

February 2021

From Your WISE Superintendent...

— Mike Slater



Hopefully I do not seem like a Broken Record, but we need a volunteer to edit our Owl Car Newsletter. Our current Editor needs to step down and if we do not have a replacement the Owl Car will be canceled until a new editor is found. The only way the NMRA and this Division works is if we have volunteers.

Next we have two board member positions for election this spring and another will be open. Ted Zieger will not be running for the board position he currently holds and he will not be able to run the Contest Room when we resume in person meets this fall. If anyone is interested in doing this job please let me know. Thank you Ted for your years of service to the Division. If you are interested in running for the board please contact Dave Nelson of the Election Committee at engine1385@aol.com.

Now for some good news, we have received word that we will be able to use the State Fair Park Expo Center for Trainfest 2021. However at this time we are trying to find out what the State and Local Social Distancing requirements that will be required. It appears this spring there will be a Car Show in the

Expo Center. Hopefully this event will give us some ideas on what we will need to do for Trainfest 2021. As with the new national requirements from the NMRA, we will not be having the Make and Take and Junior Engineer Programs at future Trainfests.

For the rest of this winter/spring season we will be having our meetings on our Zoom meeting platform, not face to face. This month will be a gathering with no Clinics, however if someone would like to demo something, or tell everyone what they are working on please feel free to do so. We are currently looking for some clinics for our March and April Zoom Calls, April will also be our Annual membership meeting.

Hopefully by September, the Covid numbers will be better and we will be able to have the in-person RPM meet, followed by our regular scheduling of in-person meets once again. If you have a Clinic you would like to present, please let me know. Hopefully everyone can have a presentation on what they have been doing or new techniques they have been working on over the past 12 months.

Mike Slater

Next WISE Board Meeting

All WISE/NMRA members are welcome to attend our monthly board meetings. All meetings will be virtual until Fall of 2021 due to the current status of Covid.

Our next conference call meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

If you are not on the Board and want to listen in please email Mike Slater at superintendent@trainfest.com for login information. You will need to have downloaded and installed the free program Zoom in order to participate.

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\$\$\$ From the Cluttered Desk of the Paymaster

— Dennis Janssen

Fact or Fiction?

Five Popular Tooth Myths Debunked

Forget the tooth fairy! Far too many tales are being told about teeth and it's time to clear the air. Popular claims that range from scary to wacky and everything in between are about to be debunked. Find out if you've been acting on bad advice.

1. "White teeth are healthy teeth."

Pearlier does not necessarily mean healthier. In some instances, extremely white teeth can signal a lack of calcium or an excessive intake of fluorides. Whitening ingredients integrated in many toothpaste and mouthwash products can also create the image of perfection, but don't let your brighter smile deceive you. Just beyond the surface may lurk cavities, gum disease and other dental issues.

2. "Pregnant women should hold off on dental care until after the baby is born."

On the contrary, getting regular professional dental care, if not increasing the number of visits, is strongly encouraged during this time. According to the American Dental Association, pregnant women are more likely to develop gingivitis, a condition caused by an infection of the gums that can result in bleeding, sensitivity and loss of tooth support. "Pregnancy tumors", or mulberry-shaped lumps between the teeth can also emerge, although they are non-cancerous. They should go away after pregnancy, but can also be removed by an aesthetician. Pregnant women should be sure to inform their dentist of their pregnancy so treatment plans can be adjusted accordingly. Certain procedures and medications may be tabled to avoid any risks to the baby's health.

3. "Food that is too hot or cold will crack your teeth."

Yes, cracks or "craze lines" can be a result of extreme temperature changes absorbed by your teeth, but these are typically too shallow to pose a major threat to your oral health. If you do spot a crack, it's always wise to have a dentist look at it; in the rare instance that the crack is a deep one, chewing can cause it to widen and expose sensitive nerves.

4. "Don't worry too much about brushing baby teeth, because they fall out anyway."

Yes, baby teeth eventually fall out — but passing poor dental habits on to your child can cause a lifetime of oral health problems. Teaching your child to brush and floss regularly can

save him or her from painful cavities and gum disease now and in the future.

5. "Bleaching your teeth is bad for you."

