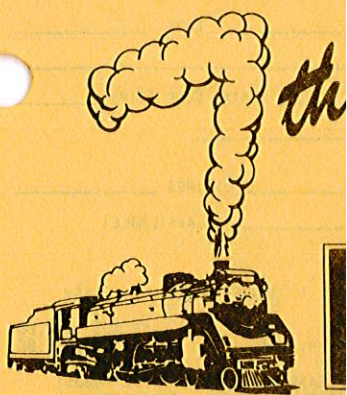
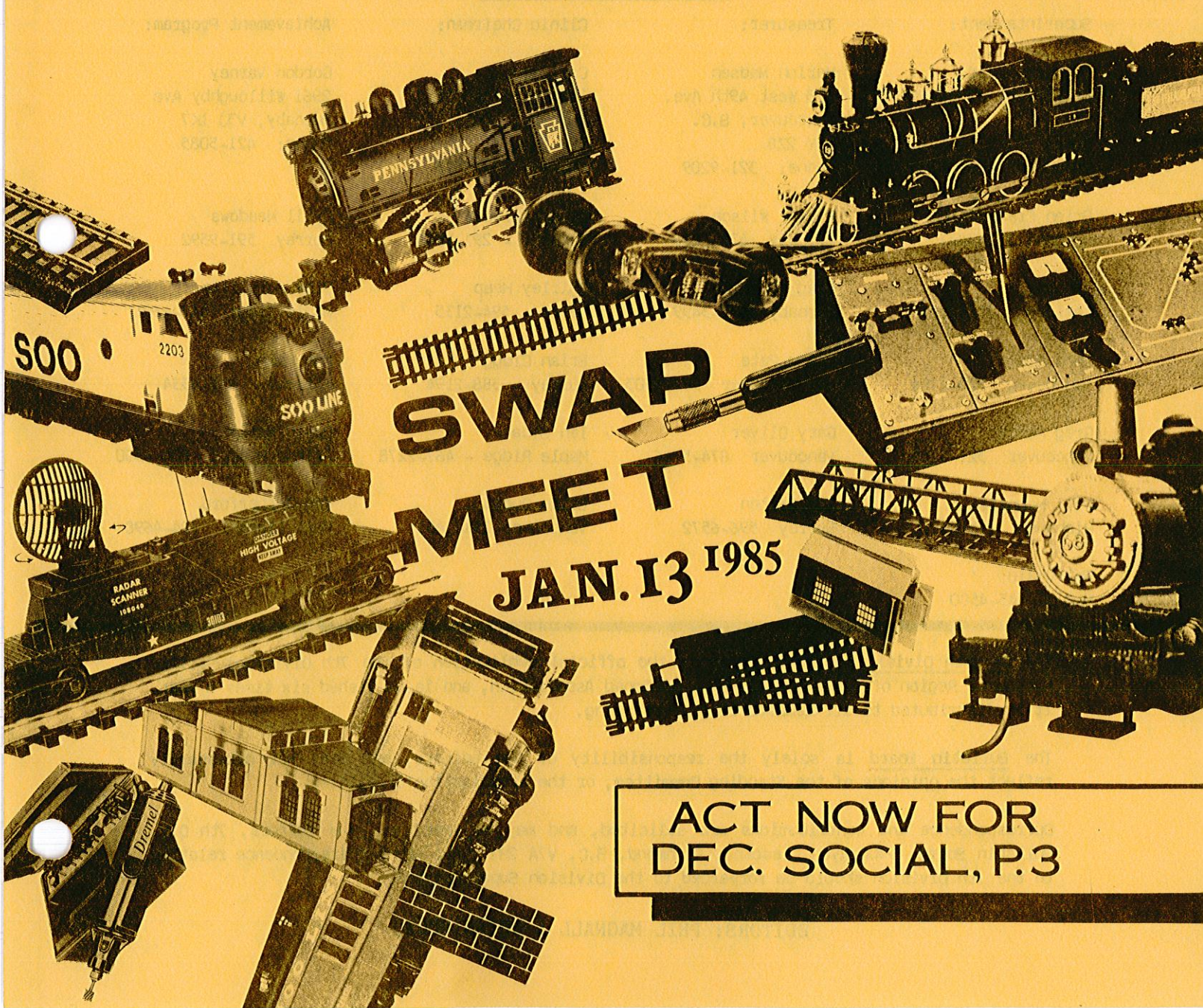


NOVEMBER 1984



N BOARD

Published by the Seventh Division, Pacific Northwest Region, National Model Railroad Association.



