



*The*  
***Milepost***

Volume 40, Number 10 — October 2020

The official newsletter of the Pikes Peak Division  
Rocky Mountain Region — National Model Railroad Association.



**NEXT MEETING:**

**CANCELLED due to COVID-19** but a Zoom virtual meeting-will be held!

**Friday, October 9th, 2020 at 7:00 PM**

**The New Sand Creek Police Station 950 Academy Park Loop**

**(Northeast of the intersection of Fountain/Academy)**

**Colorado Springs, Colorado**

# Calendar of Events

## February 14th, 2020 (Friday)

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting.

Contest: Any Railroad Item

Program: {to be determined}.

## March 13th, 2020 (Friday)

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting.

Contest: Locos - Steam and Diesel

Program: {to be determined}.

## April 10th, 2020 (Friday) – Cancelled

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting.

Contest: "Bent Screwdriver"

(unusual April Fool items)

Program: {to be determined}.

## May 8th, 2020 (Friday) – Cancelled

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting.

Contest: Your Oldest Model Railroad Car

Program: {to be determined}.

## June 12th, 2020 (Friday) - Cancelled

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting.

Contest: Small Railroad-Related Structure

Program: {to be determined}.

## July 10th, 2020 (Friday) - Cancelled

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting.

Contest: Gondola - with kit-bashed load

Program: {to be determined}.

## August 14th, 2020 (Friday) - Cancelled

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting.

Contest: Caboose (Completed in last 3 years)

Program: {to be determined}

## September 11th, 2020 (Friday) – Cancelled but Zoom

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting held on Zoom

## October 9th, 2020 (Friday) – Cancelled but Zoom

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting held on Zoom

## November 13th, 2020 (Friday) – TBD

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting

## December 11th, 2020 (Friday) – TBD

NMRA-PPD monthly meeting

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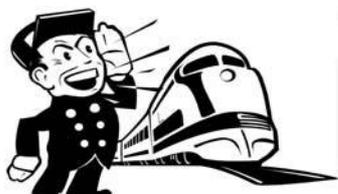
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*The Milepost*, Volume 40, Number 10, October 2020, is published monthly, as an electronic document (Adobe PDF file), by, and under the authority of, the Pikes Peak Division (Rocky Mountain Region), of the National Model Railroad Association. Our meetings are usually held on the second Friday of each month at the Sand Creek Police Station, 950 Academy Park Loop (northeast of the intersection of Fountain and Academy), in Colorado Springs, Colorado, at 7:00 PM. Please come to one of our meetings. We'd love to meet you. All scales are welcome. Besides our monthly meeting, we have swap meets, train shows, and other model railroad (and railroad) activities. All content in this journal is copyrighted to its respective owner unless otherwise noted. Please do not use content from this newsletter in other publications, newspapers, magazines, books, web sites, etcetera, without explicit case-by case permission. The editor of *The Milepost* is Mr. David Bristow. He can be contacted at the e-mail address of: [dave@bristow-family.org](mailto:dave@bristow-family.org) Thank you.



It would be great if you would join us this Friday for the Zoom meeting

I hope this edition continues to find everyone and their families healthy.

David

## October Superintendent's Notes

### **Zoom Meeting and Show & Tell**

Part of what we do at our Zoom Division meetings is to have a show and tell. All members are welcome to participate.

Here is the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89786291775?pwd=TEhWTjEybmZya2ltVk5nZEM4WVQ4dz09>

Starts at 7pm

I showed my rare and priceless family heirloom (which I picked up at the ARC):



Tony Pawlicki showed his techniques of using building to conceal track to maximize operational opportunities and Mark Fuerstenberger showed off his latest exhibition in his train case in his office.

# Mountz Tectonic Shift



Now, we do not know how it happened but apparently some cataclysmic event obliterated the signature mountain on Wade and Charlotte's layout. Taking advantage of all that crushed rock, they rushed in and created the Colorado Concrete Products Company and Colorado Rock & Gravel Company:





## Tragedy in Illinois; Metra & Union Pacific Sued



On July 29, two rail vehicles and a passenger vehicle were in an incident resulting in a critical injury. As is often the case, it's the second rail vehicle, in this case the ballast regulator, that ends up being physically involved. The Cavanagh Law Group is involved and has some expertise in railroad related lawsuits. The link below has a description of the incident from their perspective. The car was pushed one hundred fifty feet down the track. There is an allegation that the signals were not working properly, that speed was an issue and that flagmen should have been present.

<https://cavanaghlawgroup.com/lawsuit-railroad-crossing-union-pacific-metra/>

There is also a link on their website discussing the incident at O'Hare in 2014 where the airport train went up the escalator.



## DIY Digital Railroad YouTube Channel

This is a great source of information for those who would like to get more educated about using technology with model railroading. It talks about 3D printing and a lot more.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TNepycAjmQ&t=7s&ab\\_channel=DIY%26DigitalRailroad](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TNepycAjmQ&t=7s&ab_channel=DIY%26DigitalRailroad)

### JMRI FOR BEGINNERS

Model Railroaders can use either old school DC or DCC on their layouts. The Division module group supports either on a track by track basis. DCC layouts require engines that support DCC and a DCC control system. DCC control systems are generally proprietary and can cost several hundred dollars. But, with the low cost of microprocessors like Raspberry Pis or Arduinos folks, used in conjunction with products like Sprog, can save a bunch of money.

