

HOTBOX

"the Un-Magazine of Model Railroading"
No. 217
November 1985

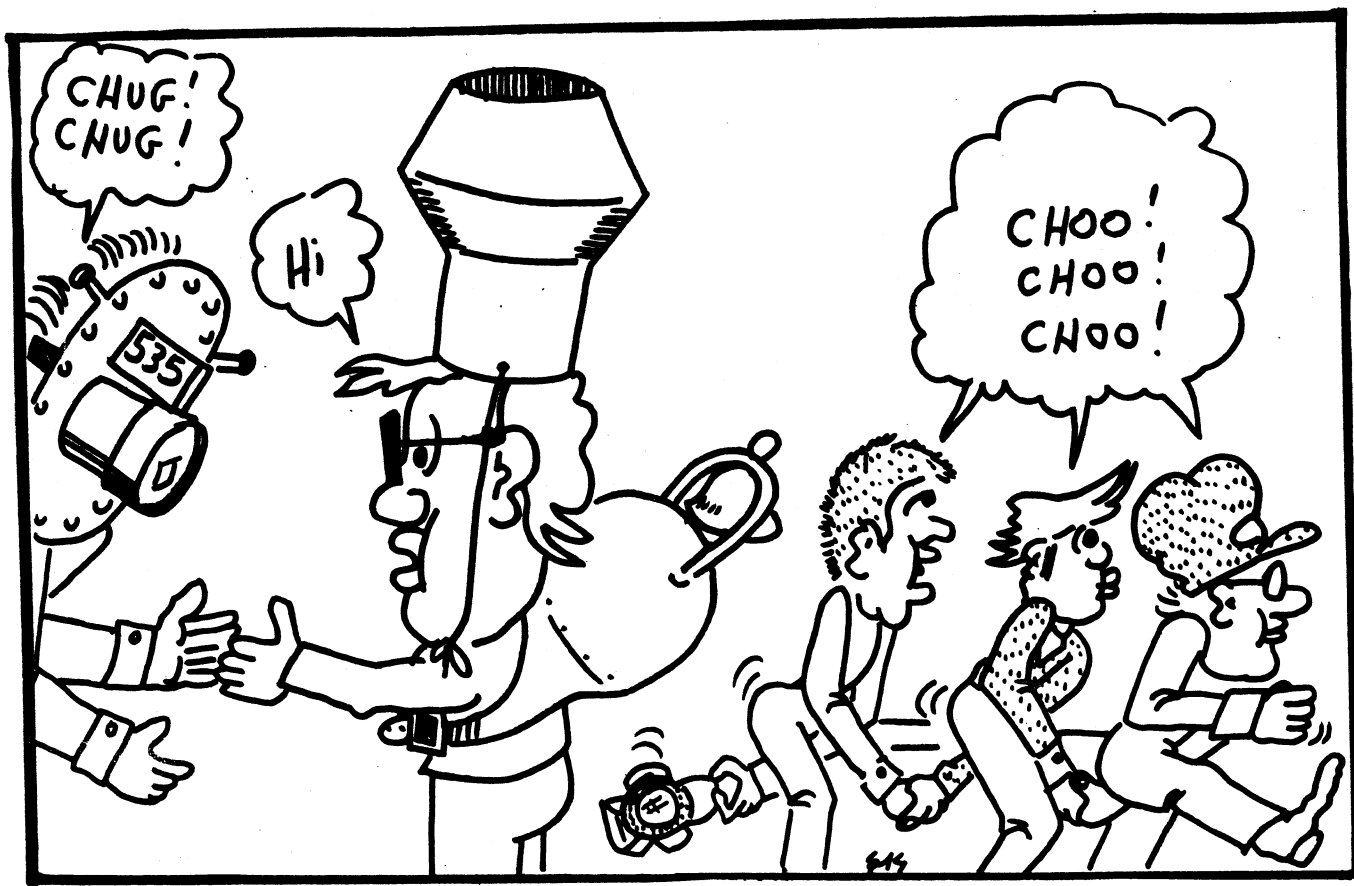
TWENTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

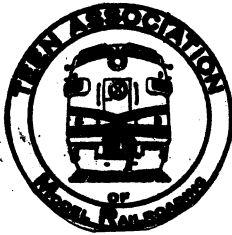
How Many Came?

