

Highlights this issue >>>

Reinventing the Wheel

Wisconsin's Bits 'n Pieces springs back.

Phoenix Rising

Changing lifestyle rejuvenates layout.

Bachmann Trains in High Gear!

Longstanding icon pushes the envelope.

One of a Kind!

Bob Gallegos, Photographer extraordinaire!



Trainfest Express



Trainfest Committee >>>

John H. Tews, MMR

Executive Director

E-mail: john@trainfest.com

Richard Cecil

Asst. to the Director

Cedor Aronow

Security

Scott Porinsky

Computer Services

Robert Sherman

Treasurer

Ed Padgett

Volunteer Coordinator

Kurt Wamser

Floor Director

Linda Sukup

WISE Superintendent

Gary Kamin

HMA-MRD Advisor

Mercury Communications

Advertising Agency

Trainfest is possible due to the dedication and hard work of our volunteers and board members. If you would like to volunteer for America's largest operating model railroad show, contact us via email: volunteer@trainfest.com.

Trainfest is sponsored by the Wisconsin Southeastern (WISE) Division, Inc., NMRA

From the Caboose...

Comments from
John H. Tews, MMR,
Trainfest Executive Director



Since Trainfest[®] began more than 35 years ago, we dreamed of creating a tool to share information about Trainfest, America's largest operating model railroad show, and recognize the many people who help make Trainfest a lasting success.

Our new Trainfest Express, a monthly online newsletter, provides the perfect vehicle to highlight the loyal and hard-working hobbyists, manufacturers, dealers, clinicians and volunteers who bring Trainfest to life each year.

Producing Trainfest requires hundreds of hours completing paper work, negotiating contracts, interviewing potential exhibitors and executing floor plan layout CAD drawings that insure every exhibitor, manufacturer, historical society, layout group and hobby dealer participant, fits precisely in the 200,000 square feet of the Wisconsin Exposition Center, State Fair Park.

The Center's floor space represents almost five acres of land or ten-half acre suburban lots. Safety is an overriding issue with primary importance on wide aisles, emergency exits and adherence to fire safety rules. Access to loading docks for set-up and tear-down all come into play in the overall plan, too.

As we roll forward with our Trainfest Express, we will feature layout tours and "behind the scenes" glimpses of Trainfest along with manufacturer, dealer and historical group articles. We will introduce an "Ask Trainfest" question/answer column to help modelers discover information they need to enjoy the hobby.

Please feel free to contact me at john@trainfest.com with your ideas.

In the spirit of Model Railroading
with clear signals always,

John



What is Trainfest?

A Delight for the Senses!

An enriching family experience, Trainfest® is America's largest operating model railroad show, 39 years strong!

November 13-14, 2010

Saturday & Sunday

9:00 am-5:30 pm

Wisconsin Exposition Center, State Fair Park

8200 W Greenfield Ave

West Allis, WI 53214

Admission and Further Details:

www.trainfest.com/TicketsShowDetails.html

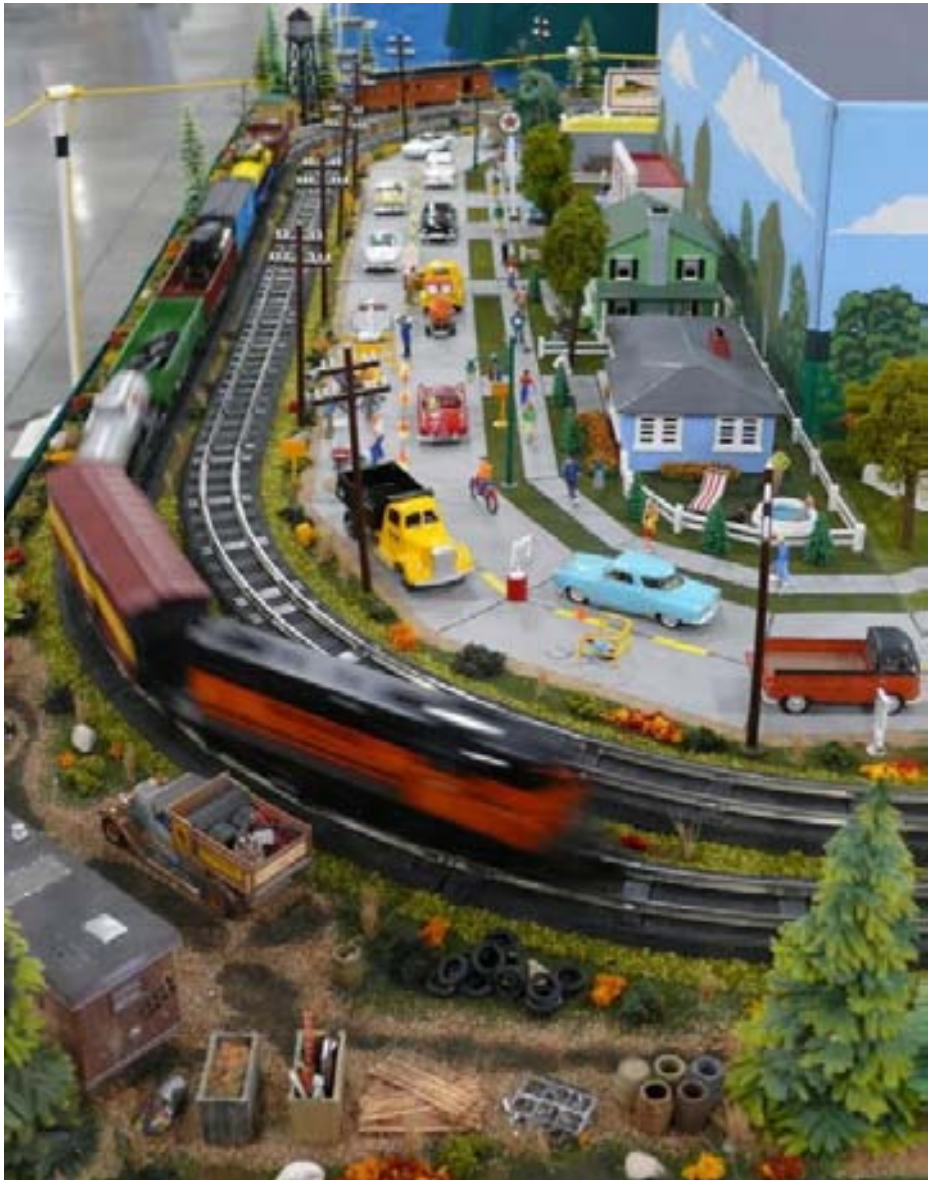
Every November, tens of thousands of visitors of all generations and lifestyles from North America and other regions of the world fill the Wisconsin Exposition Center, just to connect with the sights and sounds of everything railroad, scaled down to a miniature size.

Over fifty clubs, historic organizations, groups and railroad modelers showcase truly exquisite and fully operational layouts and displays superbly represent the uniqueness of model railroading.

New and vintage trains loop continuously around a myriad of settings and fabulous scenes from train depots to entire cities in intricate detail complete with people, animals, vehicles, equipment, buildings, landscaping, hardscaping, retail shops and more!

120 manufacturer and hobby dealer exhibitors display unique products, services, technology and equipment and consult with visitors on the perfect items and newest releases for their particular needs. Model railroad historical societies are featured along with 20-25 clinicians and demonstrators plus several manufacturers share their knowledge in Trainfest clinics.