JMRI is free software that can be used to control trains, from cell phones, for example, and tie in with commercial systems like NCE or with these inexpensive alternatives. It allows folks to use Wi-Fi and tablets or cellphones to wirelessly control trains. The Division supports JMRI with its modular layout.



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xYZ9TMrMnqk&ab\\_channel=TSGMultimedia](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xYZ9TMrMnqk&ab_channel=TSGMultimedia)

## TECO Swap Meet at Stratmoor Hills Methodist Church

On September 26, TECO sponsored a Swap Meet at Stratmoor Hills Methodist Church parking lot across from World Arena from 10 AM to 2 PM.

Masks and social distancing were maintained per state requirements.

We did better than expected. Special thanks to the Engine House for donating the visitor gift.

## Cripple Creek Return Visit

Being that time of year, we decided to revisit the area. Love the Midland Terminal Railroad display downtown on the upper street level:



The Cripple Creek diorama is still on display in the lower level of the Heritage Center across from the Molly Kathleen Mine. Love the scene where the street is on two levels:



A motorized trolley drives around town these days. Passengers wait in trolley like covered shelters:

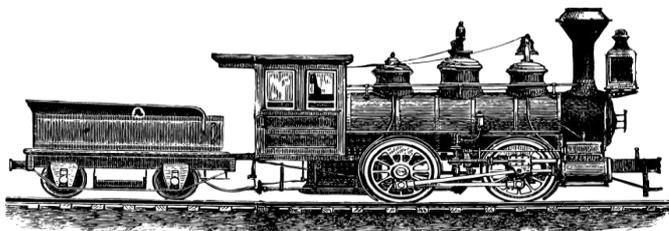


### Upcoming Division & Local Events

Any events scheduled for the rest of 2020 are subject to cancellation.

October 24-25, 2020: TECO Train Show at Chapel Hills Mall **CANCELLED**.

December 5, 2020: Division Swap Meet



## Notes from The Siding

By John Emmot

I had better get this done, as Dave will be wanting to finish the Milepost. It is getting harder to write anything germane when little that is germane is going on. And besides that, Microsoft is telling me they will end support for my word processor soon and want me to give them more money for the next generation of bloatware. Oh, well.

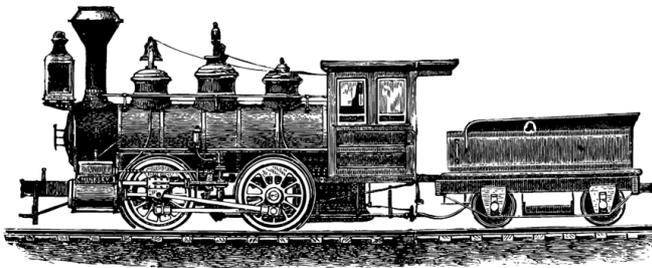
The brightest spot in the last month was the outdoor TECO swapmeet on September 26<sup>th</sup>. We found a church parking lot that we could afford and was open air. Two significant criteria in the time of COVID. We set the cost of participation low in hopes of not scaring off participants. We got the maximum 20 vendors and I believe around a hundred 'cars' of shoppers. Some had single shoppers, some had families, and some had multiple buyers in them. The weather cooperated as much as it could in late September. It did not rain and there were only a few gusts of wind that were not enough to blow anyone away. The sky was smoky, and a bit overcast to block the direct sun. Though it was warm by afternoon. I believe most of the vendors had much less on their tables when it was over than when it started. We had no idea what the turnout might be, but I think we were pleasantly surprised and happy with the way things went. I hope that Elizabeth will provide the hard numbers for us.

I am still working with my laser. I can get it to do what I tell it, but I find that it is difficult to tell it exactly what to do. Having the dimensions of an object does not always mean that the results look 'right' when done. I am still tweaking on the drawings in the new creation environment. But that is the beauty of having it in the basement. I do not have to drive to the library to try the latest revision. And when I succeed, I know how I did it. The rest of the Moffat passenger car roster (and some others too) is within my hands.

Another bright spot is that after some recent significant tests, both my cardiologist and pulmonary doctors tell me I am stable and doing as well as can be expected. If the COVID does not get me, I may actually get those cars built.

If there is anyone reading this that has an Athearn/Bachmann John Deere train set that they no longer want/need, let me know. My brother in Kansas has decided he is looking for one to run. The ones I find on eBay are all still in unopened boxes and are asking collector prices. The first ones came out in about 1998.

There are many railroad events taking place on the internet. I saw that the Youth in Model Railroading had a virtual meeting today. The NMRA is planning a National meeting soon. Walthers is doing a site of 'show us your projects'. And the PPD will have our meeting on ZOOM next Friday. Please join us. We do some show and tell along with cussing and discussing other happenings and Division business. Hoping to see you 'round the computer screen.



## September 2020 Minutes

**Secretary, John Emmot**

The regular monthly meeting was called to order by Superintendent, Joe Costa at 7:07 on a digital ZOOM meeting. All the officers and several members were present. The Malines left early to have dinner with their daughter.

The minutes of the August Zoom-meeting were approved as published in the Milepost.

### **Treasurers Report:**

Tony Pawlicki had provided a digital update on activity in the PPD bank account prior to the meeting time. There was no activity other than the interest credit. The activity statement was approved as submitted.

### **Announcements:**

Joe and Kristin will stay in contact with the Trinity United Methodist church to see if a December swap show for the Division will be possible.

We do not know yet if the Police station will be available for a Division Christmas party.

There was discussion about trying to post new videos from the PPD modules on the website. It was agreed that it was a good idea. Further coordination is needed.

