

T.A.M.R. Hotbox

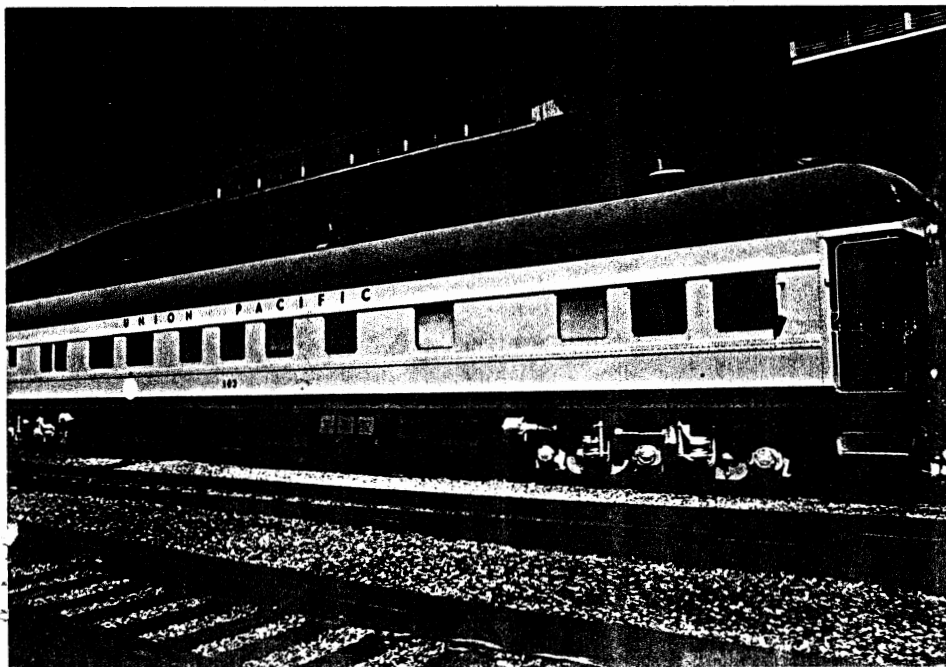
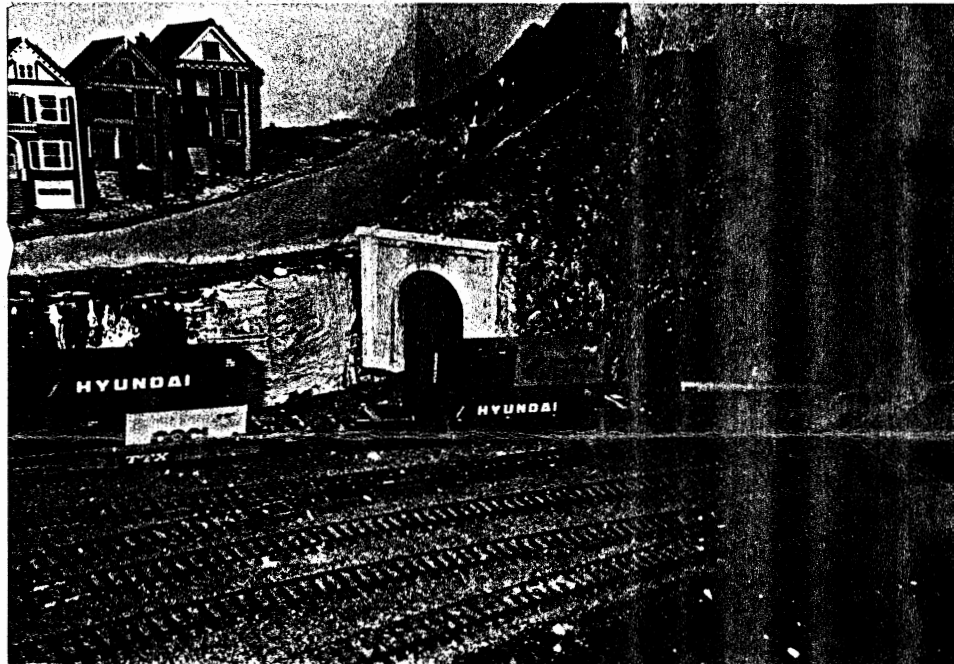
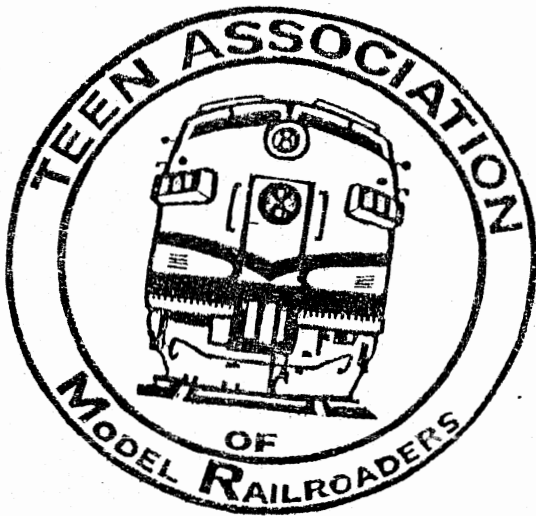
January 1994

