



## DE WINTON STATION

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### *The Outhouse for a Clubhouse*

**Newsletter - #8** – March 2014



AN EVOCATIVE INSIGHT INTO MODEL RAILROADING

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

**Feature article; “RAY’S STREET RAILWAY”**



**Once again quality reigns over quantity.** To say I was impressed with this modest display would be an understatement. Bringing visions of **earlier days gone by** of urban trolley transportation to life, all within a one block section street scene. Nothing I have seen to date compares with this enduring display that is still a work in progress for Ray and Susan Clifford of Leduc County – middle earth Alberta. Rays ambition is to attend a National convention when he adds the finishing touches to this marvelous display.

**This intriguing story, plus much more within these pages.....**

### **Project building starts for 2014**

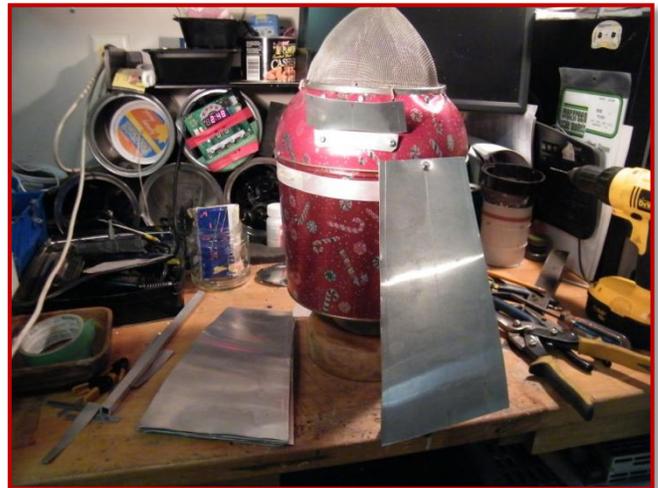
Just prior to the New Year I decided to make some preliminary starts on some of the projects that would add to the scenery of the proposed logging operations and lumber mill camp on the designated area of the outside layout, described in the February newsletter. Rather than consuming copious amounts of food and beverage over the holiday I set about to start on one of the three projects on my list, the first one being a working version of a **Wigwam sawdust burner (aka Teepee burner)**. In three days I had the main structure assembled and covered with rolled copper sheets to give the appearance of metal cladding, in time and with the aid of some antiquing applications I hope it will take on the rustic look of the weathered prototype model as seen at left.



My version was built to hold a metal 1 gal paint container within which will retain some burning charcoal briquettes. Supported above this a heavy gauge circular baking pan shown with perforated holes that will hold a mixture of crushed charcoal, wood shavings &/or sawdust plus smoke pellets that are commonly used in Catholic Church services. A few pictures are shown here to demonstrate the construction techniques I used, **note-** the decorative red container that once held popcorn in its former use.



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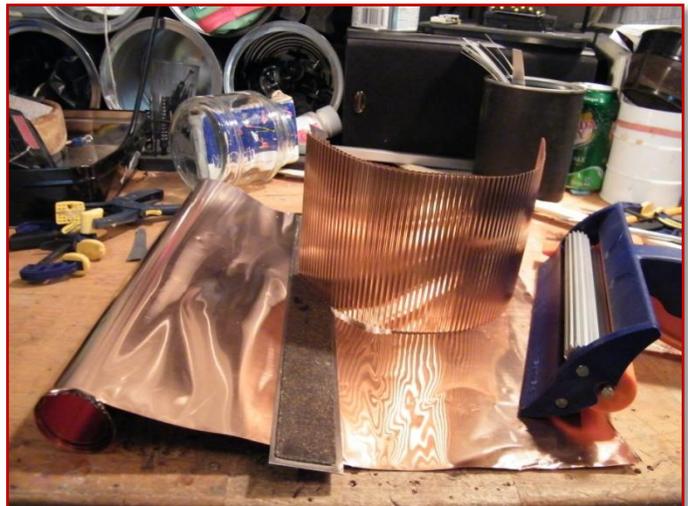
The mesh screen was located in the kitchen utensil drawer and was previously a flour sifter before it went missing. The aluminum material was a 6" roll of flashing stock from the hardware store.