Join us at *Trainfest* 2010 for a wonderfully interactive opportunity to explore this legendary world. Tour the award-winning layouts, take photos, watch demonstrations, hear the sounds of steam whistles, the clackety-clack of wheels on rails and see the excitement of children of all ages.



WISE Division Board of Directors >>>

Trainfest is sponsored by Wisconsin Southeastern (WISE) Division Inc., NMRA.

SUPERINTENDENT
Linda Sukup

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT
John Shipman

CHIEF CLERK
Reid Kahrs

PAYMASTER
Bob Sherman

CONTESTS
Bonnie Janke

LAYOUTS
Ted Lewtas

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
Kurt Wamser

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM
Cedor Aronow

MEMBERSHIPS
LaRoye Chisley

CLINICS
Al Lederman

YOUTH CLUB
Jenny Janke

TRAINFEST
Executive Director
John H. Tews, MMR

PICNIC
Ed Varick

VIDEO LIBRARY
Neal Michel

DIRECTORS
Gary Children



Crossings

A Bird's Eye View

By Ruth Johnson, Editor of Trainfest EXPRESS

You can't have purpose and passion without putting yourself "out there" and that is exactly what model railroaders do everyday!

You share your love of this wonderful world by creating the most unbelievably intricate layouts that are so detailed; they sometimes require a magnifying glass to fully appreciate their complete beauty.

As I told a layout artist recently, "Kudos for what you do and the lives you have touched through your work!"

Many times I have pondered why trains in general are so popular and yes, I know that the size, power, speed and sheer massive energy are major factors but here in America, I think it may be a little more elemental.

Perhaps this love of wheels screaming along steel rails accompanied by dark clouds rolling out of bellowing smokestacks, harkens back to pioneer days when the railroad pushed our country westward, blazing a nation from prairies, plains, mountains and forests.

America grew along with our zest for the legend that spearheaded its momentum. We would all probably love nothing more than to have our own locomotive or caboose but that isn't a logical choice for most of us.

However, that takes nothing away from our miniature kingdom because in creating this hobby, we all have become pioneers in our own right, pushing the envelope a little further with each layout change or collectible purchase.

Please feel free to email me, editor@trainfest.com, with your feedback or if you would like to contribute your articles, photos or ideas.

I just have one question...if a guy is a railroad buff, is a gal a railroad buffette?

Warm wishes,

Ruth

GALLERY SHOWING THROUGHOUT JULY!

Displaying works by Wisconsin and Upper Midwest railroad artists and photographers & artists including renowned photographer, Bob Gallegos.

LOCATION

Art & Soul Gallery
5708 West Vliet Street
Milwaukee, WI 53208-2161
(414) 774-4185

www.artsoul-gallery.com

(Photo taken by Bob Gallegos)



Brake Ahead

Signal Alert for New Products



BACHMANN TRAINS, www.bachmanntrains.com

HO Spectrum® EMC Gas Electric Doodlebug & Trailer Coach (with DCC on Board)

Bachmann's updated version of a popular Depression era model, nicknamed the "Doodlebug", features NMRA-compliant decoder with eight-pin modular plug, new LED lighting and extensive fine scale detailing.

Table of Contents

Trainfest EXPRESS June 2010, Volume 1, Issue 1

Features



Page 2

What is Trainfest?

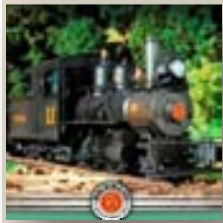
A Delight for the Senses!



Page 5

Reinventing the Wheel

Wisconsin's Bits 'n Pieces Railroad Springs Back



Page 8

In High Gear

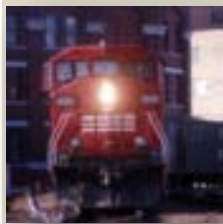
Longstanding Icon Pushes the Envelope



Page 12

Phoenix Rising

Changing Lifestyle Helps Rejuvenate a Layout



Page 16

One of a Kind

Raising the Bar on Excellence with Photographer Bob Gallegos



Page 18

That Triple Crossing

A Unique Scene to Recreate

Columns



Page 1

From the Caboose

Comments from John H. Tews, MMR Trainfest Executive Director

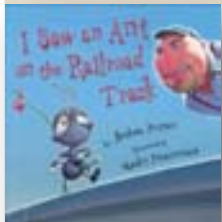


Page 3

Crossings

A Bird's Eye View from Ruth Johnson, Editor, Trainfest EXPRESS

Every Issue



Page 19

Relay

Switching Gears to Younger Fans



Page 20

Destinations

Great train-related family encounters!

More new departments and releases next issue!

Trainfest® EXPRESS

SPONSORING PUBLISHER
Wisconsin Southeastern (WISE)
Division inc., NMRA

PUBLISHER
John H. Tews, MMR
john@trainfest.com

EDITOR
Ruth Johnson
editor@trainfest.com
715-340-4525

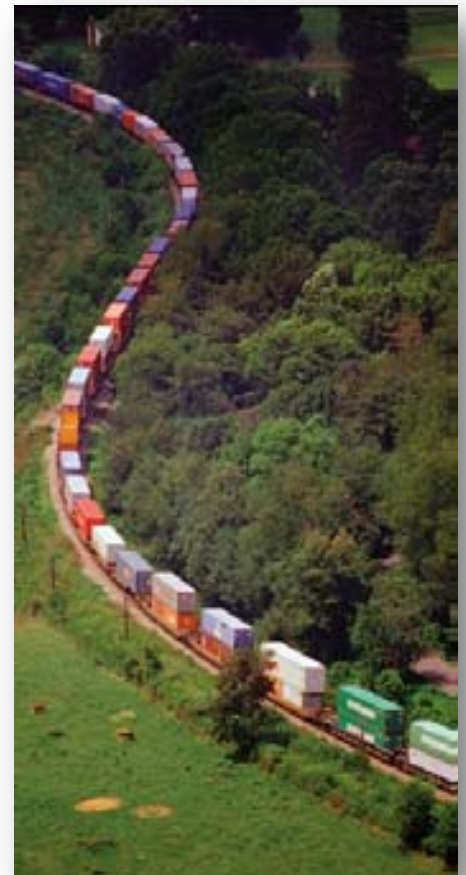
DESIGN & PRODUCTION
Ruth Johnson
editor@trainfest.com
715-340-4525

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER
Bob Gallegos

ADVERTISING
Ruth Johnson
editor@trainfest.com
715-340-4525

SUBSCRIPTION MANAGEMENT
Mercury Communication
Partners, LLC.

WEB DESIGN
Mercury Communication
Partners, LLC.



Reinventing the Wheel

Wisconsin's Bits 'n Pieces Railroad Springs Back

Wisconsin's Bits 'n Pieces, award-winning, beloved, 10' x 24', two-level exhibit at Trainfest®, America's largest operating model train show, and other related shows in Wisconsin for the past 18 years, the layout was sold to a private collector late last year and now resides in Colorado.

However, the layout's "engineers" are building a new, downsized layout in the same theme as the original grand belle! This article gives homage to their outstanding contributions to the glorious world of model railroading.



Every story should have a beginning so we are going to travel back in time to the origin of Wisconsin's Bits 'n Pieces.

Early in 1992, while enjoying a long train trip through Tennessee and Kentucky, two train buffs, Ed Varick and Chuck Gerard, realized the beautiful hills and countryside reminded them of their picturesque home state of Wisconsin.