President—Brent Johnson

Issue #289

Editor—A.A. Marcavitch

The Official Publication of the Teen Association of Model Railroaders



**A QUICK NOTE
FROM TAMR
DON'T FORGET
ABOUT THE**



**CONVENTION IN
DAYTON, OH
AS WE CELEBRATE 30 YEARS
OF TAMR 1964-1994
PLAN YOUR TRIP NOW!!!**

--In This Issue--

Editor's Page.....	4
SOS.....	5
Building A Layout On A Shoestring Budget.....	7
A.P.B!.....	8
Promo Dept. /Scratchbuilding w/Styrene.....	9
Contributing Editor's Page.....	10
Getting Sidetracked!.....	11

--Article of the Month--

Eureka, Sherman, and Timber Hills.....	6
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Front Cover: (Pic 1) The TAMR national layout in Oakland, CA.
(Pic 2) UP Business Car 103 at Sacramento, CA. [U.P. is the Editor's favorite rail line.] (Courtesy John Reichel--Pivot Pin)

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The Hobbox is the
official publication
of the Teen Assoc-
iation of Model Rail-
roaders, a non-profit
organization created
to promote, stimulate,
teach, and encourage
among youth and
young persons, the
hobby of model rail-
roading, the activity
of engineering, and
the preservation of
the history, science,
and technology
 thereof.
The Hobbox is issued
monthly, twelve times
per year, along with
the TAMR Directory
of Members in May.

Typing--
Typing is not
required as
everything is
entered in a
computer.
Typing will
save the
Editor's eyes,
so please do
so when ever
possible.

Artwork--
All drawings
and art are
preferred to
be done in
black ink, but
is not
required.
Please send
two copies

Photos--
Black and white are the best,
but color is fine. Just remember
they don't come out as well.
Photos taken in low light don't
come out as well, either. Also
have good contrast. Please send
good captioning. It should
include location, date, and other
needed material.

Fiction--
Anything interesting is fine. Just
make sure it pertains to railroading.
Poems, short story, or
anything. Keep short stories to 300
words (two pages, double space)
approx.

Style, Content--
Your own writing style is fine with us, you are among friends.
Do you have grammar trouble? Let the editor worry about that.
The ideas of what you write are what is important. As for content,
we accept almost anything on model railroading. Layouts, modeling,
painting, electronics, scenery, prototype, and even fiction, poetry, etc.
Just make it fairly interesting to most the readers.

TAMR Membership:
Membership in the TAMR
includes a subscription
to the association's
Magazine, The Hobbox,
the May mailing of the
TAMR Directory of
Members, and a quarterly
regional newsletter, as
well as an invitation to attend and participate

in all TAMR events.
The following cat-
egories of membership
are available:
Regular (\$1 and under)---\$12.00
Associate (\$1 and up)---\$15.00
Overseas (Out of N. Am.)---\$20.00
Sustaining (Reg. or Assoc.)---\$50.00

Please address all renewals, membership applications,
and address changes to the TAMR Treasurer.



