

# THE RUSTY SPIKE

CENTRAL INDIANA DIVISION - MWR - NMRA



*The newsletter of the Central Indiana Division of the Midwest Region, National Model Railroad Association*



Volume 47 – Number 2 March – April 2017



A budding young engineer finds that you have to do some real thinking in order to put your train together when working the Inglenook Switching Layout as dad looks on. We have kids who have come many years to the CID booth at the Great Train Show just to play the switching game we provide. We hope this attraction will get and keep kids interested in model railroading and contribute to the hobby's future. Photo: Keith Clark

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*We have a  
new web site*

**Effective January 1, 2017**

You can find us on the Web at

**[www.cidnmra.org](http://www.cidnmra.org)**

The new site is completed though you will see constant changes and current updating. We hope you will find the site easy to navigate and more informational.

For information, questions or submissions to the site, send info to [cidnmra@comcast.net](mailto:cidnmra@comcast.net)

### **Rusty Spike Closing Dates**

Volume 47 Issue #3 - April 9, 2017

Volume 47 Issue #4 - June 11, 2017

Volume 47 Issue #5 - September 3, 2017

Dates are tentative and subject to change.

**Attention** – All notices of club open houses, or other shows & meets will be included in the **Extra Board** only if the official request form is used. This form may be printed off the CID website at:

<http://www.cidnmra.org/rusty-spike-back-issues> and click on Extra Board Request Sheet

Fill out the form and send to the address listed on the form. Upcoming deadlines for each Rusty Spike are listed in the Spike or may be obtained from Keith Clark (see pg. 3). Events not sent on the request form cannot be included.

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The **RUSTY SPIKE** is the official publication of the Central Indiana Division, Midwest Region, National Model Railroad Association, and is published at least five times a year just prior to meets. It is sent FREE to all N.M.R.A. members in the C.I.D. and non-members may subscribe for \$6 per year. Articles for publication are welcome for the benefit of the readers and the hobby but cannot be paid for. Submit articles for publication to the Editor; address changes or mailing problems to the Circulation Manager; and advertising or advertising inquiries to the Publisher.



The Columbus Area Railroad Club is dedicated to serving all those interested in the preservation of railroad history through the use of modeling, photography, artifact preservation, and railfanning.

Memberships are available

We have operating layouts in O and On-30 and we are in the process of building new layouts in HO and N scales. Come and see the progress and our new home!

**Public Hours:**

Third Saturday of the month except September

12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Free Admission

**Location:**

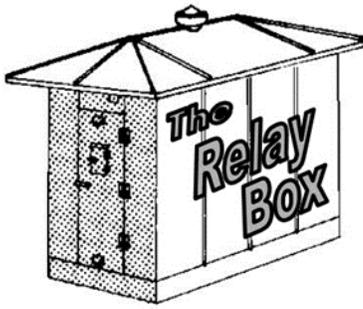
Johnson County Park  
Park Building  
2949 North Street  
Edinburgh, IN

**Questions/Info:**

812-343-4800

[columbusarearailroadclub.com](http://columbusarearailroadclub.com)





**Keith Clark**  
**CID Superintendent**

Due to the number and length of the fantastic articles you will find in this issue of the "Spike", I will be keeping The Relay Box somewhat short for this issue. Yes, I realize for some of you that is a blessing.

I am devoting much of my time here to my push of the Free-mo project that Jeremy Harris and myself are trying to launch both from outside and within the CID. From my end the approach is to provide CID members with several opportunities. They are: (1) learn various modeling skills such as bench work, electrical applications, track laying, scenery construction, operations, and so on, (2) become more involved with other CID members both for the transfer of knowledge and the comradery that our hobby can afford one another, and (3) give those members that do not have a layout or place to run trains the opportunity to team up with other members to form a modular layout for the chance to operate trains at various locations and meets throughout the year. This would be for their benefit as well as others interested in seeing model railroads in operation.

I will have the beginnings of a reverse loop on display at the Martinsville meet and will be glad to discuss Free-mo and the possibilities for expanding the Central Indiana Free-mo Group. I hope that you will make plans to see me there and think seriously about getting involved in this venture.

