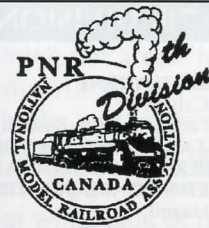


# BULLETIN BOARD

Volume 18 Issue 2

Mar/Apr 2004



The Official Publication of the 7th Division, Pacific Northwest Region, National Model Railroad Association (Canada)



## Planning Your Summer Vacation?

by Ken Rutherford

Photo courtesy of the Alberni Valley Museum

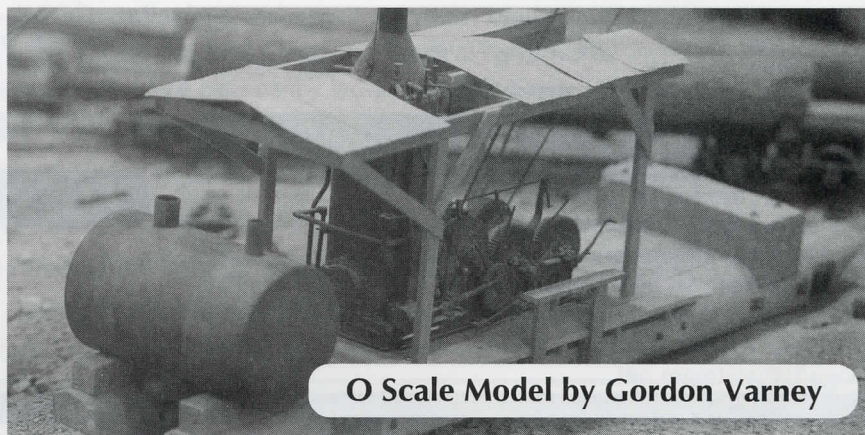
Are you starting to think about what to do for your upcoming summer vacation? Have you considered a trip to the Island to explore "STEAM"? One of the best-kept secrets on the Island is the Alberni Pacific Railway and the McLean Mill National Historic site. Let me fill you in on the activities.

The Alberni Pacific Railway operates a steam-powered passenger train during July and August. The train is pulled by Alberni Pacific #7, a restored 1929 2-8-2T Baldwin locomotive

(formerly MacMillan Bloedel 1055) and consists of passenger cars converted from CNR transfer cabooses. The train takes passengers for a 35-minute trip up the E & N 's Alberni sub to the McLean Mill National Historic Site. The mill is a restored 1920's steam powered sawmill that is mostly lay shaft driven from a stationary steam boiler. While you are on the site there are guided tours of old logging equipment, a theater troupe entertains by telling the story of the mill by song and dance. There are also live demonstrations of the mill cutting wood by the old technology. Your three-hour experience concludes with a return trip on the train to the restored 1912 CPR railway station. Depending on the day you come, an extra trip to the roundhouse could be arranged if you let me know in advance. For more information on the train, schedules and cost, please visit our website at <<http://www.alberniheritage.com/>>.

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O Scale Model by Gordon Varney

## 7th DIVISION STANDING COMMITTEE

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Email: railfun@juno.com

**PNR President:** Wil Seaver (208) 983-1772  
Email: wilmerb@valint.net OR pnrprez@hq.nmra.org

## QUESTIONS?????

Please feel free to contact any of the above members if you have questions, comments, suggestions or concerns. The strength of any organization is with it's members!  
DIRECT YOUR MODELLING QUESTIONS to our 7th Division Member Aid Chairman, Bob Gardner, MMR, Voice: (250) 832 9883, Fax: (250) 832-0681, Email: rvongard@jetstream.net

The **National Model Railroad Association (Canada)** is a separately incorporated section of the National Model Railroad Association Inc. headquarters in Chattanooga, TN. NMRA (Canada) is presently a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving our railroad heritage through the promotion of model railroading and by promoting and recognizing craftsmanship and service to others within the hobby.

