

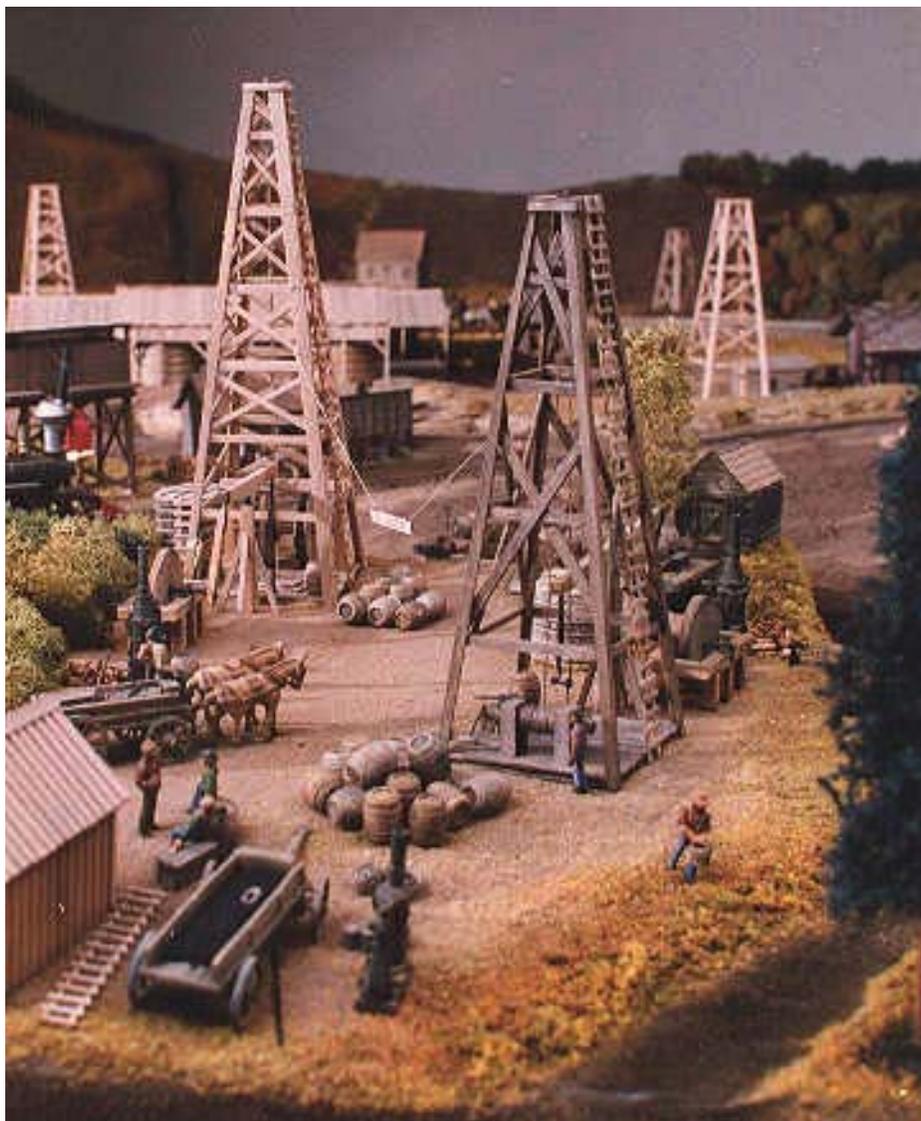
Rochester Model Rails

Dedicated to quality model railroading in upstate New York

VOL. 2, NO.9

ROCHESTER, N.Y.

SEPTEMBER 2003



The oil fields at Shaffer Farm on the Oil Creek in western PA, circa 1866.

Oil was first hauled in wagons by teamsters and also by barges on the Oil Creek.

The Oil Creek Rail Road served this area first hauling oil in wood barrels on gondola cars and then in late 1865 using two-tank Densmore oil tank cars. Three-tank oil tank cars were also used from 1866 through 1868. About 1868, the horizontal iron tank car started to be used and has been the standard ever since.

