

# FLIMZIE

***The Newsletter of the Rock River Valley Division  
Midwest Region, National Model Railroad Association***



***July 2023      Volume 56, Number 11***

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The Rock River Valley Division, RRVD, is a local division of the Midwest Region of the National Model Railroad Association, NMRA. The RRVD serves NMRA members in areas of Green and Rock Counties of Wisconsin, and Boone, Jo Davies, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside, Carol, DeKalb and Winnebago counties in Illinois. The RRVD holds monthly meets typically the first Sunday afternoon of each month, September through May, in Rockford at the at **YMCA** formally **The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 1829 North Rockton Avenue, Rockford, IL**. They consist of various clinics on model railroading, model contests, drawings for door prizes for NMRA members. All are welcome. The meets start at 1:00 PM, and the doors open at 12:30 PM.

## **2023 BoD & Chairman Directory**

Please use the following address to contact the RRVD organization or any of the following officers:

**Rock River Valley Division, NMRA  
PO Box 2213  
Loves Park, IL 61131-2213**

### **Superintendent:**

Marty Hendrickx  
815-978-7326  
[superintendent@rrvd-nmar.org](mailto:superintendent@rrvd-nmar.org).

### **Assistant Superintendent:**

John Mann  
[asstsuperintendent@rrvd-nmra.com](mailto:asstsuperintendent@rrvd-nmra.com)

### **Paymaster:**

Myron Peterson  
[ructic@gmail.com](mailto:ructic@gmail.com)

### **Chief Clerk:**

Steve Faivre  
815-761-5070  
[smfaivre@gmail.com](mailto:smfaivre@gmail.com)

### **Director:**

Gary Loiselle, MMR  
815 / 963-8326  
[hofreight@gmail.com](mailto:hofreight@gmail.com)

### **Director:**

Doug Loy  
815 / 765-3135  
[delsclho@yahoo.com](mailto:delsclho@yahoo.com)

### **Director:**

Ken Peterson  
779 / 348-2961  
[poplarken53@gmail.com](mailto:poplarken53@gmail.com)

**Director (Past Superintendent):**

Ray Dyreson  
815 / 335-7046  
815 / 494-0205  
[raydyr@aol.com](mailto:raydyr@aol.com)

**Show and Sale Chairman:**

Doug Loy  
815 / 765-3135  
[delsclho@yahoo.com](mailto:delsclho@yahoo.com)

**Flimzie Editor:**

Ken Peterson  
779 / 348-2961  
[poplarken53@gmail.com](mailto:poplarken53@gmail.com)

**Membership Chairman:**

Ken Mosny  
815 / 965-4871  
[kenmosny@comcast.net](mailto:kenmosny@comcast.net)

**Clinics Chairman:**

Ron Johnson  
779 / 774-5431  
[rondjohn@earthlink.net](mailto:rondjohn@earthlink.net)

**Contest Chairman:**

Ray Dyreson  
815 / 494-0205  
[raydyr@aol.com](mailto:raydyr@aol.com)

**Layout Tours Chairman:**

Bert Morris  
815 / 520-1307  
[winxxx1115@gmail.com](mailto:winxxx1115@gmail.com)

**Division Publicity Chairman:**

Joe Whinnery  
815 / 398-8973  
[phowhin@yahoo.com](mailto:phowhin@yahoo.com)

**Nomination and Election Chairman:****Advancement Chairman:**

Gary Loiselle, MMR  
815 / 963-8326  
[hofreight@gmail.com](mailto:hofreight@gmail.com)

**Show and Sale Registrar:**

Ken Mosny  
815 / 965-4871  
[kenmosny@comcast.net](mailto:kenmosny@comcast.net)

**Office Vacancies**

**Division Publicity Chairman.** This person would be responsible for contacting organizations (newspapers, local ad flyers, TV stations public announcements, magazines, etc.) that would publicize our meets, train shows, and other activities. If you are interested in serving in this capacity, contact Marty Hendrickx, 815-978-7326, [superintendent@rrvd-nmar.org](mailto:superintendent@rrvd-nmar.org).

**Flimzie Deadlines**

The Flimzie is published once per month on the first of the month. It will be placed on the RRVD website for anyone that wants to read it.

The content for the Flimzie comes from you, our readers. Please submit your articles, pictures and editorial comments to the Editor, Ken Peterson, [poplarken53@gmail.com](mailto:poplarken53@gmail.com), no later than 10 days before the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month, i.e., Jan 21, 2022, for a Feb 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 publication.

## From the Superintendent

By Marty Hendrickx

Hello All! I hope everyone is enjoying their summer. It was a bit of a bummer and surprise last week when we were all “smoke out” by the Canadian wildfires. Kind of like an unexpected winter snowstorm where we have to stay in and retreat to our basements/train rooms to work on our trains.

The June Junket at IRM was a great event and we had 14 members attend. I would like to thank Dave Hammer at IRM for giving us an “all-inclusive tour” of IRM. He personally guided our group to all of the different barns and shops that are not usually open to the public so we really got an in-depth look at the museum and its operations.