## NMRA/PNR RENEWAL

To renew your NMRA and PNR/7th Division membership, send \$75 Cdn to Steve Prevette, PNR Office Manager, 4214 Hilltop Dr., Pasco WA 99301 USA, Email: <prevette@owt.com>. MasterCard, VISA, American Express, Diner's Club and Discover charge cards accepted. Make your cheque payable to PNR/NMRA.

## 7th DIVISION VIDEO LIBRARY

Please phone, write, or Email to request the tapes you would like to borrow and they will be mailed to you prepaid. After use, you are required to mail them back 'Proof of Delivery with \$100 insurance.' **Please keep your return postage receipt for tracing purposes in case the tapes are lost in the mail.** Check your membership expiry date on your Bulletin Board mailing label. If it has expired, please renew it now using the instructions above before requesting to borrow tapes. The library address is:  
**7th Division Video Library, c/o Don Forsyth, 2022 Cedar Crescent, Courtenay, BC V9N 3B6, phone (250) 338 4497**  
**Email: D.Forsyth@telus.net**  
A full list of tapes is published in the March and September issues of the **BULLETIN BOARD**

The **BULLETIN BOARD** is published six times per year as follows:

<u>Submission</u>	<u>Mailing</u>	<u>Month</u>
<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Date</u>	
November 15th	December 15th	Jan/Feb
January 15th	February 15th	Mar/Apr
March 15th	April 15th	May/June
May 15th	June 15th	July/Aug
July 15th	August 15th	Sep/Oct
September 15th	October 15th	Nov/Dec

The **BULLETIN BOARD** is distributed to all Seventh Division members in good standing. Editorial opinions and those stated in articles do not necessarily reflect those of the Seventh Division Standing Committee.

**CONTRIBUTIONS** of Letters, Articles, Event News, Plans, Photographs and Art are encouraged and welcomed and may be sent to the **BULLETIN BOARD Editor:** Russ Watson 1297 Yorston Ave Quesnel BC V2J 3B6 (250) 992-3452 (Voice) (250) 992-3453 (FAX) Email: russwatson@telus.net

Please use Email whenever possible. The Editor uses a Macintosh computer which is capable of translating a wide variety of file types including most PC files.

**All COMMUNICATIONS** directed to the Division should be forwarded to the Superintendent: Scott Calvert 1869 Walnut Crescent Coquitlam BC V3J 7T2  
Email: scottcalvert@shaw.ca

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS** and **ADDRESS CHANGES** must be sent to the PNR Office Manager: Steve Prevette, PNR Office Manager, 4214 Hilltop Dr., Pasco WA 99301 USA, Email: <prevette@owt.com>

All other **MEMBERSHIP INQUIRIES** including **NEW MEMBERSHIPS** must be forwarded to the Membership Coordinator: Gary Hazell RR #1 S-4 C-6 Tappen, BC V0E 2X0 (250) 835 8628, FAX (250) 835-8521, Email: comhaven@shuswap.net

**ADVERTISING** in the **BULLETIN BOARD** is accepted at the following per issue rates: Full Page = \$48.00, Half Page = \$24.00, Quarter Page = \$12.00, Business Card = \$6.00, Pike Ads = \$1.50

**Artwork** should be supplied in the appropriate size. There may be an additional charge to complete artwork that is not camera ready. Please mail your artwork and remittance, payable to the "7th Division PNR/NMRA," to the Editor's address listed above.

## NMRA WEB SITES

7th Division  
PNR  
NMRA

<http://www3.telus.net/rlink/7division/>  
<http://www.infoharvest.ca/nmra/pnr/>  
<http://www.nmra.org>

## EDITOR'S DESK

by Russ Watson

Betty and I are busy preparing to move out of Victoria as you read this. I have decided to retire and with that comes our long-awaited move to Quesnel. I have updated my contact information on Page 2, which will be in effect as of February 28th. I will spend the first couple of weeks of March back in Victoria though at my parent's house as I finish off work in Victoria, but will be completely moved to Quesnel by March 18th. I will probably be off line and not able to do email from February 24th to March 18th, so this is a reminder that material for publication in the May/June 2004 Bulletin Board should be in my hands in Quesnel by March 19th.