Who Attended?

What Went On?

All Answered Inside





HOTBOX

Issued eleven times a year (June through April) with a special mailing of a Directory of Membership in May.

Annual dues are as follows:

REGULAR (under 21) \$10.00
 ASSOCIATE (21 and up) \$12.00
 OVERSEAS (outside N. Amer.) \$15.00
 SUSTAINING (Regular & Associate) \$15.00

Please address all renewals, membership applications, address changes and complaints of non-receipt of TAMR publications to the TAMR Secretary.

TAMR SECRETARY: Dee Gilbert
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 LaGrange Park, IL
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All other TAMR HOTBOX business, except where specifically noted, is handled by the Editor. Please address all comments to the Editor

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The TAMR HOTBOX welcomes articles, photographs (B&W only), artwork and cartoons pertaining to model and/or prototype railroad subjects. All items for publication must be received 30 days before the month of publication. The TAMR HOTBOX assumes that all items are submitted for the mutual benefit and enjoyment of the hobby by our members and thus no payment will be made upon publication.

FRONT COVER

Although our resident cartoonist Scott Sackett couldn't make it to the 21st. Anniversary Convention in Milwaukee this summer, that did not stop him from envisioning what it was like. Turn to page 3 to find out how correct he is!

EXTRA BOARD

All the new that fits, we print:

MEMBERSHIP

By Dee Gilbert

Total TAMR Membership (11-1-85): 135

Breakdown as follows:

<u>Region</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Canadian	7	5.1
Central	57	42.3
Eastern	33	24.4
International	2	1.5
Southern	11	8.2
Western	25	18.5

Checks & Balances By Claude Morelli

3rd Quarter Financial Report 7/1-9/30

7/1 Operating Balance	+ \$ 133.46
7/1 Savings Balance	+ 226.09
7/1 Total Balance	+ 359.55
7/1 Operating Balance	+ \$ 133.46
Income	+ 703.70
Expenses	- 516.83
9/30 Operating Balance	+ 320.33
Trans. to Savings	- 82.45
Trans. to 2-yr fund	0.00
Trans. from 2-yr fund	0.00
9/30 Operating Balance	+ \$ 237.88
9/30 Savings Balance	+ 308.54
9/30 Total Balance	+ \$ 546.42

Layout Design Special Interest Group

The Layout Design SIG publishes a Member Directory, the LAYOUT DESIGN JOURNAL, an annotated bibliography and other documents. It sponsors convention activities, tours and contests and it provides members with advisory services (note: this is not for beginners) concerning their track plans. Regular membership is \$8.00; student membership (including TAMR members) is \$4.00. For information, write: Layout Design SIG Membership, c/o Steve Holzheimer, 519 E. Second St., Perrysburg, OH 43551. SIG Coordinator and JOURNAL editor is Doug Gurin, 605 Tennessee Ave., Alexandria, VA 22305. The Layout Design SIG welcomes hobbyists, who want to learn about state-of-the-art concepts and designs for track planning, operation and roster development. Emphasis is on prototype modeling and prototype freelancing, analyses of visited and planned layouts and ways to prepare satisfying layout designs.

Trials of the Milwaukee 21

Milwaukee! Just the word conjures up images: Midwestern, blue collar, German, beer capitol of the world and, of course, the birthplace of model railroading. Home of Kalmbach Publishing Co. producer of those fabulous magazines--MODEL RAILROADER and TRAINS. Home of William K. Walthers, Inc. and his wonderful wish book catalogs. Back in 1935 when Electroliners, Hiawathas and 400's ruled the rails, the first ever convention of the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) was held in the city. The association back then was primarily interested in the development of standards for model railroads throughout the United States, but today with that mission almost accomplished the association is working on advancing the hobby of model railroading among its serious practioners around the world. This year, the NMRA was returning to its roots to celebrate its golden anniversary and the TAMR was invited to become an integral part of the proceedings. So what better place for us to celebrate the TAMR's 21st birthday?