### **New Business:**

No new business was brought up.

### **Old Business:**

No old business was brought up.

### **Contest:**

There was no formal contest.

### **Program:**

Joe displayed a locomotive birdhouse he had found at the ARC Thrift Store.

Tony shared pictures of the industrial area of his layout and discussion of the ways he has integrated the track and buildings to maximize the activity in a small area.

John announced that he had accomplished the first test cutting with his new Emblaser2 laser cutter.

Wade discussed the removal of the mountain from his Kansas layout and the installation of two new industries. He requested assistance with getting pictures to share at the next meeting.

Mark showed the beer train currently displayed in his work office. He shared the history of the Fuerstenberg beer brand in Germany dating from the 1200s.

John and Joe will coordinate to get the Division signs and stanchions for the TECO meet in September.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32.

# TECO Outdoor Swap Meet

By Elizabeth Maline

Photos by John Emmot

The TECO outdoor swap meet was a great success. It was a treat to see our TECO and division friends. The TECO board proved that we could be agile enough to meet the model railroading community's needs during a pandemic. We filled all available vendor spaces, 20 spaces in all. AND, we had around 200 attendees come through the gate. What a problem, we ran out of parking spaces! In talking to our vendors, they all successfully moved "stuff" - inventory or personal modeling equipment.

There are so many people to thank! First and foremost, JB Thistlewaite for coordinating the Stratmoor Hills United Methodist Church. Secondly, the parking lot team- Ray Schalcosky, our gateman, John Emmot, and Mel MacFarland, our parking coordinators. A special thanks to Jennifer Wilson for "hanging out" with me at the TECO tent; she solicited names and contact information for the required contract tracing list needed by the state. Finally, thank you to Joe Costa and my husband Michael Maline, for all the grunt work of setting up and tearing down the TECO tent and stanchions from early Saturday morning until we departed from the Church in the afternoon.

So, what is next? Several ideas have floated our way. Do we host another outdoor swap meet in November? TECO will defer to the Division before moving forward with another swap meet. Do we host a layout only show? Or a regular TECO show? Time will tell. I am still working with Chapel Hills Mall on that.

I'm looking forward to 2021 so that we can put 2020 to bed. 🤔





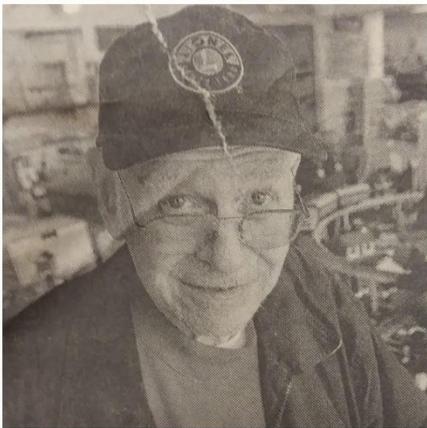




# Engine House Trains

By Charles Staiger and Jennifer Wilson

Engine House Trains started 20+ years ago by Martin Staiger in Virginia Beach, VA. The store was a popular place for locals to find what they were looking for or just enjoy a chat with Martin. Sadly, we unexpectedly had to say goodbye to him in October of 2019. Martin was a proud father to eight wonderful children who all rallied together and helped operate and organize the shop through the end of the year.



ZEIS/STAFF  
haston  
ack

STEVE EARLEY/STAFF

Martin Staiger says Black Friday was slower this year compared to previous years.

## On Black Friday, train shops hope shoppers choo-choo-choose them

BY SALEEN MARTIN  
Staff writer

VIRGINIA BEACH — Martin Staiger stood near the counter at his train shop on Bonney Road on Friday afternoon. Christmas music played in the distance, and boxes of all sizes lined the walkway into the store. The shop is a maze of cases and shelves with trains for sale. One case was labeled “20% off,” while others housed engines going for more than \$1,300.

His shop, Engine House Trains, opened its doors at 10 a.m.; and Staiger hoped to see a steady amount of customers eager to buy trains on Black Friday.

By noon, he had about three sales — much fewer than he’s had over the past 19 years.

Staiger, 83, started the store when he retired from the Navy. The business buys used trains, sells boxed engines and accessories, and does repairs, too.

During Black Fridays past, they’ve sold between \$2,000 and \$5,000 worth of trains and equipment, he said.

tions, he said.

“Millennial fathers don’t do trains,” he said. “They’re missing a big bet with their kids.”

He’s disappointed, he said. He also thinks the lack of cold weather until recently has affected sales, too.

“It makes people think about winter and Christmas,” Staiger said. “The only thing better would be a little frost or snowflakes. If you don’t have that feeling, people don’t come by.”

Staiger’s store isn’t the only train shop in the area.

There’s also Dale’s Train Station in Norfolk, owned by Dale Stocks. The former Marine grew up playing with toy trains and picked up the hobby again in 1973, he told The Pilot in 2012. He opened his own business in 1989.

Now, people go to his shop to get their trains fixed, and to buy train sets for their little ones, said Dorothy Shytles, a store employee.

Business was pretty steady Friday afternoon, she said. At least 40 people had walked through their doors by 1 p.m.

It always picks up

stuff secretly so they can wrap it,” she laughed.

Mike Dragon and his wife, Loren, from Virginia Beach, were there looking at trains with their 1-year-old son and 4-year-old daughter.

“When I was a kid, we had a train around our tree and every year,” he said. “It was kind of my responsibility to set it up.”