Nowadays, in-office bleaching services use PH neutral solutions that are perfectly safe for your teeth. The treatment may cause tooth sensitivity, but only temporarily. If anything, it is the popular whitening trays bought over the counter that may prove problematic; prolonged immersion of the teeth in highly concentrated gels can cause lasting trauma.



There is always a chance that an element of truth exists in the things you hear, but unless the advice comes from your dentist, don't let it impact your approach to oral care. Get a professional opinion on dental matters or questions that interest you during your next appointment, or if you're pressed for time, call your dentist for immediate clarification.

Sources:

Borrelli, L. (2014, October 10). Oral Hygiene: 6 Dental Care Myths That May Be killing Your Pearly Whites. Retrieved June 1, 2015 from <http://www.medicaldaily.com/oral-hygiene-6-dental-care-myths-may-be-killing-your-pearly-whites-306697>

Davis, H. (n.d.). 8 Popular Tooth Myths Debunked. Retrieved June 1, 2015 at <http://www.popularmechanics.com/science/health/g1249/8-popular-tooth-myths-debunked/>

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Please send any comments, information, or editorials to Steve Miazga, the Owl Car editor, via email: owlcar@trainfest.com.



Upcoming Division Events

- February 21, 2021—Division Virtual Membership Meet**
1:00 pm—3:00 pm via Zoom login
- March 21, 2021—Division Virtual Membership Meet with Clinic**
1:00 pm—3:00 pm via Zoom login
- April 9 & 10, 2021— WiseOPs Operating Weekend (cancelled)**
- April 18, 2021—WISE Division Meet and Annual Meeting**
Watch for virtual meeting information
- May 2, 2021— Annual DuPage Train Show Bus Trip (cancelled)**
- November 13-14, 2021—Trainfest**
Event dependent on Covid and restrictions

* Denotes extra fare event

For more event details go to our website: WWW.WISEDIVISION.ORG



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Upcoming National And Regional Events Of Interest

May 20-23, 2021—Midwest Region NMRA Convention

*Rockford Railway Convention—175 Years of History
Rockford Holiday Inn, Rockford, IL
Postponed, possible reschedule for September
www.mwr-nmra.org*

July 4-10, 2021—NMRA 2021 Convention—Santa Clara

*Cancelled due to Covid issues
www.nmra2021.com*

May 18-22, 2022—NMRA Tri-Region Convention

*"Indy Junction", Marriott East, Indianapolis, IN
www.mwr-nmra.org*

August 4-15, 2022—NMRA 2022 Convention—St. Louis

Historical Society Meetings

May 20-23, 2021 -Chicago & North Western Hist. Society

*2021 Mankato "Rails and River" Convention Cancelled
Virtual Event being planned for same dates
www.cnwhs.org*

June 17-20, 2021—Milwaukee Road Historical Association

2021 Convention, Holiday Inn & Suites Chicago Northwest Elgin, IL www.mrrha.com

August 6-8, 2021—Missabe Railroad Historical Society

www.missabe.com

September 8-11, 2021—Soo Line Historical & Tech. Society

*2021 Annual Convention
Holiday Inn, Manitowoc, WI
www.sooline.org*

September 18-22, 2021—Great Northern Railway Hist. Society

*2021 Convention, Willmar, MN
www.gnrhs.org*

October 7-10, 2021—Burlington Route Historical Society

*2021 Annual Convention, St. Louis, MO—Check Website
www.burlingtonroute.org*

Meetings Pending

Green Bay & Western Historical Society

*2020 Annual Meeting Postponed—Check Website
www.gbwhs.com*

Video Library Update

— Burnell Breaker, Video Librarian

With the switch from in-person to virtual meetings, it will be a bit difficult in the near term checking out items from the Video Library. Those of you who have Division DVD's, hang onto them until we can again meet in person.

I am hoping to have DVD's from our VHS tapes available when we resume meeting again.

The Frugal Modeler Thinks Out Loud

— Dave Nelson

In the last year or so interesting information has come to light about John Allen's famous HO scale Gorre & Daphetid ("Gory and Defeated") layout. It seems that much more survived the house fire that destroyed the layout than Linn H. Westcott was aware of when he wrote his book about John Allen and the G&D. The fire came just days after Allen himself had died of a heart attack. For a long time it was believed the only surviving artifact was a brass steam locomotive which came to be owned by the late Andy Sperandeo, who had been an operator on the Gorre & Daphetid and later served as editor of *Model Railroader*; that engine now resides in the Kalmbach offices. But there was more, a surprising amount more.