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PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION
NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

1

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The Seventh Division Bulletin Board is the official publication of the 7th Division, Pacific Northwest Region of the National Model Railroad Association, and is published six times a year. It is distributed to all members in good standing.

The Bulletin Board is solely the responsibility of the editors, and does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Standing Committee, or the organization's policies.

Correspondence and contributions are solicited, and may be sent to: The Editors, 7th Div. Bulletin Board, 9300 Ryan Crescent, Richmond, B.C. V7A 2H2. All other correspondence relating to the 7th Division should be forwarded to the Division Superintendent.

EDITORS: PHIL MAGNALL & BRIAN RUDKO

JANUARY IS SWAP MEET TIME!

The Seventh Division's annual Swap Meet is set for January 13 next year, giving everyone an opportunity to hunt up those items you didn't get for Christmas but can't afford at retail prices after you bought all that stuff for other people! It's also an excellent opportunity to dispose of a hundred pounds of kits and parts you'll never use and which the wife/girl friend/mother has been after you to clean out of the hobby room. The wheeling and dealing begins at 1:00 PM at Kensington Community Centre, 5175 Dumfries, Vancouver, and continues until 4:00. For further information or to reserve space, contact Carl Sparks at 433-5583.

EDITORIAL

I'M O.K., YOU'RE O.K.!

A friend who hosts a monthly operating session on his sizeable railway layout relates how an office acquaintance and his wife came by his house for the first time the other day. The mutual interest precipitating this visit was computers, and not trains, but as the Apple shares a room with the N scale, his guests found themselves almost surrounded by latter when they went down to the basement to run a program, or whatever it is computer buffs do. It seems the unsuspecting gentleman was somewhat awestruck for several moments, but then turned slowly to my friend and said "Please tell me this belongs to your kid, Bill!".

"Ah, well," you say, "there's one in every crowd," right? Would you believe several in every crowd? I remember a line from one of MASH alumnus McLean Stevenson's rather forgettable attempts at a series of his own. He was referring to some strange antics of his next-door neighbour, and said: "I knew he had a basement full of model trains, but I didn't think he was that crazy!". The studio audience thought it a fine joke, to judge from the howls of laughter which followed. Never liked McLean much after that. But let's face it: in North American society, model railroaders are perceived to fall somewhere between birdwatchers and Bhagwan Rashneesh followers in terms of peculiarity. Even those who have seen the light are often loath to admit it. You wouldn't believe the number of guys who come into the store Saturdays on the pretense that they want to get their accompanying three year olds started in a hobby! "It's O.K," we tell them, "you can admit it's for yourself. We're train buffs, too, and we won't even make you wear a striped cap or a vest covered in railroad badges!" You'd think you were counselling alcoholics, the way some of them stick to their denials. No sir, uh-uh, not me; no rail nut here. Nope. Just for the kid.

Now in England, it's a different story. True, some folks might reflect unkindly on the fact that the English sometimes seem predisposed toward eccentricity, but consider the comments of our U.K. correspondent, Lawson Little, upon reading a Bulletin Board item about Trains '84:

"Amused to note that "exhibitors qualify for a REDUCTION in the admission charge!". Gee! Over here, you would expect (AND get) free admission for up to half-a-dozen helpers..., repayment of van hire charges if incurred, car expenses if travelling other than locally, free meals, overnight hotel expenses for two-day shows, free after-show hospitality, etc."

They can provide all this simply because being a train fan is the norm over there! A show like Robson Square would draw thousands in that country! And here...well, we've got some catching up to do. How about converting somebody this week?

Phil Magnall

PNR NEWS

SOCIAL EVENING PLANNED

The division is hosting a social dinner to kick off the Christmas season this year. It will be held December 9, at 6:00 PM in the Richmond Inn's Westminster Rooms 2 and 3, with costs of approximately 17 dollars per person, and whatever nickels and dimes (or rocks) you may wish to throw at entertainers Fraser Wilson, Frank McKinney, and Carl Sparks. Reservations should be placed with Hank Menkveld (Chilliwack 792-4926) by December 6, so don't delay.

van

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WELCOME ABOARD!

