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## *The Outhouse for a Clubhouse*

**Newsletter - #2** – October 2013



**AN EVOCATIVE INSIGHT INTO MODEL RAILROADING**

By; *Barrie L. Roberts*     [www.dewintonstation.com](http://www.dewintonstation.com)



**Cover photo;** 4-4-0 Bachmann Spectrum Mogul on module built for **“Forsaken”** movie special effects shot. I played as an extra during filming as a post civil war veteran amputee- circa 1870’s. After filming I was allowed to have the display and will set up here in the breezeway at **DeWinton Station** with a similar period engine and improve the scenery aspect a bit more.

More particulars inside of the **movie experience**, headliner stars Demi Moore, Keifer and Donald Sutherland & others.

**The Movie Experience-** After answering an urgent e-mail request from the **CMRS** looking for persons with Civil War Era steam locomotives in HO scale that



could be used for a special effects scene in a feature movie. I initially responded with this photo at left showing the 4-4-0 which had tweaked their interests. Then after thinking for a moment I sent a picture of a G-scale engine shown below and immediately received a telephone call from the set director wishing to meet with me as this would better suit their need.

Erik and Craig from **"Set Pro"** came to my home and were relieved to find someone to help them put together a display for a visionary scene within the movie being filmed north of Bragg Creek at the CL Ranch western town movie set. After letting them secure my engine seen at right and some other props for the office of the railway tycoon, to include an 1800's typewriter, I then thought of another period engine which would fit their F/X scene even better and arranged with Marvin Burk of the **RMGR club** to borrow his mogul engine seen on the cover page. Neither Eric nor Craig had any knowledge of trains and were ecstatic to see I was enthusiastic to



assist them. In the process I asked if they could use me as an extra in the film as a post civil war amputee. Shortly afterwards they replied saying the director thought that would be a great idea, so I decided to let my beard grow for the part to allow for that option at later point. During the first makeup session they only retained my handle bar-moustache and long sideburns the

*hair color being naturally white from aging. I had a great time over the next month and met several wonderful people, making new friends and contacts in the casting department for future opportunities to be called upon if needed once again.*



**Myself as the "Railway Tycoon"**

*My 1800's typewriter is unique in that the keys do not flip up but rather stick straight out towards the ribbon.*

*In addition to the lead cast the following actors played key roles within the film; Landon Liboiron, Brian Cox, Michael Wincott and Aaron Poole.*



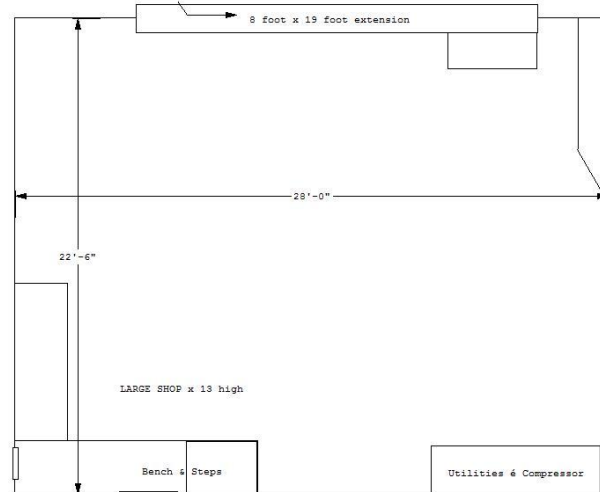
*Relaxing between takes is Micheal Wincott, Donald and Keifer Sutherland.*

**Storyline-** *After abandoning his gun and reputation as a quick-draw killer, John Henry (Keifer) returns to his hometown in hopes of repairing his relationship with his estranged father.*

*Director – Jon Cassar*

### ***Outhouse update-***

*Temporary use of the lower section of my larger workshop area as described at right has been offered to the **British Modelers** to set up their modules for the interim to prepare for the next Supertrain show in April. Work will still continue on the **outbuilding** throughout the winter months, hopefully after Supertrain they will then move into the completed renovated clubhouse.*



*The **“Outhouse Clubhouse”** is coming along nicely. A promise of insulation, 2x6 framing materials plus other building components from David Cole who runs an office renovation company, is anticipated to enable the construction to continue. The next supervised **CBRM work party** was on hold until the afternoon of Sept. 29th, as I had committed to assist Les Plett with his wooden train display at the Railway Days exhibition at Heritage Park. On that day we David Cole, Martin Dawe and I tidied up some of the wall framing and set at the task of raising two of the large glass panels onto the roof above the addition. With the requested assistance of two of my neighbors we managed to accomplish this without incident. Next will be to complete more roof framing to accommodate another two similar panels as well as any exterior metal roof coverings prior to the first snowfall, so interior work could continue thereafter in relative comfort with some interior lighting and an auxiliary heat source. I further placed a level 2x4 across the double door entry as a guide for leveling the pre insulated wooden floor pallets once the insulation becomes available. Further Insulating of the pre existing roof will also be a priority to complete before the onset of winter snows as some of the installed metal roof panels will have to be removed temporarily to gain access and then add some flashing trims to ensure a guaranteed weatherproof seal.*



**David Cole & Martin Dawe**

.....

