



the Semaphore

September 1994

Volume 22, Number 1

SEPTEMBER 25th PROGRAM 9:45 A.M.

We are off for the **East Troy Trolley Museum**. This trip is the culmination of the efforts of Art Roth and Ken Kitzing, a member of the East Troy Trolley Museum.

The trip will begin at Palatine Hobby. The bus will depart at 9:45 A.M., Sunday, September 25th. A fee of \$5.00 per person will be collected as you board the bus.

Reservations are limited to fifty (50) persons and will be taken on a first come, first served basis. Please, members and immediate family only. To reserve your place on this trip, call Scott Hicks at 708-438-9109 now.

Included in the trip is a luncheon aboard the the North Shore diner *Ravenswood*. The menu is either a roast beef or roast turkey sandwich, pasta salad and a beverage. Dessert is on you at the Elegant Farmer or an old fashioned ice cream parlor.

Along with the diner, we will also have the use of a freight motor. It will run ahead or behind the diner. You will have some great opportunities to take photos.

Return arrival at Palatine Hobby approximately 5:00 P.M. Special thanks to the ladies for planning and serving the luncheon.

For directions to Palatine Hobby see the map on page two.



FOX VALLEY RAILROAD

The Fox Valley Railroad is in need of scenery. The layout is set up in a garage in Arlington Heights. Scheduled work sessions are on Friday nights. To participate in the layout sceniking call Irv Lange at 708-577-0015.

The layout is scheduled to be exhibited at the Hobby Show at the Rosemont Expo Center in November. During the run of the show we will need two or three people to operate the railroad during the day. There will be no difficulty staffing the layout during the evening hours.

This is a layout you can hook up to. For more information and specifications write the Fox Valley Division, P.O. Box 1535, Arlington Heights, IL 60006-1535.

Your New Superintendent Wonders Where The Members Are?

Where have all the flowers gone? Do you remember that song? Well, as your new Superintendent I have wondered where all the members of the Fox Valley Division (NMRA) have wandered off to. We are looking for you. Our membership hovers around 300 model railroad enthusiasts. But, we only have about 30 or 40 show up at the meetings, and only 20 or 30 helping to any degree on the High Wheeler show that supplies us with the monies we need to operate each year.

Fortunately we are surfeit in monies at the moment so that is not a problem. In fact we plan on spending some of those funds on ourselves, the members that are active, through trips and programs along with financing our day to day operations.

In this edition of *the Semaphore* you will find a membership registration. This form should be filled out completely and returned to the Fox Valley Division so that we can have on file a list of active members who wish to participate in the meetings and other functions of your Division.

REMEMBER! Once you join the NMRA you are automatically a member of the Fox Valley Division if you live in our area. You can and, hopefully, will participate in our many functions such as: meetings at the Morava Center, High Wheeler, the Fox Valley Modular Railroad, the upcoming regional convention, and the many trips and events we plan throughout the year.

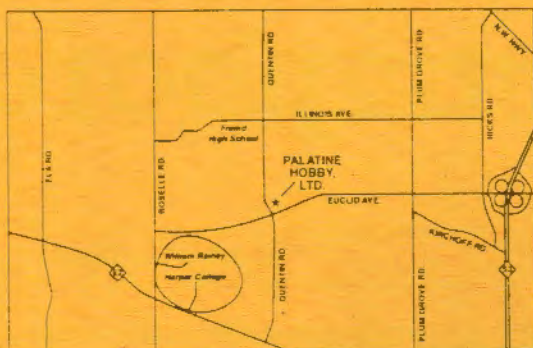
You can gain more for yourself through participation than the amount of effort you put into the division. Just imagine the new friends you can gain, the new model railroad knowledge, the recognition you gain through our contests, the enjoyment of our field trips, and the enjoyment of running your railroad, the Fox Valley Railroad. There are many more advantages you can also gain by participating. Give us a try and come on out to our meetings which run from September through May every year. We not only have the meetings but also a helpful program on different aspects of model railroading, along with our contests.

PLEASE fill out the membership registration and return it to us as soon as possible if you are, or wish to participate in our activities.

Remember, only you can tell for sure if we really do exist. If you have any questions at all please feel free to call your Superintendent, Raymond L. Pettersen Jr. at (708) 259-3040. I am here to serve you throughout my term of office. May the sun shine upon your model railroading.

Ray Pettersen, Jr.

PALATINE HOBBY



COMING PROGRAMS

The Fox Valley Division proudly presents two of the finest clinicians we've ever seen. On October 16th Dan Horn will present his solutions to your electrical problems. Dan is a highly qualified electrical engineer.