Thus after several months of planning and a long wait, it finally happened. Ironically, twenty-one TAMR members would travel to Milwaukee to celebrate the TAMR's birthday. Those who attended can tell you it was a big success. There was a lot of activity planned for this convention. Pass and model contests along with some clinics and slide shows were given during the three day affair. Although these items kept TAMR members busy, most of those attending were concerned with socializing with other TAMR members. Bob Schmitt, of Verona, WI, found it "good to get some members together and 'talk trains' for the weekend. While Dave Chapman, of Grant Park, IL, enjoyed the convention because he "got to meet new people." Dan Carroll, of Arvada, CO, found it worthwhile since "it allowed me to meet some of my pen pals and other TAMR dignitaries." Others felt the same; "It was a chance to meet new members, get together with old friends," stated Stan Ujka, of Addison, IL. John Huseby, Central Region Representative, thought "it was great that us TAMR members could get along so well. We are all a big Family in the TAMR."

TAMR members began arriving as early as Friday morning for the convention. Those who came early got a chance to help the convention chairman, Mark Kaszniak,

assemble the TAMR's promotional display in MECCA's great convention hall. The display featured numerous photos of the layouts of our members along with a custom engraved sign (courtesy of Gerry Dobey) which read: "Teens & Trains: A 21 year celebration." Of course, Lone Eagle Payne was on hand to help "sell" the TAMR to interested teens and adults, alike.

Friday's activities allowed TAMR members to sample some of the NMRA's clinics. Such hobby greats as Bruce Chubb, John Armstrong, Tony Koester, Allen McClelland, John Nehrich and Wayne Wesolowski were on hand to impart their considerable knowledge of the hobby. In the evening, the TAMR reserved a meeting room which allowee our members to get together to chat and hold a "bring your best" slide show. Unfortunately, many of the TAMR's officials could only catch a portion of this show as they had to attend a meeting in the Marc Plaza hotel with officials of the NMRA. At that session, old problems were discussed and a dialogue was begun which should result in greater cooperation especially in the area of attracting more younger modelers to our hobby. After the NMRA meeting, our members adjourned to the unofficial TAMR convention motel, the Exel Inn-Airport, where your officers got together for a board meeting which lasted to the wee hours of the morning.

On Saturday, the TAMR started its clinic program in one of the meeting rooms furnished by the NMRA on the second floor of the MECCA convention center. Mark Kaszniak kicked off the program with a slide presentation on Amtrak providing many useful tips on how modelers could incorporate realistic operations on their own layouts. Mark also displayed some of the Amtrak models that are currently available in N scale. Next, John Dunn and James Lincoln presented a slide presentation on the operations of Eastern railroads. Then Doug Gurin, of the NMRA's Layout Design SIG, invited our members over to his clinic room for a presentation on designing layouts to incorporate more prototypical operation. Many of our members came out of that session with ideas for upgrading their own pikes.

After lunch, Steve Craig presented a hands-on clinic on how to make realistic scenery. A good time was had by all who decided to fling and color some plaster. Steve also showed us how he makes pine trees from bottle brushes. Finally, Claude Morelli gave a short presentation on narrow gauge modeling.(cont'd)

1985
TAMR



Convention

Standing (L to R): Mark Kaszniak, Ed Moran, Gerry Dobe, Greg Dahl, John Huseoy III, Tom Gasior, David Holden, Lone Eagle Payne, Scott Ramsey, Scott Eastin, Steve Craig, Bob Schmitt, Stan Ujka and Claude Morelli. Seated (L to R) John Dunn and James Lincoln. Not pictured: Gary Tempco, Dave Chapman, Dan Carroll, Brian Debshaw and Richard Hoker. Photo by Gordon McIntyre, collection of Mark Kaszniak.