Finally, and on another topic, you will be receiving a ballot in the mail very soon with nominees for two year Trainmaster positions. Please take time to show your support for these people and turn in your votes prior to the deadline on the ballot.

(My layout update: some bench work has been built and planning is being worked out. The New Year's resolution is intact!)

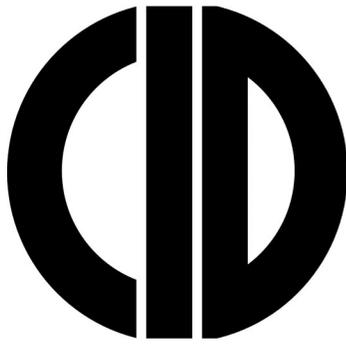
## A Quick Tip

During my "working days" as an educator/experimental scientist, I was accustomed to constantly trying new things to accomplish any particular result. This can, and should, be applied to our modeling. One of the aspects of model railroading that I really enjoy is the weathering of freight cars and locomotives. When I say weathering, I don't mean "dirty it up". Weathering is a science and it is more than just throwing some chalk and/or paint at a model. Weathering takes time and planning. It should be performed in stages or "layers". After all, mother nature took time to weather the prototype, why should we attempt to accomplish it in a 30-minute session?

As individuals, we are not all like-minded and what constitutes a good weathering job will vary from one person to another. Speaking only for myself, I feel that one of the major attributes of a good weathering job is the correct/appropriate application of convincing rust spots and streaks. My "go to" technique for realistic rust spots is to carefully "dot" onto the model surface with a fine point brush a mixture of enamel black and earth brown paints. After the paint droplet has dried (10-15 minutes), I take a brush and load it with lighter fluid...yes that is right, lighter fluid. You don't want the brush "dripping" with lighter fluid, just moistened as if you were going to dry brush it. Carefully place the brush over the rust spot allowing it to momentarily sit on the paint droplet and then stroke downward toward the bottom of the car. The lighter fluid will dissolve a small amount of the paint pigment and distribute it in a streak over the model. Further, in a very realistic fashion, the color intensity of the streak will become weaker as the pigment becomes more diluted along the length of the streak.

The other day, I grew tired of wiring up tortoises for my layout so I "changed gears" so to speak and went back to a couple of weathering jobs on which I have been working. I happened to have

*(Continued on page 8)*



**Central Indiana Division**  
of the  
**National Model Railroad Association**

*Presents the*

# Martinsville Train Show

**Saturday - April 1, 2017**

**\*\*CID Annual Meeting\*\***

**Martinsville Plaza  
2182 Burton Lane  
Martinsville, IN**

**10 AM to 3 PM**

**CID Annual Meeting at 11:00AM**

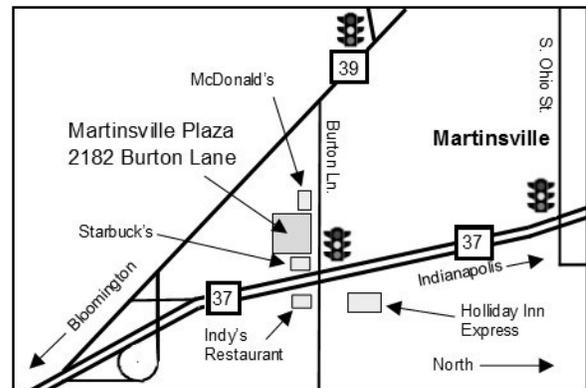


**Admission: \$3.00 per Adult or \$5.00 per Family**

## Show Features

- Operating Layouts
- Dealer Tables
- Clinics
- Free Parking
- Displays
- Model Judging
- Door Prizes

**- Popular Vote Contests -  
Favorite Paper Structure  
& Favorite Train**



**Dealer Tables \$16.00 each [8 foot] Setup from 7:00 AM to 10:00 AM**  
**Contact Trevor Jones at [trevjn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:trevjn@sbcglobal.net) or (317) 625-7626**