THE (NEW) EDITOR'S PAGE



BY THE (NEW) EDITOR

Welcome to the first issue of The Hotbox. First, but how? Well, I'm new here and this is a new year. Also it is new because you people out there *will* submit articles.

Who is this stark raving lunatic that says we will write articles? My name is Aaron A. Marcavitch, and I hail from the small town of Waynesburg, Pennsylvania. It's small, it's boring, it's home.

I became involved in model railroading several years ago, who knows how many. I keep a 4x8 layout up all year, and plenty of ideas for more constantly. Shortlines are my big thing, if you haven't noticed I am the Shortline Head. But enough about me, more about the Hotbox. We need articles, NOW!!!!!!

Railroading is a universal hobby and we need to pay attention to it. (at this point our Editor-in-Chief steps up on his soapbox.) Model railroading doesn't just mean choo-choo's it also means fun and fellowship. Reading about it is a great

part of it all. Armchair RRing has been a part of this all for a long time. Write for us and receive the satisfaction of seeing your name in print. I give all credit that is due then some. I'm big on titles for all. (Our **biggest** article gets the distinction of the Article of the Month and Writer of the Month. Big Stuff, Eh?)

I realize that 100 teens all shooting for the same goal in railroading is amazing— but recover quickly and write your manuscript.

I am an English nut, so poems(!), fiction(!), and non-fiction, all dealing with railroads will be compiled. We could have a special creative thought section.

I'm a drafting nut, too so lots of drawings help. I will have some layouts drawn in, but your ideas are better than mine could ever be.

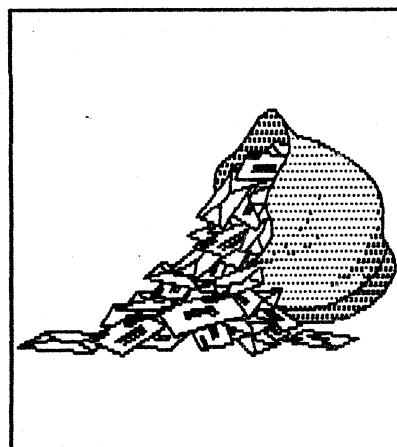
History is another big love. Anything historical railroad related will be put in, no questions. Old buildings, stations, etc. are good too. **ANYTHING HISTORY.**

Another thing, I will put asterisks next to the names of writers in the May Directory. A type of Hall of Fame of all the writers.

Kick around these ideas and see what happens.

Editor-in-Chief

Aaron A. Marcavitch



Where's the mail?



MONONGAHELA

The Bimonthly



.....
(SOS)

Featuring the *Editor-in-Chief*

Hello, again. It's good to be back and now I am a changed person, in charge of the *HOTBOX*. That doesn't mean that you still shouldn't send me materials. In fact I have received a letter from Matthew Schwerin in Wilmore, KY, and the owner of Schwerin Rail Services. Sounds like my Worldwide Rail Company. Instead of the usual (whatever that is, considering I don't get usual) I received a combination Christmas card/Shortline Registry info! Give any one any ideas? SOS Shortline Registry now totals two, myself and Matthew. Hey, It's easy to do, just send me the needed information, the format is in the November 1993 issue. Also, I like Mat-



thew's way of thinking. He included Locomotive Rosters, a system map, his leased power, yards and station names, all kinds of neat information. This would probably not be put in the Registry but could possibly be put in a file and used for others looking for information on other lines.

Be aware when sending me this information I cannot send it back and do plan on publishing most of it eventually. In addition if needs present themselves I may give this information out to others. You do need to give permission for me to send this information to others.