According to the February 2020 issue of *Model Railroader*, two neighbor boys were given permission by John Allen's brother to go through the fire wreckage and keep what they liked. There were several damaged locomotives, one of which has been reconditioned to run again. The boys, now adults, turned the entire collection over to the NMRA, and some of it has now been auctioned off as a fund raiser for its Howell Day Museum in California. The rest will be part of a John Allen collection at the Museum.

I wonder if the NMRA is aware that there is a folk song about John Allen and his Gorre & Daphetid, written here in Milwaukee. It too should be in that Museum. Here's the story.

In May of 2015 a small classified ad appeared in the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel for an estate sale: household goods including hand-made toys, and HO model trains. The address was on the south side of Milwaukee, not far from South Side Trains. Being retired, I checked it out of course. It was a small but well maintained old house on a quiet street, and the two ladies running the sale were selling off the estate of their father, Larry Penn they said his name was. He'd died the previous October. The ad had attracted plenty of modelers so I saw familiar faces among those headed to the basement.

This guy Larry Penn was a skilled and careful modeler who built and improved difficult craftsman kits and did a great job. I bought some freight cars - a little early for my era -- but mostly what I wanted was his stash of detail parts, castings, hardware, and tools. I also bought some books. He had a huge collection of old modeling magazines but they smelled strongly of "damp basement" so I passed. Too bad, as there

were some rarities and all were neatly organized. In fact everything was neatly organized.

His layout was nothing special but it was all hand laid (brass) track on TruScale milled roadbed, and his careful and neat-as-a-pin wiring was visible when you pulled at the central control panel. The layout was no longer operable and had never been scenicked; there was evidence that maybe he'd started to disassemble the layout, perhaps when he knew his health was failing. One shopper was working hard trying to remove and purchase the turntable. Model trains were only one of his interests; ships and airplanes ranked high and he was both a scratch-builder of planes and boats and an avid builder of kits for all his interests. There were also large, sturdy looking home-made toys (automobiles and trucks mostly) made of smoothly finished wood.



He must have gotten his start in HO in the 1940s and was still buying kits into what I would guess was the early 1990s based on the newest models I saw. His workmanship on difficult LaBelle, Laconia, and similar kits was impressive, but he also bought and built plastic. His painting and decaling were first



The Frugal Modeler (*continued*)

rate. His Silver Streak boxcars and reefers were complete with the often-omitted airbrake piping and detail. When he built a plastic car or structure, not a smidgeon of excess cement showed at the sides.



And he died with shelves full of unbuilt kits of all types. An opened and yellowed MR on the workbench was turned to an article from the 1950s about detailing a Mantua switcher. I bought the Cal-Scale parts he had carefully set aside for the project but the switcher itself was not to be seen and may have been snapped up by another modeler. When I integrated some of his spare parts into my supply I was amused to see that we not only both shopped at the old Jerry's Bay View Hobbies, but in some cases bought parts from the same consignment sales -- someone else's estate sale. So I may well have run into Larry Penn at Jerry's and I hope I did, but I suspect he would not have had much time for a corporate type in a three piece suit and necktie like me.

For you see, based on the posters and pamphlets in his house there wasn't a radical left wing or labor cause that he didn't seem to support whole heartedly (the inflammatory flyers were in his books and laying about everywhere), but the ample evidence of a deep Catholic faith is a good indication that a communist of the Soviet/Stalinist variety he was not.

I tried to help his daughters out with pricing because they really did not know trains at all. Some they had wildly overpriced (damaged or incomplete for example, or mislabeled boxes), some they had wildly under-priced. They told me about his truck driving and his song writing and performing, and they had boxes full of an LP recording he'd made, so I bought one. The songs are about laborers, hobos, ruthless capitalist business owners, truck drivers and railroads, all from a labor perspective (one song is "End of Train Device" which of course put brakemen out of work and ended the era of the caboose). But he also wrote songs for children, and one of them, "I'm a Little Cookie," has evidently become pretty famous. He has a genuine reputation in the folk song world.

