

THE TAMR HOTBOX

April, 1968

Volume IV No. IV

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The "T.A.M.R. HOTBOX" is entered as third class mail at Lone Jack, Mo. 64070. Overseas copies are sent via Airmail.

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	Bert Kamm, Editor	Greg Thompson, Publisher

Next Month: All the regular articles, plus Part II of Improving Plastic Structures and 19 Ways to Kill the T.A.M.R.

Send all advertisements, money, or articles to the editor: Bert Kamm, 305 Keyes Avenue, Watertown, New York 13601. Model Railroad ads are 50¢ for 3 months, \$1 for larger ads.

Presidential Notes

by Jerry White

As a reminder, send those articles for the Article Contest to: Greg Thompson, Route 1, Lone Jack, Missouri 64070. The listing below shows which prizes will be used for each category, and the value and the donor.

CATEGORY:

Overall

1. Book, Nickel Plate Story---Kalmbach---\$17.50
2. Passenger Car Kit---Walthers---\$9.55

Trackwork and Structures

1. Purina Chow Feed Mills Kit---Suydam---\$4.00
2. Pair HO Trucks---The New Roundhouse---\$1.50

Locomotives and Rolling Stock

1. CPR 1902 Observation Car Kit---Westwood---\$6.95
2. Weathering Kit---Floquil---\$2.00

(Continued)

Wiring and Electrical

1. Truss Log Car Kit---Kadee---\$5.70
2. Gift Certificate---Champ Decals---\$1.00

Prototype

1. Disconnected Log Car Kit---Kadee---\$4.35
2. Gift Certificate---Champ Decals---\$1.00

Miscellaneous

1. Icing Platform---Suncoast Models---\$5.95
2. Regular Color Kit---Floquil---\$2.00

With the article contest deadline fast approaching, I hope you have all gotten your article planned, and are started writing on your entry. We have some very nice prizes, so you can see it is worth your time.

In the March issue of the TAMR HOTBOX, there was an amendment concerning Elections. Due to the time factor, it is appearing in this issue. USE IT PLEASE!! The reason for placing myself as chairman of the committee is the short time we had when the amendment went into effect, and since I'm definitely not running for office this year, before you go hollering bloody murder, you can see that the elections are not 'fixed'. I want it to be known right now though that I believe this should not be a precedent, but more as an exception of the general rule.

NONE of the officers are running again this year, so the elections should be exciting (Ought to make the U.S. Presidential elections look sick-Greg.) This another reason for me being the chairman, we must utilize all the members we can. I urge you all who feel qualified to run, the national offices, while not the easiest thing in the world, are not out of everyone's capabilities, so, USE THAT NOMINATION FORM!!!

At the March 2, 1968, meeting of the NMRA's BOT, the following was approved unanimously. This official recognizes the TAMR by the NMRA, and I'm sure that you will soon see the benefits of such a system. Among these benefits are the publicity involved, and the use of this as a member recruiting technique.

"WHEREAS: there is an organization known as the TEEN ASSOCIATION OF MODEL RAILROADING, (TAMR), and
 WHEREAS: one of the basic aims of this association is to maintain, promote, and extend the hobby of scale model railroading and to create a climate of mutual fellowship and harmony among all modelers, and
 WHEREAS: the TEEN ASSOCIATION OF MODEL RAILROADING, (TAMR), has has patterned it's organization after the National Model Railroading Association, Inc.
 THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED: that the National Model Railroading Association recognizes the Teen Association of Model Railroading as an organization having similar aims and objectives as the NMRA and is established to further the hobby among the age group recognized as 'teenagers'.

PENNSYLVANIA CENTRAL R.R.

"Route of the Iriquois"
 James A. Smith, Jr., Pres.
 201 Washington St.
 E. Greenville, Pa. 18041

FEDERAL RAILWAY OF JUTLAND

Route of the "Green Star"
 and "Red Star" Expresses
 Christian White, Director
 Box 295, Ridgely, Maryland 21660

Red

i Trestle to open Feb. 29
 v Offices-179 Steuben Street Page 2
 e Brooklyn, N.Y. 11205
 Railroad

Ride the Jeffersonville
 and Southern Indiana
 R.R.

Passes are coming!
 If you have got to go, go J.&S.I.

If you've ever seen the layouts of John Allen, Jack Work, or other top model builders, the buildings are always beautifully done, with lots of detail and realistic finishes. While individual board construction is the ultimate in realism, it requires plenty of skill and is rather time consuming. With a little work you can take these plastic buildings and make 'em look as realistic as scratchbuilt ones.

First thing is to get rid of those idiotic plastic bases many kits are mounted on. And please set the building in the scenery by placing it into the ground while the scenery is still wet. If your scenery is already in place, wet it slightly and push the structure into place.

Next is painting which removes the shine common to most plastics, and covers the multi-colored European-made buildings. But unless wood grain is molded into the plastic, the walls will come out too smooth. To prevent this, use lacquer base paints (Floquil). Do not thin them, but apply and brush rapidly in the direction the grain would go. If you brush fast enough, the paint will etch the plastic only slightly, enough to resemble wood grain, peeling paint, or what have you.