But as I begin to ramble I need to keep you interested. This information can be (and should be) used as an article, even the Article of the Month. Then send me both the article and the *S.Reg.* info and wait for publishment. I do sound like I'm on a soapbox don't I? **Shortline Registry** should be sent in care of SOS so I don't get the info mixed up. Thanks.

Where are your letters? I do realize that this column has not been the most popular. But someone out there should want to see their name in print when they tell us the virtues of their shortline. Prototype, fictional, whatever you want! I know you don't want to hear more about the WRC and my lines! Good grief my entire system engulfs six states from Nebraska to Pennsylvania! Layout design for the railroad pages number twelve! (Deep Breath!)

O.K., I'm better now, I've calmed down. Hey, no pressure all right?

Your friend in Shortlines,

Aaron A. Marcavitch

Shortline Department Head HPN

And now the first ever, never seen before, amazing spectacle, yes, it is--

Article of the Month!!

Our first contributor is Ole Bye with his yet to be built, The Eureka, Sherman, and Timber Hill RR

This is a layout I designed but never built, for after having designed it, I fell in love with West Virginian narrow gauge.

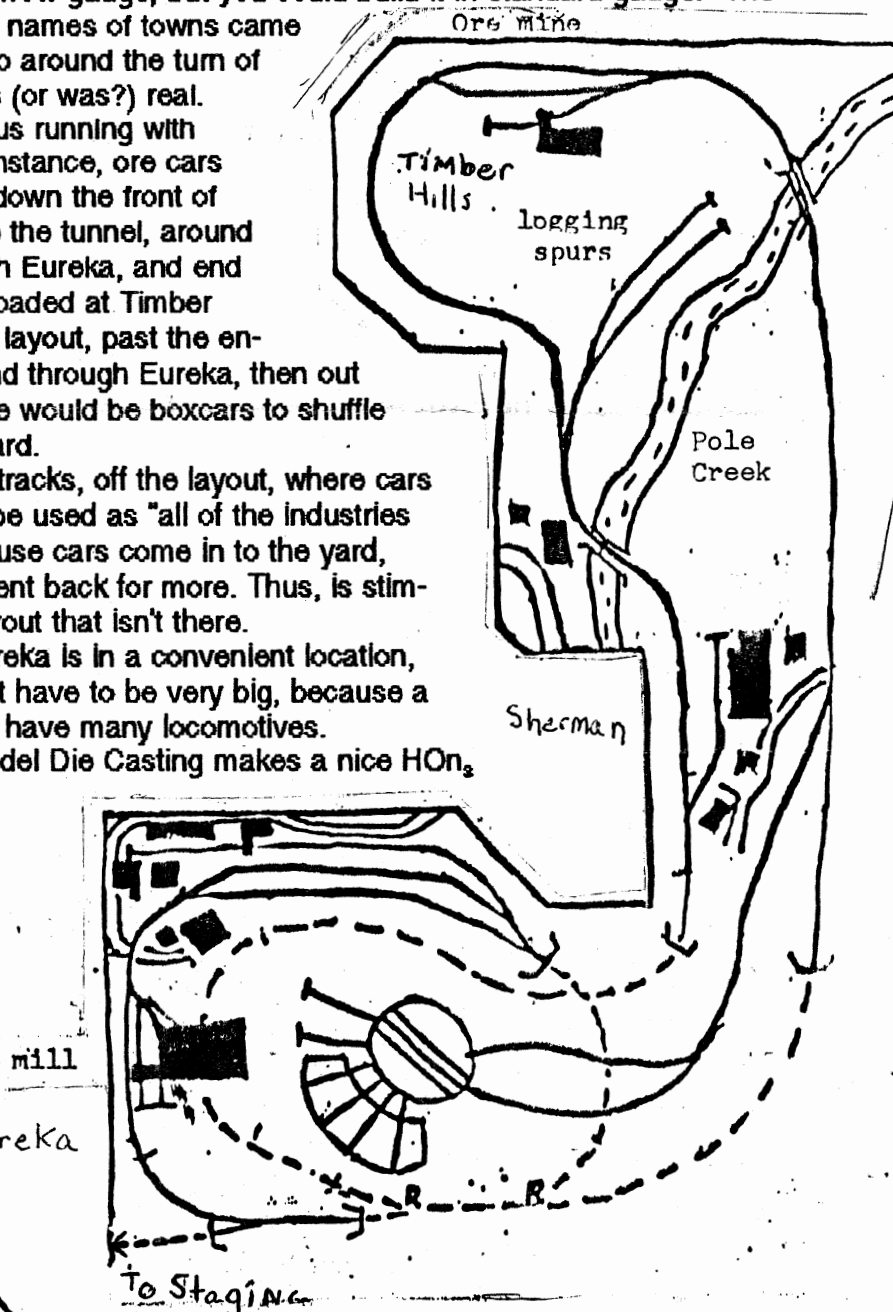
The layout was meant for narrow gauge, but you could build it in standard gauge. The track plan is freelance, while the names of towns came from a map of southern Colorado around the turn of the century. Even Pole Creek is (or was?) real.

