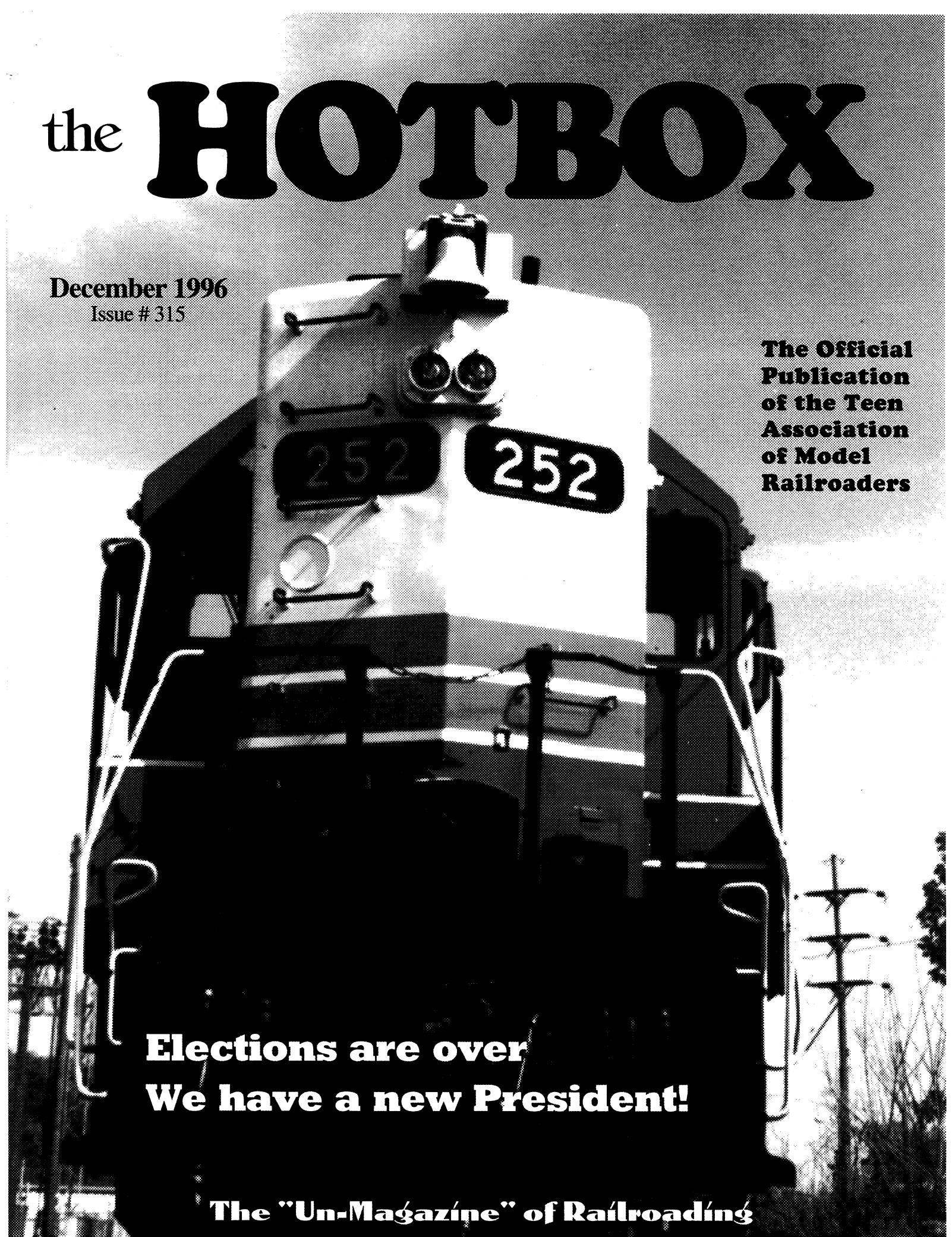


the **HOTBOX**



December 1996
Issue # 315

**The Official
Publication
of the Teen
Association
of Model
Railroaders**

**Elections are over
We have a new President!**

The "Un-Magazine" of Railroading

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On the cover: Ex. Southern now I&O EMD GP30 in Springfield, OH, last summer. Vice President Matt Schwerin, Bryan Malone, and editor Mike Riley visited the I&O recently, and captured this photo of number 252 rounding a curve. *Photo by Mike Riley*

Submissions

Submissions to the Hotbox will be accepted in any form, written or typed. Typed material is preferred, but not required. If you use a Macintosh with PageMaker or Quark X-Press, material on Mac-formatted 3.5" disks will be gladly accepted.

Articles should be model or train related. Model features need not be about trains, but anything that could be modeled.

