



THE CAR HOUSE

February 15, 2001

**THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF DIVISION 8
NORTH CENTRAL REGION - NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION
February 2001 Meeting Minutes**

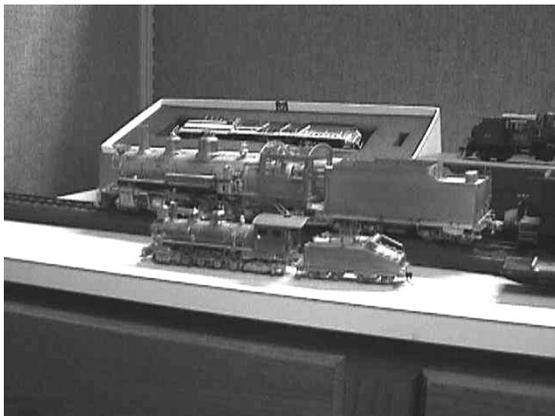
Superintendent, **Fred Cosgrove**, called the February 15th, 2001 meeting of Division 8 to order at 7:02 PM. The meeting was held at the Troy Christian Chapel with 35 people in attendance.

Visitors

We had a total 5 visitors this month: **Ray Walters** (HO modeler), **Matt Huber** (N modeler), **Preston Boyd** (0-27 interest), **Jerry Aiello** (HO modeler), **Russ Hjelmberg** and **John Harrington**. Ray joined the division this month during the break, welcome aboard Ray!

Show and tell

We had a variety of brass models this month and a few current-modeling projects. The brass models shown at the meeting included the following: two N scale caboose made from kits and an un-built caboose kit, an HO scale narrow gauge kit, HO scale Baldwin and Amtrak diesels, a South Shore boxcab electric, a K-59 Denver Rio Grande Mikado, two Great Northern 0-6-0 switchers, two AT&SF 2-6-2's, HO and O scale combines, HO and O scale K-27's, an HO scale PFM climax and finally, a Walthers H-24-44. The current modeling projects included a 1/64th-scale auto hauler, some boats and a section of track for a coaling tower lead.



Clinic

George Kohs gave his presentation on being a brass model importer for the clinic this month and it proved to be very informative. George got his start as an importer twelve years ago when he and his brother started Fine Art Models, based in Birmingham. Fine Art Models designed and marketed models made in South Korea for the Gauge One market and the company still continues on with George's brother. George went into the O scale brass business four years ago with an offering of a NYC J3a Hudson. Since then, he and his builder have produced a Pennsy GG1, a NYC streamlined Hudson with the PT4 tender and his newest offering, an N&W Y6b. George takes pride in offering the most accurate models produced for his chosen prototypes and sells those models directly to his customers. He does this to control the prices of the models and protect the investment that his customers have made in the purchase of his models. George also wants the direct contact with his customers to get feedback on his models and resolve problems quickly and to also determine what they would like to see produced. Now, if we could only get him to start producing models in HO scale! He also commented on the model railroad industry (more cutthroat than the automotive industry) and dealing with international manufacturing.

Minutes Approval

Terry Bossick made a motion to have the minutes approved as read; the motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Paymaster's Report

Don Varney, Paymaster, reported the following balances:
Checking: \$ 768.71
Savings: \$ 3987.71

Trustee's Report

Dave Thornton stated that the NMRA *Bulletin* is getting back on track, as most of us probably have noticed and that the January issue is one of the best issues in a long time. Dave also reported that he and **Jim Zinser** would be going to Chattanooga for the upcoming BOT meeting.

New Business

Gene Kome brought up the following items:

- **Barry Snyder's** wife recently passed away.
- **Larry Lauer** will have back surgery soon to repair some damaged disks.

Fred Cosgrove announced that the Bloomfield Township public library would like model railroaders to do a presentation on model railroading. The presentation(s) would be during the month of July in conjunction with a theme, on travel, being done statewide. The library also has several locked display cases available, free of charge, for the month of July. Anyone interested in being a speaker or providing material for the display cases should contact **Fred Cosgrove** or **Curt Danielewicz**. Since this is a statewide program, please check with your own local libraries and see if they are participating in this program, this is an opportunity to do a large PR blitz for free. If you find that your library is participating, please inform Fred or Curt by May so we can try to arrange coverage for those libraries.

Dave Thornton's Storytime

Dave again read from the book "The Mohawk That Refused To Abdicate"; this story being titled "The Engines That Thought They Could". The story took place on the Shamokin branch of the Pennsylvania RR in 1956. Four 2-10-0's, two on the head end and two helpers, tried as they might, but could not get a 9,000 ton train of iron ore started after stalling on 1.33% grade. After a few attempts that brought about a broken knuckle, an emergency air application and fire-rimmed drivers, rain started to fall to make matters worse. Finally, the local switch engine was coupled on at the rear end and the five decapods clawed the heavy train into motion, raining cinders upon the town located on that 1.33% grade in the process.

Hints and Tips

- **Jim Sieradzinski** reminded everyone that the Gratiot Valley Show is coming up at the Macomb College Expo Center.
- **Terry Bossick** alerted everyone to some errors in Model Railroader's MR News column dealing with the Fort Wayne RR Historical Society's Engineer for an Hour Program. The price is \$99 and the contact phone number given is evenings only.

Diorama Contest

Oops, **Dave Thornton** was correct in stating that the diorama/modeling squares contest will end in March. The original contest was proposed at the September meeting and modified at the October meeting, but anyone who has worked on this through the winter months should bring their

"fruits of labor" to the March meeting. This will be in addition to the normal "themed" show and tell for the March clinic.

Upcoming Clinic and Show & tell

The next clinic will be on the travel of U.S. presidents by train. The presenter is Division 8's **Rad Jones**, a retired agent of the United States Secret Service. The show and tell subject is private cars or your current modeling project.

Schedule

The next Division 8 meeting will be held at 7 PM on Thursday, March 15th, 2001 at the Troy Christian Chapel. The Troy Christian Chapel is located at 400 East Long Lake Road (south side) between Livernois Road and Rochester Road.

Website

Division 8 Online - http://members.tripod.com/ncr_division8

Kohs Brass Models - <http://www.kohs.com>

HO scale website - <http://www.horailroad.com>

The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Curt Danielewicz

Curt Danielewicz, Dispatcher

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First Class Mail