After completing this project to this point it will be set aside to gather the remaining materials I now desire to compliment the overall finished design.



Once the pieces were assembled it would require a covering of copper sheathing to represent materials that would have been used at the time (c1915). Copper was selected as it would age with time and chemical applications. As shown in the photo at left the copper is readily available at craft or hobby stores and is a product of K&S Eng. Their web address is [www.ksmetals.com](http://www.ksmetals.com). The crimping roller I purchased at Michaels and the bottle of "**Liver of Sulfur**" from a hobby store in the USA however should be found wherever the metal foil is located.



The next step is to apply some weathering techniques along with the liver of sulfur and set outside in a snow bank to let Mother Nature do her handiwork. Tomorrow being Jan 2 would be a good day to start on the next project being a working model of a **Steam Donkey** using an 18v inverted drill motor as a controlled power source.

**If you are of the opinion that I undertake too many projects at one time and seemingly not finishing any of them ... the truth is you're not alone! .... Just ask Ms. Jytte - she'll be happy to tell you so herself!**

## **Steam Donkey**

*I am anxious to start on this interesting accessory to the logging operations portion of the outdoor layout. So much so that I attended the local **Shawnee Station Minute Muffler** and arranged for my friend **Geoff Joyce** to form the boiler sections to my desired specifications, using their custom tube forming equipment. I asked him to prepare four*



*such pieces so I will be able to make more than one type or style of steam donkey. One will be set up to drag logs out from the forested areas and another which will pull prepared logs up a steep grade to the logging crew camp and lumber staging area (landings- see next page). Logs will be lifted onto rail cars here, which is adjacent to the main rail lines.*

*My working models will be powered by DC motors which may also be remotely operated with a DCC module similar to the ones used to control the steam train engines. I will also try to incorporate programmed sound boards as well as installing a smoke unit inside the stack.*

*As the construction process now slowly evolves, updates will be posted occasionally within the upcoming editions of the **DSGR Outhouse** newsletter.*



From the collection of Edward J. Mennihan

**High Lead Yarding and Logging** – The next phase will be to erect a series of cable riggings that were then used to move the heavy timbers through the forestry to the mill and onto the rail cars for transport. The example seen here (2 photos) are taken from the **Red Stag Lumber Company On3 layout** an outstanding Australian exhibit; – visit <http://members.optushome.com.au/jdennis/redstag/frameset.html> to view numerous pictures. The excerpt on the following page was taken from their website. >>>>

Also visit the website of the **"Mendocino Coast Model Railroad & Historical Society"** <http://www.mendorailhistory.org/> which is a superb resource for my pending projects.



I have been in contact with the webmaster and they have agreed to prepare a feature article for the **"Outhouse Newsletter"**. I am looking forward to their anticipated participation; the group has a fantastic indoor model railway layout in large scale (G) which demonstrates the logging practices of the turn of the century along the redwood forests, in particular the Mendocino Coast region of Northern California.

### **Inside layout VS outdoors**

I constantly struggle with this dilemma here in Alberta. Not living on the coastal or central desert regions of British Columbia where the summers are long and the winters bearable, we here in Alberta at 3000 ft+ elevation are faced with long cold winters with abundant snowfall. This winter has been extremely cold with record snowfalls. Having an indoor layout like this one shown here would provide comfortable **year-round** hobby pleasures without the reoccurring annoyance of rebuilding or set up every time Mother Nature has a bad day.



**The Red Stag Lumber Company** is an absolutely sensational On3 exhibition layout. Constructed jointly by **Michael Flack, Geoff Nott, Steve Pettit and Ray Walter** this layout has drawn immense crowds when on display. A four-part series in Narrow Gauge and Shortline Gazette, beginning with the March/April 2001 issue, has introduced the beautiful and exquisitely detailed layout to those unable to attend the exhibitions. Even here in Australia that number is high, as due to the sheer size of the layout, difficulty in transportation and the logistics of exhibiting have restricted its appearances.