(Above, left): NEWS FLASH! TAMR Executive Board members at work! (L to R) Steve Craig, John Dunn and Claude Morelli manning our promotion booth at the convention.



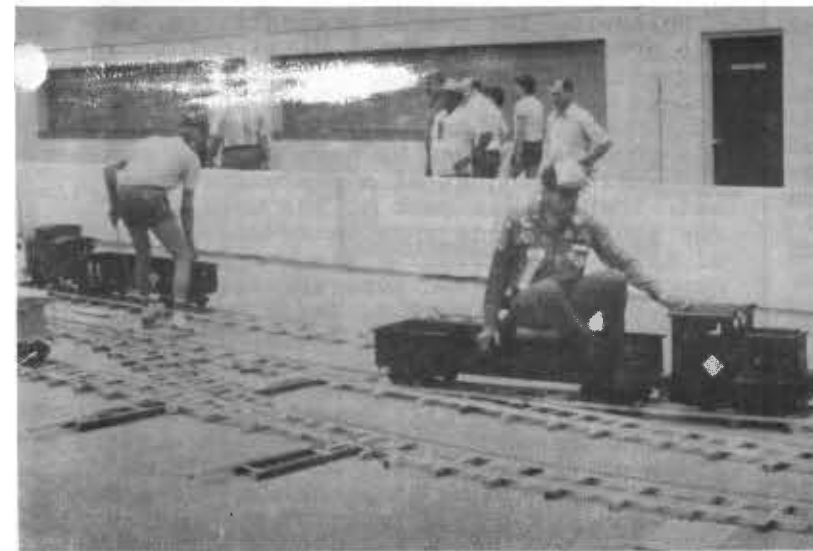
Milwaukee, WI
August, 2-4

(Above, right): Steve Craig explains the methods of proper scenery construction during his hands-on clinic. (Right) TAMR members engaging in the lively art of conversation on Friday evening before the start of the slide show.

All photos by Mark Kaszniak



21st. Anniversary Celebration, 1964-85



An Eagle Attempt

(Above, left and right) Lone Eagle Payne trying to beat the clock on the 1 1/2" scale Timesaver layout as TAMR members cheer on.

(Below, Clockwise from left) TAMR infiltrates Kalmbach Publishing Co. (1) while most of our members are content to view the scenery on the Washita & Santa Fe, Greg Dahl and Gerry Dobe seek a peek at the wiring. (2) and (3) Our members descend on the Milwaukee Racine & Troy layout and its a safe bet that the layout will never be the same again. (4) Claude Morelli, our frugal Treasurer, eyes Al kalmbach's first printing press for possible future HOTBOX use. Watch out David!

Kalmbach tour



W & S F

MR & T



Trails of the Milwaukee 21 (cont'd)

After the clinics, which lasted until mid-afternoon, our members had some time to spend in the convention hall. Here they could visit numerous modular layouts such as Ntrak, Badgerland S gaugers and the St. Charles Model RR Club (HO). Manufacturers of model items also crowded the floor. On hand were such notables as Con-Cor, Marklin and Gloor Craft models. Our members also had a chance to make some purchases at the Super Hobby Shop where many model railroad items were being sold at discount prices. Many of our members used the TAMR promotional booth as a base of operations and many also volunteered to take turns behind the table thus allowing the convention chairman and other TAMR officials to enjoy the show as well. As the hall was open to the public on Saturday and Sunday and some 12,000 people passed through, our members manning the booth did a considerable amount of promoting. Steve Craig, our Auditor, expressed the advantages of our booth: "The booth enabled us to have some direct promotion, but I think Lone Eagle was the best (promoter)." One of the highlights of the afternoon was when our members assembled as an impromptu routing team as Lone Eagle participated in the NMRRA Timesaver switch contest. This contest was conducted with 1½" scale models which allow you to actually ride the train while performing the switching moves as a second person throws the track switches for you. Unfortunately, the Eagle's time just wasn't fast enough to garner him an award.

