Call Board

Volume 62 Issue 2 October 2021

Meetings

Due to technical problems at the Greene County Historical Society, it is not possible to hold a combined Zoom and live meeting. Until further notice, the BOG has decided to do Zoom meetings only. We are working with the GCHS to help them improve their facility to enable us to have combined meetings.

. Sam Swanson is the scheduled speaker for October. Mike is working on getting Tony Koester to speak in November. He is also working on getting a speaker from St Louis who has a large Norfolk and Western lay-out.

Contests

The BOG has also decided that contests will be limited to online only for the time being. We have not been able to come up with a way to fairly present a combined contest if and when we start combined meetings.

Elections

The Division elections are scheduled for April 2022. If you have an interest in being more involved please contact Superintendent Mark Stiver for more information. The elected officers are: Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and Chief Clerk. We also have several committee chairs open.

Train Show

November 4-8
Contact Rich Lach if you can help with setup, operation and teardown.

AP (Achievement Program) notes:

Congratulations to Jim Montgomery who was presented his Chief Dispatcher Certificate in August. We are also finalizing the application form for Chief Dispatcher for Jack Honeycutt. Others that are either nearing completion or finalizing the application forms are Chief Dispatcher, Electrical, and Scenery for Wil Davis, and Official for Mark Stiver. I continue to be available to answer your questions regarding the Achievement Program. Thanks. Rick Lach

Division 3 Website: www.modelraildayton.com

Contests

We have three categories each month. You can enter Scratch Built, Kit Bashed, or just plain Kit built. This allows anyone to enter anything they are proud of and at any skill level. Judging is by popular vote but if you wish to have your model judged by NMRA rules for the Achievement Program, we will make arrangements for you "on the spot"

The coming contest schedule …

October - Caboose

January - Open Loads
February - Non-Revenue Cars
March - Freight Cars
April - Passenger Cars
May - Steam Locomotives
June - Diesel Locomotives
July - No Contest
August - No Contest
September - Make it cheap (1-3-5 Dollar)
October - Caboose
November - Weathering
December - Structures

September - Make it cheap (1-3-5 Dollar)

MODEL

First Hans Schmellenkamp

PHOTO

First Eric Zimmerman
Gail Yarnall
Gail Yarnall

Virtual Contest

The virtual contest for October is Caboose.
Deadline for entries is 12 noon, Sunday, October 10, 2021.
Deadline for voting is 12 midnight, Friday, October 15, 2021.

All entries will be emailed to the Webmaster. (Webmaster@modelraildayton.com) The date/time stamp of the webmaster's email will determine if the entry was received in time. The deadline for voting will be 12 midnight (EDT) the Friday before the general meeting.
All votes will be emailed to the **Div3virtualcontest@gmail.com or webmaster@modelraildayton.com** The date/time stamp of the email will determine if the vote was received in time.

Entries will be displayed on the Division 3 website.