The plan allows for continuous running with point-to-point possibilities. For instance, ore cars loaded at the mine might come down the front of the layout, toward Sherman, into the tunnel, around under, the engine house, through Eureka, and end up at the mill. Or, the log cars loaded at Timber Hill might go around back of the layout, past the engine house lead, past the mill and through Eureka, then out into the staging yard. Also, there would be boxcars to shuffle around the layout and staging yard.

A staging yard is a group of tracks, off the layout, where cars are stored. A staging yard can be used as "all of the industries that are not on the layout", because cars come in to the yard, supposedly are unloaded then sent back for more. Thus, is stimulating the industries for your layout that isn't there.

The engine house above Eureka is in a convenient location, and also at eye level. It wouldn't have to be very big, because a layout this small doesn't need to have many locomotives.

Speaking of locomotives, Model Die Casting makes a nice HOn₂ 2-8-0 for \$60. They also make an HOn₂ Shay, two truck, and 3 truck. These models are very good and worth the money. Other rolling stock can be purchased from the Wheel Works. These kits are a little challenging. An alternative would be to purchase from Rail Line, whose kits are made of plastic and is a little easier to put together.



Building A Layout On A Shoestring Budget

By Peter Maurath

This month we'll build a basic structure from a basic building material. This can be anything ranging from a cereal box to a box those other structures come in. The gas station we're building is a simple box, a rectangular shape with four outer walls and a two inside walls for the garage crew. Now when you get a spare box make sure you don't use the printed side out, use the plain side out, for ease in painting.

To start off we'll begin with the basic shape. The front and back walls measure $3 \times 1 \frac{1}{4}$ inches while the sides measure $1 \frac{1}{2} \times 1 \frac{1}{4}$ inches. The roof and base measure $3 \times 1 \frac{1}{2}$ with the roof slightly larger for overhangs. All these measurements are good for N-Scale but can be increased or decreased for other scales.

The front wall will be the one which will be chopped into. All you need are two openings, one for the garage and one for the doors and windows. This can be cut with preferably a X-Acto knife or a utility knife once this is complete we can move on to trim. Now my station dates back to the thirties and forties and represents the Art-Deco design. Between the garage door and door, I assembled a rising column by making a cardboard piece to exactly fit between the door and garage and then made another smaller and taller than the first and so on. I then glued them in succession to form the rising pillar. I then added some strips between the column and wall over the entrance and a wide strip over the garage opening. For a final touch I added a H pattern on the side walls. I added a large piece of plastic "glass" for the windows and doors and drew carefully with a permanent marker the outline of the door and window.

Then you can start painting. I chose an off-white and red using the off-white as a base and red for the trimming. I also put a red strip along the bottom portion of the inner walls. Now you can begin construction.