Planning has started for the 2005 Interior Spring Meet to be held in the friendly "Gold Pan" city of Quesnel. I'm looking forward to helping the Quesnel Model Railroaders put on the Spring Meet, which promises to be a really fun event.

Quesnel is located in the heart of BC Rail territory, but by then CN should be showing their mark on operations. Perhaps a chance to capture some photos never taken before?

We'll be calling upon some of you experienced show organizers for advice and perhaps a bit of help. And certainly we would love to hear from anyone who is interested in bringing models, dioramas, layouts, etc. for display, vendors who would like to sell their wares, and potential clinicians. Please see the short notice on Page 4 and contact Bill Bernath myself.

Next up is the Nanaimo Show on April 4th. Ed Warren, MMR, has arranged for layout open houses for NMRA members in conjunction with the show. Please see the article below for details. Unfortunately, I won't be able to attend the show this year for the first time in many years. I know that those who attend will enjoy it though and I'll be thinking about you all. And someone please send me some photos of the "Logging Scene" dioramas.

Bye for now.

## NANAIMO SPRING MEET UPDATE

by Ken Rutherford

April 4, 2004 is the date for the 20th Annual Nanaimo Spring Meet. This year we have added a few special events to highlight our anniversary. As I stated in the last Bulletin Board we are holding a special diorama contest (12" x 18" max in any scale) of a logging scene. We also have a group of model railroaders in the Nanaimo, Parksville and Qualicum Beach areas that will be opening their homes and gardens for layout tours between 3:00 and 7:00 on Sunday. The layouts (HO, O and G) will only be available to NMRA members and their guests. Ed Warren is facilitating this tour and he will have a display table at the meet

where you can sign-up and pick-up maps and directions. Further info. contact Ed Warren, MMR e.a.warren@telus.net

We will also be holding our popular vote contest for Trains, Locomotives, Rolling Stock and Structures. We would like to see a good number of models in each category. If you have

built something new this winter, bring it along to enter. These contests are not only for the experienced modeller but open to everyone. We have a random drawing for a couple of gift certificates from all entries, so you don't have to take 1st place to a winner.

We hope that you are planning to attend. Shows like this are what the NMRA is all about, meeting old friends and maybe starting some new friendships.

Please check the Time Table on Page 6 for more information

## Welcome!

A very warm welcome to the following new 7th Division member(s):

**Pierre Boucher**

Victoria

**Jim Bush**

White Rock

**David Firbank**

Squamish

**Donald MacLeod**

Victoria

**Peter Thornton-Trump**

Victoria

Please feel free to direct any questions, comments or concerns to any of the members, especially Bob Gardner, the 7th Division Member Aid Chairman, and those listed on Page 2. We look forward to meeting you at one of the 7th Division events.

## MEMBER AID

by Bob Gardner, MMR, Coordinator

I'm still offering a modest HO car or structure kit for the best modelling tip published in this and the next Bulletin Board. I have received no submissions so far so please send yours along and share your ideas.

In the meantime here are some ideas from my own experience: PLIOBOND - a rubber-type glue made by T. M. Ashland Inc., previously made by Goodyear, available from hobby shops and hardware stores. This is probably my favourite glue, one that "mends everything but broken hearts". It is available in bottles and tubes. It adheres to most materials, remains flexible and seems to strengthen with age.

Here are some tips in using it:-

- Apply to both surfaces and let dry for a few minutes, then press parts tightly together.

- To lay rail without spikes, apply to the base of the rail, let dry, then place the rail on the ties and heat with a soldering iron. Particularly useful for the smaller sizes of rail. Lay one rail first, then lay the second rail using a gauge. To loosen and adjust, apply heat, move, and let cool.

- When using a tube (my personal favourite) obtain plastic nozzles and screw one to the tube. The glue can then be applied to difficult areas.

- For bottle use, when gluing wood models, dilute 50-50 with lacquer thinner and apply with a brush. Bonds well without any strings.