Now you can add details; coalbox, downspouts, doorknobs (pins), cracked or broken windows (done with knife), signs, and so on.

If you want your buildings weathered, here is an easy way to do it. Spread some paper on your workbench, get a coarse file, and powder some white, black, and brown chalk, by rubbing it on a file. (Sandpaper will also work well-Greg.) For a new building sprinkle some powder on it and brush it around with a soft brush. Work it into cracks and pockets thoroughly. (Makes our "wood grain really stand out.") For a heavier application put some detergent in a cup of water, and brush over model, then apply chalk. Brush on more water for a streaked effect.

If you have two or more of the same building or need a structure for a specific job or location, the kits can be altered easily. They can be scribed with a knife and rule, and sawed apart with a razor saw. Or try leaving a wing off one side and gluing it on another.

One word about glue. Don't use that plastic cement that comes in a tube; it takes forever to dry and gets all over everything. Use Testor's liquid cement for plastics, or a solvent-type cement like MEK. These can be applied with a brush, and make a strong joint because they dissolve the plastic slightly and weld the two pieces together.

For making new doors, roofs, adding trim or covering mistakes, sheet styrene, a type of plastic, is probably the best material. It is much smoother than wood, but much easier to work with than brass. You can cut scale 2x4's for instance, with none of the fuzz common to basswood or balsa. To get acquainted with this material, Suncoast Models offers an "Intro- Pak" (available through AHC and probably other places as well) with six different sheets and six different strip sizes.

With the above methods and materials you can splice two buildings together, remove or add wings, dormers and porches, making your plastic building completely unrecognizable, I mean as a plastic building.

SKUNK VALLEY R.R.
"The Cautious Line"
David Johnson, Pres.
Office: 429 Heritage Drive
Rochester, N.Y. 14615

Idaho Southern
"Route of the Mighty Midget"
Greg Thompson, President
Route 1, Lone Jack, Missouri 64070
2', 3', and 4'8½" in 3 scale

~~Proposed Amendment~~ to the T.A.M.R. Constitution

I propose that the following clause be included in the Constitution, listed under Article 5, and named section 9.

Article 5; Section 9

The administration of the national/international organization shall have the power to make all laws and institute all committees and sub-organizations necessary for carrying into the foregoing powers of this article, which shall be understood by the administration to be for the benefit and advancement of the organization as a whole.

Submitted by,
Richard C. Wagie

Directory Corrections

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Regional Administrators

Allegheny Region---John Snyder, Lewistown, Pennsylvania

Hudson Bay Region---Greg LaForest, Windsor, Ontario

Northwestern Region---Pending

Plains Region---No representative

Southeastern Region---Pending

Notes From the Mouth

by Leigh Wiley

Help! Thief! I've been robbed! Some of my files are gone because of a 5-year old nephew, so if your name is not mentioned below, and you sent me information for Member Services, please send it to me again.

Jerry White, Robert Loat, Lloyd Neal, Dave Johnson, Dave Noelck, Dick Wagie, Dave Knauff, Rod Owensby, Paul Poletti, Allen Maty, Doug Kocher, Christian White, Klaus Grunert, and Gary Thomas.

If you are interested in helping other members, write me and tell me what information you can supply, on either modeling or prototype.

Article Contest

Greg Thompson, Article Contest Chairman

For you new members, there is an article contest going on. I urge all of you to write articles for this, there are many wonderful prizes (see Presidential Notes), Merit Awards, possible publication in Model Railroader or Railroad Model Craftsman, and of course, publication in the TAMR HOTBOX. So get in on all the fun and write right now!

DEADLINE: May 24, 1968 is the last date for them to be mailed. This deadline has been moved up twice already, it will not be moved up again, so write those articles. (Note: Don't worry about classification, as I type on the name, address, title, and class anyway.) Get in on a great thing, and help out the TAMR at the same time!

The Atchison Topeka and Santa Fe Railway (HO)

Robert E. Streger, President

Walter P. Harris, President

Western Division, A.T.&S.F. Rwy. Co. Eastern Division, A.T.&S.F. Rwy. Co.

Main Office: 2419 East Bowie

Main Office: 10670 Mayfield Rd.

Harlingen, Texas 78550

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Houston, Texas 77043

"Route of the Texas Chief"

"Routed thru the Magic Empire"

Passes Exchanged

European Passenger Trains

by David Knauff

I'm sure all of you have heard at one time or another about the passenger service of Europe. To say the least, it is much superior to ours. Their rides are smoother, their trains better, their prices lower. You also may have wondered why the U.S. can't do anything like this. It bothered me until I talked to my counselor at school, who has been on them and is a railfan, and did a little research. Here's what I came up with: One big reason is that the government controls the railroad. They don't have to take "second fiddle" to the airlines and autos. They don't have the competition from the airlines, for the people aren't as affluent. Autos aren't in much use over there either, because gasoline prices are high, and the roads are poor, not to mention the fact that the average person can't afford an auto. Because of the afore mentioned facts the railroads get a greater volume of people, and can afford lower rates, their profit coming from the great volume of passengers. If you're at all interested in any of this, why not write some European railroad, such as the SNCF of France, or the DB of Germany. I hope he won't mind, but John Snyder has addresses of most of the European railroad offices in the U.S. (Greg.- To save you all time and money, I'm getting the addresses from John, and they will appear in next issue.)