To the best of my knowledge there have only been five occasions the full layout has been displayed and operating: at the "Hills Exhibition" at Castle Hill twice, at the NMRA Convention held in Sydney in June 2001, at Epping in 2002, and finally at the 6th Australian Narrow Gauge Convention at Easter 2003. Rumours abound that the appearance at the NG Convention will be the last ever for this wonderful layout. It is difficult to judge the size of the modules from photographs, but this is an enormous piece of work. When fully assembled the layout is 32' long (almost 10m) and at its widest, 3'6" (1m) across.

**This is truly a dream logging layout of epic proportions, a must see. Barrie Roberts**

## Cover story; “Ray’s Street Railway”

Raymond and Susan Clifford have created an “Edmonton street trolley layout” in 1/24 scale that exemplifies their craft to create realistic neighborhood scenery as seen in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century circa 1930. With Ray’s keen eye for detail this simple single loop embedded track with trolley lines “motion diorama” tells the story of days gone by but not yet entirely forgotten. Many of our seniors alive today will remember themselves riding upon the light rail streetcar to shuttle about in the downtown cores of the larger metropolitan cities.

Raymond’s interior display is built in four portable sections to allow the couple to travel to train trade shows and reassemble as an exhibit as part of the social aspect of Rays hobby that they (Ray and Susan) both seem to enjoy. In speaking with Ray recently, he is currently enthusiastic about creating his own



custom detailing parts with the aid of a **laser cutting machine**, which he had recently

purchased, from the USA. He says it will revitalize the way he makes his building front details, such as window and door frames. With just two streetcars able to converse on the layout alternately spaced, it is the street background building scenes that set his display apart from the others.





*If you look closely a new story unfolds every foot along the display with handmade people and animal figures interacting in a way to capture your imagination and to draw you into the timeframe. It's all an illusion being played out in your mind. With strategically placed building lighting and intriguing interior window scenes with typical period storefront and sidewalk*

*displays, that all encourage you to study the detail in which each piece is positioned.*

*Ray self admits his meticulous desire for perfection in his detailing can be interpreted as anal (his word, I looked it up - it's in the dictionary) close to the \_\_\_\_! If you are going to be self indulgent this option is much better than the alternatives, personally I am all for it, only wish I was as creative and able to apply all these techniques on my own indoor layouts. His inspiration may however make me work a little harder to replicate similar scenes on the Skaguay town street scene of the **DSGR**. In my case however I think you will be left with a lot more of the detailing for your imagination to conjure up.*

*Not satisfied with using the universally accepted large scale track that is available commercially and designed to accommodate all European, American standard and narrow gauge railways and the variety of G scales 1/20, 1/29, 1/32 being used by the four major brand manufacture lines. Ray has hand laid his track to conform to the standard American rail size dimension of 4'-8½" that was primarily used and applied specific to 1/24 scale.*







*You can see with the pictures here and on the following page the intricate cutting that is possible with the laser printer as compared to the resin casting approach, eliminating the necessity of trimming off excess flash materials. He says that the results are quick and without the usual hassles of building shaped moulds and mixing the resins prior to castings.*