That Sunday was a special event day and they were running RPO trains. We were able to ride in the RPO car and see up close how the mail pouch was snatched from the moving train. It was an interesting experience to see how quickly and efficiently the pouch was grabbed by the moving train. They also had several retired railway postal workers in the car to explain how the operation and sorting of the mail was done by the postal workers. This was a great firsthand experience of how mail was sorted and moved up through the 1967 final cancellation of the last RPO contracts.

August we are having our annual RRVD cookout at the Pow-Wow club from 5-7. The division will be supplying the brats and burgers along with water, buns and condiments. All who attend are asked to bring a dish to share. We encourage all of our members to attend along with a guest. We will be sending out an RSVP notice so we can get an estimate of how much food we will need to have.

The RRVD Board of Directors is actively planning our meet schedule for the 2023/2024 meets. If you have any suggestions for one of our meets please feel free to let me know. We are always interested in what topics our members would like to have at one of our meets. Please let I or one of the other members of the board know what you're interested in.

Finally, if you have been itching to attend a convention, the Midwest Region will not be holding a convention until the spring of 2024. I would suggest the 3 Rivers Division convention. It will be holding their convention in Ft. Wayne the weekend of October 19-22. It is called Fort Wayne Rails 2023. Here is a link to their site <https://div3.ncrnmra.org/fort-wayne-rails-2023>. They look to have a great convention with many planned activities and tours. It is only a four- and half-hour ride to Ft. Wayne. Contact them soon as they have early bird registration for attendees. One interesting thing about their convention is they are welcoming non-NMRA members for a slight additional fee so all of

you who get the *Flimzie* who are not a NMRA member, here is an opportunity to go to a convention.

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## From the Editor

By Ken Peterson

Friends of the Flimzie, I need to point out that this publication is for you and by you. All the articles that appear here are written by members of the RRVD. If you don't submit articles for publishing, there is no content. When I took over as the editor, I wanted to change the Flimzie from a quarterly publication to a monthly one. Without articles from you, I may have to switch the Flimzie back to quarterly, or even occasionally, based on when I get content. This will be completely up to you.

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## What Are Friends For? Chapter 17

Gary D. Loielle

I must admit that coming up with a subject for each Flimzie edition hasn't been the easiest, but, I must agree that it is also fun. It is also rewarding when someone gives me some positive feedback because of one of these articles. For example, Dennis Blunt recently hosted layout tour for the RRVD. I hadn't been to Dennis' layout in quite some time so it was a must visit. During our tour someone, I think Dave Hopper, tapped me on the shoulder and said, “What Are Friends For, What are Friends For!” He was pointing at an industrial structure on the layout. The industry was **FRESE DRY ICE CO. (Photo 1)** By chance, or design, Rick Frese was there at the time. I learned later that Dennis and Rick's father Al Frese were long-time model railroad friends. I should mention that Rick has “**BLUNT TOOL MFG** on his layout. **(Photo 2)** As an aside, Bob Supinger had “**BLUNT INSTRUMENTS**” on his Monon layout. **(Photo 3)**

Going along with the WAFF idea, I noticed a nearby industry that Dennis has on his layout called WEST COT & MATRESS Co. **(Photo 4)** The name Linn Westcott has long been associated with the hobby of model railroading. He was the long-time editor of Model Railroader. And, after talking with Dennis, it turns out, they were very close friends. Linn also offered Dennis a job at Model Railroader. Fortunately for us, Dennis opted to stay in Rockford.

How modelers have included friends and family on their layouts has been a focus of mine in this series of articles. On my layout I have included my wife with ‘**Harriet's Diner**’. **(Photo 5)**

During a visit to Larry Cich's layout I spotted '**Jan's Tourist Trap**'.(Photo 6) FIY, Larry's wife's name is Jan. I got a chuckle out of the sign propped up by the building saying "*Last Chance for Oleo.*" (Photo 7) It took me back to the years up to high school graduating when I lived in Madison. A close family that worked with my parents had parents living in Shabbona, Illinois. When she would come to Illinois to visit them, she would return to Wisconsin with several cases contraband. OLEO. How many of you remember the plastic pouches filled with that white stuff and the yellow eye that you would have to knead to get it all transformed to the color of 'butter'? Down the road from Jan's, is shall we say, **Larry's Greasy Spoon Truck Stop** that is in the development stage. (Photos 8,9) I will assume that the name of the place has something to do with Larry's thirty-plus years of driving semis. I can tell you from personal experience, the few times over the years that I have traveled with Larry, if there was a good place to eat up ahead, he knew about it.

In chapter 9, I wrote about how humbling it was to be recognized on layouts of fellow modelers. Marion Brasher had *LOISELLE HARDWARE* on his Valley Roundhouse layout (Photo 10) and Rick Frese has *LOISELLE BUILDING SUPPLY* on the C & NW Galena Div. of the Buzzard Gulch & Western. (Photo 11)

Well, what can I say, it's happened again. I got an e-mail a while back from Bill Lorence (MMR #45) with an attachment. (Photo 12) *LOISELLE HARDWARE & EQUIPMENT* is now a valued shipper on the Shenandoah and Tidewater. WAFF.