They want to start a tradition with their own children, they said, so they went to Dale’s. They didn’t find anything in the shop, but they’re going to keep looking.

Shytles, the employee at Dale’s, said lots of folks called the store to ask if they have any Thomas the Train sets.

They’re in stock, she said, and they’re perfect for kids. Bigger trains, like G scale models, are good for kids, too.

“If you break something off, it’s less likely they’ll be able to choke on it,” said Shytles.

Back in Virginia Beach, Staiger said his store probably has about two years left before it closes up shop for good.

Until then, he’ll keep helping train enthusiasts

In January, his youngest son Charles, packed up the contents of the store and brought it home to Colorado with hopes of opening his own location and continuing the hobby he grew up loving. However, 2020 has had many surprises for us all and a store is not an option at this current time but hopefully soon. In the meantime, we are doing inventory and further organizing as best we can. You will be able to find Engine House Trains at any and all of the train shows/swap meets until a store is opened. They can also be found and followed on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram where you can find the occasional update and/or

announcement. Engine House Trains is currently doing sales via eBay, private meet ups and the occasional yard sale.





Charles is passionate about the hobby and learned a lot working with his father over the years. He has even recruited the help of his girlfriend Jennifer, although she has a lot to learn.

Charles moved to Colorado from Virginia Beach five years ago and loves the dry air and mountains. Jennifer is a Colorado native (also loves the mountains), born and raised in Monument, CO. Both are now living in a quiet community in Falcon, CO.



Both Charles and Jennifer are excited and eager to meet all of the train fans here in Colorado and the surrounding areas. Please follow them and reach out if there is anything, they can do to assist you with your model train needs.

Best wishes to all!



# Busy Work

By Jerry Hansz

Been stayin' in the basement. Doing "busy work". I had 78 miniDV cartridges that I wanted to archive on the computer. Unfortunately, my camcorder had died. I finally bought a new one (discontinued model) off Amazon. The archaization started. The first box I picked up had the last 16 cartridges, mostly PPD module meets. So far, 8 have been archived. Having only a battery makes it slow, with frequent recharging.



Nice Canon, no Ac power supply.

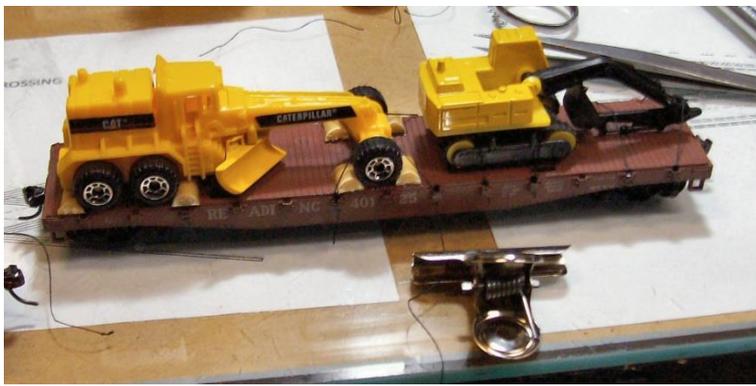


Only 70 more to go!

Looking for something to occupy me while the miniDV's were being copied, I remembered that I had 4 empty flat cars. Scrounging through my model autos, I found some racing trucks and some road equipment. To work! I'm out of strip wood, so some sprues were cut up for wheel blocks. Black thread would do for cables. The flats were quickly loaded, then the tedious work began. Chocks were glued down. Stake pockets were drilled out, and thread was passed through one side. I CAN'T DO SMALL KNOTS ANYMORE! The answer was to put a drop of glue on the pocket after the thread was passed through with tweezers. Once dry, the other side was secured.



Two sand trucks on a flat car.



Grader and backhoe.

The small clamps hold the thread in tension while the glue dries. On other flat also has a grader and backhoe. The last one has two racing trucks. I have other racing truck flats, so the resulting train should be colorful.

Not busy enough I dipped into my building scraps. Some store fronts and brick wall pieces were found. Enough for a background building. The pieces were glued together into a semblance of a store. It is a work in progress, with interior and roof to be completed.



Straussman Clothiers and Sarah's Finery.

Note the fancy front door. The piece in the foreground will become the back wall. Need some support! I'll apply white plastic on the front face and come up with some kind of interior.

All this went on simultaneously. Gaze at the resulting mess!



My usual well-organized workbench.