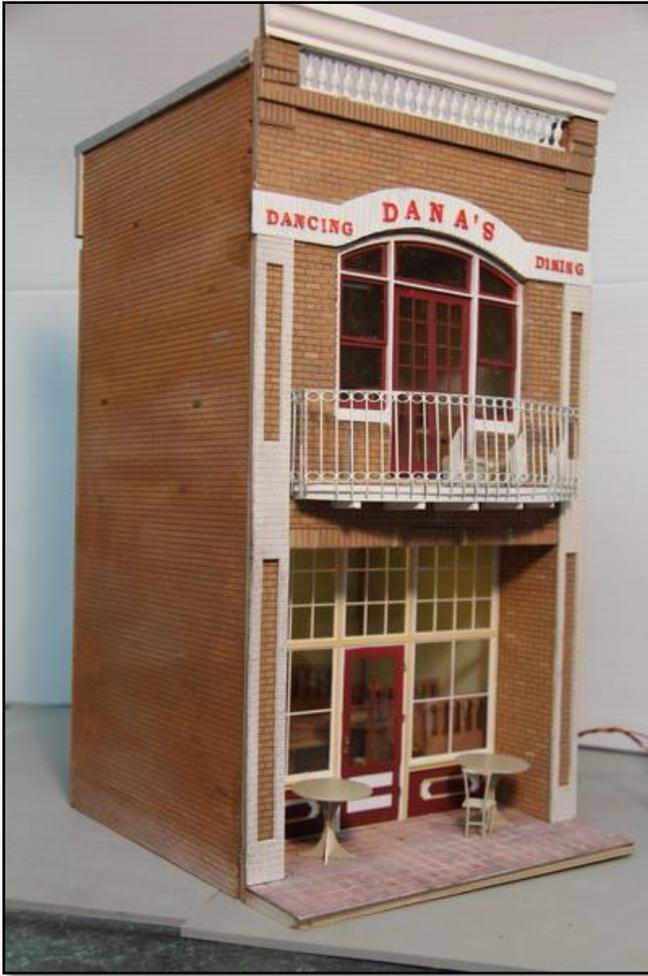


*Ray would be willing to offer his services to offset the purchase cost of the setup.*

*Call or E-mail the number **listed in the advertisement section** if interested in this service.*



*Ray seems to have found yet another extension to his unique styling within the hobby of model railroading. The following pictures of DANA'S DANCING STUDIO show how intricate he can make the detailing with his new computer guided laser machine.*



Wow, now that is certainly taking the scenery aspect of the model railroading hobby to the next level. The lesson to be learned behind this story is that every person can find their own level of accomplishment given available space limitations, and imagination possibilities. This project can obviously keep Rays mind active during his retirement years, now in his early seventies Ray has been a modeler for over fifty years and has obviously found his niche. **Sometimes the trains seem to get in the way of the view.**

I would like to thank Ray for creating this amazing display and sharing it with the many railroading enthusiasts that attend the train expositions in the province. Also for arranging an introduction for me with Rick Reimer who will be featured next in the April newsletter with the Ruphe and Tumbelle Railway Company On30 scale home layout.

If you are attending the **Supertrain** show in Calgary on April 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> be sure to take in Ray's display and mention reading about him in the -**"Outhouse for a Clubhouse"**



*Susan Clifford at the display during the Greater Edmonton train show*





### **The “Outhouse for a Clubhouse” - segment**

On February 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> we hosted an open house event here at **DeWinton Station** as a part of the **CMRS – Calgary Model Railway Society** – winter layout tours program. I would like to thank our volunteers and guests for making this another memorable event, in particular the British Modelers and their “**Much Muddling**” layout team. This is how their layout looked like on New Year’s Day and with only five weeks to prepare for this open house offering they managed to transform their layout to look quite respectable with two mainline trains running smoothly.



Several members of the club used the weekend as a running session to prepare the layout for the upcoming Supertrain showing. I manned the indoor G-gauge layout and greeted guests also operating the two mainline tracks that can run as two separate loops within the complex track network. Dan Ellis also assisted with a third engine shunting cars within the yard area preparing trains to enter onto the mainline and transfer to a mainline operating engine and onto its final destination points.

### **Advertisements**

**Ray Clifford’s laser cutting** – Custom light materials laser cutting 780-464-0998

E-mail [thecliffords@hotmail.com](mailto:thecliffords@hotmail.com)

**Geoff Joyce - Customized metal fabricating**, laser cutting and welding 403-256-9153

Shawnee Station (Calgary South)

Minute Muffler & Brake

E-mail [geoffjoy@telus.net](mailto:geoffjoy@telus.net)

**DeWinton Station Logo Pins @ \$10.00 each or 3 for \$25.00**

Contact Barrie – E-mail [info@dewintonstation.com](mailto:info@dewintonstation.com)



1 ½” x 2 ½”

**Humorous E-mail – All in good fun!**

Hej Denmark,

Well it's time to welcome in another year 2014. Jytte is closing out the old year now by talking to objects - as though they were her cat. Just last evening I set my **camera case (seen next page)** outside her rooms' door and was watching the news with her, when she started calling to the cat to come into her room. After several attempts to persuade the cat, I turned around to have a look to find she was talking to my camera case with the strap stretched out like the cats tail. Of course now I am teasing her relentlessly and also speaking to other objects so she won't feel alone.