Early that evening, our members re-assembled in our clinic room for our contests. Dee Gilbert won the pass contest for his L&D RR pass. Entries for this contest were on display all Friday and Saturday at our promotional booth and everyone who stopped by was asked to vote for their favorite pass. Over 100 people filled out ballots and Dee won by a healthy margin. He was awarded a copy of Kalmbach's How To Operate Your Model Railroad. Dave Chapman won the motive power contest with his nicely done HO MoPac SD40-2, he received an Athearn HO SD40-2 as a prize. David Holden won the model rolling stock contest with a model of his fuel tender and he received two HO Roundhouse passenger cars. Voting on these last two contests was by popular vote of those attending the convention. The TAMR photo contest was postponed as we had to be out of the room by 6:00 PM. On behalf of the TAMR, I would like to formally thank all those manufacturers who contributed prizes for our contests.

Following the awards presentation, we all proceeded to a local Pizza Hut for a convention banquet dinner. All of us except Gerry Dobey, Greg Dahl and Tom Gasior who somehow got separated from the group and ended up having their own convention banquet at a different Pizza Hut. Then it was back to the Exel Inn for another slide show. Mike Danneman of Kalmbach Publishing was our honored guest and he showed some spectacular slides from his various trips out West. Guess we shouldn't have let him go first as everyone else's slides paled in comparison. In fact, some of our members were so taken by Mike's work that they made substantial purchases of his artwork (some of which is based on his slides) at the Super Hobby Shop the next morning.

On Sunday morning, most of our members went railfanning in and around Milwaukee leaving a small crew to man our promotion booth. However, we all got back together at 2:00 PM in the MECCA convention hall where we met Dick Christianson (managing editor) and Martin Oetting (student intern) from MODEL RAILROADER magazine. Then your TAMR Executive Board went to work and convinced Dick to give our members a private tour of Kalmbach Publishing Co. TAMR members walked the short 3 or 4 blocks from the MECCA Convention Center in the drizzle to Kalmbach. Upon arriving, Mr. Christianson preceded to show us the business offices. He then took us into the layout and design areas of their magazines preceded by a tour of their private model railroading library. It is said to be "one of the largest" according to Mr. Christianson. We then proceeded to the display room where we got to see the Washita and Santa Fe layout. Next it was on to the Milwaukee, Racine & Troy employee club layout. While viewing the layout, many of our members recognized many scenes that have appeared in the pages of MODEL RAILROADER. Everyone seemed to study it carefully as they paraded around the layout. An attempt was made at running trains, that is until a TAMR member who shall remain nameless (but we know who he is!) decided to take an artsy-craftsy model photo by setting his camera on the model rails. Guess he didn't realize that the MR&T is powered by carrier-control as he managed to short out the layout. So much for us getting to see some operation!

After the Kalmbach tour, we all returned to the MECCA convention center. Shortly thereafter, the convention was formally ended. We packed up our belongings and set off for our respective homes.

The bulk of those attending the convention believed it to be a real success. After being there, many members had suggestions on how to improve future con-



END OF THE CRUMMY

After nearly ten years and 77 issues of the HOTBOX, I find it strangely ironic that I am suddenly at a loss for words in this my next to last editorial. Of course, next month's editorial will be easy as it continues the tradition of the editor's Christmas Gifts where ye ol' editor presents items to deserving TAMR members that are not too badly needed. This is merely revenge for all the problems that those same deserving members have given your editor this past year. However, you'll have to wait till next issue to see what I have in store for that.

