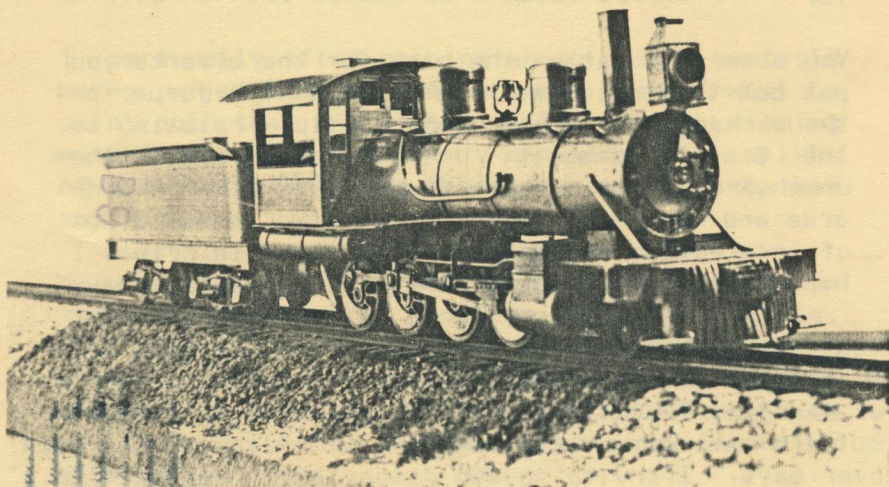
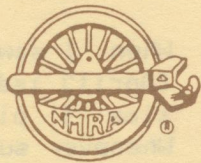


# ESSENCE

Newsletter of the NMRA  
S Scale Special Interest Group

1:64 scale modeling with 1:1 fun

June 1987



A few years ago there were far fewer quality brass locomotives available in S than there are today. Here is an "out of the box" photo of Sierra #18 produced by Miniature Machine (Barney Dahler).

Several of these were mass-produced before ceasing production. All drivers were sprung, and a detail kit added windows, piping, and grab irons. The wheels were NMRA finescale, so they could operate through dual gauge trackwork.

Dave Jasper photo.

# Mailbag

RON LIMPARI WRITES ... AND WRITES

Dear Ken,

When I saw the renewal notice in the most recent [April] issue of **Essence**, I thought it was about time I picked up a pen and dropped you a line. Whenever subscription renewal time rolls around, I like to pull out the magazines for the last year so I can evaluate them as a group to see if I got my money's worth. I sat down and reread all the issues to date and decided that **Essence** is the best bargain in S scale today. It's all talk and no commercials; what more could we ask for?

You deserve a pat on the back for the efforts you put out to provide us with an excellent forum for the exchange of ideas, even gossip, relating to the S scale community. I especially enjoy the uncensored input on sensitive issues like standards and modules. Over the last two years, a lot of interesting subjects have appeared in print. I hope I can afford one of those PCC cars some day.

[You're making me blush, Ron. When you see this letter in print, you will see how much "censoring" goes on. For example, I routinely omit compliments to the editor (but I'm making an exception here). Also, as the back cover says, I try to squash disparaging remarks. Ed.]

The most recent topic (model contests) is both timely and controversial. Since you asked for opinions, I'll throw mine in.

In any kind of contest, the most important thing is that the contestants have a chance to improve their personal skills by having experts critique their work. The most important thing is not to set new records or win prizes. All too often, people confuse the most important reason with reasons not quite as important.

For contestants to enter contests, there must be judges for those contests. For judges to effectively evaluate a contestant's work, they must have a clearly defined set of guidelines as to what makes up a "perfect 10". The NMRA presently feels that the "perfect" model is one which is:

1. a perfect replica of the original,
2. reduced by some scale factor, and
3. made entirely from scratch.

Any deviation from the above results in a model that is less than a "perfect 10".

