



THE PHILADELPHIA DISPATCHER

Official publication of the Philadelphia Division
of the Mid-Eastern Region,
National Model Railroad Association

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Volume 9, Number 3

The Philadelphia Division is pleased to announce that we will be conducting a joint meet with the Susquehanna Division on Saturday, November 2nd at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania. The museum, located in Strasburg Lancaster County, is one of the countries premier collections of railroad equipment and artifacts. We are pleased to announce that your admission to the museum for this meet will only be \$2.00 (normal price is \$7.00). Show your NMRA, MER, or Philadelphia Division membership card at the gate, and then proceed to the Auditorium. We will be collecting the fee and paying the museum. Look for directions and a map elsewhere in this issue of The Dispatcher.

You are welcome to come as soon as the museum opens at 9:00 AM. We will have a table set up in the auditorium for you to register and pay, then you are free to wander the museum to your hearts content.

At 9:45 we will have a general welcome and information session in the Auditorium. There will be numerous activities for you to participate in throughout the day, so it will be important for you to plan on attending this meeting.

Our program for the day includes a number of excellent clinics. A member of the museum staff will present the first of these at 10:00 AM. This presentation is entitled "History of Railroads in Lancaster County". This will include information about lines as small as the Strasburg Railroad to the mighty Pennsylvania Railroad (and maybe even that "other" railroad).

Next on the program at 11:00 AM will be Dave Messer. Dave will give a presentation on the Pennsylvania Railroad's Schuylkill Division. Dave is the author of numerous books covering the history of the PRR, so this will be an information packed presentation.

After Dave is finished, we will break for lunch. There are several local establishments for you to chose from, including The Dining Car restaurant and the Sweet and Treat shop at the Strasburg Railroad. There is sure to be something for all tastes and budgets in the area.

Starting at 1:00 PM will be a presentation on installing DCC decoders in locomotives. This will include a number of installations in various types of model locomotives. There will be units showing both in process and

completed installations. There will be a question and answer period at the conclusion of the clinic. With the proliferation of new products in the field of DCC, this is the perfect opportunity for you to get a first hand look at how simple many decoder installations can be.

Not confirmed at press time is the possibility of a tour of the Strasburg Railroad shops. This tour will take you up close and personal with the inner workings of a prototype railroad shop facility.

The museum will also have volunteers on hand to take small groups on guided tours of the outdoor storage yard.

The officers of the Philadelphia and Susquehanna Divisions hope that you will plan on joining them at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania for this interesting and informative meet.

The schedule as presented here may change to accommodate last minute additions to the program. We will have a final schedule printed for your convenience in the auditorium that morning. This is a great opportunity for you to invite a friend and introduce them to the NMRA and this great hobby of ours. Hope to see you on the 2nd of November!

Once again we find ourselves getting close to November, National Model Railroad Month. This has traditionally been the time of year where we focus on getting the message out about this great hobby of ours. What are you doing to promote the hobby this year?

Unfortunately for your editor, this doesn't look like the year to do much. Seems the old "Honey do" list has gotten pretty long and it's time to whittle it down to size. But maybe there will be a silver lining in there somewhere after all. We decided to get the house re-sided this year (don't ask me why we waited until our son is in college to do it). After we made that decision, I told Jackie we needed to do everything we ever wanted to the outside of the house now. I didn't want to come back later and be making changes to our nice new siding.

After much discussion, we drew up a list of goals and set out on our project. Now you may wonder how that might benefit the railroad, but with a little imagination, there will be decided improvements eventually.

One part of the project involves rebuilding the outside entrance to the basement. In its old form it was practically useless. In order to use that door you had to stand on the bottom step, bend down to reach the doorknob, and then duck through the doorway. I decided to rebuild the entire cellar entrance well. This included re-grading the side yard to make the water flow away from the house better. I also reduced its height and extended it away from the house to allow for fewer steps and being on the basement floor level when you

reach the door. Gee, since I'm doing all that, why not widen it slightly so I can move the oil tank out of the basement? And so it went. A simple project got bigger and bigger (literally). The benefit to the railroad? That area that once was filled with necessary evils has now become available for a crew lounge! With the filling cabinets and some other stuff I moved into the shed I built last spring there will be just enough room to setup a couple of chairs, a snack table, and a small workbench. Maybe that will get those off duty crews out of the way (if I ever have time to start operating again!).

