

# FLIMZIE

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



**January 2024      Volume 57, Number 5**

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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 meetings typically the first Sunday afternoon of each month, September through May. Starting in September, we will be meeting at the **Paulson's Agriculture Museum, 6950 Belvidere Rd, Caledonia, IL 61011**. The meetings consist of various clinics on model railroading, model contests, and drawings for door prizes for NMRA members. All are welcome. The meeting starts at 1:00 PM, and the doors open at 12:30 PM.

## **2024 BoD & Chairman Directory**

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

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**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, 2024, for a Feb 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, publication.

## From the Superintendent By Marty Hendrickx

Hello all! I hope everyone had a happy and joyous holiday season. It seems like it goes by very quickly and there is always more to do than what we can do. I was hoping to attend Harold and Judith Heeren's 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary but I had a family conflict, so I missed it. Congratulations to Harold and Judith's on their Anniversary! Also, I understand Harold is recovering nicely from his health scare.

The Rock River Valley meet schedule is pretty much set for the rest of the year so go to the web site to see what we have planned. The other major event is our annual Rock River Valley Train Show for the weekend of March 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. While this show gives us all a chance to shop the many different vendors that come in and see multiple club layouts who exhibit, this is also RRVD's major fund-raising event. The proceeds from this show pay our meet rentals, holiday banquet and summer picnic, so we need an all-hands effort to produce this show. Most of the organizing is done or in process so what is needed is assistance setting up the show on Friday afternoon, the 15<sup>th</sup>, working the door taking entry fees on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, and dismantling everything on Sunday afternoon after the show closes at 3:00 PM. We have multiple jobs available so regardless of your ability, we can use your assistance. We will have sign-up sheets at the January, February and March meets for you to volunteer. If you are snow-birding and will not be back until the show dates, please feel free to contact me at [superintendent@rrvd-nmra.com](mailto:superintendent@rrvd-nmra.com) or Ken Mosny to let us know what you can volunteer for.

Also, if you have something to sell, as an RRVD member you can get your first table for \$15. Additional tables are at the standard rate of \$30. These are 8' banquet tables. If you would like to do any model demonstrations, RRVD will provide you with a table for no charge. If you are interested, please contact Ken Mosny at [registrar@rrvd-nmra.com](mailto:registrar@rrvd-nmra.com).

The other major event coming up is the Midwest Region's regional convention, **Around the Bend**, in South Bend, IN. on May 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> at "The Century Center". The cost for the convention is \$65.00 for NMRA members and \$70 for non-members. Transportation and lodging are not included. Please see the web site for more info <https://www.mwr-nmra.org/aroundthebend.html>. This is the Midwest Region's first convention since Covid so whoever can attend to make it a success will be appreciated. So "Save the Date" with registration is to begin on February 1st.

Well, that is it for now. I hope to see as many of you as possible at our meets and events!

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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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## Vacation Photo Shoot By Joe Whinnery

I took these photos on vacation at the in-laws in AZ. It is the Gadsen-Pacific Toy Train Operating Museum in Tucson. It started in 1988 at Foothills Mall which closed in 1997. A new building was started in 1998, and now has Z, N, S O, standard G, and an out good riding train. Tucson has lost its hobby shops, but this museum has a train hobby shop, and accepts model train items for sale to hobbyists. Admission is \$5.00. It is located due east of Saguaro National Park, in south Tucson. Former Rockford area resident and GD Museum member Dr Wayne Wesolowski, PHD chemistry made a large model of the Lincoln Funeral train car and was on display at our Harlem train show many years ago. It is open Sept to May 1-4 on Sundays. It is too hot in there during the summer. It also has a Denver & Rio Grande caboos.













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## The New Peterson Layout

### Part 3: Going Yard

By Myron Peterson

Finally, we begin laying track, and what better place to begin than with a yard. Historically the railroad I am basing my layout on, in the area I'm modeling didn't have much in the way of yards. The northern terminus at Mineral Point only had a few tracks, though just south of town the Mineral Point Zinc Company had a good deal of spurs and sidings. Those only supported the zinc company and not the town proper.