- Walthers Goo is a similar glue but I personally find it more difficult to work with.

Happy modelling!

## Passing of Len Gourley

Submitted by Roy Kelleway, November 30th, 2003.

Lenard S. Gourley, passed away peacefully, in the Cardiac Care Unit at Vancouver Hospital, November 21, 2003.

Many of you will remember Len as an avid Lionel Train collector, and Garage Sale enthusiast, who had a swap table at many of the "Trains" shows, and Western Rails shows, at Cameron Recreation Centre. Len was

also a long time farmer in East Delta, B.C.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the:

Vancouver Hospital Foundation (Cardiac Care Unit)  
855 W.Twelth Ave.,  
Vancouver, B.C., V5Z 1M9

## 2005 Interior Spring Meet

by Bill Bernath

Just a short note to let you know that we are hard at it organizing the 2005 Interior Spring Meet. It will be Easter Weekend, March 25-27, 2005 at the Quesnel Seniors Centre. We are tentatively planning layout and mill tours as well as a bus tour to the Prince George Railway Museum with the possibility of some open layouts there as well. Williams Lake will have layouts to tour on the Friday for people travelling north.

Please contact me, email <bbernath@quesnelbc.com>, or Russ Watson (see Page 2) with your questions, comments and suggestions.

And please watch for additional information in the Bulletin Board and plan to visit the Cariboo in March 2005.

## PNR MOY Nominations Due

by Dick Sutcliffe, PNR MOY Coordinator

The PNR Member of the Year committee will be meeting in April to select a PNR member who has made significant contributions of service to the PNR.

This is a once in a lifetime award. The list of recipients is long and distinguished, but there are many more deserving of recognition.

The criteria for selection are as follows:

I. Purpose:

The purpose of the award shall be to annually honour a member of the PNR who has, through signal service or services to the hobby of model railroading, contributed the most benefit to the PNR-NMRA among those nominated to be considered for the bestowing of the Award during a period of at least twelve (12) months prior to the closing of the nominations. Adopted 2/18/79

II. Conditions for Approval of Nominees:

1. All nominators and nominees shall currently be members of both of the NMRA and the PNR.

2. Individuals may be nominated by as many nominators as choose to submit the name. Nominees may be nominated in successive years. Prior recipients may be re-nominated for additional outstanding service.

3. All nominators shall sign, or otherwise endorse, their letters of nomination and include their PNR and NMRA membership numbers.

4. The deadline for nominations for the previous calendar year is April 1 of each year.

III. Form of Nomination:

Each nomination shall be submitted individually and shall briefly contain the following information:

1. The current date, the name, complete address and, if known, the PNR and NMRA membership number of the member being nominated.

2. A general description of the member's service as defined in section 1. above.

3. The specific reasons as to why such service merits the MOY award.

4. At the bottom of the page add your name, complete address, telephone numbers, e-mail address and your NMRA and PNR current membership numbers.

IV. Submission:

Send the completed nomination, by mail, fax, or e-mail to:

PNR MOY Coordinator

Dick Sutcliffe

12140 230th St., Maple Ridge, B.C. V2X 6R5  
CANADA

Phone/Fax (604)467-4301 (call first to fax)

e-mail ras1@uniserve.com. (send as text in body of email - no attachments please)

**Note: nominations can be submitted at any time, but sooner is better.**

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# 2003 Annual Report NMRA/PNR 7th Division

ke Barone, Treasurer

Financially this past year was satisfactory for the Division with Revenues of \$2794.38 and Expenditures of \$2489.89. This left us with an overall gain of \$304.49 which compare very favourably with last years loss of \$778.89. Our Balance at the end of the fiscal year, 31/10/03, is \$325.70. While there are a couple of outstanding items that would have normally be accounted in this year but will show in next years report, they are not sufficient to put the Division in the loss column.

Revenue highlights are Bulletin Board Ads \$593.48 (last year \$707.04), Shows \$1905 (last year \$1665), and PNR Rebates \$257.90 (last year \$294.96). The Rebate item is a direct result of the decline in membership while the other two items do not reflect it.