The Bulletin Board is pleased to welcome to the 7th Division, PNR, 16 new members who signed up at N-CON '84 N-Scale meet or at Trains '84. They are:

Doug McArthur	Murray Birch
S.H. Reynolds	S.L. McCracken
Michael Burns	Bill Wilson
Brad & Edith Wickham	Michael Price
Ken Wagner & Son Nathan	Richard Wise
Doug Couzens	Lonn Cripps
Brian Morgan	Mike Marrs
Dan Janelle	D. Causer

Winner of a draw for a custom-finished N-Scale factory at N-CON '84 was Ken Wagner, while at Trains '84, similarly finished and detailed prizes went to Dan Janelle (N CP boxcar), Lonn Cripps (N sandhouse) and S. McCracken (HO shanty). Congratulations to the winners and credit Pacific N Scale and Gary's Train Centre with supplying the kits at cost, as well as Phil Magnall and Brian Rudko for their modelling efforts.

MAIL CAR



Editors
9300 Ryan Crescent
Richmond, B.C.
V7A 2H2

The new Bulletin Board looks terrific - a real professional job. For a gang of volunteers, it's a super publication.

The loading dock plan and photo, clearly reproduced, caught my eye right away, and I pulled it out to go in my construction plan file.

Keep up the good work!

Yours truly

Ken Haun
Kitimat, B.C.

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

Our clinic on October the 14th was a great success. Thirty-three people showed up and most of them tried their hand at building one of the trestles from the kits available in O, S, HO and N scales at \$2.00 apiece.

The scale lumber for the kits was cut by Gordon Varney, who also stained the wood, precut most pieces, and put the kits together. On top of it all, he donated the proceeds of all kits sold to the 7th Div.

Thank you very much, Gordon, for your generosity. We also owe a thank you to the ladies who, even when they cannot be present in person, make sure we are supplied with all kinds of goodies during coffee break. A special thanks to those who always seem to be there to make the coffee and serve all those goodies.

It was nice to see some new faces at this clinic, and we welcome Bob Davidson of North Vancouver who signed up as a new member of N.M.R.A. - P.N.R.

Door prizes were won by Marion Madsen and Dick Sutcliffe. It was a good start for the new season. Let's all keep working to make the 7th Div. bigger and better in 1985. If everyone remembers to renew his or her membership on time, and if we all sign up at least one new member a year, we should be doing just fine. Let's keep the trains rolling.

Hank.

HELP WANTED FOR DISPLAY PIKE

Anyone interested in helping to construct a display layout for the Division should contact Tom Beaton at 596-6572.

This will be an HO 4'x8' layout designed to be portable and based on John Olson "Jerome and Southwestern" plan that appeared in Model Railroader.

If you wish to help, please contact Tom, as room is limited. Monday evenings will be the work nights.

N scalers wishing to help will have an N version of this layout they can work on.

PNR MEET NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

The convention committee for the 1985 PNR "Gold Spike '85" convention is looking for help. We now have most of our committee members, but there are a couple of people we still need.

As this is planned as a family convention, we are looking for people to organize and run the teen and children's programs.

If you're interested in helping out in these capacities, please contact Tom Beaton at 596-6572.

TRAINS '84: GOOD SHOW BUT A POOR DRAW

TRAINS '84 at Robson Square had everything: operating layouts, live steamers, contest-winning models, dioramas, modular railroading, a switching game, tabletop clinics, tinsplate, and much more. Everything, that is, but people.

To look at the often shoulder-to-shoulder throng of visitors, one might have been hard pressed to suspect that the attendance was far below that which had been hoped for. According to 7th Division treasurer Marion Madsen, however, the final count was just over 1100, whereas as many as 4000 had been expected, resulting in but a fraction of the profit anticipated. Several veteran exhibitors remarked that although the November 11 show was being held at the city's newest and best-known centre, traffic and lack of free parking may have done more to dampen people's interest than did the steady rain that accompanied the day. With an eye on the success of the Richmond show held earlier this year, it was suggested that a more suburban setting might be chosen in 1985.