Trade Topics--Product Review

Timberline-False Front Hotel Kit

by Dave Neumann

This kit makes an excellent model of the old time Pacific Hotel in Tincup, Colorado in 1890. It, of course, only makes the front of the building, but drawings and a parts list are included so that the modeler can make his model into 3-D. Construction is easy and the instructions are very good. The only exception here is that they don't tell you when to paint. I suggest painting the window frames before assembly and painting the false front after step number 10. No color scheme is given but any bright color combination will do. I used a white front with boxcar red trim. The instructions have a full size drawing of the front, and one of the side view, which are very helpful. All parts for the front were present in my sample except for one door-knob, which is just a modeling pin. I suggest putting the doorknobs in after installation because you have to cut them off which is very difficult. After finishing the false front you build part of the boardwalk which is only four pieces of wood. In my sample there wasn't enough 1/16" square wood for under the boardwalk. All the wood is excellent basswood which the modeler has to cut to size. There are no color codes on the wood. Installation for the most part is quite simple. You must have a place on your backdrop ready for the structure. It is simply glued to the backdrop. The boardwalk comes first, then the front on top of it. Signs are included in the kit. The only part of the entire kit that might give the modeler difficulty would be the doors and frames, they have to be made of stripwood. If you take your time you shouldn't have any trouble. There are three other kits in this series which I haven't reviewed yet, but I'm sure they're of similar construction.

Write articles for the article contest-now!!

Secretary's Notes

by Steve Seidel

FOR NEW MEMBERS: If you are interested in seeing what was happening in the T.A.M.R. up until your membership and are interested in seeing the development of the T.A.M.R., there are available back issues of the TAMR HOTBOX.

For \$1 (which includes postage) you can get a complete set of 10 TAMR HOTBOX's. (Listed below.) If you want several individual copies the cost is 15¢ each (which includes postage). Ask for each copy by name from the list below.

March '67, April '67, May '67, June '67, July '67, September '67, November '67, January '67, February '68, March '68*

Please send cash, money order, or check to Steven R. Seidel, 1401 West Hickory Street, Kankakee, Illinois. (Please make M.O. or check payable to the T.A.M.R.)

*(The March issue is gone, but there is a good chance for a re-run, since I imagine some of you would rather get a better copy.-Greg.)

WE HAVE MADE IT!! The current T.A.M.R. membership stands at 100! Let's see if we can double this by the end of the year.

Publisher's Notes

by Greg Thompson

YOUR publisher is a happier person this time. It seems that our troubles last time stemmed from cheap stencils. Also, I've gotten the machine working fairly well. The May issue is coming out right away, and maybe we can get caught up by the June issue.

PARTICIPATE IN '68! As you can tell by the Presidential Notes we have lots of prizes for your articles, but we still don't have enough to make a good contest, so please get out and write those articles.

NOTICE: Here are instructions for filling out the ORIENTATION FORM. When you get to the questionnaire part, this is not for you to fill in your own data, but rather, what kind of person would you like to correspond with? So, please don't put down your interests or favorite roads, but rather those of who you'd like to get in touch with. So if you want to write to somebody in S scale, that's a steam/freight fan, likes Great Northern, and is interested in electrical, then put that down on the form. YOU MUST mail this in. This is as much required of you as the application blank you fill out when you join. This is for your benefit, please use it.

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES: Get a paper started in your region. Ask a member of the GLP or MCP and they'll tell how great it is to have a paper. See me for details.

REGIONAL NEWS: The GLR WAYFREIGHT has set a first for the TAMR. They have had success in printing pictures in their paper. I can also get pictures for the TAMR HOTBOX too, and rather in-expensively, but this must wait approval of the BOT. If you want pix take up a pen and write me, and if I get enough replies (5 or 6), pictures will appear.

The Great Lakes Region and Mid-Continental Region (Hooray!) both have regional papers for \$1 a year. Contact the regional president.

IF YOU HAVE NOT been answered from me yet, please be patient, I'm getting those replies out as fast as I can.

WHY DON'T THEY JOIN????? Doug has received 200 replies to ads, but only about 20 have joined. I've looked into this, and their reason is: "I'd rather spend my money on something useful." Well, those of us in here know how great it is, but lets try harder, and make the TAMR better, so we can make it worthwhile to these mem people. Let's go gang!

PIKE OF THE MONTH

by Shay D. Deal

Wilson
table

Control

p
a
n
e
l

This is the general idea
of the track plan that
belongs to Mat Baj. No
other information is given.

Send in your track plan to:

David Neumann
10 Kittie Lane
Belmont
California
94002

TEEN ASSN. OF MODEL RAILROADING

Steven R. Seidel, Secretary

1401 West Hickory Street

Kankakee, Illinois 60901

Call 815 932-5335



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Teen Assn. Of Model Railroading



Large
Mignon

BIKE OF THE MONTH