Item 3 above, the subject of much debate today, is nothing more than an extension of the idea that the more a person does for himself, the more skilled he will become as a model builder.

I personally find nothing wrong with contests being judged the way they are now, and I want to point out that the high quality of the winning models today is the direct result of the skills of the contestants and the rules under which they compete.

My only objection is that there is no place in today's contests for modelers of lesser skills. It's important to remember that the objective of entering a contest is to improve one's skills, not just to win a prize. However, the chance to win is usually what provides that added incentive to enter a contest.

There really isn't much chance for the average modeler to win a contest these days. If there's no chance to win, there's no incentive to enter. And if there's no incentive to enter, then there is no chance to improve one's modeling skills through the evaluation of one's work by an expert judge.

What is needed is a way for average modelers (and even below average modelers) to compete in contests with a chance to win.

The only way I know of is to have contests for different skill levels. I don't mean different kinds of contests; all contests should still be judged by the same rules for consistency from one skill level to the next.

Division by skill level is common in many other types of competitions outside the world of model building. If a modeler wins several prizes at one skill level, his pride or the NMRA would move him up to the next skill level, thus providing the incentive to improve all over again.

The big drawback is that the NMRA would have to keep track of contestants and their proper skill levels. With a computer this would be a small price to pay, considering the benefits that the average modeler (plain ordinary member) would receive.

---

Now let me climb down from my soap box and move on to some other topics I want to mention. I have enclosed a little light-emitting diode (LED) I came across in my line of work. There must be lots of applications for a diode this small. It's available from General Instruments' distributors in several versions of red, green, and yellow in their MV50B series. This was a sample, so I don't know how much they cost.

Here's a full size picture. >===>

The leads are bendable. Use a current-limiting resistor or the LED will burn up instantly.

---

Here are some items for the old wish list (from past issues of **Essence**):

- 1) Wouldn't it be great if someone would issue a master catalog covering all S scale products past and present?

- 2) Wouldn't it be great to have a roster of all S scale modelers and a notation of those with layouts who allow scheduled visitors?
- 3) Wouldn't it be great if someone would return Bill Daiker's priceless Ma & Pa 2-8-0?
- 4) Wouldn't it be great if all those people who bought brass engines had layouts to run them on?

It might be of interest to new S scalers if you ran a series of "articles" about defunct S scale manufacturers and their product lines. I could try to put something together, and then the "old timers" could add any information which I missed.

I got your note referring to the article I did on turnouts for the **S Gauge Herald**. It was okay, but not my best work (I hate deadlines). If you saw the first two issues of the Herald, you may have seen the plans I drew for the engine and passenger cars. They aren't as good as J. Harold Geissel's, but I'll keep trying. If you could use some kind of drawing for **Essence**, let me know and I'll see what I can do.

Ron Limparis

[We don't want to compete with the NMRA Bulletin or the commercial hobby press, but we really could use more graphics in the newsletter to liven it up. But photos reproduce poorly in our (low budget) photocopied publication. Line drawings show up well, however.

So your offer to do line drawings is very much appreciated, whether it be in the form of scale plans, diagrams to illustrate text, or line art. We do photo-reductions, so don't worry about the size of your original. If it is less than 11x14, I can fit it in.

Also, we are always in need of material. The series on discontinued manufacturers and products would be very interesting. I know of at least two S scalers who collect old (unbuilt) kits. Ed]