**A must see video-** [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7GUdlfs3S\\_E](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7GUdlfs3S_E)

A friend from the **GVGRC- Vancouver club** has taken this wonderful video of certainly the best garden railway I have had the pleasure of visiting. Werner and Ingrid of Vancouver Island, B.C., recently held another incredible two day open house, despite the overcast weather and Peter Szolga was there to film the layout for those unable to attend, 30 minutes of spectacular model railroading video.

**Peter further says;**

It would be nice for anyone watching that video to also couple it to last year's video of Werner's layout also on my You Tube Channel (Deltatrains Channel). That would give them a good idea of all that is involved in this fantastic layout. (However, not absolutely necessary) I really would like to get a hold of the German Magazine "Gartenbahn Profi" which featured his layout a few years ago. They had to use two issues to cover all of it!!! He also writes articles for them about garden railroading.



Pictures from my 2010 motorcycle ride visit

If anyone can help Peter locate copies of the "Gartenbahn Profi" magazine he mentioned email Barrie at [info@dewintonstation.com](mailto:info@dewintonstation.com)

### **Sad news to report .....Polk's Will Close Its Doors 12-31-13**

**The following letter is a sign of the times --- it is up to us to revive this hobby!**

**Encourage** your family to enable the children to engage in hands on hobbies such as model railroading rather than absorbing themselves into mindless computer gadgets and games. Electronics that do the thinking for them will not be there in the interview room when it's time to find a real job, one that requires a reasonable education, cognitive skills and a learned work ethic. Spell check does not substitute for proper grammar and an understanding of what you speak. My thoughts- just thinking out loud! **Barrie R.**



October 1st, 2013

Since 1935, we have provided service and innovation to the Hobby industry. In this latest downturn, we cut back staff to the minimum required to survive. Then the government battle over the debt ceiling drove the consumer market down even further.

We've managed to stay in business, but the continued depression for the consumer has caused us to fall into debt that is unsustainable. We have put several million dollars into product development over recent years, but the need for customers to cut back on non-essentials has caused this investment to be lacking in returns.

We have seen leisure activities like golf courses plunge in popularity, as funds for such recreation have dried up. It seems to be the same for hobby time investments. Our products are no longer inexpensive as they were in the 1930s-era Depression. The cost of manufacturing along with minimum production runs and long lead times has caused a lack of ability to continue as a sustainable entity. It's no longer a business!

It has been a pleasure to help our creative consumer base to enjoy their hobby and we have no regrets in doing so. Our business grew every year until the 2008 as the recession caused a shrinking of the mindset to stay active in our large-scale model train arena. We know that smaller scales have remained viable, but the higher cost of Large Scale trains and the space required to run them have not maintained their share of the market. Our airplane R/C portion of our business was lost when our patented frequency changer was lost to the 2.4Ghz portion of the marketplace, with no frequency compounds needed any longer.

For 80 years, the Polk family has made a fair living in the Hobby industry. I can't help but remember the scores of co-workers that have helped make this organization as special as it was. Thanks to them all, but notably: Gil Rose, B.M. Song, J.K. Kim, Sam Kimm, Tom Flynn, Cliff Crane, Charlie Binder, Marvin Binder, John and Sherry Shievdalay, Aixa Lebron, Joe Bamberger, David Newell, Walter Matuch, John Mikesh, Navin Shievdalay, Marguerite Hubert (Rose), Michael J. Vickey, Jonathan Polk, Scott Polk, Fred Polk, Irwin Polk, Nathan Polk, Maryann Polk Bob Calandra, George Adams, Michael Hauptmann and so many others, it would take a book to list them all. While I can't list all the hundreds that were part of the team, they remain in my heart and mind.

Our humble thanks to our loyal customers. Our apologies for not being able to keep this almost 80-year-old business going. It's a heartbreaker for us all.

All the best,  
The Polk Family  
*Polk's Hobby*  
698 S. 21st St.  
Irvington New Jersey 07111  
United States

***I will take this opportunity to encourage you to consider – getting involved in the future development of DeWinton Station. Mentor your youngsters by setting an example and spend quality time with them by participating in the building of the Skaguay town project. . . . . Winter projects will commence very soon!***