Photo 1



Photo 2





Photo 3



Photo 5



Photo 4



Photo 6



Photo 7

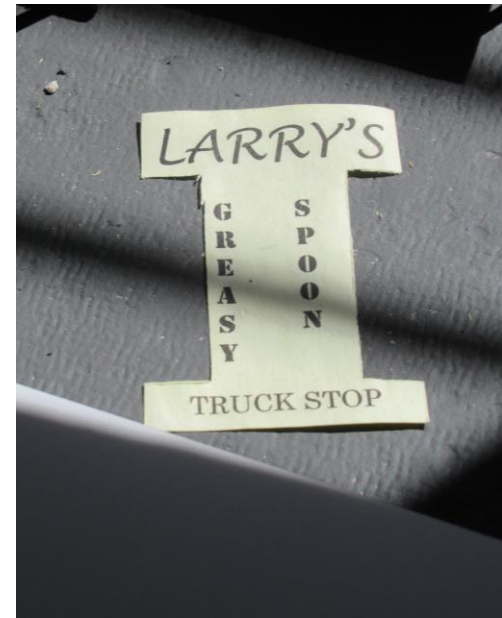


Photo 9

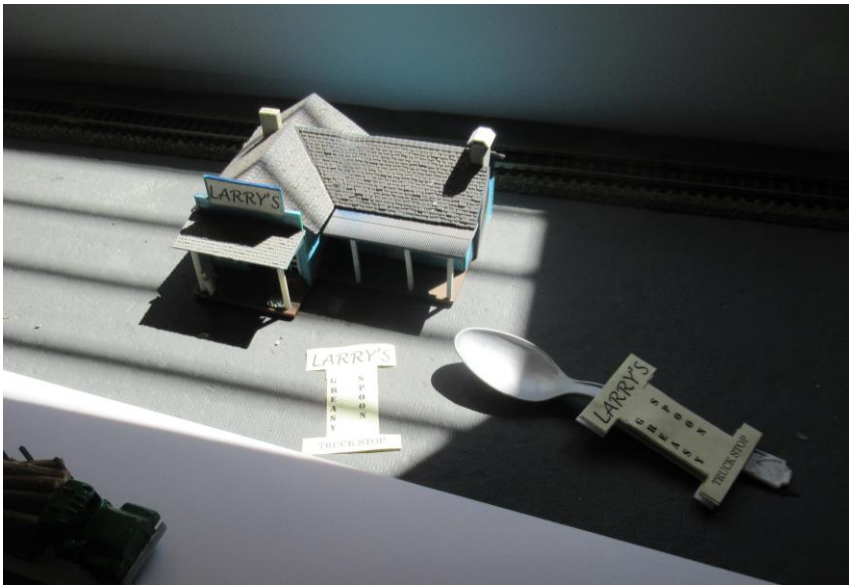


Photo 8

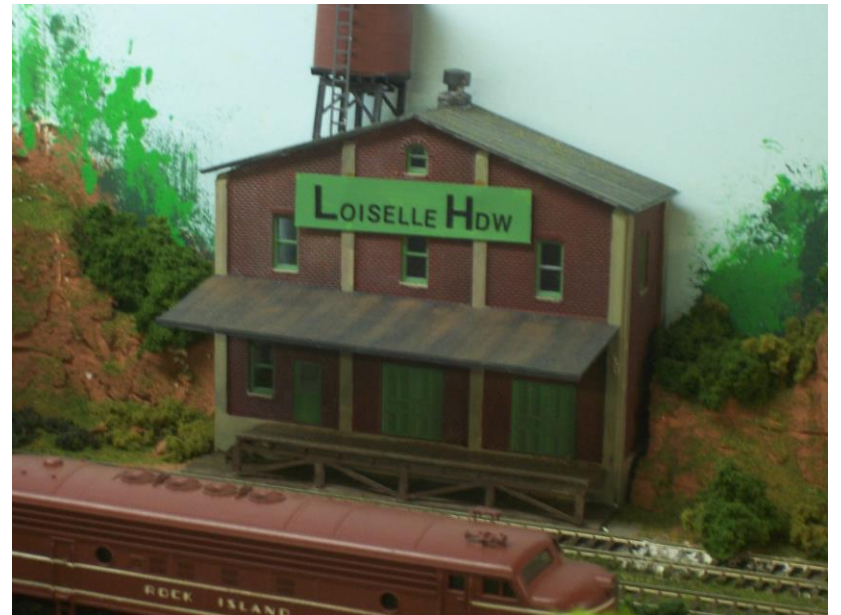


Photo 10





Photo 11



Photo 12



A slow moving grain train on a hot sunny day in Avalon, WI is torture for many waiting in their cars for it to pass, but BLISS for the railfan! Picture by Myron Peterson

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