Happily, we are seeing progress. The siding will be done by the end of this week as I am writing this. Then it will be finish some of the wiring, tear out and replace the dining room floor, and of course, now that we did so much work on the outside of the house, I have to go repair all the drywall nails that popped and repaint all those rooms. You get the idea. It may be a while before I can get back to the railroad, but just think how nice the house will look this holiday season and next open house. But sorry, you'll be coming in the basement entrance from now on. You'll have to take my word for it.

So, I guess that leaves it up to you. I'd like to have an open house and promote the hobby, but right now I'm too busy to have a hobby, much less promote it. What are you going to do for National Model railroad Month this year? I know what I'll be doing.

Happy Railroading!

Steve Salotti

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Editor

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Submissions: The PHILADELPHIA DISPATCHER welcomes any model railroad- or railroad-related material. Members are encouraged to send in articles, letters to the editor, reviews, etc. Submissions are preferred typed, double-spaced. The editor reserves the right to, when necessary, paraphrase small portions of the text in order to fit the space available.

Next issue: January 2003. Due out approx. Jan. 1st. Deadline: December 15th.

Membership: \$5.00 per year. Address all membership applications, renewals, address changes, etc. to the Clerk. If the date in the upper-right corner of your mailing label is highlighted, your membership will expire soon. Please pay at the next meet or mail payment to the Clerk. Make checks payable to "Philadelphia Division, NMRA."

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Dues: \$45.00 per year

Jim Dalberg named Philadelphia Division Superintendent

At its most recent meeting, the Board of Directors of the Philadelphia Division was pleased to select member Jim Dalberg to take on the position of Superintendent. Jim has been a long time member of the Division, and has been active in many different functions over the years. He has given numerous clinics, hosted frequent layout tours, and served in

various capacities during Philadelphia Division conventions. With this appointment, the offices of the Division are all filled, and they look forward to getting the Division moving in a positive direction. Please get behind the Board and officers and lend your assistance in every way possible.

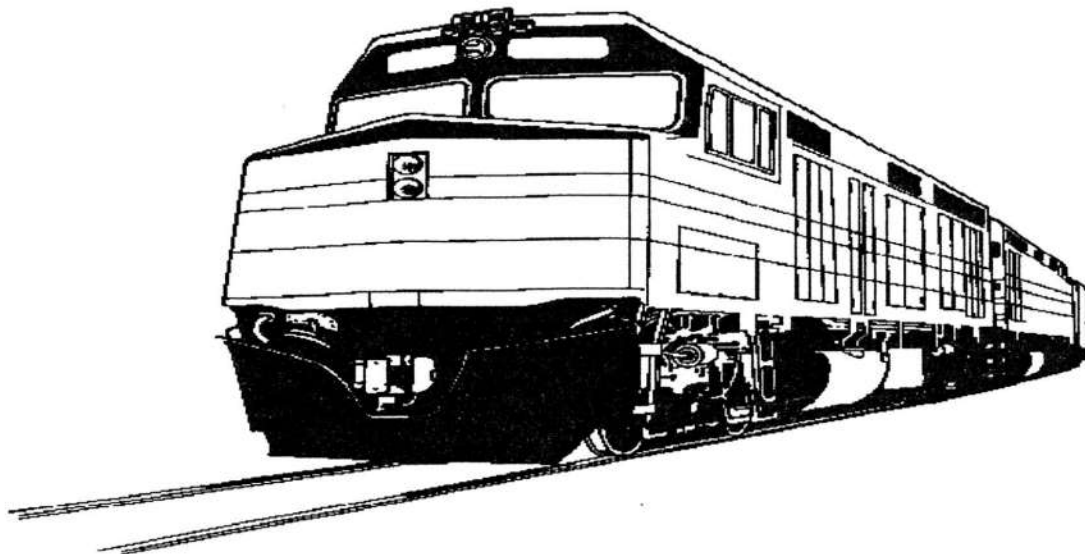
REPORT OF GM SUBSIDIARY SALE:

The National Post reports that 'Facing concerns about hefty pension obligations, General Motors Corp. is trying to sell its London, Ont.-based military and locomotive businesses. GM Defense, which makes armed forces vehicles such as the U.S. Army's new Stryker light armoured vehicle as well as military trucks, could be sold to defense and aerospace giant General Dynamics Corp.