Model by Dick Senges, Victor, NY.
Photo by David L. Thompson.

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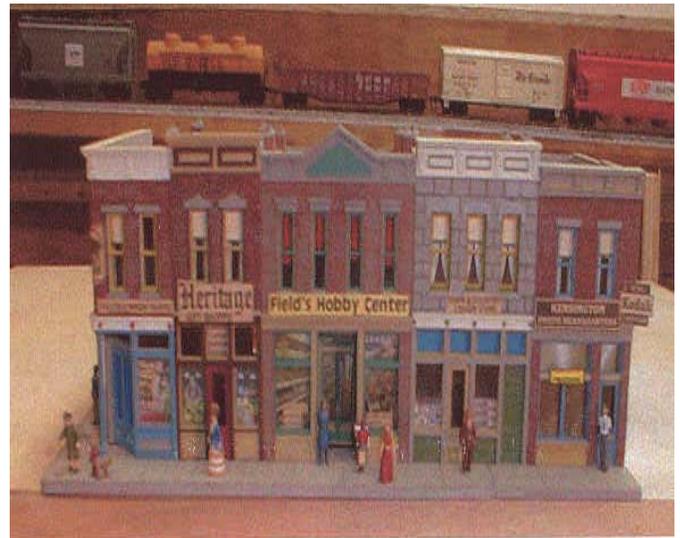
www.trainweb.org/rmr

Medina Railroad Museum Offers Property Sale

The Medina Railroad Museum is offering a unique, long term advertising opportunity to individuals, business owners and corporations. The Museum is currently building a 204-foot by 14-foot HO scale model train layout (the longest diorama to exist on a single floor) called "History in Motion" depicting mostly fictitious villages, towns, cities, farms and industry.

Future towns, cities, businesses and buildings will be named after donors to this unique project. Articles and photographs on the quality and scope of this layout have appeared in local and national media, and tourism to the Museum has increased to over 300% of 2001 levels and continues to grow.

The Museum is making available a limited number of scale model buildings, billboards, towns, farms, waterways, trucks and bridges for sponsorship by individuals and businesses, to have their name affixed to a section of this historic layout. Also available is the opportunity to have a custom made exact scale model of an existing business or building of any size built by our Master Model Builders who have won awards for their superior work.



A typical city block dating back to the early 1900's. Store signs and store windows can display your business or family name.

Above is a photograph of a section of the buildings to be placed on the layout. You are cordially invited to view the layout during our regular business hours or anytime by appointment. We hope you will take advantage of this unique opportunity to have your business or family name displayed on this magnificent diorama located in one of the largest and most fabulous indoor railroad museums in the Northeast.

Contact Linda Klein or Hugh James at the Medina Railroad Museum at: (585) 798-6106 or office@railroadmuseum.net



Reminisces – Cooks Falls, New York

by Frank Smith

What an attraction! What would a young boy want? Loud whistle, lots of steam, plenty of noise and lots of power - plus in the winter time the station was open to get warm. The half door to the office was open so you could listen to the telegraph click-clack as the stationmasters talked to each other and handled incoming and out going Western Union messages. I never acquired the talent to read the clatter but some of the boys could so we would know what was happening. Our main interest was the ETA of the next train. If it was the mail or passenger this was something to look forward to- who was arriving and who was leaving. We could always unload the mail sacks and take them to the post office. Who knows you might get a penny or a candy.

Growing up in the 1930's was a time never forgotten. There were lots of passengers, most non-paying. The main method of travel was not hitch hiking as there were not that many cars and very few that were not local. Riding the rods was the way. Men traveled from town to town looking for work. They were not homeless but out of work. Most hobo's as we called them traveled on the heavy freight trains, open cars in good weather the ends of coal cars for protection in rain or snow . The best was an empty boxcar. In the caboose was a brakeman, a conductor and sometimes the railroad police. The train did not stop very often at Cooks Falls.