If this new trend continues I can only imagine what the New Year will bring in other memorable surprises, she can't claim to be lonely anymore as she is making new friends every day, albeit the same ones she has known before. Always complaining about being old she is now turning back the clock to become a child again, at least that is how it appears to the rest of us.

Were staying home and safe this New Years Eve, no partying?

Very cold still with slippery roads everywhere.

Hej, Hej,



Barrie & Jytte.



Jytte - where she wants to be --

At this rate it won't take long!

*The preceding e-mail message is **lovingly** placed as a lead up to the closing article for the month, which is of a personal nature, yet newsworthy. I must commend my dear friend Ms. Jytte for her strengths and her compassion shown to the weak and helpless either human or of animal kind.*

*Without her friendship and assistance given freely to help with the maintenance here my world would be a lot less pleasant.*

***Thankfully too she has a sense of humor.***

***This just in!*** Seeing I'm on a roll making fun of my gal pal Jytte, I just went into her room to show her one of the four metal components I just had made up for the steam donkey projects, (previously mentioned and as shown here) > beside my camera case.

***(AKA- Misty the cat)***

I could see her eyes light up as she thought it was a bottle of vodka I was bringing for her.

***Not so fast I say!***



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

#### ***Story contributions anyone?***

As you can clearly see I must be running low on things to talk about if I have resorted to picking fun at my close friends. With the holiday season behind us now I hope that you (the readership) might consider making submissions to help keep the newsletter alive and interesting. I do appreciate the co-operation I have received to dice things together the past eight editions, which I do believe turned out pretty well for a novice writer like me. From the reviews I have received to date it is being appreciated as a welcome change of pace from the standard club newsletter format. In order to maintain the interest of our audience and to encourage new growth within the hobby with the emphasis on stimulating development, partially by demonstration with "How To articles" from the experts, we need your input. Even if you are not an accomplished writer, submit some pictures and notes as an introduction to my e-mail. I will do my best to compose and edit with your consultations prior to releasing to the readers. I would not feel comfortable without your prior acceptance for content and presentation.

Suggestions of layouts to feature or clubs to profile, websites to visit and stories that would appeal to a wide range of railway enthusiasts. With your help it can only improve, so please give a little of yourself for the benefit of others. ***Thank you ..... BLR***

### **Closing photo and intimate storyline –**

*It's not very often you'll find me cleaned up and wearing a tie. Sitting beside my #2 ex at a social function could be considered even a rarer occurrence, but here we are and I have the picture to prove it. Over the years life's twists and turns can alter situations, this is true within relationships including marriages. Companionship, personal commitment, respect and friendships should last forever, as I hope will be the case with our unique relationship.*

*Shortly after marriage in June of 1986, Jytte's childhood situation came to the forefront in our lives. Then after some investigative interviewing, during a trip to her homeland Denmark; we managed to locate her real birth mother and subsequent unbeknown two step siblings, with the assistance of her then step brothers' spouse. Being raised by a loving father and a tyrant of a cruel stepmother, through the wartime years in Europe, she became increasingly untrusting, with good reasons.*



**Ms. Jytte Birkholm and Barrie Roberts  
DeWinton Station Hosts**

*After fifty years of uncertainty we then decided she should return and establish a connection with her remaining immediate family members, in particular her mother that had abandoned her at the age of three. Several years passed before Jytte returned to Canada again to assume residence here to be closer to her own sons and grandsons. Her heart remains in Denmark and I must support her regardless. Annual trips to and fro have taken their toll on her mixed emotions, which is understandable considering the life she must have endured. This is only a portion of Ms. Jytte's entire life's story and personal hardships that she would be willing to share. A truly lovely lady she is, my "Lady in Red" - worthy of a better set of circumstances. We have joined forces now as housemate companions and supportive friends which is all I can ask really or expect.*

- For urgent contact with Barrie Roberts - Call 403-680-7061  
Or E-mail [info@dewintonstation.com](mailto:info@dewintonstation.com)