So, we shift to the other "terminus" of my railroad – Janesville. Janesville not only had a yard, but was an interchange with the C&NW. It also had (and still does have) a turntable – vital to my planned era of steam operations.

In keeping with my plans for a small railroad I decided I only needed three tracks in this yard, in addition to "the main." When your plan is to have your longest train be five cars this seemed fitting.

Image 1 – Janesville track plan.



I am using Code 70 rail as I got a good deal on 38 new, in package, Micro Engineering #6 turnouts. Following an article in the June 2023 *Model Railroader*, I made the crossovers without soldering. I was truly surprised with how easy it was.

Speaking of soldering... yeah, we most all of us hate that part. I did manage to get the yard tracks all soldered without melting any ties. Now on to feeder wires. I selected 22-gauge solid copper for feeders to attach to the 18-gauge stranded sub-bus wires. The main bus is 14-gauge stranded wire. I decided on suitcase connectors to attach the feeder wire to the sub-bus.

Image 2 – Under table wiring

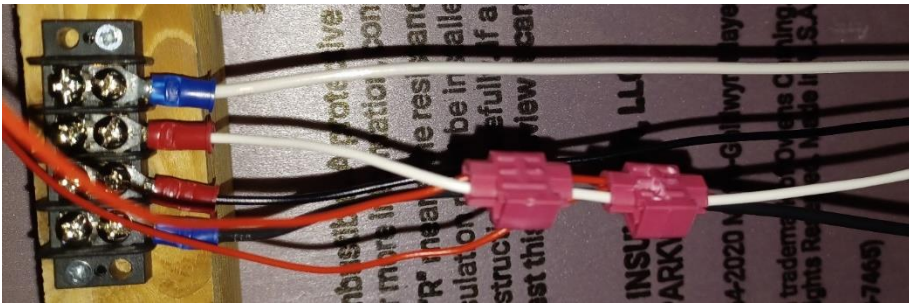


Image 3: Merry Christmas



And this is where we leave it for now. Happy New Year

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## What Are Friends For? Chapter 27

### Gary D. Loielle

Let me start this Chapter with a question. Have you ever had something that you know you have but just can't find it? You know, like your favorite screwdriver, or lucky shirt, or some pictures or slides. Well, after combing through folders and three ring binders, of which I have several, I thought about looking one more time in the two file cabinets under my layout. What I assumed were either empty trays or an open load clinic were actually two carousel slide trays marked "STRUCTURE DETAILS #1 and #2. EUREKA. That's the good news. Not so good, I now have 15 pages of slides; each page holds 20 slides that need to be converted to digital images.

Until then, let's look at some things I can show you regarding "details". I want to keep it simple, somewhat believable, and inexpensive. If you want to use a "two-foot rule", "three-foot rule" or "four-foot-rule", great. We're not merit award judging here, just having fun. WAFF?

In my last chapter, I mentioned the RRVD HO Track module that I built and some of the structures that were on it. One of them was "Northwestern Stove and Repair. (Photo 1A) I have no idea what the actual building looked like, I only used the name. My building was scratch built and fastened to the



module for easy movement and set-up. At our shows, the viewer primarily sees the roof. Looking at my photo, I should have put texture on it but that's a "coulda-shoulda".

The large round vents are the rubber part of animal-size hypodermics which I talked about in an earlier chapter. **(Photo 1B)** For those of you who are, or know, a "Nit-picker" or "Rivet Counter" yes, the vents on the right side of the roof are rivets. And, they do have a prototype resemblance to some I found on a real building in Rockford. **(Photo 2)** If you need some, I have more. **(Photo 3)**

My building also has a single-story annex on the left side. It has two large doors to accommodate rail service, a scratch-built overhang, and a loading dock made of a piece of Homasote. On the roof there are three "features" in a row on the left half, and a two-bubble thing on the right. There is a feature on the building wall that I will get to next. **(Photo 4)**

If you could see up close on the three-of-a-kind pieces, you could see the word "BIC" on them. Yes, they are the covers from BIC disposable razors. If you think the double-bubble "detail" looks a whole like the bubble pack that you get with a two-pack of double A batteries, you are right.