But whatever the crowd lacked in size, it made up for in spirit, with many individuals staying several hours to talk with hobbyists and store owners, watch demonstrations, or run trains. The 'Most Popular Model' and 'Most Popular Display' awards were participated in with enthusiasm, resulting in hundreds of votes cast, all of which had to be tallied between 4:55 and the time when displays started moving out the back door! The public's choice

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Winners of the Most Unusual Locomotive Award would have to be the venerable trio of English Hunslets at Pacific Elevators. For years, the siderod connected four wheel diesels have handled grain car switching chores at the foot of Salisbury Street. That's A in the foreground, with C in the rear; sister B is now working for UGG only a few yards away.

2

in a model: Norm Starr's HO wooden trestle; for best display: the Top Link Model Railway Association's British layout, which had been an obvious crowd-pleaser all day. In fact, the verdicts surprised many modellers, but contest organizer Phil Magnall observed "I expected some surprises here. Had it been left up to the modellers alone to vote, I strongly suspect the results would have been different. Look at Brian Pate's national-winning water tower and grain elevator, or Brian Rudko's 'Rosebud Railroad' diorama. These are extremely high quality pieces of work, yet to John Q. Public I don't think they have the railroad feeling he has come to see. They might walk away with the awards at a spring meet, but here a complex wood trestle and a smoothly-operated working railway were more of what the folks wanted. We actually stopped counting display ballots three-quarters of the way through because the Top Link layout had such an insurmountable lead. I think there's a definite lesson to be learned about public shows: give them moving trains and traditional railroading."

It was, in fact, apparent that anything with sound or movement drew crowds whenever it was in operation: Hank Menkveld's 'scenic finishing' demonstrations, Tom Beaton's sound-equipped sawmill, the Dewdney-Alouette group's modules, the several tabletop clinics, Phil Magnall's O switching layout, and the tinsplate display were among the favourites. Static displays often seemed to lack supporting elements such as text, prototype information, or photos which might have made them more comprehensible to the uninitiated, but many fine models stood up well on their own nevertheless.

At the bottom line, Trains '84 has to be considered a success. It may not have met everyone's hopes, but it was attractive, well-organized, and very much enjoyed by the hundreds who came to see it.

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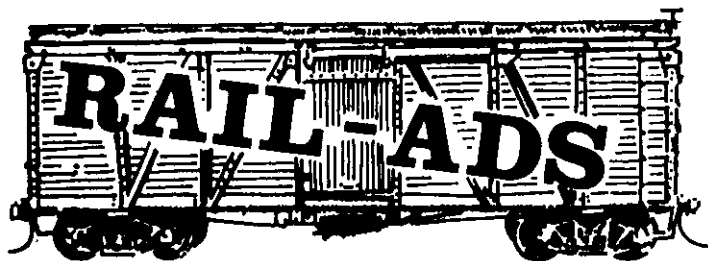
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Next issue:

4th wk. January

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PNR NEWS

N-CON RECEIVED N-THUSIASTICALLY

Vancouver's first N scale convention was held on October 28 at the YMCA Cloverly Centre in North Vancouver. The chief intent of the convention was to promote the work currently being done in N scale, and to ensure that more N scalers could meet each other.

The accent was on building: Kalmbach "how-to" videos, many clinics on technique, and Ntrak on-the-spot construction. There were a number of static displays as well, featuring kitbashed items and a number of excellent scratchbuilt structures. Six of the current Kalmbach videos (obtained from Creative Hobbycraft) were very popular, and were shown on a continuous basis. Ten clinics were presented, ranging from the advantages of European prototype to traction modelling under operating overhead. How-to-do-it clinics included scenery with ground foam, kitbashing tools and techniques, structure kitbashing, and locomotive repairs. Three rooms were utilized,

allowing three different activities to be conducted simultaneously. Thanks to the YMCA for exemplary cooperation. The registered total of 92 did not include the clinicians, organizers, or hangers-on. The registrants were eligible for door prizes which were graciously donated by Creative Hobbycraft, Gary's Trains, Pacific N Scale and Van Hobbies - our thanks to these firms. The PNR also received the benefit of seven new members signing up, one of whom won a display prepared by Phil Magnall of the membership committee. This event returned \$50 to the PNR treasury without the need for up-front capital. As N-Con '84 seems to have been a considerable success, we are looking forward to a similar event in 1985.