On the Expense side, the Bulletin Board continues to be our major expenditure with a total cost of \$2207.56 (last year \$2650.47), Executive Expenses \$88.42 (last year \$103.93) and Video Library \$68.91 (last year \$100). Through the efforts of the BB staff there has been a notable reduction of BB costs and it is hoped that further savings will be found in the future as changes are made to its production. The other expenses have remained relatively consistent with past years and are expected to continue to do so.

Last year a loan of \$50 was given to the Division to in order that the last issue of the BB before Trains 2002 could be published. Loans has been fully repaid and we have no outstanding debts for the past year.

Our GIC continues to generate some interest but it has been quite small for the past two years as the rate paid by banks is so low. Further it has not been shown up in revenues as we continue to re-invest the interest to build the GIC to \$5500 so that we have a \$500 cushion should it be required for future events. The present balance of the GIC is \$5089.49 and the interest rate is 2.5%.

As treasurer I did a quick internal audit in September and our balance agrees with that of the bank. We therefore have no outstanding financial issues. We must continue on our present financial course of attempting to reduce the BB cost or at least holding the line, the last issue was \$325, down considerable from approximately \$500 of the previous issue.

Some good news for the coming year is that our revenues are already almost equal to those of last year and there are still some shows yet to go, though there is no Interior Spring Meet at Easter.

## Painting Polyurethane

Courtesy of the 6th Division "Highball"

Polyurethane is a very forgiving material that will readily accept all kinds of paints without being affected by the solvents and thinners commonly found in paint. In fact, polyurethane parts can be washed in thinner to remove unwanted paint, providing the parts are not soaked over night and do not have other parts attached to them that are affected by solvents, such as styrene or CA glue joints. You can even use Floquil stains! While a new,

unweathered paint job is easy in all modelling materials, many modellers are reluctant to move away from wood when making a highly weathered model. However, other modelling materials can be painted to look as good, if not better than wood. A good technique for achieving a weathered wood effect (on any material) can be done as follows:

Recommended Tools and Supplies:

Fiberglass scratch brush or eraser

Spray painting equipment

Paint colours – we use the Testor's Model Masters Custom Enamel System. Wood, Military Brown (FS 30117), Leather, Euro I Gray (FS 36081), Rust and Flat Finish. Also a good quality acrylic lacquer thinner and retarder.

CAUTION: Use all glues, solvents, paints and thinners in a well ventilated area. Read, understand and follow all safety instructions accompanying these products.

Painting Technique, Step by Step:

Thoroughly wash all parts before painting! Paint won't stick to oily fingerprints.

Paint the part with Wood (50% paint, 40% thinner, 10% retarder) and allow to dry. (This step can be skipped as polyurethane parts are already a "natural wood" colour.)

Spray the part with a thin, light coat of Military Brown or Leather (both 20% paint, 70% thinner and 10% retarder) and allow to dry.

Go over the part lightly with a fiberglass brush, in the direction of the wood grain, until a small amount of Wood colour shows through.

*Continued on Page 7*

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# TIMETABLE

Visit [www.infoharvest.ca/NMRA/PNR](http://www.infoharvest.ca/NMRA/PNR)  
for information on additional events.

**MAR 6-7, SASKATOON SK**, Prairie Rail Workshop & Model Rail Show, Wheatland Center, Praireland Exhibition, Sat 11am-6pm, Sun 11am-5pm. Info Ron Lambert, (306) 652-2366, prairierailworkshop@sasktel.net, www.prairierailworkshop.com.

**MAR 6-7, SPOKANE WA**, Great American Train Show, Spokane Fair & Expo Center, 404 N. Havana, 11am-5pm. Info: - www.gats.com.

**MAR 13, (SAT), CALGARY AB**, Calgary Model Railroaders Society Spring Mini-Meet, Best Western Hospitality Inn, 135 Southland Dr. Info: - Jeffrey Burk, (403) 272-5546, eve.