They looked at each other and said, "This is almost as nice as Wisconsin. Why don't we build a model train layout of Wisconsin? We could depict various locations in the state, sort of bits and pieces of Wisconsin."

Returning home, they convinced a fellow train enthusiast, Jim Lorbiecki, into joining the project. Jim suggested modeling the layout around the four seasons: Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter.

Together, Ed, Chuck and Jim launched Wisconsin's Bits 'n Pieces Railroad of West Allis, Wisconsin, which grew into a massive, award-winning HO scale layout that graced the model train show circuit for 18 years.

After recruiting several more willing volunteers, the team of ten men began construction in September 1992, working ten hours a day, ten days straight, miraculously completing an operating layout with scenery by mid November, just in time for Trainfest 1992.

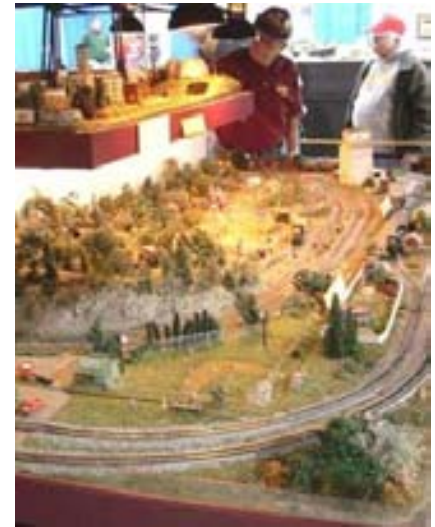
The 8' x 14' layout had four viewing sides with each side depicting one of the four seasons and various Wisconsin settings.

In 1997, they expanded the layout by eight feet to allow four HO scale trains to run simultaneously. For further interest, an upper level in N scale was added in 2000, with two more running trains, which gave them a total of six for a spectacular display of engineering excellence.

In 2004, they constructed a 12" ledge around the lower level bringing the final size to 10' x 24'.

The impact was even more dramatic after they erected a canopy in 2008 over the entire exhibit to provide enhanced lighting effects.

(Reinventing the Wheel continued on Page 6)



Full Cast of Characters>>>

ED VARICK

Layout Planning
Fall Modules
Track Laying

WAYNE DUNBAR

Layout Wiring
Track Laying
Help on Fall Modules

JIM LORBIECKI

Winter Modules

CHUCK GERARD

Spring Modules

LEN BARAGA

Summer Modules
Track Laying

BOB SULO

Built Tables
Help on Summer Modules

TOM MABIE

Help on Spring Modules

JOHN KLINK

Help on Winter Modules

BOB FREY

Planning
Pictures

RUSS ENNETTE

Medical Leave
Helps Overall
Tour Guide
Tarp Manager



(Reinventing the Wheel continued from Page 5)

Take a Trip with the Team!

Of course, no one knows their layout better than its creators. Here is their tale of the journey around the previous Wisconsin's Bits 'n Pieces layout...

Let's board a train and take a ride around the layout. As you approach the Spring side, you see Devil's Lake State Park with rock wall climbers, copper head snakes, the House on the Rock and railroad artist, Russ Porter, proposing to his future wife.

From the train, we see a "North Woods" home in the midst of the Nicolet State Forest where the logging camps are jumping with activity.

Arriving at Mellen, some "Ladies of the Evening" gather on the hotel's porch waiting to greet visitors.

Summer is just around the corner. On approach to Tunnel City near Tomah, we see the Pitz Quarry and a cemetery.

Following that is a typical, pastoral Waupaca County farm and a grass fire extinguished just in time, since the train accidentally severed the hose lines. It looks like the Baraga Feed Mill is doing a flourishing business.

Fall awaits in its entire glorious splendor with a spectacular view of La Crosse and Granddad's Leap overlooking a barge tow on the mighty Mississippi River. We also spot the old Heilman's Brewery and pass an auto accident near Camp Running Bear where OCTOBERFEST is in full swing with the *Ompah Band*.



A Full Lineup >>>

Wisconsin's Bits 'n Pieces has been exhibited throughout Wisconsin. The list includes Trainfest® (every year since 1992), Boerner Rose Festival at Whitnall Park, Allen-Bradley's Railroad Days, Discovery World Museum, Madison Train Show, Green Bay Train Show, Milwaukee Art Museum, Wisconsin State Fair, (for the DNR), Wabeno Antique Tractor Show and Mitchell Park Conservatory Domes.



Suddenly, we see an abandoned farm at the base of Holy Hill, which features a statue of Mary and Help of Christians Church with its lovely, chiming bells.

As we near the tour end, we join the Winter Season at Wisconsin Dells. Look closely for Russ Porter's Last Station Studio, the Wisconsin River, the Dells Depot, avid deer hunters and even Santa Claus and his reindeer, gliding high in the sky.

However, our journey is far from over. In June 2000, we added an upper level constructed in N scale, which also showcases the Four Seasons in various sections of the state. Springtime brings us a fine farm setting in Walworth County while Dodgeville and Madison loom in the distance.

Next is hot Summer days, which begin in the City of Milwaukee where County Stadium is about to be demolished.

Other interesting places include Mitchell Park Domes backed by the old Milwaukee Railroad yards, Falk Offices, Milwaukee Art Museum, Allen-Bradley (Rockwell Intl) and Kalmbach Publishing.

Our fabulous Fall Season brings WOKY Radio Station, Richard I, Bong Memorial in Poplar, Muskie Museum, EAA Museum in Oshkosh, rugged lumberjacks in Hayward and the Packers' stadium in Green Bay.

Inevitable Winter ushers in Forest County and Wabeno where you see Larry the Logroller, Wabeno Logging Museum and Phoenix Log Hauler.

Of course, a model railroad is never finished. In 2004, we added eight more modules, which enabled us to run four trains simultaneously. In 2008, we constructed a canopy to enhance the lighting and create a fabulous "Night Scene".

(Reinventing the Wheel continued on Page 7)



Second Time Around

A Driving Force behind Wisconsin Bits 'n Pieces II

Edward Varick serves as Superintendent and one of the original founders and builders of the Wisconsin Bits 'n Pieces Railroad.

Ed is helping spearhead the new lean and streamlined version of the award-winning, ever popular layout.

He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Southeastern (WISE) Division Inc., NMRA.

Together with his wife, Rita, who is assistant paymaster for the WISE division, he built a 12' x 25' layout in their basement. It has the same theme as the original Wisconsin Bits 'n Pieces Railroad such as the Four Seasons and Wisconsin-based locations. It adjoins the Hiawatha Lounge and affords many hours of relaxation.

Ed's railroading roots run deep since his Dad worked for the Milwaukee Road for 52 years. "I received my Lionel Train set when I was 5 years old. My interest took off from there." As a teenager, Ed built his first layout on his own and became a true hobbyist in 1992 with his involvement in Bits 'n Pieces.

Ed describes that initial layout, "It was a Lionel layout about 5' x 10' with a minimum of track. It had almost all scratch-built buildings as I could not afford to purchase more track or building kits. It ran in a circle with one siding."

According to Rita, while her interest began after she and Ed married in 1952, "Ed did not realize it at the time, but I also had links to Milwaukee Road since my uncle and grandfather both worked for them. I always supported Ed in his efforts, with Bits 'n Pieces, even when the layout took over our rec room. Personally, I have contributed many unique ideas of my own over the years."

Ed encourages couples to get involved in the hobby, "Then, both of you can share the rewards, especially at Train Shows where you can meet the public. Together you both bring more ideas and skills to the table. I found it works very well that way in our house."