**Passenger Cars of the Burlington**

by William L. Glick

Published by Quincy House

PO Box 8147, San Jose, CA 95155-8147

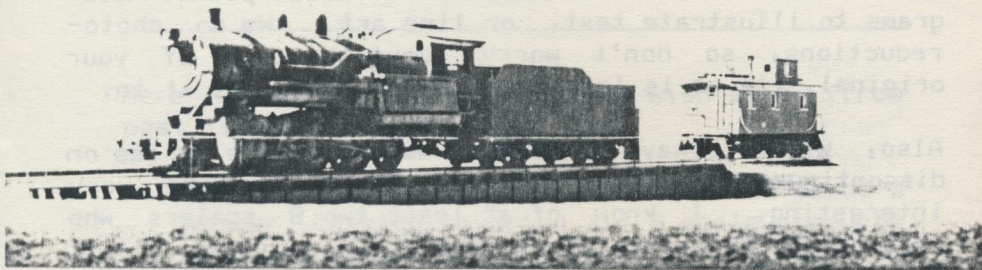
This book is the first of a planned set of three. It is a book of diagrams which cover the CB&Q passenger cars built from around 1869 to the 1930's. Wood cars, steel sheathed cars, and heavyweights are included.

It appears that the original drawings were plotted at 3.5mm = 1'-0" with pencil on vellum or mylar - not the best route for quality printing. However, the 11"x17" book was well done by the printer: good paper, spiral binding, and excellent half-tones. A page with a large photo divides each section.

The sections cover dining cars, parlor cars, sleeping cars, baggage cars, mail cars, coaches, and passenger car truck drawings. The cars are arranged in numerical order within each section, so they are easy to find.

Car numbers are printed in the the margins in large, bold type which also makes it easy to locate a specific car. The author cites his references for each plan. He has cross-referenced his car plans and his truck plans.

I'm looking forward to the companion volumes which the author has planned. One will be a photo album covering the same period, and the other will be a complete passenger car roster with cross-references.



# Cinders

Ken Zieska

The new code 110 steel wheelsets for American Models trucks are available. Manufactured by Ace, they are well done, roll well, and look great. If you are not happy with the large flanges on the trucks that come with American Models kits, check these out.

River Raisin Models has announced they are bringing in two versions of the Airslide covered hopper which was featured in the December 1986 and January 1987 issues of **Mainline Modeler**. This brass model project is being done by Dan Navarre and Jim Kindraka. Jim is the person responsible for the two NASG brass projects, so the quality and attention to detail should be great. They can be reached at:

River Raisin Models  
6160 Upper Straits Blvd.  
West Bloomfield, MI 48033

The latest issue of the Northern Pacific Historical Society magazine has another great drawing of the B-3 gas electric, very similar to Scenery Unlimited's brass model. The same issue contains an article on 40' and 50' box cars built by the NP. These cars could be modeled from American Models kits. If interested, ask for Volume 5 Number 4, and send \$3.50 to:

John Barry  
3314 Warehime Road  
Millers, MD 21107

The fall 1986 **Northwestern Lines** magazine of the C&NW Historical Society has an article on 100-ton covered hoppers. If interested, send \$4.00 to:

Northwestern Lines  
17004 Locust Drive  
Hazelcrest, IL 60429

Did everyone see the June **NMRA Bulletin's** neat column that promoted S-MOD, and mentioned the Pines & Prairies S Scale Workshop's participation in the recent NMRA Regional event? Did anyone miss the fine S scale coverage in the June issue of **Model Railroader**?

# S Dispatches

Here is some S-related material which appeared in the hobby press during the past two months. Magazine abbreviations are:

<b>MG:</b> Model Railroading	<b>SG:</b> S Gaugian
<b>MR:</b> Model Railroader	<b>SH:</b> S Gauge Herald
<b>NG:</b> N.G. & Short Line Gazette	<b>SN:</b> Sn3 Modeler
<b>RC:</b> Railroad Model Craftsman	<b>DI:</b> NASG Dispatch