Model - Hans Schmellenkamp

Photo - Ric Zimmerman

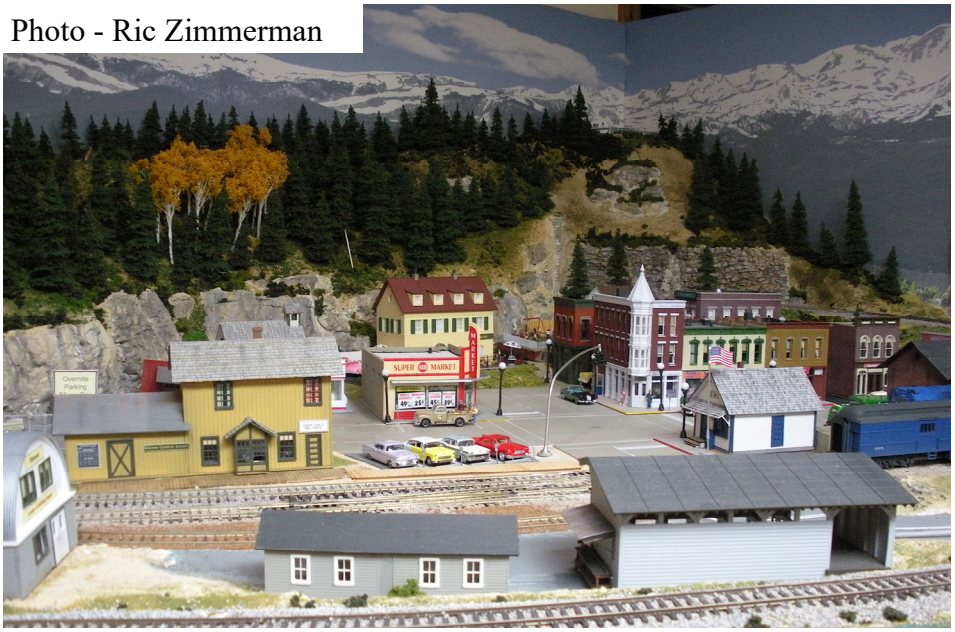

Photo - Gail Yarnall

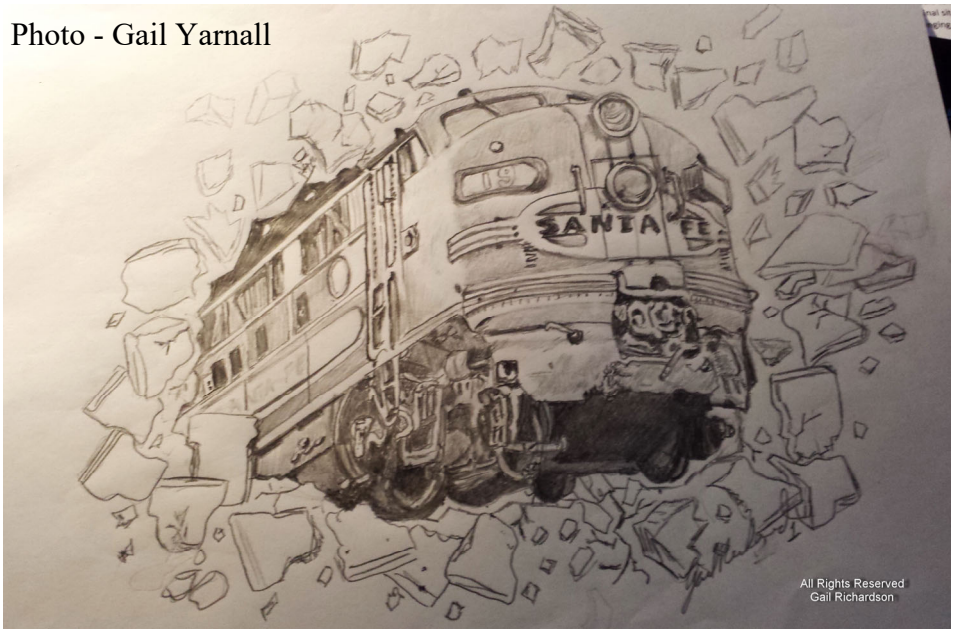

Photo - Gail Yarnall

MEET BOB FINK:

(This is a continuation of the series to meet individuals from Division 3 who were vital either to the foundation or operation of the division, members who were instrumental to the division for historical reasons and thereby worthy of our appreciation in the rich heritage of Division 3. In the first article we met Lone Eagle Payne, former President of the Mid Central Region who was instrumental in the establishment of Division 3 in May 1959, as well as a past division Assistant Superintendent and Superintendent. Subsequent planned articles were to meet our 2 Master Model Railroaders (MMRs), Bob Fink and Allen McClelland. After a couple attempts to reach Bob in early 2021 for an interview, I discovered that Bob had temporarily moved to the Cleveland area for treatments for a medical condition. After a few emails, an interview date was arranged for April 28, 2021. Bob actually called me and explained that his treatments had taken so much out of him that he was not strong enough to do an interview justice. We concluded that he would call me again when he felt stronger and was able to be interviewed. He never felt stronger, and he passed away a month later. The following discussion is an expansion of the comments I made at Bob's Memorial Service on September 5, 2021.)

It is an honor and a pleasure to help celebrate Bob's life regarding his lifelong love of trains and model railroading and his affiliation with Division 3 and Division 7 of the Mid Central Region of the National Model Railroad Association.

To set the stage: Bob was born in 1935, the same year the NMRA was founded, and the year after Model Railroader Magazine was established. In a sense, all 3 developed simultaneously. Bob started building kits in his early teens; sometime later he acquired an S gauge inventory of trains, but later converted to HO scale. He eventually participated with the group that ran HO trains at the Dayton Art Institute in the late 1950's. He joined the NMRA in 1956, and in May/June 1959, he became a charter member of Division 3 when Lone Eagle Payne, then President of the Mid Central Region of the NMRA, arranged for the first meeting of Division 3 in Lebanon, Ohio. For the next 62 years he participated in model railroading, Division 3, Division 7, and the NMRA as a life member and helped foster the hobby to the maximum extent possible. He initially was mentored in the philosophy that the essence of the hobby was building models and operating scale trains like the prototypes -- not to rely on ready to run equipment which did little to hone one's skills. This practice ultimately resulted in very high achievement, spectacular models and structures, three fantastic layouts, and a legacy that demands understanding, respect, and appreciation.