## Illinois Industrial Railroad

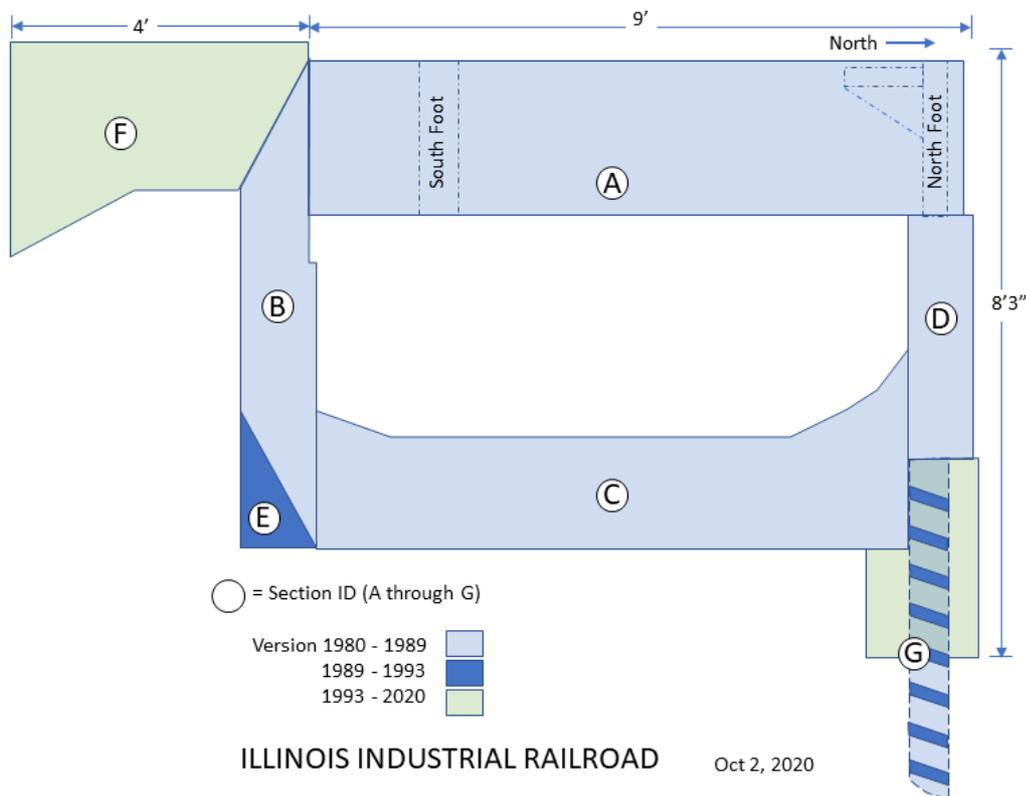
### Densely Packed Layout Jammed into a Corner

by Tony Pawlicki

The Illinois Industrial Railroad (IIR) is a 8' by 13' HO standard gauge layout representing a free-lanced industrial belt line jointly owned by the BN and the ATSF.

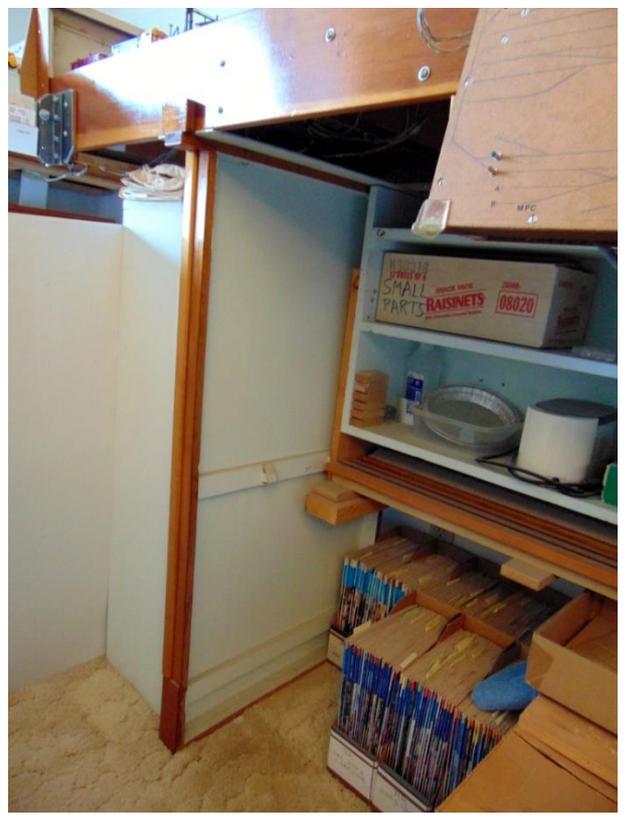
#### It Is Movable

This sectional layout has been moved twice, with minor modifications to fit available space each time, as shown on the schematic [reference the IIRschematic2020 image below]. The schematic also the layout shows all three versions (1980-1989, 1989-1993 and 1993-2020).





North Foot



South Foot

North Foot is the main jam-it-into-the-corner support. Three-dimensional bracing: 2-foot by 4-foot sheet provides East-West rigidity, vertical triangle provides North-South rigidity while horizontal triangle provides rigidity against twisting in the horizontal plane.

South Foot with its 2-foot by 4-foot sheet provides East-West rigidity.

All other sections just need vertical support, getting resistance against twisting in the horizontal plane from the core section A.

### It Is Densely Packed

**Double Use:** As most of the layout photos show, the space is often doubly used, with structures overlapping track in many ways: tracks into structures, tracks under overhangs of structures, tracks under loading devices.

**Specialized Turnouts:** Another technique for maximizing density is the generous use of curved turnouts (five) and double-slip switches (three), plus the occasional re-shaping of a normal turnout into what amounts to an asymmetrical wye. Specialized turnouts are expensive in one sense, yet extremely cheap when compared to the cost of buying more real estate.

**Guardrails:** Yet another technique allows sharp curves in low-speed areas by adding guardrails.

**Crossings:** Industrial spurs use shallow-angle crossings to cross yard tracks or spurs to other industries (access to Mid-Plains CO-OP and Concrete Casting use this trick), allowing adjacent industries to be closer together and Concrete Casting to be close to the yard.

### Some Scenes

Looking South into section F, grain loading/unloading to the right and cement loading (from barges) to the left.