## PRODUCT REVIEWS

AIM tunnel portal, abutments	SN Summer 87 p10
Blazek RGS S scale plans	NG May/June 87 p13
Brass Models with Code 110 Wheels (listing)	DI Mar 87 p5
CDS dry transfer lettering	SG May/June 87 p11-12
Code 110 Trucks & Wheelsets (listing)	DI Mar 87 p5
Colorado Tree Co trestle kits	NG May/June 87 p14
Colorado Tree Co aspens & trestle bents	SN Summer 87 pg11
Ertl metal miniatures	SG May/June 87 p12-13
Finestkind small residence	NG May/June 87 p13
G&W S scale decals	SG May/June 87 p10
Overland rotary snow plow	SN Summer 87 p10
PBL Sn3 stock car	SN Summer 87 p12-13
Rio Grande Models wheel lathe	SN Summer 87 p11-12
Schenck Sn3 Thielson trucks	SN Summer p11
SouthWind FP-7 sideframes	DI Mar 87 p17
	DI Mar 87 p5
Tomar wheel stops	SG May/June 87 p10
Trackwork to NASG and NMRA Finescale (listing)	DI Mar 87 p6
Train Stuff 40 and 50-ton Fox trucks	SG May/June 87 p10-11
Trains of Texas beehive coke oven kits	RC May 87 p88
Walthers sign kit	SG May/June 87 p13



## LAYOUT FEATURE STORIES

- Boomer Trail scene on Roger Schenk's Sn3 layout  
RC May 87 p78
- Crow Creek Lumber Company  
SN Summer 87 p28-29
- Interview with Frank Titman  
SH Feb/Mar 87 p10-13
- Pennypack Valley & Western (Bortz)  
SG May/June 87 p24-29
- Sn3 Conversion Layout of Dick Strobel  
SN Summer 87 p20-40
- Telluride Trackplan in Sn3  
MG Jun 87 p36-40,65

## SCRATCH-BUILDING

- Lineside Electrical Enclosure  
DI Mar 87 p7
- Rear Platform Lanterns  
SH Feb/Mar 87 p37
- Relay Box  
SH Feb/Mar 87 p28-29

## MODELING ARTICLES

- Adapting Items to S Scale  
SG May/June 87 p42-43
- Basic Turnout Wiring  
DI Mar 87 p14
- Detailing the American Models Box Car  
SG May/June 87 p30-32
- EMD F-2 From SouthWind Parts  
SG May/June 87 p20-23
- Jersey Central cabooses (use AF "northeastern" shell)  
MR May 87 p86
- Paint Your Wagon  
SH Feb/Mar 87 p32-35
- Penn Creek People  
SH Feb/Mar 87 p26-27
- PS-1 40-Foot Box Cars, part 10  
MG Jun 87 p56-57
- Scale Cars from Toy Bodies: part 4  
DI Mar 87 p12-13
- S-MOD System of Module-Railroading: part 1  
SH Feb/Mar 87 p16-21

## SCALE DRAWINGS

- Rico section house  
SN Summer 87 p26-27

## OTHER

- Railway Post Office (open letter to manufacturers  
from Ed Loizeaux)  
MR May 87 p21
- 50 Golden Years with S Scale  
MR May 87 p80

# Whistles

Here is a list of new 1:64 products first advertised in the past two months which you may not have heard about. Don't forget to enclose a business size stamped self-addressed envelope (SSAE) when writing for information.

Ace "S" Gauge, Downs Model Railroad, 206 Lehigh Avenue,  
Gloucester City, NJ 08030-1215:  
Code 110 33" steel wheelsets.

BK Enterprises, Box 2274, Little Rock, AK 72202:  
Sn3 turnout kits in code 100 and code 70.  
Sn3 wye turnout kits in code 100 and code 70.  
Sn3 ties.

Colorado Tree Co, 521 Alpine, Longmont, CO 80501:  
Aspen and pine trees.  
Trestles and bents.

Finestkind Models, PO Box 25052, Overland Park, KS  
66210-25052:  
Country barn kit.  
Corn crib kit.  
Western warehouse structure kit.

Kanamodel Products, F110-51, 264 H. St.,  
Blaine, WA 98230:  
Kit of 3 maintenance of way structures.