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I think I can reduce Bob's legacy to two words: leadership and example, and then branch out from these.

From the beginning, Division 3 happened to be blessed with outstanding leadership. That early corps of leaders formed the foundation that lasted for the next 25 years and established the program that has endured until today. Names like Charles Gustin, Don Santel, Jim Rhinehart, Jim Paine, Don Bedrowsky, Allen McClelland, Clifford Brown, Brick Adair, Lone Eagle Payne, and Bob Fink (as well as others) honed their modeling skills, built outstanding layouts, and developed the programs and attitude that led to the record setting national convention in Dayton in 1975. Bob became the Call Board editor in the early 60's and helped document these early events for posterity. A two-year hitch in the Army with an overseas assignment didn't stop him. After the military, he picked up right where he left off and continued his editorship of the Call Board for the next several years. His leadership qualities continued to blossom.

From 1959 until 2021, a period of 62 years, Division 3 has had 27 superintendents. Bob was elected Superintendent in 1968 for two years; then he was elected Assistant Superintendent in 1990 for two years; and again as Superintendent in 2006 and 2008 for two years each term. So, in Division 3's infancy, in addition to being editor of the Call Board, Bob spent 6 years as superintendent and 2 years as assistant superintendent. He thus became a vital member of the leadership team.

As an extension of being a proven leader, he was also a prolific author, speaker, and teacher who was willing to share his enthusiasm for our hobby with anyone interested. His first article appeared in the old HO Monthly in 1950. He wrote and had published 43 articles for Model Railroader Magazine from 1962 to 2009, numerous articles for computer magazines, and an unknown number of appearances in Model Railroad Craftsman. Over the years he also spoke and presented clinics at the division, regional, and national levels. The division capitalized on his vast railroad knowledge as he was our auctioneer for the annual auction at least 3 times. In his later years, he became the Division 3 Achievement Program manager. Together with Mike Mereness, he planned and executed 9 highly successful bus tours to various regional layouts in Columbus, Cincinnati, and northern Kentucky. As a result, Bob's leadership at the divisional level contributed immensely to the credibility of Division 3 and helped put the division on the model railroading map. I am personally aware of the countless hours he must have spent in planning, writing, conducting events, and making sure the divi-

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sion was postured in the best way possible. And Division 3 recognizes its debt of gratitude for Bob's commitment and willingness to make our division the best it could be.

Secondly, Bob led by example. He continually worked to develop his modeling skills. He experimented with smaller apartment layouts, and this process ultimately led to the creation of 3 full basement layouts, one in each of his last 3 residences. His Dayton, Duluth, and Western Railroad was featured in the 1975 National Convention layout tours in Dayton. And his current layout, the Dayton and Western Railroad was featured in the 2005 National Convention layout tours in Cincinnati. His modeling talent ultimately merged with his research of the history of Dayton, as his Dayton and Western Railroad depicted the major railroads running through Dayton in their glory years of the 1940's. He researched and built all the structures in the scenes on the layout to include Dayton Union Station, businesses and industries in downtown Dayton, switching yards and roundhouses, bridges, and interchanges. He even built an interurban trolley system that ran through downtown to the countryside. Although Bob operated with and appreciated Digital Command and Control (DCC), Bob built his power station using conventional block control and parts which were of post-World War II technology.

One final aspect of his leadership by example quality – Bob met the challenge of the NMRA's Achievement Program by modelling to a judged standard. In his basement Bob displayed the proof that he earned all eleven of the Achievement Program's certificates, citing his excellence in every facet of the hobby. It takes earning 7 of these certificates to be awarded the Master Model Railroader Certificate. Bob was MMR #161 having earned his MMR achievement in the early 1990's. By the way, very few NMRA members have earned all 11 certificates as Bob did. Furthermore, Division 3 has 2 MMR's; Bob Fink is one, and Allen McClelland is the other. And currently there are 686 MMR's in the NMRA since the program began. That is really rare company!

He was an active member and participant of the Wednesday operations group which weekly rotated and operated on magnificent layouts in the local area. His passing has created a huge void in the Wednesday operations group which will never be filled completely. One can only imagine the stories that have been told on those Wednesdays. We all will have our favorite memories and stories about Bob, and they will undoubtedly be discussed in the coming weeks with much fondness.