I attached the four walls with white glue, then added the garage inner walls. Next comes the base and hydraulic lift. You mark in the garage area the near center of the floor and drill or make a hole wide enough for a sprue to fit. Then make the stand in a "H" and attach the cross portion to the lift or sprue. Once all this is dry you can attach a car to the lift top and making sure it is at a good height insert it to the base and drop the building on to of it all. You may now add any interior car detail you can find and then add the roof and necessary ventilation equipment.

I installed the pumps from a Jiffy Car Wash. But you can use any you see fit. I also added the necessary signs, lights, and other odds and ends frequently seen at gas stations.

Now I understand if this is your first scratch built project you probably are thinking that this is an impossible feat but with a little practice, time, and an incredible patience you'll find you can build just about anything, but don't worry yourself about it if it's not right the first time even Ford wasn't built in a day. Next time we'll make a construction company's dream and a commuters nightmare. If you have anything you need to say, write me at:

Peter Maurath
3119 W. 100
Cleveland, OH
44111

A.P.B!
FOR CHRISTIANE BRITTON
ALL UNITS RESPOND!
A NOTE WAS SENT TO JOHN PRAGER BEGINNING:

My name is Chistine Britton and I am a new member of TAMR. I received your name and address with my application. Are you or do you know anyone who is involved in N-Scale? I am a beginner N-Scaler and would like info on good books and supplies. Please write back at your convenience. Thanks!

Christiane Britton
225 Lancaster Ave.
Denver, PA 17517

It is great that we have a new member in the Northeast Region. Denver is near Harrisburg and Lancaster, PA. Amish Country. Well, Christiane I know that the Strasburg Railroad and a few hobby shops are near by. But I don't know much about N except it's too small for my eyes.

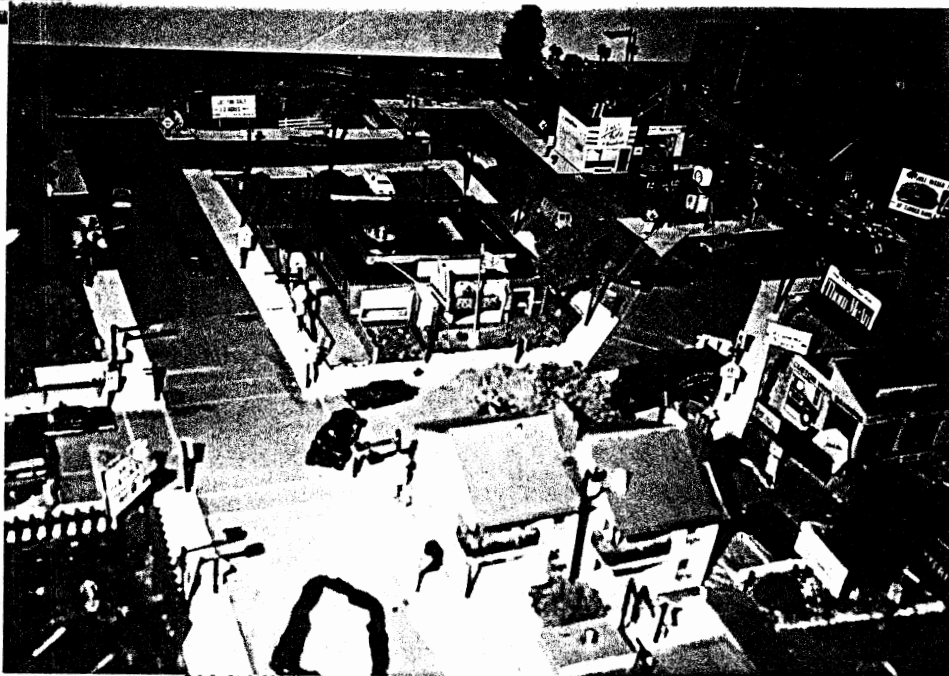
Please write Christiane and tell about N scale. We are here to help.