You've seen him on TV. You've seen his videos...now see him in person. Wayne Wesolowski will be our featured clinician on November 20th. Wayne will present the Lincoln Funeral Train. Join us for these two great programs.



FROM THE DESK OF YOUR ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

First, I would like to welcome everyone back for another year. Your board hopes to please and entertain you. But, we can't do it without your help. The Fox Valley Division is only as good or as bad as it's members make it. C'mon out, participate, get involved. You'll love it.

Scott Hicks is our Program Trainmaster. He has some great things planned. Achievement Trainmaster Frank Oldfield has planned some contests you won't want to miss.

Get in touch with Irv Lange to help with the Fox Valley Railroad. Why not even build a module or two. If you don't have your own layout you can be a part of ours.

Art Roth



CONVENTION UPDATE

Be sure to attend our October meeting. John Drozdak, MWR Director will address the membership on the status of upcoming conventions. Be there to learn the latest information. John will field questions regarding in particular the Fall '95 convention.

TROLLEY RIDE

September 25, 1994

**JOIN THE FOX VALLEY DIVISION
AS WE TAKE A CHARTERED
BUS TRIP TO THE
EAST TROY TROLLEY MUSEUM**

**Bus departs Palatine Hobby at
9:45 a.m. For more Information
and reservations call Scott
Hicks at 708-438-9109**

THIS IS YOUR SPACE

Have you ever wondered where all that wonderful stuff you see in *the Semaphore* comes from. Confidentially, so did I. Then I was appointed Trainmaster and was assigned to the Publications post. That's when I found out where it all comes from.

The bulk of the articles come from members of the Fox Valley Division. Usually from the officers and Trainmasters.

Contributions are not limited to the elected officers of the Fox Valley Division. You don't even have to write an article, see *RR Modelers* and *IA "Syntheses"* on the inside back cover. This was submitted by **Chas Hague**. The running list of historical societies was submitted by **Art Roth**. The personally written articles seen in *the Semaphore* last year were the work of **Rich Boettcher**.

This newsletter is published by and for the members of the Fox Valley Division. Please note the word *by*. Wouldn't you like to see your name listed as a contributor.

Don't worry about spelling or sentence structure. That is my job. Editing articles is an enjoyable pastime. It is a challenge, and one I take very seriously. Articles in *the Semaphore* must be readable to be effective.

Join the list of contributors to *the Semaphore*. Send your article to Jerry Hoffman, 4848 W. Strong St., Chicago, IL 60630. Your contribution will be reviewed and, if acceptable, published.

RR Modelers and IA "Synthesis"

In recent years an interesting new "users group" in IA has arisen: the railroad modeler. Of course, those who build models of railroad equipment have always needed to get information about "prototype," as they call the real thing, and railroad equipment and structures are part of the history of technology. But modelers increasingly have sought data on non-railroad industries as well. This is because the field of model railroading has broadened to include the modeling of not just equipment but also of the operations and industrial context of railroads in a particular region in some historic area. This in turn requires understanding of the function and appearance of industrial structures, and of the flow of materials and goods of the characteristic industries. Consequently, the journals of the field are beginning to publish such information.

What is the relation between these modelers and IA? Robert Barnett, at the SIA annual conference this year in Buffalo, spoke about the production of historical data and analysis as only part of the work of the historical technologist, who often must go on to produce a "synthesis," which he described as "the reconstruction either in abstract or concrete form of an industrial installation" for the purpose of describing a facility that may no longer exist. As examples of such forms he suggested drawings of how the plant was believed to appear, or a model or exhibit based on such drawings. Clearly, the railroad modeler can create just such a "synthetic interpretation." For example, the Rensselaer Model RR Society at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy NY, is transforming a large model railroad into a public showcase for regional IA, showing the townscapes, industries, and rail operations of the Lake Champlain area as they looked in the early 1950s.