Articles should be accompanied by photos or drawings or both. Drawings should be in dark black ink. The editor will draw artwork if you are unable to produce quality work. Photos should be prints, any size, slides will not be accepted. Photos should be accompanied by a description, name of the photographer, date and location of photo and any other information. They should have very good contrast, be more light than dark, be in focus, and have good composition. Write your description on the back of the photo, please.

Product Reviews should be accompanied by photos of the product, a brief description, steps of construction, any tips for construction or use, and the good

and bad points of the product.

Train Places need to be accompanied by a map of the area, directions to reach the site, a photo or two, a description of the area, approx. train frequency, good access locations, etc. For more information see the "Hot Spots" sections in *Trains* magazine.

A very welcome feature article is layout tours. Tours should be accompanied with a track plan, photos, a description of the layout, and any other information. If you want any material returned, include a self addressed envelope with proper postage.

About the TAMR

The Hotbox is published every month by the Teen Association of Model Railroaders. Membership to the TAMR includes a subscription to the Hotbox, an invite to all of the numerous conventions and outings we hold, and the opportunity to meet many new people and travel many new places.

Regular (21 & under).....\$15.00
Associate (over 21).....\$18.00
Sustaining.....\$20.00+

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FROM THE EDITOR

I hope everyone had an excellent holiday and Happy New Year! I know I did. I got plenty of model railroading items to keep me occupied for a little while, at least.

I have a big announcement to make, now that elections are over. David Hadley was elected our new President. Peter had an excellent term and brought in many new members and ideas to the TAMR. David is ready to carry on the tradition, I think he's up to the challenge. Peter will still be writing regularly for the Hotbox with his Layout on a Shoestring Budget series. David's e-mail address will also be changing from TAMRcentl@aol.com to TAMRdave@aol.com.

Also, since David will be moving on to President, Central Region now has a new representative, Jeremy Conyer. Mike Yan, the Canadian/International rep turned 21 a few months back, meaning he is no longer able to hold office. So, Canadian Member Kyle Franz will be taking over the position. Both of these are great guys and I am sure will be a big asset to the TAMR. I know both already have alot of ideas for their regions and the whole organization. Welcome aboard!

The final bit of news I have to pass on to you is a sad one, at least for me. This will be my last issue of the Hotbox. By the time you read this, Matt Schwerin, our current Vice President, will be the new editor, and I will have moved on to the position of Vice President. This is effective immediately, so send all material to Matt Schwerin. His address is at left.

That's all for this month. Congradulations Dave, Kyle, and Jeremy!

Mike Riley

New Members

Andrew Berndt

Micah Thomas

Jason Hiscok

Shane Majore

Good Bye!

Well, guys, this is it. I will be leaving the position of Editor, and moving on to the position of Vice President. I will continue to write my Trains 101 column and other articles for the hotbox, as well as updates from my new department. So, it has been a great two years on the Hotbox, but I must move on. Matt Schwerin will be moving on to fill my shoes. Good luck Matt, and thank you all!

New Products

Athearn announced new SE (special edition) sets: CSX "Pumpkin" MofW orange GP40-2 and bay-window caboose; one powered and one dummy SD40-2 painted for St. Lawrence & Hudson Ry.; Indiana Harbor Belt powered GP38-2 and dummy SW1500; two Pennsylvania RR 50 ft. boxcars in the G.A. green scheme; three U.S. Army single dome tank cars; and three CB&Q gold 40-ft. boxcars.

Design Preservation Models now offers DPM Gold Series kit 661 Olsen Feeds and Larsen's Implement, which includes two structure kits and numerous details.

The HO scale Life-Like Proto 2000 SD9s, and E7s are now available. Look for a review in an upcoming issue of the Hotbox.

Accurail will also be getting into the HO scale coupler market with its new Accumate operating knuckle coupler, which will be compatible with Kadee, McHenry, and Intermountain knuckle couplers.

From the President

Dear Members,

First off, I would like to thank everybody that voted for me in the 1996 TAMR election. I would also like to thank President Peter Maurath for serving a great two years as president in the TAMR.

I would also like to congratulate the new officers elected, Jeremy Conyer, Central region Rep., and Kyle Franz, Canadian, International Region Rep.

After three great conventions, more local activities, and better communication between members, the Teen Association of Model Railroaders looks to be going in the right direction. But, we must put this behind us and look forward. Next June, why not plan to attend the TAMR national convention, in Denver, Colorado? Another thing many members can do is write articles for the Hotbox, no matter how basic or advanced they may be. Tell about your layout, modeling experiences, or railroading stories you know.