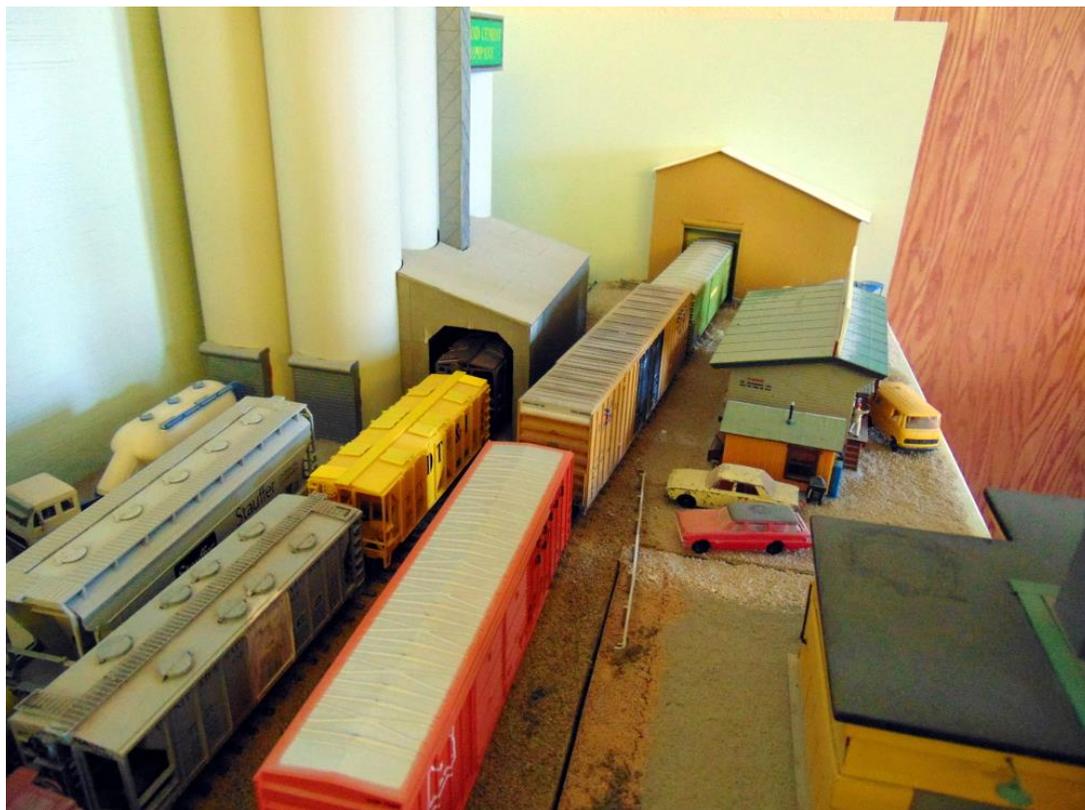
Bulk Transfer Grain

Northwest corner of section A, showing unit oil train unloading terminal and tunnel leading through ridge into section F grain handling area.



Bulk Transfer Oil

Looking East onto section G, Pacific Northwest Supply at center and far right, cement distributor at left. Corner of section C at lower right with Domex Packaging."



Cement and Lumber1

Looking North into section G, Pacific Northwest Supply in foreground, cement distributor in background."



Cement and Lumber2

Looking North on section A. Concrete Casting Company, cement unloading at left and center, outbound shipping on right under overhead crane.



Concrete Casting

Looking South on section C, sections B and E in background. CO-OP grain elevator loading in foreground, some Butler Bins in background. Passing track and main at right and far right. Looking North on section C. CO-OP grain elevator loading in foreground.

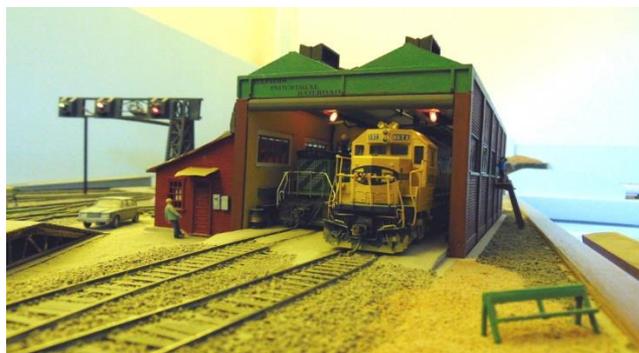


Co-Op1



Co-Op2

Looking North at Engine House in the center of section A. Employee at left in hazardous situation, good thing he is got his hard hat on.



Engine House

Looking South on section C, space-saving double-slip switch in foreground, Fruh's Fruits (old Suydam Swift meatpacking matboard kit) at left center, CO-OP grain in background.



Fruit

Looking North on section C, Mid-State Groceries at center, Domex Packaging in background with spur holding four cars of dry granular materials to be put into retail packages.



Groceries

Extreme Northwest corner of section A, Machine Tool Rebuilders with a bit of Terminal Furniture and Appliance in the lower right foreground.



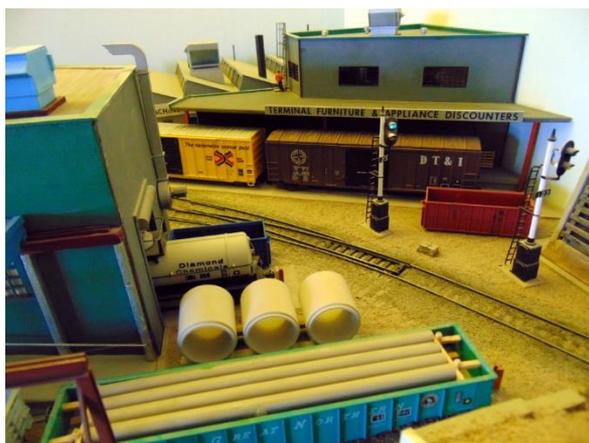
Machine Tool Rebuilders

Looking North onto section D, East Central Plastics with cement distributor spur in foreground.