GM Locomotive is proving a tougher sell, said Buzz Hargrove, president of the Canadian Autoworkers union. "They notified us about that two or three months ago," said Mr. Hargrove, whose union is now in the midst of negotiations to forge new contracts with the Big Three automakers on behalf of 44,000 unionized workers. "I mentioned at the [General Motors auto talks] press conference that we want to renew our [contract] language that there is no sale and closure," said Mr. Hargrove. "This will be an issue with us in bargaining with General Motors." The two London operations employ about 2,700 hourly and salaried workers. Mr. Hargrove said the CAW has been kept apprised of General Motors' attempts to sell its London businesses, which he was told are profitable if not strategic for GM. "They have kept us up to date, the discussions with General Dynamics were going

reasonably well and they were quite comfortable they were going to do a deal at some point," the CAW chief said. "[GM Locomotive] is on the block but they are not having quite as much luck with the sale, they have had a lot of interest from different companies but no sale." A General Motors Canada spokesman declined to comment.

The Detroit Free Press, citing financial analysts, said GM Defense, with annual sales of about US\$700-million, could fetch anywhere from US\$600-million to US\$1.25-billion. GM Locomotive, which manufactures locomotives and diesel engines, is estimated to have sales of US\$500-million. GM does not break out revenue or profit figures for the division. Money from the sales could help GM cover pension obligations, which were underfunded by US\$9.1-billion at the beginning of 2002, despite improved sales and earnings. Since early May, pension concerns have contributed to a 36% drop in GM stock. "I think investors should look at this as a positive move because GM is looking at assets that aren't core and doing something with them to address pension or health care costs," said Scott Hill, who studies the auto industry for investors at Sanford C. Bernstein LLC in New York.'



Internet signs

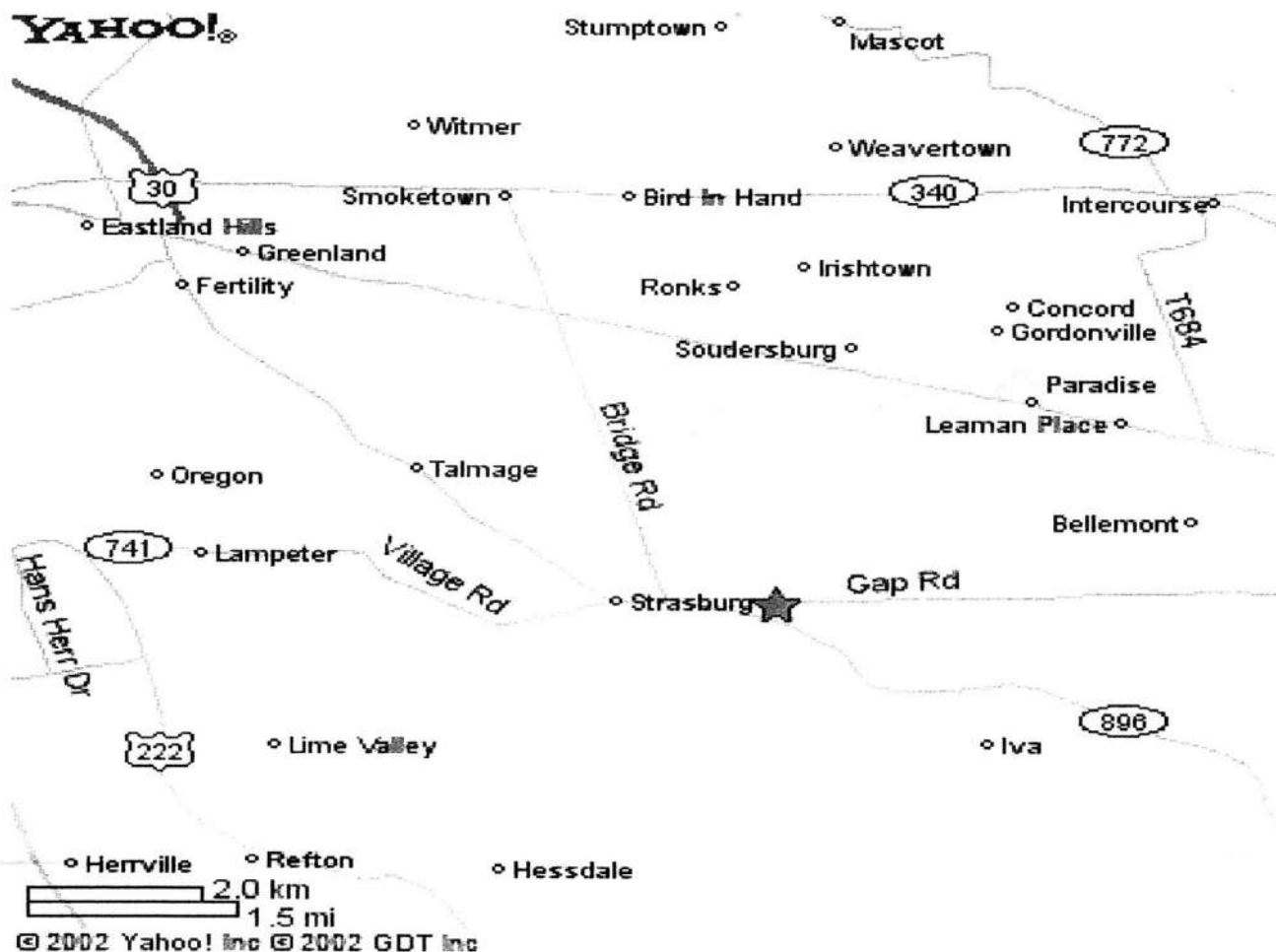
Here are a few more signs gleaned from an internet site. To find similar signs type "Vintage signs" in your search engine and view the sites that come up. There are more available than you can imagine.