Rita agrees, "I would highly recommend both spouses join in the fun. We have been married for 58 years and it brought us closer together and kept us young.

Conservatively, Ed logs about 300-400 hours per year building layouts and suggests this tip, "GO AT IT. By that I mean let your imagination run wild. If it doesn't turn out right, tear it out and start over. Then you will get the end result you want."

Like any new project, Ed understands Wisconsin's Bits 'n Pieces II will have its own growing pains, track rearrangement, refinements, and scenery, before it will actually be operational.

Rita says she is very supportive of Ed's efforts, "At times he gets very frustrated but I just sit back and let him rant & rave and it all works out."

As a successful exhibitor, Ed gives this advice, "Talk to the public. I learned to really interact with people and express thought and techniques. Don't simply sit inside your layout and run trains like switching and formal operations. The people want to know how to do things. You help them the most when you share your expertise."

"Shows are a wonderful way to meet and greet people who have the same interests along with helping enthusiasts new to this fascinating hobby," claims Rita. "I learned a lot about human nature by conversing with people at shows, most of it good.

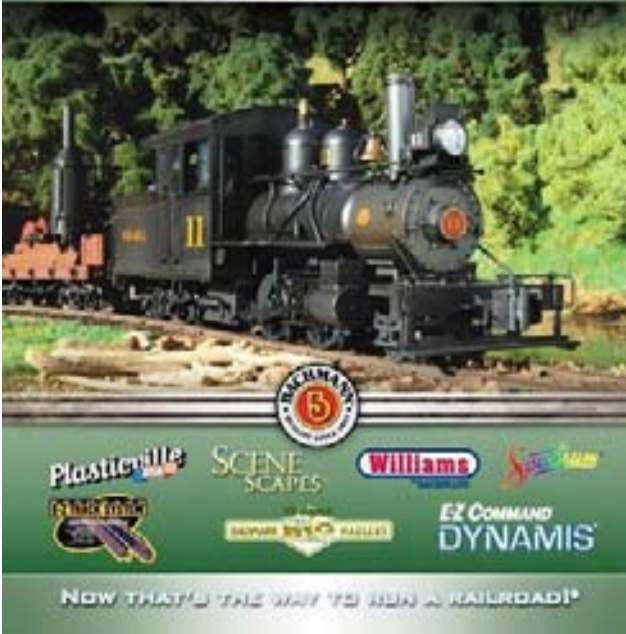
Both Ed and Rita find their greatest pleasure, though, is seeing children's faces light up when they watch the trains. Rita says, "Children ask great questions that tax your brain and keep you on your toes."

Wisconsin's Bits 'n Pieces won 19 Awards over the years including *Best of Show* twice at Trainfest® and *Peoples Choice* four times at Green Bay. Ed's favorite and one he finds the most prestigious was the *Trainfest Committee Award* because he thinks it represents the essence of model railroading.

BACHMANN TRAINS®



BACHMANN TRAINS 2010



In High Gear!

Longstanding Icon Pushes the Envelope

For over sixty years, world-renowned Bachmann Trains®, one of the oldest and most respected manufacturers of scale model railway locomotives in the world, has engineered steady company growth while remaining at the forefront of new model locomotive and train technologies.

Part of Bachmann's appeal originates from its dedication to high standards and extreme detail, even when manufacturing larger volumes and a diverse range of premium quality model railroad trains. Its reputation continues to increase and its products are considered superior by many die-hard railroading enthusiasts.

Many passionate collectors agree that Bachmann Trains offers one of the most fascinating and diverse collections of model trains, popular among the younger generation, brand-new enthusiasts, and long-time collectors and hobbyists.

Founded by Henry Carlisle in 1833, the company originally fashioned horn, ivory, and tortoise shell into specialized vanity and ornamental products such as parasol handles, ivory Spanish combs and walking cane handles for the Southern aristocracy.

In 1899, the firm merged with a competing company operated by master carver Henry G. Bachmann and his son, Walter J. Bachmann. In 1912, the company began using a new material, celluloid, to manufacture eyeglass frames. It changed its name to Bachmann Brothers in 1914.

In 1929, the company moved its headquarters to 1400 East Erie Avenue, Philadelphia, where it continued to specialize in injection molding. During World War II, the company manufactured products to support the war effort.

After World War II, Bachmann executives decided to expand their plastic product expertise by creating miniature plastic fences under the Plasticville® U.S.A. line to display underneath Christmas trees. They unveiled the first plastic fence kit in the November 1946 *Saturday Evening Post*.

Ironically, the ad showed the fence next to a Lionel model train and other plastic toys. Model train layout hobbyists quickly began snapping up the fences and Bachmann moved swiftly to capture this developing consumer trend. Bachmann continued to diversify in the '60s and '70s with many types of plastic toys and products.

Bachmann made its first model train in 1968 after it had achieved success with Plasticville® U.S.A. scenery, buildings, whole villages, accessory kits, small figures and animals for model train layouts.

(In High Gear continued on Page 9)



(In High Gear continued from Page 8)

As model railroading became more popular, the company eventually turned to Kader Industrial, Ltd., Hong Kong, for manufacturing support. Kader acquired Bachmann in 1981 and renamed it Bachmann Industries.

Bachmann Industries introduced its premium Spectrum® line in 1988 and the Big Haulers® line of large scale train sets in 1990.

Bachmann became the US distributor for Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends™ in 2002. In 2007, the company acquired Williams Electric Trains.

Initially Bachmann produced ready-to-run electric train sets in N scale and then expanded to include popular HO, O, On30, and G (large scale) trains, continually adapting to market demand.

Model train hobbyists and enthusiasts can find the Bachmann brand at almost every store and railroading e-commerce site that carries model train products in the U.S., United Kingdom, Germany and China. The full product line is described in the right hand column of this page.

Bud Reece, Senior Vice President Sales & Marketing for Bachmann Trains, is a driving force behind the scenes in the United States. Bud has a long and varied career in sales within the hobby industry, including positions at Western Publishing Company, Tonka Toys, Estes Rockets/Hi-Flyer Kites and others.

"I came to Bachman in 1993 as National Sales Manager, and the next year was promoted to VP of Sales," states Bud. "I advanced to my current position in 1999. After acting as a Model Railroad Industry Division representative to the Model Railroad Division Council and Hobby Manufacturers Association Board, I was elected Council President for the 2008-2009 term."

With a history as long and rich as Bachmann's, Bud says the company has faced many challenges and obstacles over the years.

"It is difficult to say what may have been the biggest challenges," observes Bud. "Certainly our varied product line over the last 175 years indicates a willingness to explore new materials, products, and markets."

Bud emphasizes, "Today, our biggest challenge (and I think most will agree, our industry's biggest challenge) is to bring young people into the hobby of model railroading. The competition with electronic games and computers is enormous. We are constantly working to engage new customers with exciting product introductions."

