists
 Leo Adamski
 Gerald Brimacombe
 Garis R. Chedens
 Jim Hutton
 Betty James
 George Irwin
 Steve Levine
 Jack Matsik
 Lou Nost
 Gary Patterson
 Richard Roth
 Harold W. Russell
 Frank T. Smith
 David L. Thompson
 Norm Wright

Authors: Articles, digital images, and plans are welcome.

Mailing Address
1231 Wellington Drive
Victor, NY 14564

Web Site: www.trainweb.org/rmr

Recommended Train Events for 2005

Updated 3-29-05

- April 3 **Batavia, NY** - Batavia Train Show and Sale, Batavia Downs, 9:30am – 3:30pm

- April 3 **Hamilton, Ontario, Canada** – Open House, Hamilton Society of Model Railroaders

- April 9 – 10 **Victor, NY** – Genesee “G” Gauge Rwy. Train Display, Bristol’s Garden Center Spring Fest, 7454 Rt. 96 →

- April 15,16,17 **Belleville, Ontario, Canada**
 NMRA NFR Convention
 Info: neville.meads@sympatico.ca

- April 16-17 **Frankfort, NY** – Valley Rail Sights

- April 17 **Woodstock, Ontario, Canada** - Model Train Show, Woostock Fairgrounds

- April 21 **Rochester, NY** – NRHS meeting – “Chinese Steam #3”

- April 23 –24 **Tonawanda, NY** – The Model Railroad Club of Buffalo Open House

- April 23-24 **Ithaca, NY** – Finger Lakes Railfair

- April 23-24 **Iroquois, Ontario, Canada** – Model Railroad Show and Sale

- April 30, May 1 **Lindsay, Ontario, Canada** – Model Transportation Expo, trains, boats, planes, & autos

- April 30, May 1 **Lockport, NY** – Lockport Train Show

- May 1 **Guelph, Ontario, Canada** – Train Show, Guelph Model Railroad Society

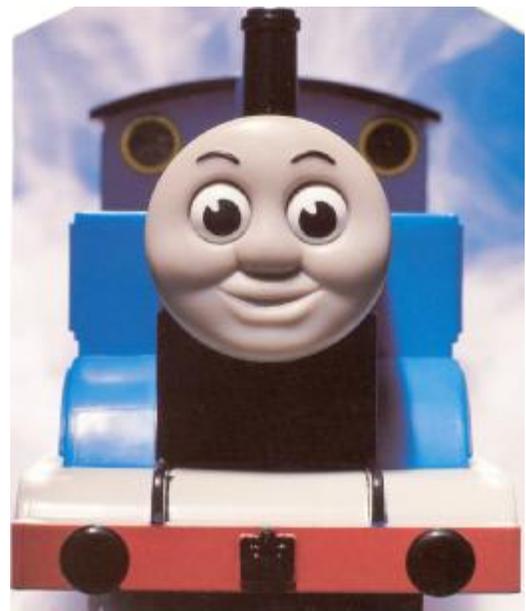
- May 6,7,8 **Medina, NY** – “A Day Out with Thomas The Tank Engine” at the Medina RR Museum →

- May 7 **Stayner, Ontario, Canada** – Nottawasaga Model RR Club Model Railroad Auction

- May 13,14,15 **Medina, NY** – “A Day Out with Thomas The Tank Engine” at the Medina RR Museum →



*Rounding the bend at Bristol’s Spring Festival 2004.
 Image by Glenn C. Miller. Editing by Dick Senges.*



Medina Railroad Museum
www.railroadmuseum.net

- May 19** **Rochester, NY** - NRHS meeting -
"Lehigh Valley 16mm movies"

- May 21** **Industry, NY** – NMRA NFR LSD Spring Meet
at R & GV RR Museum, Reg. 8:30am
clinics in am, layout tours pm

- May 28-29** **Midland, Ontario, Canada** - Model Railroad
Show, Midland District Railroad Club

- August 13** **Gananoque, Ontario, Canada** – Thousand
Islands Model Railroad Show

- August 31**
September 3 **Dearborn, MI** – 25th National Narrow Gauge
Convention – Silver Anniversary

- September 15** **Rochester NY** – NRHS meeting
"American Orient Ltd."

- October 15 – 16** **Bowmanville, Ontario, Canada** - Model
Railroad Show, Bowmanville High School

- October 16** **Rochester, NY** – RIT Model
RR Club Fall Train Show

- November 13** **Batavia, NY** – Batavia Train
Show/Sale



Oil Creek Rail Road on Miller Farm, Circa 1866.



Oil Creek Logging and Mining Company, circa 1900.

For a detailed listing of events, see the Internet:

WWW.CAORM.ORG

WWW.FINGERLAKESLIVESTEAMERS.ORG

WWW.GATS.COM

WWW.GSMTS.COM

WWW.MODELRAILNEWS.COM

WWW.RAILROADMUSEUM.NET

WWW.RAILROAD.NET

WWW.TRAINS.COM

WWW.TTOS.ORG