I really wish I had some great wisdom to pass along to you about the TAMR and this publication, but I guess I don't. I had hoped that during my tenure as your editor that this magazine would come to embody the heart and soul of young modelers. That it would be used as a forum to discuss the problems that young modelers face in our hobby and help to find solutions. I do not believe it has yet to achieve that status and it is a shame because young modelers need a magazine like that. Yet I did publish a lot of articles dealing with teen layouts and modeling techniques so I do feel that the HOTBOX is performing a worthwhile service, it just hasn't evolved into its own so far.

One area that I know is vastly neglected in the TAMR is promotion of the association. This is perhaps our biggest problem and the primary reason why our membership dropped so drastically when the video game craze began. Unfortunately, promotion is a double edged sword. You need to spend money to promote effectively and gather new members. Another area that few people are concerned about, but that is a major problem is our high member turnover rate. Except for the life members and a few dedicated die hards, our membership is

Trails of the Milwaukee 21 (cont'd)

ventions. Dan Carroll suggested "that the TAMR schedule their activities either the day before or the day after the fan trips." This is a favorable idea that would make these events accessible to those who want to attend both TAMR and other events. The problem this year is that the fan trip was held on Saturday (a steam excursion on C&NW commuter coaches pulled by C&NW #1385) and most of our members could only make the convention for the weekend due to financial considerations. "I wish we could of had some more and better clinics" stated John Huseby. John added, "I'm not saying the ones we had were bad ... but say, if an NMRA member walks in, we should put on a good show for him of teens at work ... at times there was nothing going on in the room, a lot of people walked by."

With the convention now in the past, we can look back on it and proudly say that we really accomplished something big. All of those who helped with the planning deserve a pat on the back. This kind of event shows how dedicated the TAMR is to the advancement of the hobby for others and ourselves. It shows the model railroading community that we are making serious efforts as a teen association. Large organizations, such as the NMRA and Kalmbach Publishing, get a chance to see that we as a teen association mean business. The TAMR has really shown that we are more enthusiastic than we estimated ourselves to be. In short, the TAMR's 21st Anniversary convention couldn't have been celebrated better!

constantly changing from year to year. Part of this is due to the association itself. After all, you are only a teenager for a limited number of years. Yet most of our members don't even stick around for their teenage years. Something must be done to find out why we have such a great turnover rate. If it is problems with the association, we can make changes to remedy that. If it is due to the inherent nature of teenagers, then we are faced with a much more difficult problem which must be approached differently.

Finally, I would like to thank all those members who supported this publication and the TAMR while I was editor. I enjoyed publishing your efforts. You taught me a lot about our hobby and the people in it. I hope that you will show the same (or better) regard for David Holden. Naturally, it will take David some time until he gets the "feel" of producing this magazine, please give him some breathing room. As for me, I'll be around. Heck I might even write an article or two. Until then, all for now.

PIKE ADS-

Take advantage of the HOTBOX's latest service for TAMR members. Here is your chance to tell others about your railroad, your modeling efforts or just your pipe dreams.

These ads employ a reusable "header" with the option of changing the text below as often as you desire. Your text can be informative, newsy, tongue-in-cheek or foot-in-mouth. Funny or dead serious, that's your choice. Either way, it makes for interesting reading.

The pike ad charge is based upon the number of typed lines (40 spaces per line) that you use. Cost is a mere 10¢ per line with the header printed FREE! Headers can be no larger than 1½ inches wide by 4 inches long. You can work up the header yourself (black ink on blank white paper, please) or we'll prepare one to your specifications for a one time fee of a \$1.00.

All pike ads should be submitted to the Editor with payment. No ad will be printed until full payment is received. Please make checks or money orders payable to the TAMR (postage stamps will be accepted as payment for ads). The HOTBOX can not accept responsibility for cash sent through the mails. If you'd like your ad published in a particular issue, please heed the deadlines listed on page two. So come on, tell us about what's happening on your railroad or your future plans for expansion.

TAMR HOTBOX, the Un-Magazine of Model Railroading
Box 1098
La Grange Park, IL 60525

PLACE
POSTAGE
HERE

Mailed 12-7-85

FIRST CLASS MAIL