The feature on the wall is also a 'bubble pack'. It is the package that you get when you buy a router bit. **(Photo 5 and 6)** I thought about how to cut the package to just leave the bubble part, then, I realized the package could be mold. I had some #1 casting plaster from a place called OFF THE WALL. I don't believe it's still around. I found a similar fine plaster at Hobby Lobby. **(Photo 7)** You can use the mold to make a stand-alone feature **(Photo 8)** or add a feature like a flex pipe op over the wall like in **Photo 4B**. The flex pipe is the straw you get with a child's juice box. I simply put it in the "mold" where the router bit shaft would be and filled it with the plaster mix. Let it sit and WALA.

I have also used this bubble pack idea to create some open loads . . . . go figure. We can get into that later. WAFF? Gary

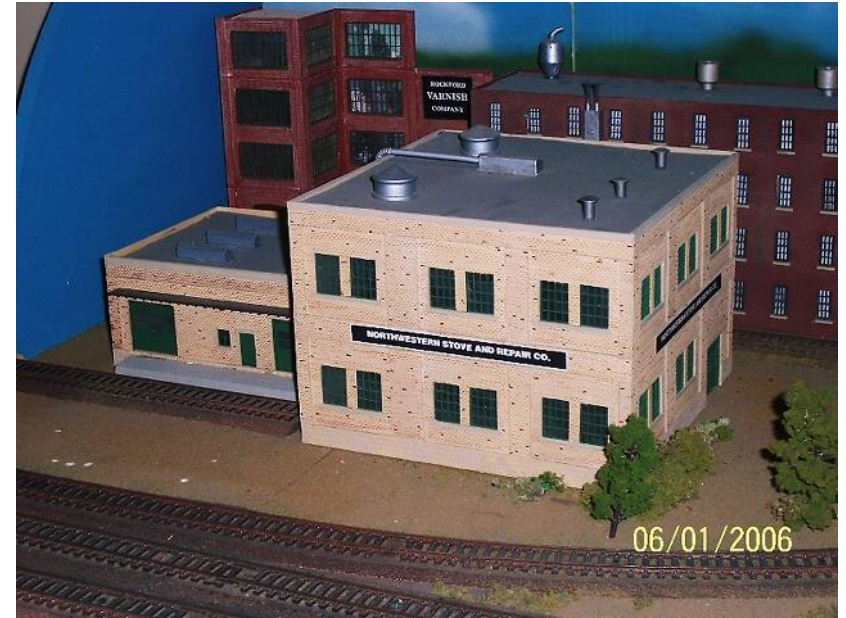


Photo 1A

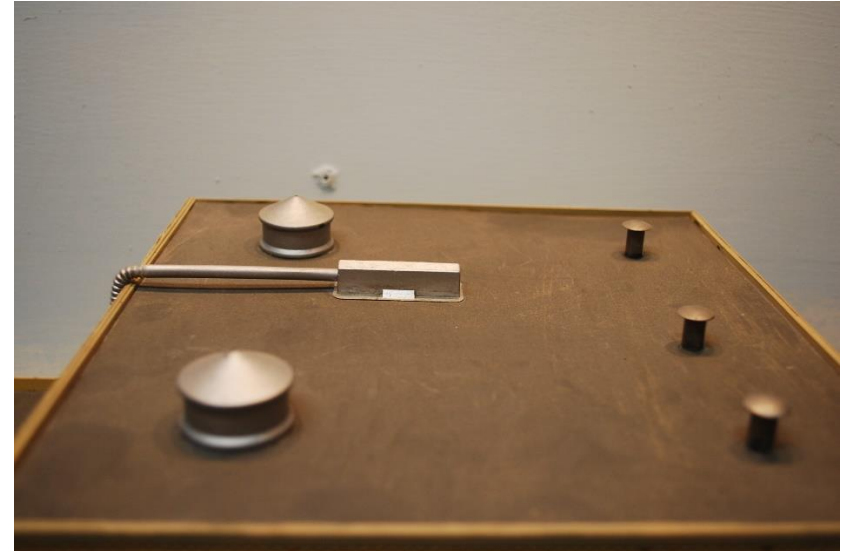


Photo 1B





Photo 2

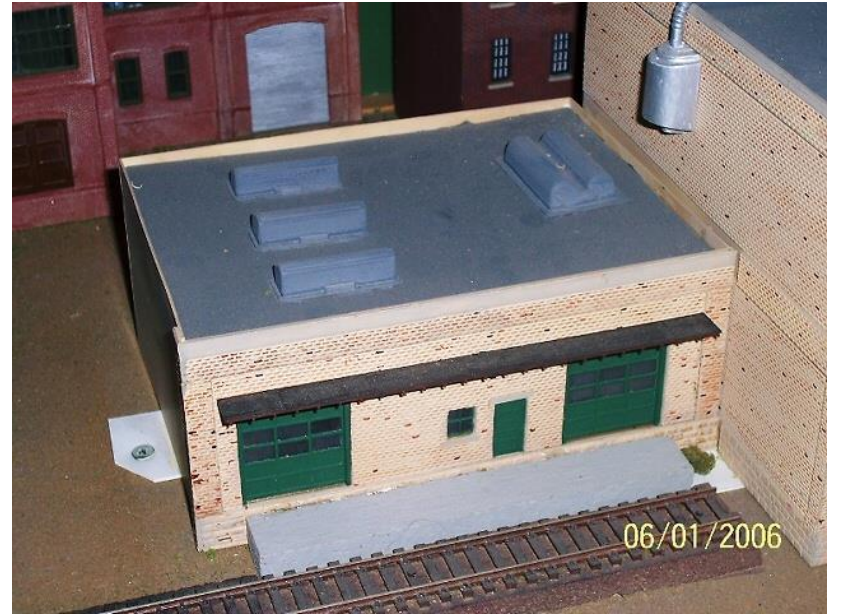


Photo 4A



Photo 3



Photo 4B





Photo 5



Photo 7

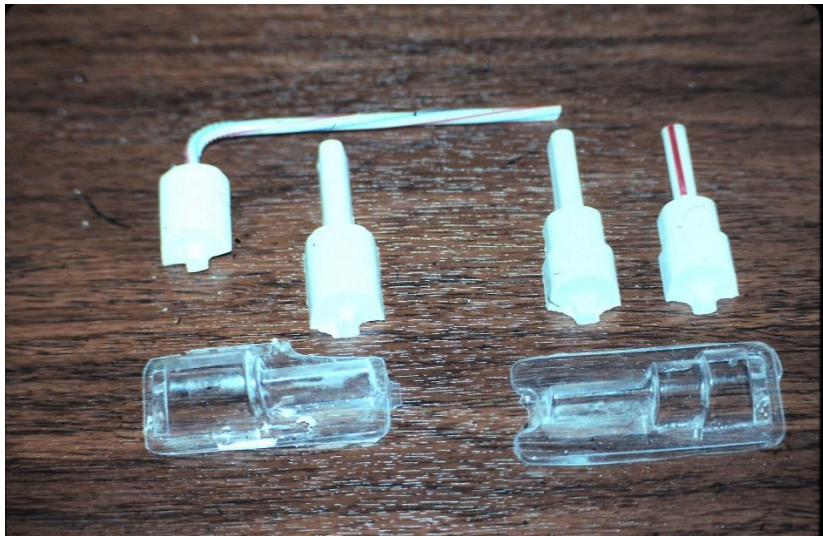


Photo 6



Photo 8