**Check out our website at <http://www.cidnmra.org>**

**The next CID train show is at Danville, IN on November 18, 2017**

# Upcoming Events

## – Division Schedule –



### Spring Modeler's Meet – March 11, 2017 – Indianapolis, IN

Irvington Presbyterian Church, 55 Johnson Ave, Indianapolis, IN  
10am to 3pm. The theme for the meet is Electronic Lighting Projects  
Attendance is free but is limited to NMRA members. (May bring one guest)

### Martinsville Meet & CID Annual Business Meeting – April 1, 2017 – Martinsville, IN

Martinsville Plaza - 2182 Burton Lane, Martinsville, IN  
Dealer Show & Meet – 10AM to 3PM / Admission: \$3:00 per Adult / \$5.00 per Family  
CID Annual Meeting at 11:00AM / Dealer Tables - \$16.00 for 8' table  
**For more information:** Trevor Jones at [trevjn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:trevjn@sbcglobal.net)

### Spring Layout Tour – April 22, 2017

Bloomington Area - 10AM to 4PM  
Number of layouts is unknown at this time  
Maps for the Layout Tour will be available on the CID Website on the evening of April 21<sup>st</sup> and again on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The website is: <http://cidnmra.org>  
**For more information:** Steve Studley at [sastudley@comcast.net](mailto:sastudley@comcast.net)

### Late Spring Modeler's Meet – May 6, 2017 – Columbus, IN

Johnson County Park Building, 2949 North St., Edinburgh, IN  
10am to 3pm. The theme for the meet TBA  
Attendance is free but is limited to NMRA members. (May bring one guest)

## – Extra Board –

### Naptown & White River Model RR Club – March 4, 2017 – Indianapolis, IN

Train Show — Manual H.S. Gym, 2405 S. Madison Ave., Indianapolis, IN  
Admission \$5.00/Children under 12 free with adult  
Saturday, 10 am to 3 pm – Vendors, Layouts, Clinics, Food, and More!  
Club Layout will be open free of charge  
See [www.naptownrr.org](http://www.naptownrr.org) for map and directions  
**For more information:** Steve Handly at (317) 786-8627 or [busycaboose@aol.com](mailto:busycaboose@aol.com)



### Hoosier On30 Meet - April 29, 2017 - Noblesville, IN

Main Street Wesleyan Church - 2535 Main Street, Elwood, IN  
10AM to 4PM. Hosted and Sponsored by the Indiana On30 Group  
All Narrow Gauge Scales and Fine Scale Modelers  
Layouts, Show and Tell, Swap and Sell, Dioramas  
Registration Fee \$10.00 (Spouse included), Tables 6' or 8' \$5.00 each  
Set up 8:00AM to 10:00AM  
**For more information or tables:** Paul "Rob" Robinson at [michelerobinson14@att.net](mailto:michelerobinson14@att.net) or 317-607-3890 or Al Askerberg at 812-350-4341

# Ops versus Scenery?

Ten years ago, operating principally on Al Kohut's layout and with a lot of prodding by Bill Myers I earned the Achievement Program Chief Dispatcher certificate, but not until this year did I realize how demanding, and satisfying operations can be. 2009 saw Ina and I moving to Bloomington where I got the basement of my dreams. My English prototype portable that you saw at all of our CID meets found a permanent spot as the starting point of the basement empire since I didn't have the heart to tear it up.. Now occupying 17x39 feet of space, it grew in three phases, the third of which I embarked upon in April 2016. From then until July I was slamming to get the track work reliable and the scenery presentable to be open for the National Convention.

Following the convention my focus shifted to developing the operations I had designed the layout for. Now I have come to understand why many layouts I have operated on don't show much progress in the scenery department. Getting a layout in operating condition can take all of your train time. Firstly the quirks of your track that you have got used to have to be fixed: The unreliable turnouts need to be torn out. The spots where you sometimes derail or uncouple have to be fixed, the sections where you are expecting rail joiners to reliably pass current need extra drops added. The track needs to be very clean, and kept that way but that's a whole other article.

Secondly your locos need to be reliable, a big challenge for me with my little old N scale steamers. They have all been shopped, cleaned, tuned up and weighted to the best of my ability but since they cannot always be trusted I have a track full of diesels that can be quickly substituted. Reliability trumps prototype accuracy. I'm old school DC but I can imagine the amount of work that goes in to a fleet of sound equipped DCC locos. Next comes bringing all your cars up to standard and all

that entails: weight, couplers, and getting all the wheels clean and in gauge.