Editor-in-Chief- A.A. Marcavitch

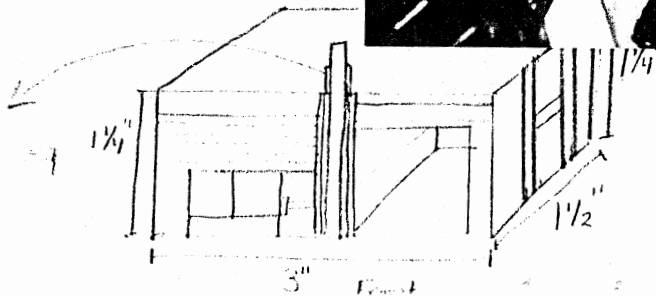
Note: A.P.B. is a New Member write in column. All letters should be sent in care of A.P.B. then the Hotbox address.

Peter's Layout; the gas station
is in the top right ---->
Below is the gas station dwg.
for building it.

Figure One:



column side



PROMO. DEPT. NEWS!

HEAD:

CHRIS WAGNER

Happy New Year!!
As I look forward to the 1994 year I have very high hopes and expectations. To lead off the 1994 year, the promotion department is proud to bring you a *New Promotion Contest*. This contest will bring new members into the TAMR.

The contest is simple. All you have to do is put your ID number (those numbers on the bottom of your mailing label) on the bottom of the promotional flyer and put them out at train shows, while rail-fanning, give to friends, so on and so forth. The more members you bring in the better! If you bring in 5-9 members into the TAMR, you will receive a one year renewal. Bringing in 10-14 new members entitles you to several cars or a kit. If you bring in 15-19 new members you shall receive an air-brush. A member bringing in 20-24 new members shall receive a power pack. And a member bringing in more than 25 members will receive an Atlas, Kato, or Life-Like locomotive!

The contest is open to all TAMR members and shall last until December 1994.

Also, the Promotion Department is looking for new staff members from

each region. Any member interested in putting forth extra effort in promoting the TAMR and becoming an Assistant Manager or an Advisor, please contact Chris.

I would especially like to thank Brent Johnson, Mike Yan, Newton Vezina, and a cast of others in helping me launch this contest.

To obtain the TAMR promotional flyers and to learn more about promoting TAMR, drop Chris a line.
[Ed.--Address on page 3]

Scratch- building With Clear Styrene

**By Can/Int. Rep.--
Mike Yan**

Most of us have probably discovered how easy it is to scratchbuild with white sheet styrene. It is easy to cut and scribe and is available in a multitude of thicknesses and surfaces. Recently, I have discovered that clear sheet styrene also has certain advantages.

When I build models from diagrams, I often photocopy the drawing and glue it directly to the styrene so that can just cut along the lines with an X-Acto knife. This is not always a good idea, however, since some copiers tend to distort images or change the size slightly. By using transparent styrene, you can simply place the drawing underneath and

trace the pattern with your X-Acto knife. Thick transparent styrene is quite rigid, so it can provide extra strength in situations where white styrene would bend or warp. Clear styrene also comes in handy when windows must be flush with the model's side. Just make the whole side out of clear styrene!

There are a few drawbacks, however. Thin clear styrene is quite flimsy and tends to warp upon putting. Thick clear styrene is much stronger and will not warp, but is quite difficult to cut. In fact, it is necessary to cut nearly all the way through before the part can be bent free. Otherwise, the material will break. The cutting produces an awful sound, like fingernails on a chalk board. A pair of ear-plugs remedies this. Clear styrene should be available from most hobby dealers. Although it is not practical in every situation, it can be extremely useful in some cases.

[Ed--Any neat tips can be sent to Mike or the Hotbox directly]



And now our Contributing Editor,

John Prager

Howdy!