TECHNIQUE

RHOPLEX: A CHEAPER & BETTER BONDING MEDIUM

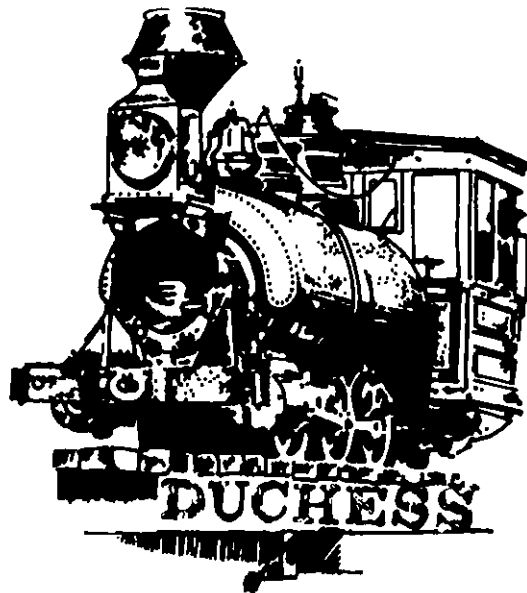
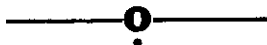
Most model railroaders are probably familiar with the use of white glue, such as Elmer's or Bondfast, to bond track ballast and scenic materials to roadbed and landscape. An alternative material often touted in books and magazines is "acrylic matte medium", but those who have hunted up the product at an art supply store have usually been deterred from trying it out by the high cost of the little bottles marketed by such big names as Grumbacher. Unfortunately, most art store staff seem unwilling or unaware when it comes to the promotion of a locally manufactured product known as Rhoplex, which is an extremely effective and economical alternative. A one litre plastic bottle costs about \$7.50, and can be diluted as much as 100% with water. At this rate, it can even cost less than white glue, and has several advantages over it as well.

First, it seems to dry more quickly than white glue; those who have worked with acrylic paints will be familiar with their rapid drying time. It also remains a very effective adhesive when thinned to a much greater degree than that at which white glue becomes too weak, making it easier to use in bonding large areas of earth or grass materials. Thirdly, it remains somewhat flexible, and thus, reportedly, more sound absorbent when used on ballast, and lastly, even when applied heavily, it will always dry to a dead

cont. p.9

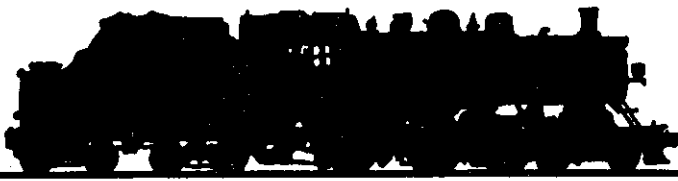


The Duchess was one of British Columbia's pioneer locomotives. She was one of a pair built by Baldwin for service on the Wellington Colliery Rwy. in 1978. This line ran from Wellington to Departure Bay (near Nanaimo). Apparently the engines were originally delivered as 30" gauge, and were later converted to 3' gauge. The Duchess still exists and is on display in Carcross in the Yukon.



7TH DIVISION TIMETABLE

9



Dec. 9, 1984

Dinner and social evening; Richmond Inn, Richmond, B.C. Info and registration: Hank Menkveld (604) 792-4926 or Greg & Marion Madsen.

Jan. 13, 1985

7th Division Swap Meet; Kensington Community Centre, 5175 Dumfries, Vancouver. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM.

Feb. 16 & 17, 1985

WCRA annual winter excursion on the BCR, N. Vancouver to Lillooet; Info: Bernie Tully (604) 325-0923.

April 27, 1985

Port Townsend/Hadlock Area Model Railroad Show. Info: John Ludwig (206) 385-0341.

July 10-13, 1985

"Gold Spike '85"; PNR Convention, Richmond Inn, Richmond, B.C.

1986

PNR Convention; Lethbridge, Alberta.

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cont.

flat finish, a very important factor when using real dirt to represent dry and dusty roads.

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