(In High Gear continued on Page 10)



- **Bachmann Trains®** - Top-of-the-line locomotives, rolling stock and accessories and train sets for many popular model train scales.
- **Williams™ by Bachmann®** - Wide range of locomotives, sets, and track made especially for O scale on a 3-rail track.
- **Spectrum®** - Luxury locomotive collection of tenders and train sets in several scales with updated motors and more intricate detail.
- **Bachmann Big Haulers®** - Comprehensive set of G scale (also known as large scale) sturdy model equipment, which operate well indoors or outdoors. 1993 Emmett Kelly Jr. Circus Train is Bachmann's most famous G scale train featuring special themed design and animal cage cars. The G scale line also includes the famous Thomas & Friends™ model train collection with the characters available individually or as a set
- **E-Z Command®** - Technologically advanced line offers innovative Digital Command Control (DCC) controllers, decoders, and accessories. Used independently, DCC systems can control one or more locomotives on the same area of track. Bachmann DCC systems are compliant with the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA).
- **E-Z Track System®** - Available in nickel silver and steel alloy metals, this track and roadbed system is designed for HO and N scale model trains in the largest variety of track pieces available to hobbyists and collectors.
- **Plasticville® U.S.A.** - Model train scenery, including buildings, train stations, bridges and other accessories in both HO and O scale.
- **SceneScapes™** - Wide selection of trees, miniature figures, animals and landscape pieces appropriate for many train scales.



ONE OF BACHMANN'S FEATURED PRODUCTS

Pegasus Ready-To-Run HO Set

Pegasus was named after the mythical flying horse when Charles Dickens saw a sister Norris fast, elegant engine and said it looked like "it had spread its wings and flew away."

(In High Gear continued from Page 9)

"Part of the reason we continue to expand our Thomas & Friends™ line in HO and now Large Scale is to transition children from wooden and battery-operated toys into the world of electric trains," explains Bud. "We feel this is important not only for Bachmann, but for the hobby of model railroading as a whole."

One of the problems all manufacturers of model railroad trains and accessories face today is increasing regulation. The U.S. Congress (through the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act), California, Illinois, and now possibly New York are passing new laws that apply toy-grade safety standards to products that are not intended to be placed in or near the mouth or chewed.

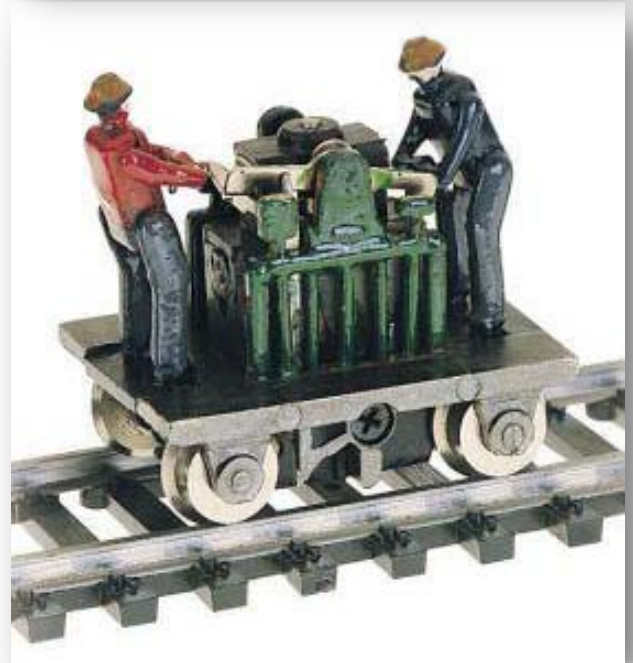
"These legislators do not understand the difference between toys and hobby products. The new standards, testing, and certification requirements are placing a large burden on many manufacturers," Bud maintains. "We support the efforts of the Hobby Manufacturers Association and Toy Industry Association to try to modify the standards and laws so they make sense for the hobby industry."

The Bachmann Trains line is often described as one of the most elaborate in the industry. According to Bud, that characteristic will remain of primary importance in the future, "We will continue to offer the highly detailed, faithfully reproduced train products that discerning hobbyists have come to expect from us."

Before the *Model Railroader* awards were discontinued, Bachmann Trains products consistently won many *Model Railroader Readers' Choice Awards*, including in 2002, for the LS Spectrum® 2-6-0, and in 2001, for the N Spectrum® 2-8-0 Consolidation.

Bud is happy to share the company's favorite award, "We are especially proud of winning the overall *Product of the Year* in 1998 (HO Spectrum® 2-8-0) and in 2000 (HO Spectrum® Three-Truck Shay)."

Bud summarizes his association with the model railroading field, "It has been my pleasure to meet and talk with model railroading community members across the country and around the world, gaining a true appreciation for every aspect of model railroading in the process. I am always impressed with the knowledge and enthusiasm that is so common in this hobby. That passion always inspires us to try to deliver the best products we possibly can. It definitely keeps us on our toes!"



MAKING WAVES

On30
SCALE



DCC
SOUND
ONBOARD

Baldwin 4-6-0 Steam Locomotive

BACHMANN AND SOUNDTRAXX® ARE MAKING WAVES – SOUND WAVES!

Bachmann is excited to introduce a new version of the On30 Baldwin 4-6-0 to our family of DCC sound-equipped locomotives, all featuring high-quality Soundtraxx® Tsunami® technology. To take advantage of Tsunami's increased sample rate and dynamic range, sound effects are taken from real locomotives, then mastered and digitized for the best audio possible. This system has a full array of options allowing creation of a true-to-life sound system custom tailored to your model. Not only do our decoders feature the ultimate in sound realism but they also add a new dimension in DCC control with features such as back-EMF motor control, Hyperlight™, and more. Look for the new On30 Scale 4-6-0 as well as other great Bachmann DCC Sound on Board™ locomotives in HO, On30, and Large Scale at your local Bachmann retailer. Experience the ultimate in model railroading for yourself!

Decoder features include:

- over 15 prototypical steam sound effects including chuff, bell, whistle, dynamo, snifter valve, pop valve, blower, Johnson bar, exhaust chuff, and more
- three different selectable whistles
- true 16-bit digital sound
- back-EMF and other advanced motor control features
- built-in Hyperlight™ effects
- independent volume adjustments for every sound
- supports NMRA standards and recommended practices
- supports all recognized programming methods

*Listen to sound samples at
www.soundtraxx.com/dsd/tsunami/tsunamisound.php*



Spectrum®



Tsunami®

SOUNDTRAXX®

Phoenix Rising

Changing Lifestyle Helps Rejuvenate a Layout

Janelle Hinrich's model railroad layout team transitioned into a one-woman operation, a situation requiring fast thinking on her part to transform a complete 15' x 22' modular layout into something she could manage on her own.



A dedicated layout exhibitor, Janelle faced the reality of needing a new, easier to handle layout for upcoming shows looming on the horizon including the [National Model Railroad Association](#)® (NMRA) show in July and [Trainfest](#)®, America's Largest Operating Model Railroad Show, in November, both shows in Milwaukee, WI.

Janelle's original layout, *Happy Grandparents Model Railroaders (HGMR)*, won Layout Category First Place at Trainfest a few years ago and she was anxious to salvage as much as possible even though the design would be drastically downsized from 15' x 22' overall to 4' x 7-1/2'.

Retaining the *Happy Grandparents Model Railroaders* name from her former layout, Janelle decided to keep the name of the layout's imaginary town, Mishaville, for her new creation, too.

Janelle, Administrative Assistant at Menomonie Middle School in her work life, says, "The setting is straight out of my brain. I grew up halfway between two teeny tiny Wisconsin towns, Maxville and Misha Mokwa, so I merged them into Mishaville. The layout represented an area just south of Durand along the Chippewa bottoms. That's where I get my love for trains that run through hills and lots of pine trees."

The *Happy Grandparents Model Railroaders* is also the name of the large train show with operating layouts and vendors that Janelle oversees each year in April at the Menomine Middle School.

