

August 2020

Sorry there haven't been more issues since May, but the honest truth is I've had very little material submitted and haven't been making much progress on my own projects. I have, however solved my wiring issues, ballasted track, installed a simple grade crossing and experimented with rock casting.

The latter was fun as, on my first, attempt I completely misinterpreted the quantities in the Hydrocal instructions and ended up with a mess that had more resemblance to consommé than soup. Needless to say, it didn't set and I had to clean out the moulds and start again! This time I got it right(ish) and I now have some neat rocky outcrops on one end of the board – home to a hobo camp and bears! I've also laid in a mass of vegetation including some very neat fall 'bushes' I got from Model Tree Shop at Aberdeen last year.

Strange isn't it though, how modelling time has seemed to evaporate since the government started easing 'lockdown'.

However, I do have a couple of articles to hand so on with the...

SP 60' All Day Lunch Car

Alan Cross has been doing a bit of research into these cars, released by Wheels-o-Time. He adds the caveat that anyone considering a conversion might need to either think again or have very deep pockets as they are like hen's teeth and as such tend to fetch

premium prices on the second hand market. Alan writes :-

With Rai Fenton's help I've been doing some research into the Wheels-o-Time Southern Pacific All Day Lunch car. Rai has provided additional info as I was interested in the interior since, out-of-the-box, the car has the same layout as a standard 60' car. The idea was to change the interior of the model slightly.

From the photo provided it looks like the car shop put the divider across the first full window bay and perhaps three double rows of seats were removed because the lunch counter sits in front of the divider with the water boiler etc set in the wall. I guess the washroom area also became a service area.



Photo: Alan Cross

According to my box info these cars were put next to the head end cars so passengers would not need to access beyond the counter. I noted that the photo provided shows fancy top light windows which suggests this is an earlier car with fancy top light windows not seen on later cars?

New from The N Scale Architect

Most of us are familiar with the range of kits, accessories and building materials available from Russ Kaufman and most of his recent releases have been small trackside scenes, often 're-purposing' material from other sources (bridges built from flat cars! etc). Every now and again though Russ really goes to town and his latest release is no exception. Introducing the **C & H Brick & Block Company**.

Russ writes :-

From clay bank to finished bricks, blocks & tiles, our all new 'C & H Brick & Block Company' kit covers all major aspects of a modern brick making operation! It is a major industry for any layout or module consisting of a Drying-Setting Shed, Mixing-Moulding (Pug) Mill, Loading Docks, Material Distribution Plant and five (5) newly mastered Beehive Kilns with Chimneys.

This micro-plywood kit includes hundreds of laser-cut parts, an internal support system, glazing sheet, multiple roofing options and nearly 200 windows, doors & detail parts. As with all of our kits, these high-quality materials are complemented by our step-by-step instructions, in-progress photos and a full set of scale drawings. The completed display shown measures 22"L x 10"W x 4"H and features our exclusive M-TRAK Nn30 industrial railway system, Nn30 railway vehicles and numerous new scenic details which are available separately. See listing below:



Front Left



Rear Left



Right Front



Top View

All Photos Russ Kaufman

Tile Wagon Train (Set of 3) w/Critter & Driver	20106	\$11.95
Tile Wagons (Set of 4)	20107	\$11.95
Brick Triple Stacks - Set of Four (4) Stacks (Laser-cut)	20108	\$10.95
Block Triple Stacks - Set of Four (4) Stacks (Laser-cut)	20109	\$10.95
Brick Stack Assortment – Five (5) Pieces of Double & Single Brick Stacks	20110	\$11.95
Block Stack Assortment – Five (5) Pieces of Double & Single Block Stacks	20111	\$11.95
Brick Cart Train (Set of 3) w/Critter & Driver	20112	\$12.95
Brick Carts (Set of 4)	20113	\$12.95
Tile Stack Assortment – Six (6) Pieces of Thick & Thin Tile Stacks	20114	\$11.95
Clay Tip Cart Train (Set of 3) w/Critter & Driver	20115	\$11.95
Clay Tip Carts (Set of 4)	20116	\$11.95
Bee Hive Kiln & Chimneys - Set of Two (2) Resin Castings	20117	\$29.95
Kiln Cart Train (Set of 3) w/Critter & Driver (Etched Brass & Metal Castings)	20118	\$14.95
Kiln Carts (Set of 3) Etched Brass	20119	\$12.95

This kit looks amazing in the photographs and should, given a skilled builder, make an amazing set piece on a module.

My thanks to Russ for the information and the pictures.

Prototype for Anything!

The photo below was taken back in 2001 (23rd August to be precise) on CN's Yellowhead route between Jasper and Kamloops in Western Canada. The train, a manifest freight, was hauled by two leased SD40-2s and the GP20 pictured. Note the lettering on the loco. Although it's in full Hudson Bay Railway livery, the white lettering reads Central Kansas Railway! Not much distance between them!



Photo ; Ralph Snelling

From the Archive

I recently embarked on a project to try and digitise the hundreds (thousands?) of photographs that Christine and I took in the pre-digital era. Amongst them I found some photos of one of Chris White's Rock Island layouts, taken, I believe, in 2000 at an NMRA convention at Kegworth. I've included a couple of the better ones here.



Photos : Ralph Snelling

And Finally...

This is where I sound a bit like a broken record, but, if this newsletter is to continue, I really do need your help. Unlike commercial magazines I don't have filing cabinets full of 'ready to use' articles. Please, please, please give me some material to publish. It doesn't have to be perfect prose or superb grammar; we can sort that out here but without the basic material this will just consist of me blathering on about a single four-foot-long section of layout!

You can send me material by email – my preferred option and best for pictures – to

ralph.snelling@googlemail.com,

by snail mail to 109 Henderson Road, Southsea, PO4 9JE, UK, or even ring (02392 615590) and talk through your article and I'll take dictation / précis the conversation. However you choose please contribute, I know there are a lot of brilliant ideas out there and a lot of great work going on. Tell the world about it! Please!

Well that's my rant of the day over. Please keep safe and hopefully we'll all be able to start meeting up again.

I'm timetabling the next issue for late September so please let me have material by mid-September if possible.

Thanks

Ralph