You should get used to that greeting because you're probably going to see it often in Hotbox. This month I thought I'd introduce myself. I'm 14 years old and a freshman in high school. I've been a dedicated member of the Boy Scouts of America for 7 years and a member of T.A.M.R. for almost a year. I enjoy camping, skiing, writing, and video games. One reason I joined T.A.M.R. is that I come from a long line of model railroaders which runs three generations strong. This is just my way of keeping with tradition. I enjoy the long history of railroading, the Tom Thumb, the local W & W, and the rest. I live a "country block" from Aaron Marcavitch, the new editor,

and we are members of the same Boy Scout troop. [Ed: The best troop in the US--#1287]

As to the matter of qualifications for being a contributing editor, I happen to have a decade of English training under my belt. (That may have sounded impressive but it just means that I have survived in English class since kindergarten!) Though this basic bit of training has helped me more times than once. Once my language skills sent me to U.S. Space camp. As I grow older I feel the need for a greater challenge to my English skills. I also feel the position of contributing editor of Hotbox is the perfect place for me.

-10-

So in conclusion I would just like to say welcome to the new Hotbox, I hope you enjoy it!

Contributing Editor,

John Prager

John Prager

Fiction--

This page will become the fiction page when we receive it. If not I will resort to presenting my First Prize Poem "The Water Level Route." Artwork can also be put here as it comes in.

Regular Columnists-

To become a regular just tell me and be sure to have two articles ready.

Those out there that are already regulars, send in your stuff.

Getting Sidetracked!

Not that I wanted to get sidetracked, but--

Hey, welcome to the new monthly update column. I along with John will bring you the reader the most important information in the Hotbox.

CHANGES--

Some new layout, eh? Well it should under all circumstances should stay that way. Here is the typical layout--
page

1--header, photos, drawings. Please with photos do try to develop them into black and white. If not make them the best pictures you can take. (Just between you and me I prefer drawings.)

2--Advertisements. Right now it is held by TAMR events, but could hold pike ads. Those ads praising your own railroads.

3--As Is.

4-5--Anything you write.
6 and/or 7--AOTM. It must be at no more than 500 words (two pages, double spaced). It must be non-fiction. And above all interesting.

That month's writer will receive an award for their work.

8--Will be fiction when it is received. Note, poems

do not have be fictional, short stories do. 7 could be fiction also. Fiction has to be less than 500 words. No other requirements.

9--On later issues will always be Getting Sidetracked (maybe I should work on that title.) Anything that you have to offer, please do.

10--Will hopefully within two months be TAMR News.

O.K.? Now on to,

ATOM--

ATOM will include when writing for it an award, the recognition in the Directory, but also the satisfaction of a job well done. The article will be selected by John and myself. Cool?

JOHN--

Prager that is. He will be in charge of the fiction page(s). You may also write in care of me. John's address is John Prager / 20 Colonial Drive / WBG PA 15370.

ARTWORK--

All artwork is to have a railroad content. It should be done in black ink. It may be selected for the front page.

Headers(those things at

the tops of pages.) are the same as artwork. We will select the different headers per month. Send in a variety of column headers.

PHOTOS--

Try to develop you photos in black and white because they do print better for the Hotbox.

SECRETARY--

We have a new secretary, Matt Schwerin. All good luck from the Hotbox staff!

GRAPHICS--

Any graphic, computer or otherwise, you would like to send, please do so. I need more railroad type graphics.

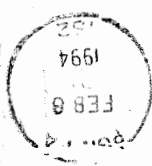
MASCOT--

F.Y.I., the mascot of the Hotbox is Bo, the Yellow Lab. Just don't write to him. It inflates his ego.

DO YOU LIKE?

Comments anyone? Write in care of me and tell me what you want. Changes, our job(maybe not), etc. We are here for you.

I hope I didn't get too sidetracked. See yunz all soon.



275 Chicago Ave
WBT PA15370

Get Sidetracked, with TAMR and the Hotbox!

We bring the best of the Model Railroading world for teens!

Layouts, modeling, painting, building, history, fiction, and more can all be yours with TAMR and the Hotbox!

Pull up your favorite chair and read about railroading from tomorrow's model railroaders.

Make it happen with *Teen Association of Model Railroaders!*

Happy Railing,

Allen A. Marcavitch
Editor-in-Chief,
A.A. Marcavitch