Breakdown of the old layout into usable parts was accomplished with the help of Janelle's daughter, Leslie Vandermeuse and Leslie's three-year old son, Zachariah, who thoroughly enjoyed helping his grandmother.

(Phoenix Rising continued on Page 13)



Everything Old Is New Again

An expert at repurposing existing items, Janelle reused everything possible from the old layout for her new one: buildings, people, animals, trees, even clumps of grass. "The original buildings," explained Janelle, "were either built by me or bought ready-made and I performed my own magic on them." Eventually, Janelle plans on installing working lights in all the buildings.

Janelle's Tips and Techniques...

"The first thing I suggest is KEEP IT SIMPLE. You don't have to start big - your layout will never be finished. It is always a work in progress.

Building layouts takes many hours. I worked on this new layout for about 100 hours to get it to its current state. I started in October in my garage. Each night, after my regular job, I worked relentlessly, until it just got too cold.

Generally, once the basic layout is in place, I complete finishing details while participating in train shows.

I highly recommend water-based craft paints for your layout, buildings and people along with water-based, white craft glue that dries clear.

I like using this glue on buildings because if they get hit by accident, it will 'pop' the glue and not damage the building pieces.

Finally...do not be afraid to ask for help no matter how long you have been actively involved in creating layouts. Two or three heads are usually better than one."



The Feminine Touch >>>

Janelle relates an interesting side note, "When young girls or women discover that I have built this layout, it opens their eyes and helps them realize that gender has no bearing on the model railroad world. There are no barriers."

Janelle continues, "Better Half Railroad is built by two women, Jennifer Farlow and Nicki Schultz. One of my objectives has always been to get more women involved in model railroading."



(Phoenix Rising continued from Page 12)

Last fall, Leslie and Zachariah along with a friend, Vern Kleiber, helped Janelle rebuild the metal frame cart to hold the new 4' x 7 1/2' layout base. Vern and his wife, Sherry, have their own layout together, too.

In November, Janelle began executing her design, which remained in N-scale.

The flat base portion is Luan board to which she added a layer of 1-1/2" Styrofoam insulation. Further layers were also fabricated from Styrofoam. The tracks, cork road bed and switches, like the platform, are all brand new.

Two train tracks, which operate off one power box, run in opposite directions yet at no point do they intersect but they do cross over each other on the bridges. Janelle's friends, Vern Kleiber and Larry Dwyer, helped her with the wiring although she did wire the operating lighthouse by herself.

Mick Campbell and Kevin and Linda Harvey assisted her with various projects and two other friends helped create buildings.

Joyce Richards erected a log cabin which serves as a Scrapbooking Shop, one of Joyce's passions. Larry Dwyer constructed a Wisconsin-style round barn from scratch, a feat hard enough to do with a full-size barn, let alone a miniscule one. Larry also installed an operating helicopter.

Different people have asked why the round barn is situated inside the town and Janelle tells them, "The farmer wanted to move it to town to save it." Janelle loves to tell visitors little stories she makes up about aspects of her layouts, particularly children so they get more involved in the exhibit.

Janelle will complete more landscaping and fine details at a June show at which she is exhibiting. Janelle explains, "I like working on the layout at shows because it helps visitors see that anyone can create a layout and it doesn't have to be a club layout."



The old layout was on two levels with two towns and was u-shaped so people could walk in the middle of it and see it from all angles. The new one is rectangular with one town and two separate levels. Although Janelle likes to augment the terrain with hills, she finds it difficult to get the right height on the new reduced layout size.

Janelle likes the N scale, which is the only scale she uses for her layouts, including her new one. It allows her to pack a lot of "punch" in a small area. Janelle clarifies, "The miniaturization is sometimes so small, you need a magnifying glass to see all the detail."

After she completes a section on her layout, she lets the glue dry, then steps back and views it from different angles, imagining whether or not it would be a place she would like to shop, visit or drive on the roads.

One of the unusual things she always does at shows is to actually work on her layouts as they are exhibited. One time she even built a curved covered bridge to replace a broken one, while the trains were actually running. That same bridge is part of her new layout.

She loves building bridges and has built all her own except for one, which she bought and finished to her liking. The new layout has two train bridges, plus one walking bridge and one road bridge.

Some of the old-timers were a little surprised when she first started working on her exhibits at the shows but they got interested when they saw how many visitors she attracted by her actions.



(Phoenix Rising continued on Page 14)



Where's Waldo? >>>

A few years ago, on her old layout, Janelle did a version of "Where's Waldo" for kids to find Waldo on her N scale layout. Her grandson, Zachariah, particularly loved exploring for Waldo.

Janelle found that when kids had trouble locating "Waldo", the adults would get involved. As a result, kids and adults alike, took more than just a passing glance at the layout and interacted with the layout and each other on a whole new level.



(Phoenix Rising continued from Page 13)

At her first Trainfest, Janelle was having a hard time “planting” weeds and searched through the vendors until she finally found the perfect tool for the task. Several people watched her work successfully with the tool and inquired where she bought it.

She returned to the vendor later to buy a few more of the tools only to discover the other people watching her had bought the entire stock! The vendor exclaimed, “I had those tools for years and never sold any. What did you use it for that made all those women want to buy it?”

Model railroading is definitely a major part of Janelle’s life. Janelle has attended and exhibited at hundreds of train shows over 15 years.

A regular exhibitor and award winner at Trainfest, other local shows she frequents include Barron County Model Railroad Club Annual Show in February at Rice Lake WI; La Crosse/Two Rivers Club Show in March at La Crosse, WI; Eau Claire Train Show in October at Eau Claire WI; Turtle Lake show in October at Turtle Lake WI; the Marshfield Show in October. Along with some shows in the Twin Cities area, she has exhibited at GAT shows in Shakopee, Minnesota; Milbank, South Dakota and Thunder Bay, Ontario.

Janelle advises exhibitors to talk to visitors, answer questions and encourage photos.

“If we reach out and help people interact with us and teach them how to do things, we will in turn, help grow our little world for now and the future, recommends Janelle. “Don’t be afraid to point out unique aspects of your layout. Then, perhaps visitors will get interested and go home and start their own journey.”



Janelle first got involved in model railroading in a “round-about” way. Years ago she bought her kids a race car/train set on a 4’x8’ sheet. To add interest, she made tunnels and hills out of boxes and continued to progress from there.

After her first model railroad show, she wanted to learn everything she could about the field so she immersed herself in *Model Railroading Magazine* and started experimenting.

“My first real layout was given to me as a present. It was 4’ x 6’ and I remodeled the existing design,” Janelle reports. “The landscaping was plaster and it was a very heavy layout.”

One of the best things Janelle enjoys after she discusses her layout with a visitor is to see them leave the show, carrying materials they need to begin their own layout. “It is nice to know you had a hand in launching them,” she exclaims.

What Janelle really likes, though, is that old and young alike experience an intergenerational connection.

Her fellow model railroad friends and their families get together as a group. 7-8 year-olds work together with older relatives and friends. It is a shared family event and gets kids involved in something other than just computer games and watching TV.

“This group helps me run the HGMR train show,” Janelle states. “Without them, it would not run. I may be the ‘brains’ but they are the muscles.”

According to Janelle, the world of model railroading is perfectly summed up by a railroad friend from another state, “I consider you my Wisconsin family.”

Janelle says, “The railroad family reaches out to each other. We hug and ask what we’ve been doing and get up to date, just like close relatives.”