Thirdly comes developing your operating system. Whether you adopt one of the established systems or come up with your own blend there's a lot of paperwork to be done. I'm speaking as having had only one open operating session on my layout, with several trial runs with my faithful Monday afternoon crew. Since I thought car cards wouldn't work [try reading car numbers on an N scale car] I developed my own system with switch lists where car types are specified. Each of these has taken many hours to write, and usually they are rewritten in light of experience. I have developed a timetable which is very flexible since trains are posted on cards pinned to a cork board and can be re arranged as we find out what works best to keep everyone busy but not crowded in the same aisle. This is more of a consideration when you are using DC tethered throttles. I have also written operating guidelines and a rule book so that folks considering coming to operate the Midland & Great Western Junction Railway are duly warned what they are getting themselves into, and can come prepared.

All of this has almost brought any scenery work to a halt. and I imagine the extra wear and tear engendered by operations will be an ongoing demand on my time. But the reward comes when other guys are running your trains, you hear the place names and industries being called out, and the thing that has been your vision is being appreciated. Your weird idea of how a railroad should be has been validated, what you thought was valuable to preserve, the trains of your childhood, are being brought back to life. So I'll get back to working on the scenery later.

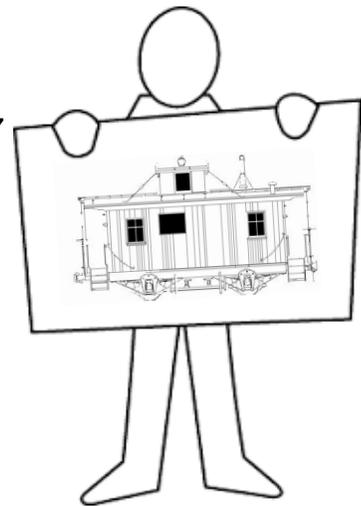
— Trevor Jones

# Upcoming CID Clinics

CID Modelers Meet (Irvington Presbyterian Church / Indianapolis) – 3/11/17  
**Electronic Lighting Projects for Your Layout** – *by Tom Cain*

CID Martinsville Train Show – 4/1/17  
**“Making Realistic Round Hay Bales” are they real or are they Memorex?** – *by Newman Atkinson*

CID Modelers Meet (Columbus) – 5/6/17  
**A Different Look at Car Cards for Operations** – *by Dan Hinel*  
**Several Different Ways to Look at Operations** – *by Chuck Tuttle*



**Note:** The above list represents only clinics for the first half of the year. As always there is a great need for clinic presenters – Please consider providing your valued support and volunteer today to give a clinic on your favorite topic. Contact Bill Schoonmaker at [b.schoonmaker@comcast.net](mailto:b.schoonmaker@comcast.net) to have your name added to a list of future clinic presenters.

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## *A Quick Tip (Continued from page 4)*

everything that I needed on hand but since retiring, I have missed the opportunity to “experiment”. I decided that this was the time to try something different in my rust protocol. Many modelers are switching from enamel to acrylic paints. They are safer and environmentally more friendly than the enamel paints. However, I don’t think I have ever seen an acrylic “rust technique” with which I was happy. I took from my paint shelf bottles of Anita’s black and earth brown acrylic paint. From these two, I prepared a slurry of the two colors. Using the time-tested technique described above, I spotted the acrylic slurry onto a tank car. However, rather than using lighter fluid, I used a brush containing alcohol to spread the rust streak. I felt the results were quite acceptable at this point. I sat the car off to the side to allow all traces of the alcohol to evaporate. When I came back approximately 30 minutes later, I was quite disappointed! Where I had used the alcohol to streak the rust pigment, a white cast now appeared on the body of the tank car. It looked anything but realistic! What on earth had happened?