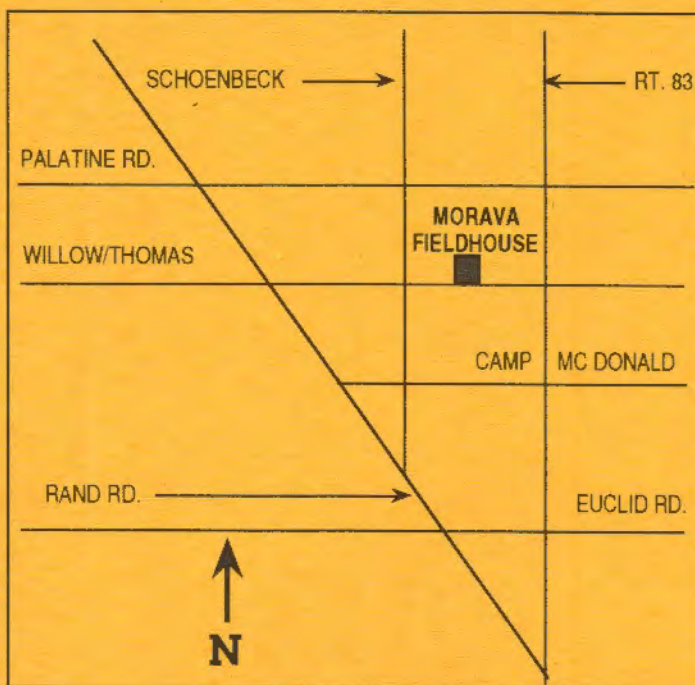
Recently Don Holbrook and Jeff Lemke of Rainge Research, and John Nehrich and Jeff English of the RMRRS, described this kind of modeling as "historic preservation through scale replication," pointing out that often it is only in model form that it is possible to "preserve," in some sense, historical industrial complexes and especially RRs themselves. These modelers claim that a moving three-dimensional miniature representation may be the closest thing to the reality of a historic industrial scene that we can ever experience (e.g., see Tony Koester's editorial in *Model Railroader*, Nov. 1991).

How can a model be an alternative to preserving the real thing? The real industry or RR may be entirely gone or completely altered, or may be too large to be preserved intact. In addition, showing railroading as it was in the past requires more than a mere collection of equipment and structures; the character of a RR results from its style of operations and from its relationship with its surrounding landscape and industrial milieu as well. These can be portrayed on a model in ways impossible at full scale, as demonstrated by the RPI model layout.

In furtherance of this process, some journals serving the modeler publish useful data on both prototype RRs and on the industries they served, often utilizing documentation prepared by the *Historic American Engineering Record (HAER)*. For a sampling of recent articles on industrial topics refer to: *SIA Newsletter*, Vol. 21, No. 3, Fall 1992.

Source: *SIA Newsletter*, Vol. 21, No. 3, Fall 1992.

WHERE WE MEET



Historical Societies Part of a Continuing Listing

Duluth Missabe & Iron Range

Annual Dues: \$12.50/\$20.00 sust.
Missabe Historical Society
719 Northland Avenue
Stillwater, MN 55082-5208

East Broad Top

Annual Dues: \$20.00
Ruth H. Keller
Rd #1, Box 996
Three Springs, PA 17264

Erie Lackawana

Annual Dues: \$10.00
Erie Lackawana Historical Society
c/o Dave Olesen
116 Ketcham Rd.
Hackettstown, NJ 07840

ET & WNC Rail Road Historical Society

Annual Dues: \$10.00
John R. Waite
604 N. 11th
DeSoto MO 63020

Great Northern

Annual Dues: \$17.50
Great Northern Railway Historical Society
1781 Griffith
Berkeley, MI 48072

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FOX VALLEY DIVISION OFFICERS

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Art Roth	Assistant Superintendent
708-577-4430	
Rich Boettcher	Chief Clerk
815-653-3146	
Rich Sweet	Paymaster
708-459-1037	

FOX VALLEY DIVISION TRAINMASTERS

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Scott Hicks	Programs
708-438-9109	
Steve Martinak	Ways and Means
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Erich Russ	Public Relations
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Frank Oldfield	Contests and Achievement
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Jerry Hoffman	Publications
312-725-9159	

the Semaphore is published monthly by and for the members of the Fox Valley Division, Midwest Region, National Model Railroad Association. The September and April issues are mailed to all members. There are no issues for June, July and August. All other issues are mailed to members who attended at least one meeting the previous year or requested copies by mail. Articles pertaining to the model railroading hobby are solicited subject to editorial review. Address all inquiries and manuscripts to: Fox Valley Division, Publications Trainmaster, P.O. Box 1535, Arlington Heights, IL 60006-1535.

Contest Winners

Will your name appear here? It could. The Fox Valley Division has many fine modelers among its members. Achievement and Contest Trainmaster, Frank Oldfield, will be scheduling many contests during the year. He wants to see as many entries as possible. In selecting winners for the contests we have devised a method of balloting that gives everyone a chance at winning.

Bring your entry. You might win. If not, you will be showing the division your efforts in model railroading.

The contest for September is:

Summer Memories

Slides and Photos of Railroading

Bring yours with. Part of our hobby is sharing the excitement of seeing what others have experienced. Share your good times with the other members of the Fox Valley Division.