An avid gardener, Janelle also likes to read and go camping, activities that involve her favorite pastime, spending time with family and friends.

Who knows? Perhaps an outdoor garden railway is in the cards for this multi-talented entrepreneur.



**Share
Your
Writing
Skills or
Stories >>>**

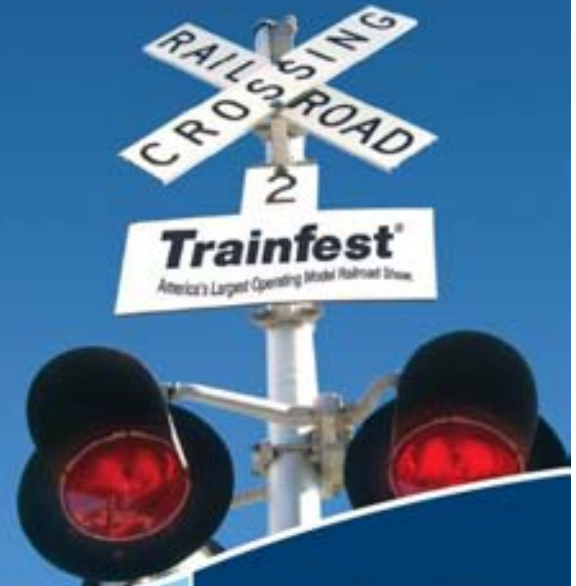
If you would like to see your railroad-related (model or otherwise) articles or photos in print, please send them to us for consideration:

Ruth Johnson
Editor, *Trainfest*® EXPRESS
editor@trainfest.com

As a non-profit organization, we do not have funds available for compensation but it is a great opportunity to showcase your skills and share your creative talents or tell your story to an audience eager for information regarding model railroading!

TRAINFEST

America's Largest Operating Model Railroad Show



**Saturday & Sunday,
Nov. 13 & 14, 2010**
9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Wisconsin Expo Center at State Fair Park
8200 W. Greenfield Ave., West Allis, WI 53214

**More than 50
amazing layouts**

■
**Demonstrations
and "how-to"
clinics**

■
Learn **tips and
techniques** from
exhibitors and
operators

■
See the latest
in products and
technology from
60 manufacturers
and **60 hobby
dealers**



Lodging, Show Info & Ticket Details @ trainfest.com



One Of A Kind!

***Raising the Bar on Excellence...
The Work of Bob Gallegos***

Bob Gallegos, renowned Milwaukee area railroad, urban landscape and industrial photographer, has organized a month-long *Gallery Showing* featuring his own and other works by Wisconsin and Upper Midwest railroad photographers and artists including noted illustrator, John Cartwright.

Visitors can enjoy the *Gallery Showing*, arranged to coincide with the NMRA National Convention (July 11-18) in Milwaukee, throughout July, to be held at this location:

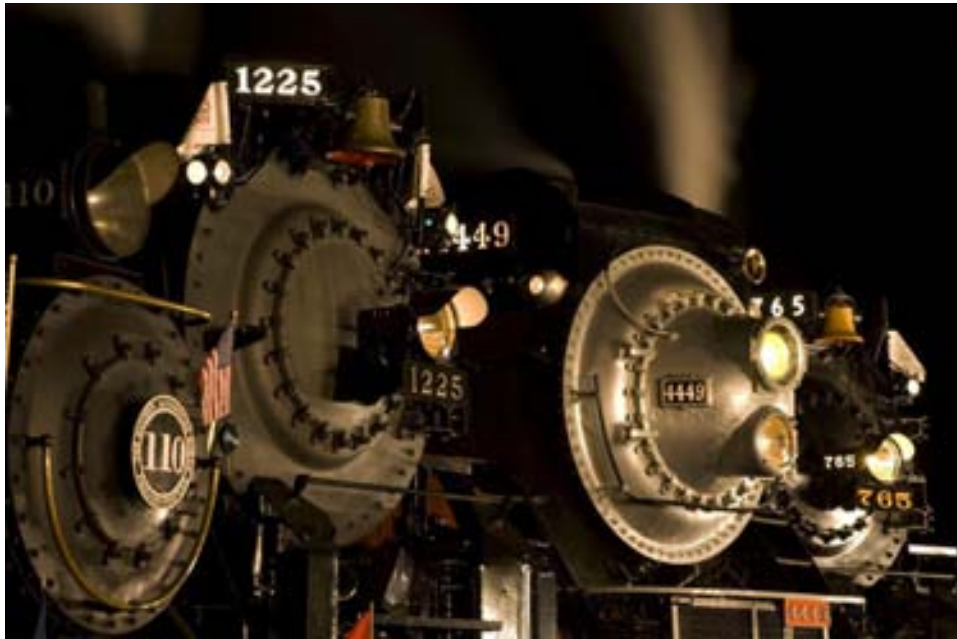
Art & Soul Gallery
5708 West Vliet Street
Milwaukee, WI 53208-2161
(414) 774-4185
www.artsoul-gallery.com

A Los Angeles native, Bob has traveled and photographed railroad scenes in the U.S. and Canada since the late 1970s. Out-of-the-way places, branch lines, short lines, deserts and forgotten spaces in the urban environment are his favorite subjects.

Bob shot all the photos displayed on Pages 16-17, which serve as a perfect representation of his masterful achievements and artistic flare.

(One of a Kind continued on Page 17)





(One of a Kind continued from Page 16)

Bob Gallegos' amazing photography displayed on this page and Page 16, is utterly breathtaking with every detail so sharp, the photos almost jump off the pages. Bob features other photos on his [Facebook](#) page and throughout various shows he attends yearly.



That Triple Crossing

They Say It's Unique . . .

This truly unusual historic scene would be fabulous to recreate for a model railroad layout!

Special Note: This article originally ran in the Richmond Times-Dispatch, Date Unknown.

The only triple railroad crossing in the world is in Richmond, just south of Main Street Station at Byrd Street. There, on three levels, tracks of the Southern, Seaboard, and Chesapeake and Ohio railroads cross each other.

On the ground level is the main line of the Richmond Division of Southern Railway, tracks first laid in 1861.

Passing above on a viaduct is the main line of the Seaboard Air Line Railroad, Virginia Division. Above that, on one of the longest railroad trestles in North America, sweeps the main line of the James River Division of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway.

The C&O overpass and the Seaboard viaduct--which is both underpass and overpass--were built in 1900.

The triple crossing has long intrigued fanciers of railroad lore, and ever since it was built, photographers have cajoled and connived continually for the opportunity to take pictures of three trains at the crossing simultaneously.

If three trains ever passed at this particular crossing by coincidence--and the odds are they haven't--there were no photographers on hand.

However, three times since 1900, the railroads have undertaken the troublesome project of "posing" three trains at the crossing.

Three old steam engines chugged onto the crossing for the first picture in 1911. Then in 1926, when railroad officials had partly forgotten how much trouble it was, three more locomotives were photographed at the crossing.

This fall, the cycle came around again, and the three companies sent crack locomotives to the crossing for the color portrait on our cover.

It was quite a project. S. F. Osteen, assistant supervisor of the Seaboard's Virginia Division, said it this way: "You try to get three railroads to do anything together and you'll have a devil of a time, but when you fool with something like this where three sets of intricate schedules are involved, you really have a problem."



Above is a photo of the 1926 triple crossing.

Representatives of the three companies met weeks before the picture was taken, to work out plans.