Models by Roger Schneck, 7103 Monlaco Road,  
Long Beach, CA 90808:  
Sn3 block car kit.  
Wheel and tie car kit.  
Sn3 freight car hardware.

Overland Models, 5908 Kilgore Ave, Muncie, IN 47304:  
PRR N5 caboose w/o antenna.  
PRR N5B caboose with antenna.  
PRR N5C caboose (with or w/o antenna).

P-B-L, Box 749, Chama, NM 87520: (Sn3)  
D&RGW 6500 series flat car kit.

Pecos River Brass, 540 Surf, Suite 118,  
Lewisville, TX 75067:  
Greenville 70-foot gondolas.

Renegade Productions, 2821 W. Davis, Dallas, TX 75211:  
Partially burned brick firehouse kit.

Scenery Unlimited, 310 Lathrop Ave, River Forest, IL  
60305:  
25th anniversary box car kit.

SouthWind Models, PO Box 9293, Plant City, FL 33566:  
PRR R50B express refrigerator car.

Taurus Products, Box 6534, Orange, CA 92667:  
Eye bolts and lift rings.  
Gingerbread trim.  
Ornamental iron staircase.

## Coordinator's Corner

Ken Mackenzie  
Coordinator

For the record, here is a financial recap of the first two years of SSSIG operation (through June 25, 1987).

Publication supplies & printing expense:	\$ 357.36
Postage:	144.03
Long distance telephone calls:	57.93
Other expenses:	14.00
	-----
Total expenses:	\$ 573.32
Income from memberships \$ Subscriptions:	\$ 309.00
Anonymous donations:	264.32
	-----
Total income:	\$ 573.32

Some of you have suggested that membership dues should be raised to allow us to set money aside for a special project or two. For now, I feel that a modest membership fee may attract NMRA members who are curious about 1:64 scale but have not made a commitment to S. These are the people we especially want to reach.

## ROSTER of MEMBERS and SUBSCRIBERS

This is the second annual listing of all members of the NMRA S Scale Special Interest Group, and all other subscribers to **Essence**. The subscribers who are not NMRA members have asterisks (\*) beside their names.

Bashista, Ron                      American Models  
22055 West Brandon  
Farmington Hills, MI 48024

Berg, Glenn \*                      18617 Bernadine Street  
Lansing, IL 60438

Bortz, John                        3377 Papermill Road  
Huntington Valley  
Pennsylvania 19066

Brom, Erik W.                      845 - 34th Avenue  
Winona, MN 55987

Byers, Mike \*                      1 Songbird Lane  
Milton, PA 17847

Coughlan, Thomas F.              84 Morgan Street  
Melrose, MA 02176

Cox, Eugene                        9336 Larch Drive  
Munster, IN 46321

Danylak, Walt                      G & W Models  
115 Upland Road  
Syracuse, NY 13207-1119

DeWitt, Donald                      37 Snow Drive  
Mahwah, NJ 07430

Durstewitz, John M.              63 Crestview Drive  
Bernardsville, NJ 07924

Ferguson, William                112 Meighen Avenue  
Toronto, Ontario  
Canada M4B 2H7

Garret, Trumann \*                P.O. Box 176  
Trevor, WI 53179

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Huff, Alex	P.O. Box 398 Wagner, SD 57380-0398
Huff, Dick	P.O. Box 685 Wedderburn, OR 97491
Hulin, Gilbert M.	3895 Colony Oaks Drive Eugene, OR 97405
Iannacone, Dick	40 Holton Circle Londonderry, NH 03053
Jasper, Dave	8900 Birchwood Lane Bloomington, MN 55438
Kimsey Jr., Oscar W.	P.O. Box 3674 Augusta, GA 30904
Kloes, Dick *	9735 West Morgan Avenue Milwaukee, WI 53228
Koehler, David	303 South Maple Street Oconomowoc, WI 53066
Krumbein, Ernie	224 Sunnyside Avenue Munster, IN 46321
Lebovitz, Joel	630 Grey Evanston, IL 60202
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Limparis, Ronald D.	24104 Bush Hill Road Gaithersburg, MD 20879
Lind, Richard *	4221 North Oakland Avenue Apartment 19 Milwaukee, WI 53211-2045