The coal freight trains were made up at Cadossia where the Scranton branch met the main line of the NYO&W. The engines had fresh fire, full water, coal and sand. The run to Livingston Manor was about 30 minutes. If the timetable could not be met, a stop in Cooks Falls for water was required. The train crews would inspect the train and of course all non-paying passengers left in a hurry. We boys were always inquisitive, never threatened and were ready to answer the same questions: Any work? Police? Is there a place to sleep? And in the summer time can you swim in the river - a good place for a bath. They were always ready to jump on board when the train started to move.

If this stop took place in the daylight and school was out it gave us local boys a chance to unload a little coal, throwing off some from the coal cars until we were chased off by the train crew or railroad police. Sometimes, they would help our cause by throwing coal at us. No one ever froze in Cooks Falls there was always lots of wood for heat. Tending a wood stove required refueling the stove every two to three hours. This makes for a long night or a cold house in the morning. A coal fire would last all night. When the train left, it took about an hour to take on water. It was harvest time for our ill-gotten gains. The coal found it's way to the boys whose fathers were not working. The next time I will tell you what took place when the train stopped at night.



Post Office and Railroad Station, Cooks Falls, N. Y.



Ask Doctor Dick (The Scenery Doctor)

Matt writes:

I always have been hesitant about doing scenery and need some simple tips to get me started and to get some fairly good looking scenery quickly. What should I do?

Doc:

I am assuming that your sub-roadbed, roadbed, and track is laid and checked out mechanically and electrically. First, spray your track rails and ties with some brown, rust and gray paints to weather the track and ties. Make sure you wipe the top of the rail so no paint remains on the railhead. Keep the paint away from the points and operating parts of the turnout.

Next try putting ballast on your tracks. I use sifted dirt but most folks use ballast made by Woodland Scenics or some other brand. You can use white glue and water to glue the material down. Alcohol (rubbing) helps break down the water tension of the ballast so it does not go all over. Painting the rails and ties and adding ballast to your track will add much to the look of your layout without a lot of work.

For rural areas of the layout where you have plywood or *Homasote*, paint these areas with flat brown paint. Let dry and then cover with a thick, wet slurry of white glue, water and some sifted dirt. Spread this slurry on these areas and let

dry. When dry, it will look like real dirt *because it is real dirt*. To make the dirt look lighter, sprinkle some dry sifted dirt onto the wet dirt before it dries. For the darker look, put on a very wet slurry, and then let dry.

Adding some ground foam will add a lot to the look of your layout. Cover your dirt slurry area with some white glue and water. Sprinkle ground foam on these areas varying the color and texture of the foam. Then spray the foam with a mixture of water (3/4) and acrylic matte medium (1/4). You will be amazed at the results.

Woodland Scenics, ASMI, and Scenic Express make some good stuff. (See the *RMR* Cover photo.) Relative to texture, I have used the fine, coarse, extra coarse, and the foliage clusters. For color, I like the muted greens and yellows. But try some different textures and colors and experiment until you get what you like.

To really jazz it up, add some spices. Some of my favorites are: cayenne red pepper, cinnamon, ground coriander, poultry seasoning, and turmeric. When the ground foam is still wet, just sprinkle on some spices. The spices will have some aroma for about three days, but that will dissipate. To keep the cost down, I purchase these spices from a Mennonite store south of Penn Yan, NY, near Keuka Lake.

• PHOTO TIPS •

by Dave Thompson

Polarizing filters make the sky a darker blue and intensify color by reducing reflections at the subject. To get the maximum polarizing affect shoot with the sun over you shoulder or 90 degrees to the camera and subject. Polarizing will work at other angles but will yield less results.

Wrong Side of the Tracks

In the early years of steam engines when soft coal and wood was burned, the wrong side of the tracks was the side down wind that received all the smoke and cinders – hence the expression.