After consulting various freight and passenger schedules, and considering the chances of plan-wrecking late runs on all the lines, it was decided that a particular Thursday at 12:01 was the time.

The locomotives would converge on the triple crossing at 12:01, remain for exactly 10 minutes, and then clear the tracks for more important business. Photographers would have to pray for good weather and good luck.

On Thursday at 12:01 the weather was clear, the sun shining and the three locomotives arrived at the appointed instant.

On the Southern track, a powerful 1500-horsepower multi-purpose road switcher, Diesel electric unit, moved into position.

The Seaboard was represented by a 3,000-horsepower Diesel unit like the ones used to pull the Silver Meteor and other streamliners.

Across the high C&O span came a K-3, standard freight engine on the James River line, a steam locomotive capable of hauling about 160 coal cars.

After 10 minutes, during which Photographer Herbert Wilburn squinted into his view and shouted orders like, "Move that top train back a foot or two, keep the middle train still and move the bottom train back about three feet," the triple crossing was cleared and the railroads went about their business as if nothing had happened.





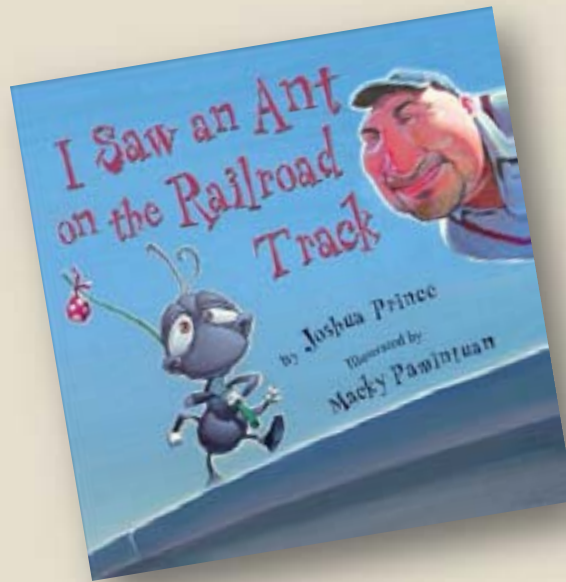
Relay

Switching Gears to Younger Fans

Budding Photographers

Graffiti is very destructive and quite costly to remove, but the graphic impact of the photo pictured at left, is undeniable. Look around, take your own train or model railroad photos and email them to editor@trainfest.com for a chance to see your work online!

Enjoy this selection of items we found while browsing the web for story ideas.



I Saw an Ant on the Railroad Track

Joshua Prince, illustrated by Macky Pamintuan Sterling Publishing Co.

The liveliest rhythm and rhyme, and really cool art, carry children off on a captivating journey along the railroad tracks with a hungry little ant and the gentle giant of a switchman who cares for him. Also available as an audio podcast free from i-Tunes.

<http://www.sterlingpublishing.com/catalog?isbn=9781402721830>



Train Puzzle

Art by John Winfield

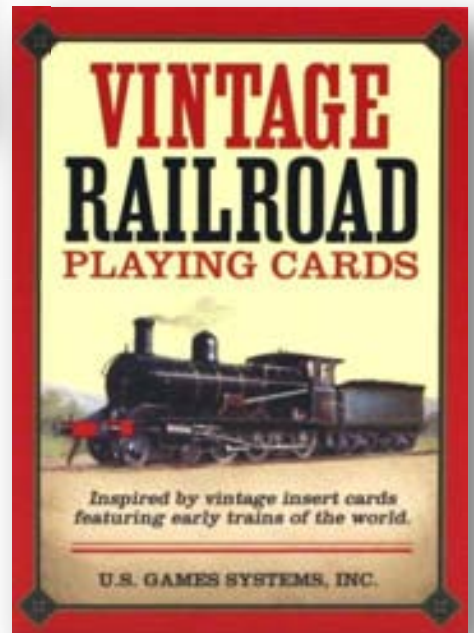
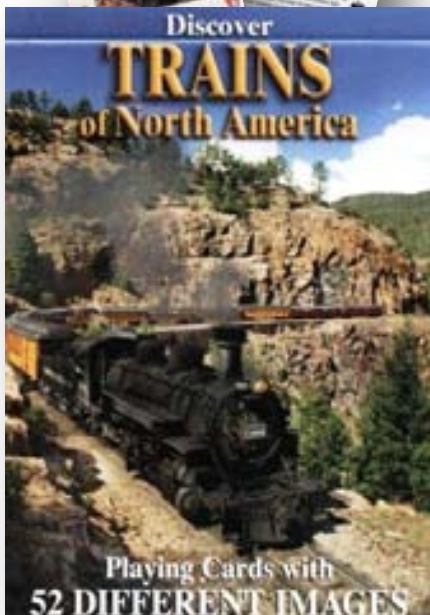
This 1500-piece jigsaw puzzle features fantastic graphics depicting the Southern Pacific Lines, with finish size of 24" by 33".

<http://www.legacystation.com/TrainGift.htm>

Discover Trains of North America (Cards by Sea to Sky)

unclesgames.com
Games, Puzzles & More!

The fronts of this poker-sized deck of playing cards beautifully display different trains and railways across North America. The picturesque backs feature a small collage of trains from different eras. Fantastic way to keep busy on long car rides!



Vintage Railroad Cards (U.S. Games Systems, Inc.)

unclesgames.com
Games, Puzzles & More!

Nostalgic playing cards offer original descriptions and graphic illustrations from vintage cards of railroad cars and locomotives from the early 1900's. Perfect for train buffs of all ages, suitable for most card games.

Trainparty.com

Toot the train theme to the limit! All you need for a great train party. Decorations, specially shaped pans, edible images, plates, cupcake toppers, picks, candles, cookie cutters, and more!





Named *Best of Baltimore 2005* for kids, the Red Caboose was also mentioned in *Guinness Book of World Records* for the most singly-owned cabooses.



A Sense of History >>>

The subject of several articles over the years, the Red Caboose originated back in 1969 when Don Denlinger bid on 19 aging cabooses being auctioned off by the Pennsylvania Railroad. To his surprise, he won them for \$100. The property is currently owned and operated by Larry Demarco.

312 Paradise Lane, Ronks, PA 17572
 Phone: (717) 687-5000
 Toll Free: (888) 687-5005
info@redcaboosemotel.com
www.redcaboosemotel.com

Destinations

Red Caboose Motel & Restaurant

One of hundreds of places to go and things to see that provide fantastic train-related family encounters!

The Red Caboose Motel and Restaurant offers a unique lodging experience for families, couples or train history enthusiasts. Located in Strasburg, PA in Lancaster County, it is surrounded by Amish farms, Strasburg Railroad, Railroad Museum, Choo-Choo Barn and many other attractions.

The Red Caboose Motel features an amazing selection of 38 cabooses (many newly restored), two dining cars and two baggage cars. All have been restored and repainted to display the authentic colors of the railroads they represent.

Guests are awestruck by the unparalleled view from the silo tower, which reveals Amish farms, nearby valleys and a glorious rolling countryside. The historic Strasburg Railroad passes by the property throughout the day and you frequently see Amish neighbors out for a buggy drive.

Kids delight in the petting zoo with sheep, goats, chickens and ponies and can feed the farm animals. Old fashioned fun awaits in the form of a playground, open fields for baseball or flying kites, tossing Frisbees or just enjoying a relaxing stroll. In the summer, the barn becomes an outdoor movie theater. The gift shop offers lots of train-oriented items and local goods and specialties.