In mid-January, I visited Chicago to see Chris Wagner, the Promotion Manager. After some midnight railfanning in twenty-below temperatures on the BNSF, we took a look at some old Hotboxes and noticed how many members wrote in with articles, or questions. If you feel a little bit intimidated by asking questions, don't be. This is a learning association, and we are here to answer your questions, no matter how simple, or complicated they may be.

One thing I may add is that except for one person, who will be online within a few days, my goal of getting every TAMR officer on the Internet has come true! Check the Hotbox for more e-mail addresses.

Sincerely,
David Hadley, TAMR President
(765) 643-8946

The Buzz 04

Jeremy Conyer

Snow, snow, snow!!! Railroads have always been faced with the problem of moving the freight through it. They used Jordan Spreaders and Rotary Plows to do it.

Since I know more about Jordan Spreaders, I will talk about them. They were originally designed to replace a backbreaking job that railroad employees hated to do. About once a year, the ditches along the tracks needed to be cleaned out. A man with the last name of Jordan Designed a piece of machinery that had wings that folded down along the sides of the track and cleaned out the ditches. During the winter, railroads would send a rotary plow through the snow to clear it of snow. Then after the plow went through, somebody had a stroke of genius. They thought it would be a good idea to send the spreader to spread the snow clear of the sides of the right-of-way. After a few winters of this operation, the railroads figured out that they could save time, money, and trouble if they mounted a large snowplow on the front of the spreader; this way they could store the rotary plows for the larger amounts of snow that the spreader couldn't handle.

Before this year, modeling a spreader meant a very difficult, time consuming scratchbuilding project, or dishing out about \$200 for a brass model. But now Walthers makes an excellent model of an early Jordan spreader (early meaning and original wedge-type plow and cab centered on the frame). This is a kit that includes over 60 parts. It also includes a vertical or horizontal air tank. I used the vertical tank because the horizontal can make a great air or gas tank to set outside of an engine house or shop building. The kit takes about three hours to assemble. After you assemble it, I recommend you weather it very heavily because the railroad would only use it a few times a year, and I seriously doubt they ever washed them.

Don't do anything stupid on a railroad! *JC*



This Jordan Spreader is still used by CSX in Kentucky. *Photo by Jeremy Conyer*

Trees don't stop two TAMR members from getting through on a motor car meet. Over thirty trees were cut on that day. Jeremy Conyer and Josh Lanam pictured.

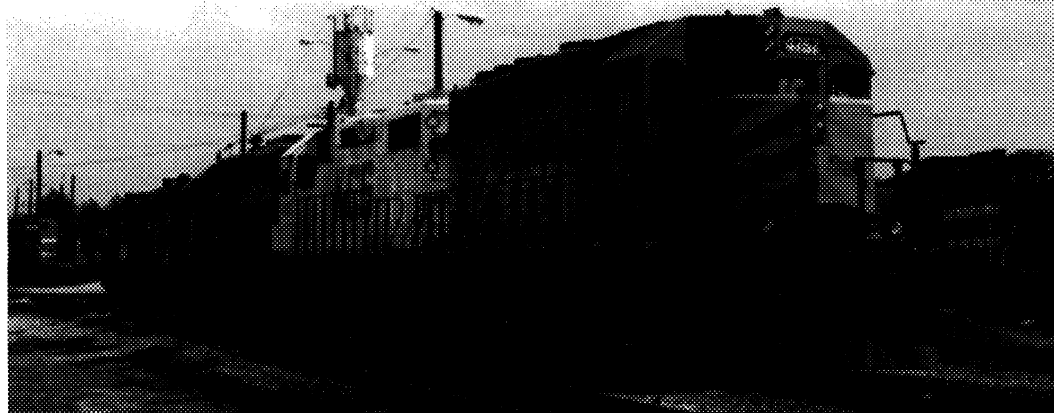


CN 140-50 pictured at the remains of the Fugitive train wreck. The loco is a former Southern EMD GP30. *Jeremy Conyer photo.*

Meridian & Bigbee GP9r number 100 rests at the M&B's locomotive and car facility in Meridian, Mississippi. This photo was taken by Mike Riley at the Gulf, Mobile, & Ohio Historical Society's annual national convention. The M&B runs over approximately 50 miles of former GM&O and Southern tracks.



I like to call this a photo of President David Hadley on his "presidential train". Actually, Dave, far left, his grandmother, Jessie Hadley, his father, John, and the porter were photographed on the back of the 1995 CSX New River train.



Also taken during the 1996 GM&O HS convention, a number of Kansas City Southern, and MidSouth locomotives line up for sanding and fueling in Meridian, MS. *Photo by Mike Riley*