SHERWIN-WILLIAMS PAINTS



November Meet Map



Schedules

The Philadelphia division is pleased to offer the following activity dates for your planning. If you have an item you would like included, please contact the editor. They will be included on a first come, first served space available basis.

See a 50' by 60' HO & Hon3 Scale view of '50s railroading in the Northeastern United States. Many museum quality buildings and trains will be on display and operating. Located in Fort Washington, PA and open the following dates: December 6th from 7-9 PM, December 7th & 8th from 12-4 PM. January 4th, 5th 18th and 19th from 12-4 PM, and January 17th from 7-9 PM. GATSME Lines open house in the basement of the New Horizons Montessori School, Prospect and Madison Avenues, 12 Noon to 4 PM. Admission by donation. For info: Ed Wilson or Paul Bryant at 215-646-22033 on Thursday evenings. GATSME is a non profit organization.

Pennsylvania, Elkins Park, Cheltenham Model Railroad Club. Open house, November 30th and December 1st, 7th & 8th, and January 4th & 5th. Snow date January 11th & 12th. 8000 Old York Road, Elkins

Park, PA. 12 noon to 4 P.M. Admission donations accepted. For more information; Bruce Binder, 7430 Bingham Street, Philadelphia, PA 19111, 215-722-4542 or 215-635-9747

Philadelphia Division events:

November 2nd: Joint meet with the Susquehanna Division. See details on page 1 of the Dispatcher
January 17 & 18: Joint meet with the New Jersey Division, Haddon Twp. Details to follow.

New Jersey Division NMRA events.

November 16, 2002 - Atlantic City
 January 17-18, 2003 - Haddon Twp. (Cherry Hill area)
 March 15, 2003 - Trenton
 May 17, 2003 - Toms River

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Inside: Division Meet
Prototype News
And more!

Do you need to renew? If the date on your mailing label is highlighted, please renew promptly. Thank you for renewing promptly.

Discounts for Division Members at Local Hobby Shops

Be sure to patronize the area's hobby shops that are now offering discounts on model railroading purchases to members of the Philadelphia Division.

Kenwood Model Hobbies

Various train shows throughout the division
10% discount
Call (610) 532 2253 for details

Iron Horse Hobby Shop

60 S. 6th St. in Reading
10% discount with \$10 min purchase

Nick Logothetis

(Abracadata)
2 Buck Run
Thornton, PA 19373
(610) 399 3469

Mitchell's Family Store

2119 Concord Pike (202) in Wilmington DE
10% discount on train department items

Herb's Hobbies and Crafts

200 W. State St. in Doylestown
\$25 of free merchandise for every \$250 spent

Nicholas Smith Trains

2343 West Chester Pike (3) in Bromall
10% discount (excludes O & G items)

Lin's Junction at Henning Scale Models

128 South Line St.
Lansdale, PA 194446
5% in addition to already discounted prices

Bussinger Trains

Old Ambler Station, Ambler
10-12% off retail