Plastics

Looking into the Northwest corner of section A, Terminal Furniture and Appliance Discounters semi-covered unloading spur. Concrete Casting Company in left foreground.



Terminal Furniture

Looking West into section F. The cement loading yard on the foreground in front of the grain silos.



Bulk Transfer Cement

Looking East at the North end of section C, Domex Packaging from trackside. Looking West at the North end of section C, Domex Packaging from the back side



Domex 1



Domex 2

Looking South on section A at the engine servicing (fuel and sand) pad."



Engine Service

Looking West on section B as the main and passing track (on left) merge at a curved turnout before diving into the tunnel through the ridge leading to section A. Team track is at right, temporarily holding an anhydrous ammonia car until there is room for it at Mid-Plains CO-OP.



Section B

Looking Northwest at the yard throat area of section A. Space-saving double-slip switch and the crossing leading to Concrete Casting are visible.



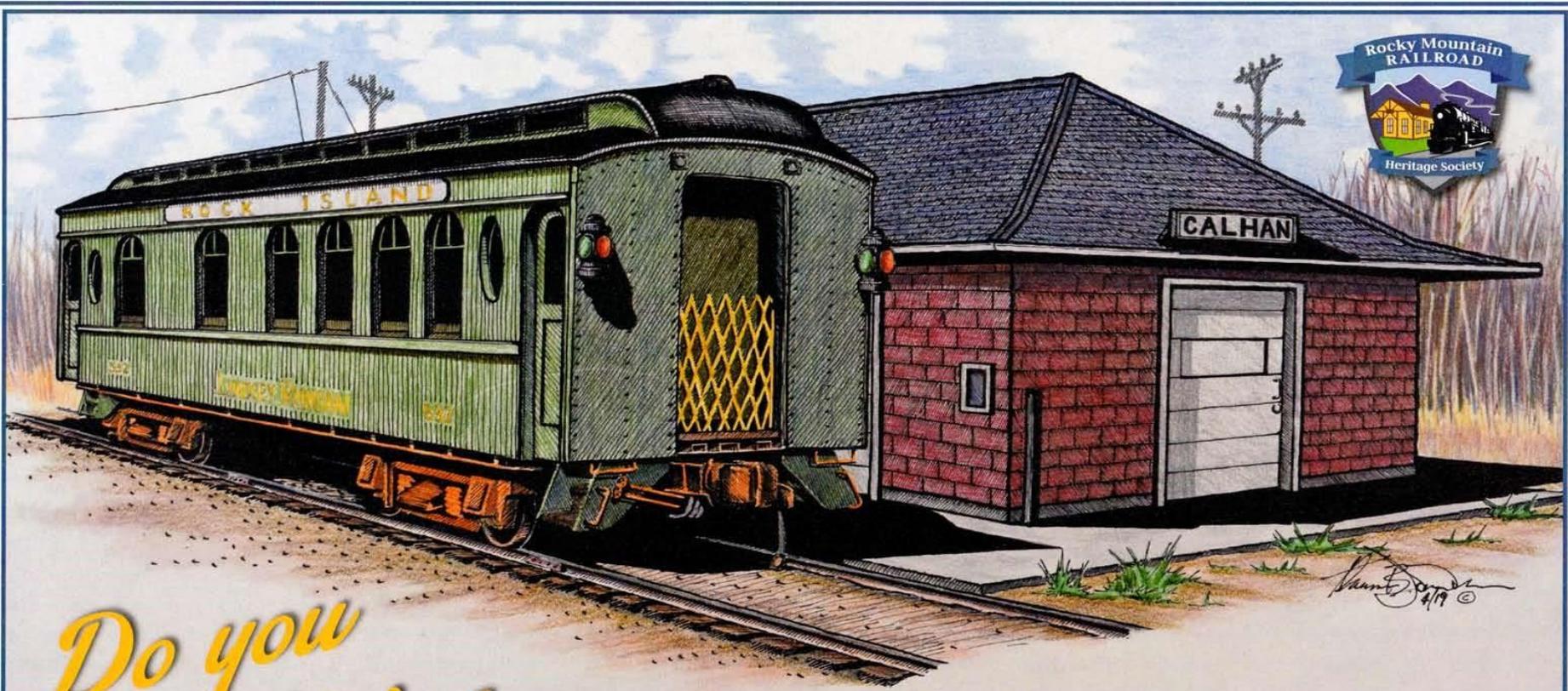
Yard Throat

Looking North from the ridge at the South end of section A. Items of interest include a runaround track, guardrail on the inside of a tight curve, the small yard with separate BN and ATSF departure tracks on the left, arrival tracks on the right and the South Kelker (SK) interlocking electrical cabinet at lower left.



Section A Overview





*Do you  
like trains  
and enjoy  
history?*

## **THEN WE ARE LOOKING FOR YOU!!!**

We are recruiting volunteers to help us build a Railroad Heritage Center in Calhan, CO honoring those who operated the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad in El Paso and Elbert Counties from 1887-1968.

**GET INVOLVED • HAVE FUN • LEARN HISTORY • MEET NEW PEOPLE!**

Volunteers wanted regardless of age or skillset. Painters, Electricians, Plumbers, Woodworkers, Writers, Photographers, Researchers etc.  
Anyone & Everyone is welcome!