In the end, Bob was a unique guy and a vital member of the NMRA, Division 3, and Division 7. We have not only lost a treasured friend, but also one of our earliest members, leaders, and trail blazers. Have you ever noticed how inspired you feel after you have done something with trains? Bob epitomized what and why this hobby means so much to each of us. He wrote about it; he spoke it; he showed it. He literally walked the talk. This is Bob's legacy to Division 3, Division 7, the NMRA, and really to all of us. We owe a lot to Bob, and we thank his family for the opportunity to acknowledge all his accomplishments.

Bob was always very warm and friendly to me, and on many occasions, he reached out and really made me feel special. On a personal note, I will always remember:

- Being on the BOG with him when he was Superintendent and marveling at his leadership style and vast railroad knowledge…… when he was in his late 70's! Five former and current Division 3 superintendents attended his Memorial Service, a true testimonial to his meaning to our division.
- One Sunday afternoon I had to take something to him at his house. Marcie showed Kathleen her

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quilts upstairs, and Bob operated his layout for me, one on one, running his T-1 duplex with passenger cars, as well as his interurban trolleys. This was a very special moment for me. It was then that it dawned on me how his layout room was his "sacred space" where his imagination could run wild as he created his miniature empire. In a sense, he made Dayton history come alive every time his T-1 worked the layout, passed through Dayton Union Station, and fulfilled its operational responsibilities.

- Bob complimenting me after I gave a presentation on "The Beauty of Scale" at a monthly division meeting. That meant a lot.

- His description of the running of one of Bob Bartizek's O gauge steam engines after one of the Wednesday operations sessions; he focused on the large driver wheels and valve gear as an artistic thing of beauty…..one only wonders what his imagination saw at that moment.

- Bob attended all the local area train shows. He had a traveling buddy, Ed Andress. On occasion, I would watch the two of them in action, carefully inspecting the older treasures in boxes under the tables and wondering how those conversations went….

- I was blown away the first time I saw Bob in action as our annual auction auctioneer by his knowledge of all the items put up for auction. It should have dawned on me that he was backing all that up with over 5 decades of involvement in the hobby. He seemed to be familiar with it all.

- His image: everyone close your eyes and envision him in his Division 3 shirt, his railroad suspenders, his vest with all his convention and railroad patches, and his khaki pants! This should be the way we remember him.

It seems to me the best way to honor Bob's legacy is to remember and retell his story. We certainly begin that today with this article and will refresh it each time we talk Division 3 history, read one of his articles, see pictures of his layout, or refer to him in the division website. We indeed were fortunate to have him with us all this time. Pictures of Bob's Dayton and Western layout will be posted on the Division 3 website, as well as this article. His layout will not be destroyed; it has been purchased and will be reworked into another local layout for possible visitation in the future. All 11 of his AP Certificates will be on display in the Greene County Historical Society building. And finally, we hope to write the last chapter of Bob's involvement in model railroading with a feature article on Bob with pictures of his layout in Model Railroader Magazine.

If any members have information or photos of Bob to add to our division history, please contact me.

Thanks, Rick Lach

Please go online, enter and vote for the monthly Contest

October 2020 to October 2021 has been a particularly hard period for Division 3. At the September Zoom meeting, Superintendent Mark Stiver dedicated a few minutes to remember active division members, former division members, and spouses of division members who have died during this period. Normally we would mention these deaths as they happen at our in-person meetings, but due to the pandemic we have not had that opportunity. So, for the benefit of those members who were unable to attend the September Zoom meeting, we will remember those members and spouses who have passed away during the last year. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with their families during this most difficult time:

Tom Sorauf

John Reck

Bob Fink

Frank Klatt, former member

Tony Scoglieti, former member

Dolores Strous, wife of Dick Strous

Bonita Holl, wife of David Holl

Rosalyn Zwart, wife of Dwayne Zwart

Please note: if you are aware of any other member, former member, or spouse who has passed away during the last year, please let us know, and we will recognize them. Their names have not been intentionally omitted.

Board of Governors

The Board of Governors usually meets the first Monday of the month to conduct the business of the Division. Meetings will be conducted online until further notice. Any member may attend and participate in the meeting. Please contact a board member to verify date and time.

Board of Governors
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The *Call Board* is the official publication of Division 3, Mid Central Region, National Model Railroad Association. It is published monthly except in August. All comments and opinions are welcome. Those views expressed in the *Call Board* do not necessarily reflect the policies or opinions of the NMRA, the Mid Central Region or Division 3.

October 2021

Next Crew Call	
When:	**October 17, 2pm**
Where:	**ZOOM**
Program:	Sam Swanson
Contest:	Caboose
Visitors and Guests Always Welcome	