Mackenzie, Ken	5969 Sugarbush Lane Greendale, WI 53129
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McGovern, Donald E.	5640 Sunset Drive, RR 5 Dubuque, IA 52001
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O'Shaughnessy, Clark	1215 Mulford Evanston, IL 60202
Papierz, Roman	5234 West Cullon Chicago, IL 60641
Pier, Wayne L.	Trainstuff 2821 Asbury Avenue Wayside, NJ 07712
Porter, Charles B.	4775 Gifford Road Oconomowoc, WI 53066
Riley, Paul V.	711 Lowell Street Peabody, MA 01960
Ristow, Bob	2005 Sunkist Avenue Waukesha, WI 53188
Sandersfeld, Charlie	Omnicon Scale Models 30 Witt Road South Barrington, IL 60010

Schnur, Jerry	845 West 77th Street S.Dr Indianapolis, IN 46260
Shimon, Roger L.	783 Old Tower Road Oconomowoc, WI 53066
Smith Jr., Reginald H.	P.O. Box 404 Wenham, MA 01984
Steele, John E. *	RD #1, Bidwell Road Parish, NY 13131
Waelder, Howard C.	1115 Benmore Avenue Franklin Square, NY 11010
Waite, Gary A.	360 Fawk Avenue SE Salem, OR 97302
Wholf, Richard *	512 S.E. Douglas Lee's Summit, MO 64063
Zieska, Ken	11810 52nd Avenue North Plymouth, MN 55442-1820

## Tickets, please.

The NMRA S Scale Special Interest Group is now two years old, so this is your last issue of **Essence** until you pay your dues. All SSSIG memberships and all **Essence** subscriptions expire on July 1, 1987.

If you are an NMRA member, \$6.00 will renew your SSSIG membership (including **Essence**) for two more years. If you are not a member of the NMRA, \$6.00 will provide you with a subscription to this newsletter for two more years (through June 1989).

Send checks to: Ken Mackenzie, 5969 Sugarbush Lane, Greendale, WI 53129.

**ESSENCE**

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Essence is the newsletter of the S Scale Special Interest Group (SSSIG), a non-profit special interest group of the National Model Railroad Assn (NMRA) whose primary goals are to provide contact for its members and to act as a forum for the exchange of information on subjects related to 1:64 scale railroad modeling.

Membership is open to all NMRA members. The fee is \$6 for two years (August 1987 thru July 1989) in the US, Canada, and Mexico. Non-NMRA members may subscribe to Essence for \$6 for the same two-year period. Members and subscribers will receive all issues of Essence published during the two-year period, no matter when they join or subscribe.

The opinions expressed in Essence are those of authors where signed, or of the Editor where not signed, and are not endorsed by the NMRA, or the SSSIG Coordinator unless specifically noted.

TO:

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711 Lowell Street  
Feabody, MA 01960



Essence reserves the right to edit submissions to avoid disparagement, and for clarity, content, and length.

Essence solicits articles, drawings, photographs, and opinions on any topic applicable to S SCALE model railroading. Submitted material is understood to be gratis and contributed for the benefit of the hobby. Other publications are free to reprint uncopyrighted material, providing proper credit is given. Permission to reprint copyrighted material must be obtained from its authors.

Ads are not solicited. However, pre-printed advertising material of interest to members may be included with the newsletter. Supply 100 clean copies of ad material, cut or folded to 5.5" by 8.5" (printed on one side or both). The cost per issue for inclusion of ads in the newsletter is \$5 per 5.5" by 8.5" sheet and \$10 per 8.5" by 11" sheet. Send copy of the proposed ad to the Editor for review. Disapproved copy may not be returned.