**IF INTERESTED, PLEASE CALL 303.961.5929 OR EMAIL [GRAFSP40@YAHOO.COM](mailto:GRAFSP40@YAHOO.COM)**

# *Roy's Model Trains*

*We Sell-Buy-Trade Model Trains all Scales*

*We buy collections large & small*

*2218 E Pikes Peak Ave, Colorado Springs CO 80909*

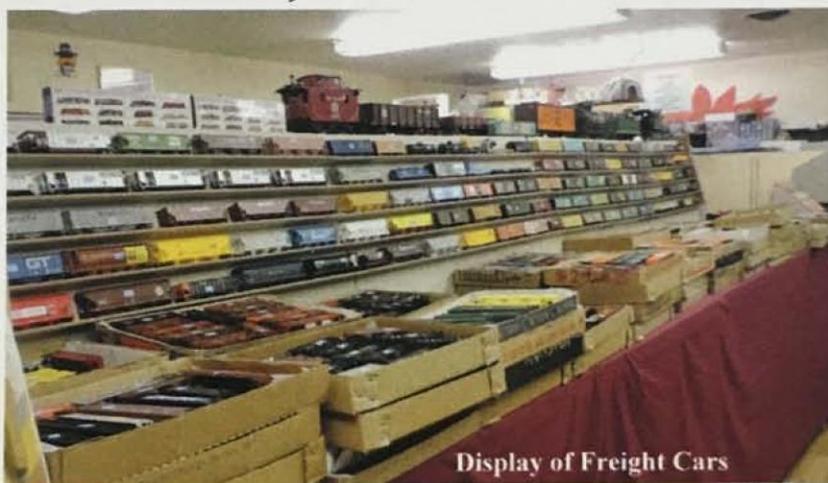
*Open Tues-Fri 1-6pm Sat 11am-4pm*

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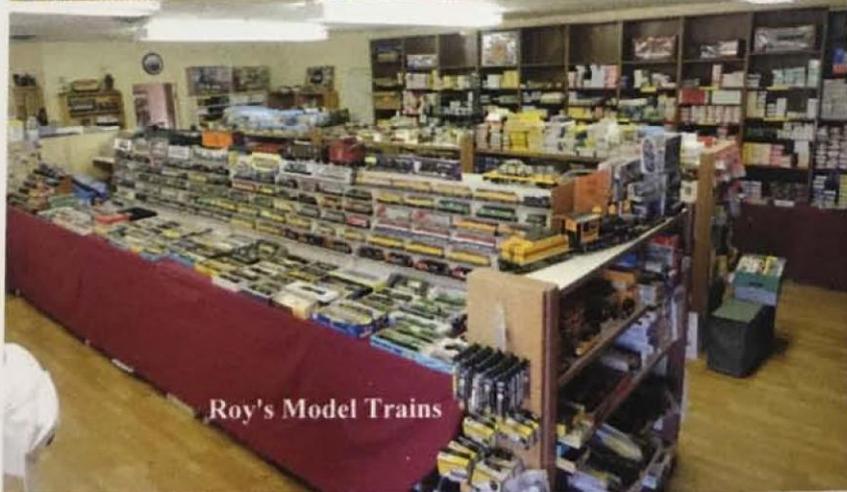
*Website: [Roysmodeltrains.com](http://Roysmodeltrains.com)*

*Email: [roysmodeltrains@comcast.net](mailto:roysmodeltrains@comcast.net)*

*Phone; 719-728-0503*



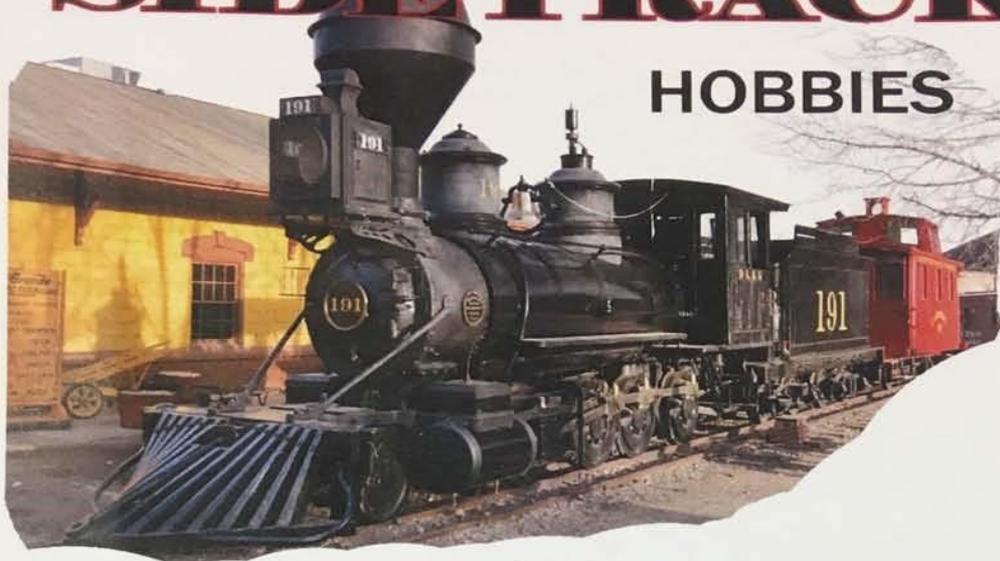
Display of Freight Cars



Roy's Model Trains

# SIDETRACK

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