Larry's guitar playing was lovely, but his singing voice was rough-hewn. The point of the John Allen song is that the Gorre & Daphetid was one railroad that didn't steal anyone's land, destroy rare trees to make ties, kill off workers due to greed and avarice, never kicked off a hobo, and so on -- and it doesn't run any more, which is the repeated phrase. Go to YouTube and search for "Larry Penn" and "John Allen's Railroad."

There is a surprising amount of his music on YouTube by the way, sung by him or others, often at political or labor rallies. One of his nicest songs is a train song called "Time To Go" and you can find it on YouTube sung by a folk song duo with substantially prettier voices than Larry's. I'd rank it right up there with City of New Orleans as far as train songs go, it's that evocative. Go to YouTube and search for "Time to Go" "Craig Siemsen" and "Patty Stevenson." I predict you'll listen to it more than once.

So here's a tribute to Larry Penn of Milwaukee, truck driver, musician, songwriter, and very skilled model railroad er. His politics are not my politics but that's what makes a horse race.

Work'n on My Railroad....

If you have a nice project that you have completed in this world of virtual contact, please share it with your fellow modelers. When we were having our normal face-to-face meets we saw great examples of our members work either in the contest room or in clinics. Send submissions to the editor at owl-car@trainfest.com

Andy Breaker

I recently finished a model of Sheboygan interurban car #26, which the real car is preserved at the East Troy Electric Railroad. This is a model that I've had unfinished for the last 4 years and acquired from modeling friend's collection who passed away. The model was produced by KND Enterprises and it was started but never finished it. There were some issues with the original paint and he had started applying his own decals. I removed what I could of the old paint and started fresh. The paint is entirely from Tru-Color, with the yellow being the most difficult to determine. I ended up using NP yellow and weathered white mixed to about 30%/70% respectively. Reefer orange, DRGW depot buff (roof) and Mud (doors/windows) were used elsewhere.

Decals were made a number of years ago but none were to be found on my end. I ended up going to the railroad to measure and photograph the lettering and herald on 26, so Matt Welke, of Circus City Decals, could reproduce them for me. The model has a Bowser trolley drive and directional headlights. The eclipse fenders were 3D printed by Shapeways and designed by West Coast Traction Supply.

This car is also special to me as it was the first car I operated as a certified motor man at the East Troy Railroad over Labor Day weekend.



Modeling Tips...

All of us have favorite techniques that we utilize in our modeling to get our great results. Whether it is a solution that you use for decaling, a flux you use for your soldering, a favorite connector for under layout wiring or a favorite paint, this is the place to share it. Simply send your idea to the editor at owlcar@trainfest.com. If you have photos, please send them in a JPG format.

Painting with Acrylics in the Post-Floquil Scalecoat Era

— Steve Miazga

Most of us do a lot of painting within our hobby. We build structures, model rail equipment and build scenery— everything needs a little paint. In the old days, shopping for the right color was easy because the paint suppliers produced the colors we wanted. I model the SOO and you could buy a bottle of Soo Line Maroon or Dulux Yellow just by reading the label on the bottle. Since Floquil, Scalecoat and PollyScale departed the market, its gotten a little tougher. I have been using acrylics for most of the past 20 and with the move to new paints I have been preferring Vallejo for painting and airbrushing. But the labels on the bottles don't reveal the exact match like the old days.

While surfing the internet, I found a great reference that really helped with color matching. Model Railroad Hobbyist magazine has published an Acrylic Painting Guide. There is a pdf available and you can download the color matching charts which are on pages 14 to 22. They give color matches for Vallejo, Model Master, MODELflex and Microlux. The familiar names are listed; Oily Black, Reefer Gray, Boxcar Red and more. You can also find a copy of this painting guide on the Testors.com website.

A couple of other tips on color matching and working with an airbrush. As I mentioned, I primarily use Vallejo paints. Model Color is a heavier base and needs thinning for brush and airbrush application. The other line I use is Vallejo Air which is pre-thinned for air brushing. Make the investment in their thinner and you will be happier with the results. I use the thinner for both brands. Manufacturer's recommendations come with the thinner.

For color matching, I use Vallejo White and Black to tint the color I am working with. In most cases, just a drop or two of either of these colors can get the color right to where you want it.

If you have older PollyScale or Model Master acrylic paints that need some help, invest in Testors "Aztek" Universal Acrylic Thinner.