I suddenly realized what I was seeing. Working in “layers” as I do with my weathering, each layer is sealed with a thin film of Dullcote in order that subsequent work will not alter/remove earlier weathering. To preserve the work already completed, the tank car had received a final coat of Dullcote prior to placing it away some months prior. Another weathering technique that can be used to lighten or whiten a model is to apply Dullcote and then follow-up with a mist of alcohol. This is what accounted for the white coloration of the streaks. Fortunately, one can remove the white cast by re-applying a misting coat of Dullcote. Once I did this, the white streaks disappeared and a nice rust spot and streak reappeared.

At this writing, for contest purposes, I am not convinced that this technique is as good as those employing enamel paint. However, it does not involve the hazardous fumes of enamel paints and it is certainly acceptable for a car in a consist on my model railroad.

Give it a try and never be afraid to “experiment” a bit.

From the workbench.....Jim Shellhaas

# CID Modelers Meet

March 11, 2017

We are stepping up our Modeler's Meet frequency and plan to move from 2 meets a year to 4 a year. In today's CID Board Meeting, we planned several more and had no difficulty choosing topics and identifying programs and presenters for these meets. Our location for this meet will be the Irvington Presbyterian Church at 55 Johnson Ave. in Indianapolis on the East side of town, just off Washington Street.

We appreciate all who attend to bring projects to share so that we learn from each other. Although we have lots of talented modelers in our midst who enjoy doing a presentation in a clinic at a Train Show or a convention, there are some of us who just like to share by showing, "This is what I'm working on now." These Modeler's Meets are quite helpful when we see how to use different glues for different materials, when we learn better painting techniques, better ways to add scenery, or how to wire a sound locomotive. If there is a theme for this Modeler's Meet, it is lighting up the layout by adding lighting circuits to our models, structures, locomotives or more. However if someone wants to share how they added ceiling lights to provide better light for their layout, we would love to hear that too.

My project, which I will share, is how to assemble/solder up a little "flicker free" light for a car at the end of a train. We are all familiar with Flashing Rear End Devices (FREDs) but I needed a constant marker light for the last car on an AMTRAK train. In the 1995 era, cross-country AMTRAK trains were followed up with several Material Handling boxcars. These cars had a constantly lit red light in the center of the car. I discovered a circuit that would work in talking to some of my friends on the Internet and I was given the technical information on how to make it. The circuit has a capacitor in it to keep the electricity going when the car goes over a turnout, or any interruption in the track. In fact, the light in

the car stays on for 5 to 10 minutes after the layout is turned off. There is more to the circuit than just a capacitor as the current has to be converted to DC, the capacitor needs to be protected from getting the full 14 volts all at once when the layout is turned on and the LED needs to have the voltage reduced to keep it from burning out. I plan to solder one of these together in this clinic and I'd be glad to provide some additional components to any of you who would like to make one at this Modeler's Meet. It will take about 20 minutes to make it. If you want to do a circuit at the Meet, please let me know and I'll order the parts to have on hand. I'll charge you the cost of the parts, but they shouldn't cost more than \$12. Anyone wanting to make their own will need to bring their own small soldering iron, a 25 watt iron would be best, no soldering guns! They would fry the components. If you want to do this, send me an email at [atsf93@comcast.net](mailto:atsf93@comcast.net) as soon as possible. Some other applications for this circuit would be caboose marker lights that are always lit or passenger car lighting. If anyone has some other lighting projects to share, please bring to show us what you have done.

— Tom Cain

## Upcoming CID Board Meetings

Date: April 9, 2017  
Location: Indianapolis Marion County Library  
Wayne Branch Library  
198 S. Girls School Road  
Indianapolis, IN  
Time: 1:30 PM

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Date: June 11, 2017  
Location: Indianapolis Marion County Library  
Wayne Branch Library  
198 S. Girls School Road  
Indianapolis, IN  
Time: 1:30 PM

CID members are welcome and encouraged to attend.  
Board members can confirm location and date.