**MAR 13-14, SEATTLE WA**, Great American Train Show, Washington Stadium & Exhibit Center, 1000 1st Ave. 11am-5pm. Info: - GATS Ltd, (702) 252-0334, www.gats.com.

**MAR 14, (SUN), BURNABY BC**, 22nd Annual Western Rails. Cameron Recreation Center, 9523 Cameron St. 9am-4pm. Info: (604) 540-4483.

**MAR 21, (SUN), PULLMAN WA**, Palouse Empire Railway Society Swap Meet. Beasley Performing Arts Coliseum, WSU Campus, 10am-3pm. (Also includes signing of new railroad books by several Authors). Info: - Ken Vogel 400 E. Main St, Pullman WA 99163, (509) 332-0505, (M-F 9:30-6:00, SAT 9:30-5:30).

**MAR 27-28, EUGENE OR**, 15th Annual Willamette Cascade Model Railroad Club Train Show and Swap Meet. Lane County Fairgrounds, 796 W 13th Ave, Expo Hall, South side of the complex. Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 10am-4pm. Info: Lee Temple, 1783 Linwood Av. Eugene OR 97404, (541) 688-9112, ttandt@bauercom.net.

**APR 3, (SAT), EDMONTON AB**, MMRF Model Railroad Swap Meet, Whitemud Community Hall, 951 Ogalvie Blvd, 9am-1pm. Info: - Ron Boyer, (780) 466-2670, www.mmrf.ab.ca.

**APR 4, (SUN) NANAIMO, BC** - Vancouver Island Spring Model Railroad Show, Beban Park Rec Center (2300 Bowen Rd), 10 - 4, Adults \$4, Family \$8, NMRA \$3, Layouts, Swap-n-shop, Model contests, open houses for up to 5 layouts 3-7 pm, Sales tables \$20.00. Info: Ken Rutherford(250) 724-4698 Email: kj.rutherford@shaw.ca or Rick Lord (250) 724-4205

**JUN 26-27, BOISE ID**, Great American Train Show, Western ID Fair Expo. 11am-5pm. Info: - www.gats.com

**JUL 4-11, 2004, SEATTLE WA**, PSX 2004. Puget Sound eXpress. NMRA National Convention, Sponsored by the 4th Div. Pacific Northwest Region. DoubleTree Inn Convention Complex, (adjacent to the Seattle- Tacoma Airport. Info: - info@ml2003.com www.nmre2004.org.

**JUL 11-14, SPOKANE WA**, GNRHS, (Great Northern Railway Historical Society), Annual Convention, Westcoast Ridpath Inn, 515 W. Sprague Ave, www.gnrhs.org

**SEP 12 (SUN) VICTORIA, BC** - Victoria Model Railway Show, Victoria Curling Club 1952 Quadra St, 10-4, hourly door prizes, pop vote contest, operating model railroads, sales & displays, Info: Ted Alexis (250) 595-4070, David Tomljenovich (250) 652-1894

**SEP 18-19, EDMONTON AB**, 2004 Great Edmonton Train Show, Mayfield Inn Trade Centre, 16615 - 109th Ave. 10am-5pm. Info: - Jim Baker, (780) 430-7595, jimbaker@clarica.com, www.mmrf.ab.ca.

**OCT 16-17, CHILLIWAK BC**, Mount Cheam Lions Club Model Railway & Hobby Show, Heritage Park, 44140 Luckakuck Way. Sat. 10am-5pm. Sun 10am-4pm. Info: James Hill, (604) 824-1757. jcdmhill@dowco.com. DETAILS MAY CHANGE.

**NOV 12-14, BURNABY BC**, TRAINS 2004, 22nd Annual 7th Div Fall Meet, Cameron Recreation Center, 9523 Cameron St. Info: - Kathy Dixon, 439 E. 16th St., N. Vancouver BC V7L 3X7, (604) 987-4237, meetregistrar@bctrains.org,

**NOV 13, (SUN), BURNABY BC**, TRAINS 2004, 22nd Annual Public Show, Cameron Recreation Center, 9523 Cameron St. 9am-4pm. Info: - Dick Sutcliffe (604) 467-4301, ras1@uniserve.com, or Lori Sebelley, trains\_show\_registrar@hotmail.com, www.bctrains.org.