Railroad Quiz

What was the first railway charter in the United States?

Next Issue:

Lionel 213 Lift Bridge

by Jim Hutton

PRR Cabin Cars – Lettering Schemes

by Jack Matsik

Rochester Model Rails

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Coming Events

AUGUST

- 16-17:** **Gettysburg, PA** – The Great Scale Model Train Show and The All American Hi-Rail & Collectors Show - Info: hzane1@comcast.net
- 21:** **Rochester, NY** - Rochester Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society, 7:00pm at the Rochester and Genesee Valley Railroad Museum, old Erie depot, Rt. 251
- 21-24:** **Durango, CO** – Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad "Railfest 2003".
For info: www.durangotrain.com

SEPTEMBER

- 12-14:** **Toledo, Ohio** - Nickel Plate Road Historical & Technical Society (NKPHTS) Annual Convention, including model display and contest, and flea market. Napoleon, Malinta, Grand Rapids, and Waterville, (Toledo area) OH. September 12-14, 2003. Memberships open. For more information, go to <http://nkphs.org/> and click on "convention".
- 15-30:** **Rochester, NY** - *Tuesday Night Gang* meets each Tuesday night at members layouts. Contact Lou Nost at [Louis.Nost @ USA.Xerox.com](mailto:Louis.Nost@USA.Xerox.com) for more information.
- 18:** **Rochester, NY** - Rochester Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society, 7:00pm at the 40 & 8 Club, University Avenue, Rochester.
- 19-20:** **Perry, Ohio** - 3rd Annual Lake Region Prototype Modeler's (PM) Meet to be held in Perry, OH, on Friday and Saturday, September 19th and 20th, 2003. Over 1000 prototype replica models will be on display. Anyone may bring and display their models, or just come and look and talk with other modelers. Both the PRRHS and NKPHTS will have tables, among others. No contest or prizes! Perry is between Madison and Painesville, OH. Perry is where the Fairport, Painesville, and Eastern Railroad ends and interchanges with the NS (N&W-NKP) and CSX (CR-PC-NYC). The PM meet is in the township just south of the town of Perry on River Road. The site is the "Outdoor-Y" (YMCA) lodge. Contact: Jim Six jamesix@ameritech.net
- 3-6:** **Denver, CO** – 23rd National Narrow Gauge Convention – see web site for more info:
www.23rd.nngconvention.com

OCTOBER

- 4-5** **Rochester, NY** – Great American Train Show, Monroe County Fair Grounds, 2695 East Henrietta Road, Henrietta, NY Info: INFO@GATS.COM
- 7-28:** **Rochester, NY** - *Tuesday Night Gang* meets each Tuesday night at members layouts. Contact Lou Nost at [Louis.Nost @ USA.Xerox.com](mailto:Louis.Nost@USA.Xerox.com) for more information.
- 11:** **Oakfield and Medina, NY** – NMRA – NFR – Lakeshores Division Fall Meet, meet starts at GSME club in Oakfield at 8:30am. Lunch at the Medina RR Museum in Medina, NY, and train Ride on the Falls Road RR at 2:00pm. Also Museum tour. Info: Dave Mitchell at dbmitch@frontiernet.net
- 16:** **Rochester, NY** - Rochester Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society, 7:00pm at the 40 & 8 Club, University Avenue, Rochester.
- 19:** **Rochester, NY** – RIT Model Railroad Club Fall Train Show and Sale, 10-3:30 pm in the SAU Cafe at RIT.
Info: (585) 820-2341 www.ritmrc.org president@ritmrc.org
- 19:** **Binghamton, NY** – Southern Tier Railfest, Heritage Country Club, Watson Blvd.
Info: 607-775-1267 railfestinfo@aol.com

Misc. - Are you on the mailing list for the NRHS Niagara Frontier Chapter?
They have a really cool, once-in-a-lifetime tour of Buffalo coming up. <http://www.nfcrhs.com/>