# Special Favorites Contest – Martinsville Meet, April 1 (really) Paper (Cardstock) Models

There will be a Paper (Cardstock) Models Favorites Contest held at the Martinsville Meet on Saturday April 1, 2017. This will be a popular vote contest. There is time for you to get – either purchase or download from a free site – a paper model and build it. If you are interested in seeing what can be done and learning some of the tricks for building paper (cardstock) models, check out Issues 9, 10, and 11, of *All Scale Rails*, [www.allscaleraails.com](http://www.allscaleraails.com). Click the Back Issues tab on the *All Scales Rail* home page. There is a free model you can download and print out. For other opportunities to get paper models, see the handout from my “Paper Models and Photo Wallpaper” Clinic presented at Noblesville. The handout is available on the CID web site, [www.cidnmra.org](http://www.cidnmra.org). On the home page, go to the bottom of the Timetable Schedule (left side, yellow background) and click on Clinic Handout: Link. That will download the handout. Print it and you’ll have a list of quite a few locations where you can get paper models, both free and commercial.

Although paper models don’t usually have the detail of a plastic or wood model, they may come in handy for relatively low cost, quick-to-build, stand-in, background buildings on your layout. They do look much better than a plain cardboard box with “Sharpie” signs, windows, and doors. If you have questions about the contest or paper models, please contact me – [studley@indiana.edu](mailto:studley@indiana.edu).

— Steve Studley

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## MARTINSVILLE MEET APRIL 1ST

This will be our second year at the new larger location in Martinsville Plaza. See the copy of the flyer in this Rusty Spike. Having plenty of room in this former Kroger store means we should have as many dealers as at our other 2 meets, plus room for the portable layouts to stretch out. At the time I write this [Feb 14] 22 dealers have reserved 74 tables. I know more will be calling, and 11 layouts have committed to come. If you have family coming with you there is a good indoor flea market in the mall and plenty of eating places. We will not have a dining car in the show since there are no kitchen facilities. At 11 o clock we will have our Central Indiana Division annual meeting where you can hear a report on our activities and add your own comments and suggestions. There will also be a clinic given by Newman Atkinson and the usual door prizes. Achievement Program judging will be available, contact Tom Cain.

Do you have a paper structure you could enter for the popular vote contest? This is a category we have never had before showcasing an old-time technique which is coming around again. Any train you would enjoy sharing can be displayed on the Favorite Train table for popular judging. This could be the premier train from your layout, something quirky you have put together, or your first tinsplate set. They have not yet started to tear up Indiana 37 North of Martinsville so it is still a pleasant drive from Indy. See you there.

— Trevor Jones

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**Midwest Region, N.M.R.A.**

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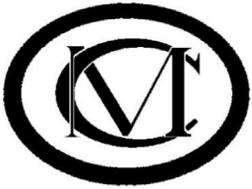
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*The Rebel Route*  
 Serving Meridian, Mississippi  
 with connections to the Meridian & Bigbee RR  
 Owner: Robert Sharp  
 Bloomington, Indiana

**Want to promote your layout?**  
 Why not do it here with a Pike Ad?  
 \$7.50 - 1yr \$14.00 - 2yr. \$20.00 - 3yr.  
 Contact Keith Clark for Information  
 See Page 3

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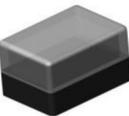
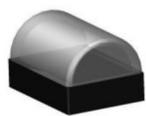
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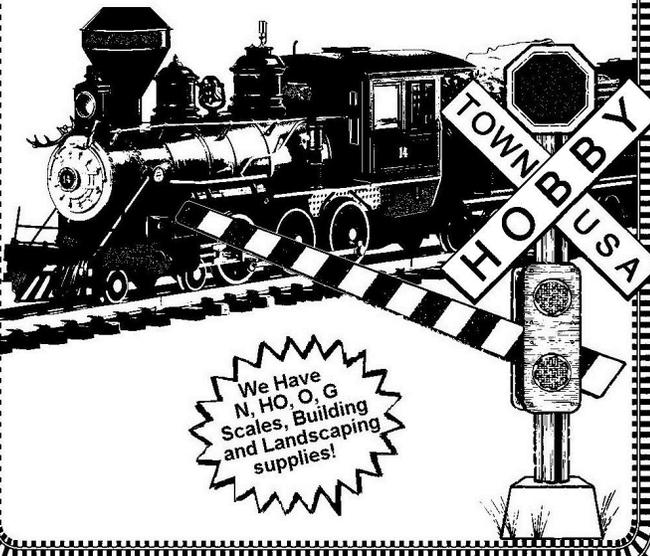
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