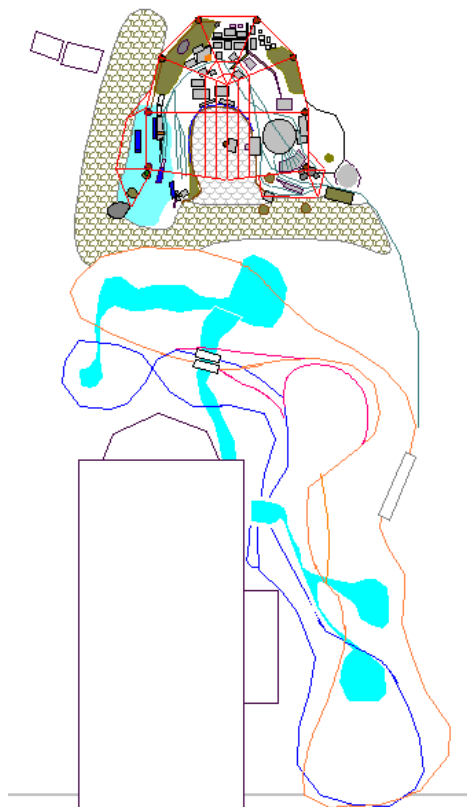
Call Barrie at 403-680-7061 to discuss or e-mail [info@dewintonstation.com](mailto:info@dewintonstation.com)

**Again, on that note** if anyone has anything that they would like to submit for inclusion in the future newsletters, a storyline, funny joke or news of an upcoming event; **i.e.-** such as an open house, or club social activity. Please direct to myself at [info@dewintonstation.com](mailto:info@dewintonstation.com) which is now the e-mail address I will be using for train related matters as it will be easiest to remember, it all goes to my personal mailbox just the same.

### **Benefits of club memberships.**

It is my desire to distribute these newsletters as an added benefit of belonging to your own clubs, therefore I am sending to your club coordinators to fan out to the members. Hopefully you will find the messages informative and enlightening. If you do not receive by that means please send me a personal e-mail request to be added to my mail out list.

If you find that you would like to take an active part in the ongoing projects here at **DeWinton Station** please call or e-mail me personally for more information. My layouts are available on request to run your trains by appointment. Once I get to know you perhaps my trains as well, a certain amount of maintenance of way will be required before the running of trains, track debris clearing and light polishing of the rails is the least to be expected.



The drawing seen here shows the track plans for the three conjoined exterior layouts including the Skaguay town enclosure building.

**One more thing** - in response to the numerous inquiries regarding the young lady left behind after the BBQ, as seen in the September newsletter, she was claimed several times. I am keeping her here with me until someone can clearly identify the exact location, size and color of the butterfly tattoo. **OR** when she eventually decides to go home on her own!

### **ADVERTISEMENTS:**

This section will be available to display items and events for circulation to registered readers there is nothing to display this month.

## Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> Railway Days



I had great pleasure helping **Les Plett** with his wooden train display again this year and interacting with the children in particular. (Messing with their minds) The most fun was watching a gentleman place a coin in what he thought was a donation box, when in fact it was one of Les's exploding outhouses, seen on the small table. The shocked expression of disbelief on his face was totally hysterical. The following is the basics of an article I wrote last year after the Heritage Park show.

### Topic – "Wooden Train" – built by a "Professional Schnitzelmeister"

I have a tidbit of information that may be of interest to the club members I would like to share. I quickly put together a portable sound unit to compliment a superb visual display of a uniquely hand crafted "Mountain class 4-8-2" steam engine with coal tender, made of solid oak materials. This unit has been on display at most railway shows in the Calgary area for a few years now and was built by Leslie Plett a master woodcrafter and former home builder, who likes to be called a "Professional Schnitzelmeister"



**Schnitzels are the wood cut offs from other projects in the wood shops scrap bin, meister = master.**

Measuring 18" tall x 108" in length at **1/10 th scale** the project has taken ten years to construct, it was truly a visual masterpiece in need of a sound system to complement the display. I visited the Plett home a week prior to the Heritage Park – Railway Days train show and offered to build the Phoenix sound board in time for the showing at this popular event, to further add an **audio component** to his table top display. I must say it went over very well both for Leslie and the shows spectators, especially the children that I allowed to press the buttons





which activated the bells and whistles plus some of the other features like the water fill sounds and station announcement with the conductor announcing the **"All aboard"** call. The chuffing synchronization was timed to four chuffs per stroke by a reed switch positioned at the piston shaft, when the display was in **"running mode"**. The **"stationary standby mode"** sounds were simply amazing to hear and gave the once silent engine a totally new perspective. I was proud to be associated with his marvelous creation.



For urgent contact with Barrie Roberts  
Call 403-680-7061

Or e-mail [info@dewintonstation.com](mailto:info@dewintonstation.com)

**Closing photo –**



There goes **Ol'Smoky**. It has found a new home in Foremost Alberta with the Redcoat Rail Inc. group that are revitalizing a rail short line to transport goods on an abandoned or seldom used CP line to Stirling AB., shipping goods and commodities to the mainline there to help revitalize their weakened economy. It will be used for parades and promotions plus entertaining a new group of children and rail fans. I have certainly enjoyed my times entertaining youngsters with it for the many years I was able to have it for myself. Farewell!