Finally, if you are doing any scratchbuilding with styrene, wipe down the styrene before painting with some Isopropyl Alcohol to improve adhesion. Always use a primer and make sure that you let it dry for at least a day to let it fully cure.

Track and Locomotive Cleaning on the Lionelville & Western

— Burnell Breaker

To keep the track and locomotive wheels clean on my Lionelville & Western, I like to use Aero-Car ACT-6006 "Wheel & Rail Cleaner". For cleaning the track, I use 2 Centerline Products track cleaning cars that use small paint rollers with small



nuts and bolts inside for weight to help them roll down the track. The lead car roller has been slightly moistened with the solution and the second one is dry to help collect the moisture off the track. I find this solution doesn't leave a film on my track and cause problems with operation. If more serious cleaning needs to be done I like to use the fine side of a 3M abrasive sponge or a Walthers Bright Boy.



For the locomotives, I use a Q-Tip or small foam modeling paint brushes to apply the solution to the wheels. If heavier dirt needs to be removed, a wire wheel on my Dremel Moto-Tool does a very good job and then I can use the solution after that.

Varick's Time Capsule

— Steve Miazga

If you had been a regular attendee of our Wise Division Meets, Pre-Covid, you probably would have run into Ed Varick in the contest room. A long time Wise member, Ed is also a great modeler. Over the past couple of years, Ed would give me clips from old Owl Cars as filler if I needed them. Enjoy these clips from the past and realize that not much has changed in the 50 years that these articles represent. Thanks Ed for digging through those old copies. I, and hopefully many others, will appreciate them.

Just Belong by Henry Mortimer

Are you an active member
The kind that would be missed?
Or are you just contented
That your name is on the list?
Do you attend the meetings
And mingle with the flock?
Or do you stay at home
And criticize and knock?
Now are you ever there
To make a function work?
Or leave the responsibility to a few
And be content to shirk?
Think this over fellow members
And please know from the start
A club can only function
If we all play an active part:
So grace the meetings often
And lend both hand and heart.
Are you an active member
Or do you just belong?



VOLUNTEER??

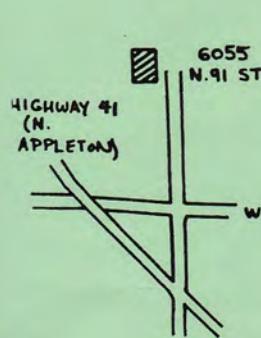
Many will be shocked to find when the Day of
Judgement nears,
That there's a special place in Heaven set aside
for volunteers.
Furnished with big recliners, satin couches and
footstools.
Where there's no committee Chairman, no group
leaders or car pools.
No eager team that needs a coach, no bazaar and
no bake sale.
There will be nothing to staple, not one thing to
fold or mail.
Telephone lists will be outlawed. But a finger-
snap will bring
Cool drinks and gourmet dinners, and rare treats
fit for a king.
You ask, who'll serve these privileged few? And
work for all they're worth?
Why, all those who reaped the benefits,
And not once volunteered on Earth!!!

1st annual wise division open house

Presented by the WISCONSIN SOUTHEASTERN DIVISION
Midwest Region
NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION, Inc.

date: March 21, 1971
place: Goodwill Industries
Hall, 10am-4pm

ADDRESS: 6055 NORTH 91ST STREET, MILWAUKEE



Live steam models

PHOTO CONTEST - Color and black & white
Model and Prototype

CONTEST - DIESEL LOCOMOTIVES and
STRUCTURES

AUCTION

REFRESHMENTS

\$0 donation at door

For further information contact

Charles Alberty
8925 West Thurston Avenue
Milwaukee



This is a copy of the first WISE Division "Open House" flyer to be known later as "TRAINFEST". It was only a one day show and later expanded to the present two day show. Notice if you will, the \$.50 donation. This amount has not increased that much in 25 years. Also note the column reprinted (with permission) from a back issue of "The Owl Car". The WISE Division appeared at the first Christmas gift show held at the State Fair Park.

Notice also that they were asking for volunteers even then. It seems to be a never ending call.

This information and flyers were supplied by Joris Thompson from his files. We of the WISE Division extend our heartfelt thanks to Joris for furnishing this material and for his foresight in retaining this historic memorabilia.