## 2005

**MAR 25-27, 2005, QUESNEL BC**, 7th Division Interior Spring Meet, Quesnel Senior Centre, Modular Layouts, displays, contests, Layout Tours, Proto Tours, Info: email Bill Bernath <bbernath@quesnelbc.com>, or Russ Watson <russwatson@telus.net>

**SPOKANE, WA**, PNR Annual Convention, details to follow.

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### **Painting Polyurethane Continued from Page 5**

Spray the part with a light, thin coat of Euro I Gray (20% paint, 70% thinner and 10% retarder) and allow to dry.

Go over the part with the fiberglass brush again. Taking just a little gray paint off will make the part look older; taking more off will make the part look newer. If you wish to make the painted parts of your model look weathered, paint these parts using the technique above and then add a thin layer of the final paint colour. This layer can be left as is or it can be gone over again with a fiberglass brush for an even more weathered effect. If you wish to make the lettering on your model (lettering on car kits, heralds on buildings, etc.) look faded or weathered, apply the decals now and over spray the area with a very fine mist of Rust or Leather (both 10% paint, 80% thinner and 10% retarder) (for brown or boxcar red painted parts) or the final colour of your model.

Spray the part with Flat Finish.

NOTE: Be sure to thin these paints with a good quality acrylic lacquer thinner and retarder. Retarder prevents the rough, sandy finish caused by the rapid drying of the paint. Parts can be scratch brushed in 5 minutes or masked in about 30 minutes.

## **Details, Details, Details**

Courtesy of the 6th Division "Highball"

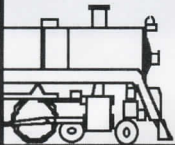
You can always add more details to your growing model railroad. Is a model railroad ever entirely finished? Not really. There are always more details to add, scenes to create, small structures to build and weathering to do. Detailing is a great deal of fun. Often details take as much time as the original construction. They are worth the attention because they help turn a toy train into a model railroad. There's no rush to complete any of these projects – add them as you feel inclined to.

The first details fall in the category of additional landscaping. Consider using Sculptamold to create small mounds, rolling hills, depressions or small valleys on any remaining flat areas. Make small drainage puddles using five-minute epoxy. Add underbrush using reed materials. Small shrubs and bushes are most easily represented by small clumps of lichen. This is one of the best uses of lichen and it's hard to overdo it, as long as you vary the clumps in size and colour. A dot of white glue or matte medium will hold them in place. Make grass by first flooding a small area with dilute matte medium; using a squirt bottle, eject flocking fibres with a quick squeeze. Most of the particles will stand upright because of the electrostatic charge on the fibres.

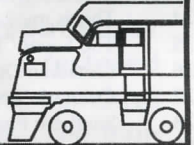
Creep mossy vines up the sides of buildings or bridge piers using glue applied with a squeeze bottle. Make a trail of white glue that looks like a vine network and dust it with ground foam turf. If it is a flowering vine or trailing rosebush, add flowers now – or wait until the vine dries and use the hair spray trick. Add moss and clumpy hedges by making a paste of ground foam and undiluted matte medium.

Unfortunately, humans leave their junk all over our planet, from litter to oil spills. To authentically recreate the world in miniature you need debris. The best place to start is with a favourite among modellers, the junk pile. You can use anything – leftover parts from kits, lumber, watch and small machine parts, tracklaying supplies and cast items. Cast junk plies are available, but it is so much more fun to create your own. Make a quick and dirty junk pile by disassembling a section of track and heaping a stack or pile of ties and rusting rails alongside the track.

Industries leave junk everywhere. Among the castings readily available to model railroaders are 55-gallon oil drums, piles of tires, pallets, crates, boxes and barrels. You could even add a locomotive to the bottom of a lake.



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