



THE WHISTLE POST

GARDEN STATE DIVISION, NER, NMRA

Number 23

April 1968

GSD CONVENTION

NEWARK, SAT. APRIL 20

The Name of the Game is

MODEL RAILROADING

at the fabulous annual

GSD CONVENTION

in the North Reform Church

510 Broad Street, Newark

At Last! Something for every Railroader, the only missing ingredient is YOU and your MODEL. Take a Deep Breath for this fantastic Line Up--

LIVE CLINICS featuring

Hard-Shell Scenery Demonstration
-members of the West Essex Club

Transistors for Power and Control
-Paul Mallory

Practical Soldering Demonstration
-Gene Colborn (former VP, NMRA)

Scratch Building, How to Begin
-Al Westerfield

NMRA TAPE-SLIDE CLINICS

Scratchbuilding from Prototype
-Phil Cole

Model Judging (You can win too)

SWITCHING CONTEST

Prize of Course!

DRAWBAR PULL CONTEST

The Closest to the Prototype Wins!

FAN TRIP

On Aldene Plan to Westfield

"O" GAUGE LAYOUT OF THE CENTRAL JERSEY
MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

MODEL CONTEST

Approved Judging for Merit Awards
Toward NMRA Achievement Awards

MANUFACTURERS DISPLAYS

Everything New for the Modeler

MOVIES

From the collection of Pat Rooney
including the rare shot of a steam
locomotive blowing up.

BUSINESS MEETING

Short of course, no reports read.

DELICIOUS BANQUET

Roast Beef

And to top it all it is only

\$3.50 (for Pre-Registration)

Covers all but lunch and train
fare, 53¢ one way.

We suggest you bring your lunch (brown-
bad it) and we shall have coffee. There
are luncheonettes a plenty in area.

9 AM UNTIL 10 PM

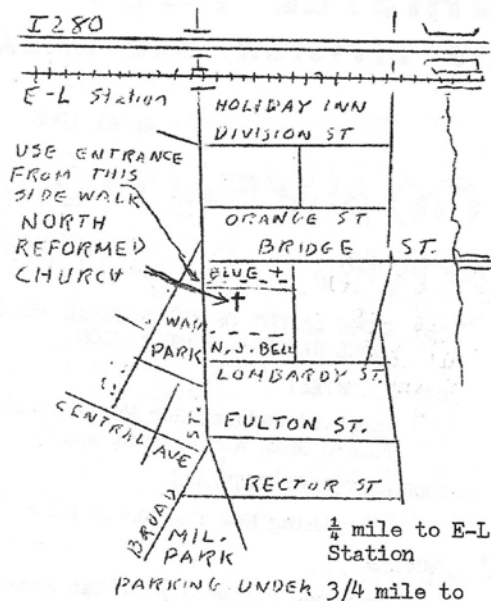
Come Early---Stay Late

Fill out registration form on last sheet
of this issue and mail today. Price
goes up 50¢ after April 13.

North Reform Church is now fully renovated
even air-conditioned.

The Division holds five meets per year in Jan., March, June, Sept., and Nov. The March meeting is the Little Convention and has all the activities of a Regional meet except for the

The Division has no dues. Expenses are met by registration fees at meets. The Whistle Post is sent for two years after latest registration. Also it will be sent for two years on



Parking garage directly behind church on Atlantic St. Parking lots near. Parking garage under Military Park.

Models for display will be more than welcome, bring them in. Qualified judges will be available to judge your models if you desire for merit awards toward the NMRA achievement awards.

We shall use a train from the Penn Central Station over the Aldene routing to Westfield to visit the Central Jersey Model RR Association in Westfield. They have a well-detailed O gauge railroad and traction line, the oldest O gauge club layout in N. J.

The church entrance to use is the one off of the walk between the church and the Blue Cross building to the north.

Remember the date, Saturday, April 20th starting at 9 AM but come when you can.

N.J. DIVISION MEET. APRIL 27. SOMERS POINT

At their regular meeting in Baltimore on Feb. 25, the MER formally recognized the organization of the Region's first Division and granted them a charter. The Division will be known as the N.J. Division of MER, and will hold its final organization meeting on Saturday, April 27

in the American Legion Hall, Pennsylvania Ave. and First St., Somers Point. Registration opens at 12 noon and is \$1. On the agenda for the day will be a short organizational meeting followed by a tour of the layouts of the area. Refreshments will be served.

All NMRA members in the New Jersey area as well as those in the adjacent Pennsylvania and Delaware areas are cordially invited to meet with the new Division. For further information contact John Johnson, 144 7th Ave., Roebling 08554, 609-499-2553.

WEST HAVERSTRAW, APRIL 6

The only area of the NER with a concentration of NMRA members still without a Division is the lower Hudson area from Manhattan to Kingston. On Sat., April 6th an organization meeting for this area will be held at 1:30 PM in the fire house, West Haverstraw. A premeet luncheon will be held at the Highway Diner at Railroad Ave. and U.S. 9W. The meet will include a visit to the Rockland County Model Railroad Society. For more information, contact Charles D'Elia, 24 Kennedy Dr., West Haverstraw, N.Y. 10993, 914-947-2629.

FOLLOWING GSD MEETS

June 8, Islen

This meet will feature a visit to the Watchung Valley Model Railroad Club, the oldest HO Gauge model railroad club in N.J. They are located in the Penn Central station in Islen but headquarters for the meet will be the Presbyterian Church on Oaktree Road.

September, New Hope and Ivy

The annual family picnic and in the tradition of the GSD it will be held at a steam railroad.

November, North Haledon

The Model Engineers Railroad Club of North Jersey, the oldest N.J. model railroad Club.

REPORT ON CAMDEN MEET

The joint meet with the N.J. Division, MER in Camden was very successful, over 60 attending with a good group on the train coming down from Newark. The Silver Valley and the GATSMC Clubs put on a good show. We even had a preview of the new high-speed N.Y. Washington trains.

MODELS AT THE GSD CONVENTION

By Al Westerfield

In the November issue of the Whistle Post I described how to build award-winning models. At the GSD Convention, everyone will have the opportunity to put these suggestions into practice. Besides the popular vote for Best Model there will also be judging for Merit Awards. Under present NMRA rules winning Division contests cannot be counted towards Achievement Awards. However, anyone can petition for a Merit Award, the major requirement being that the model in question be judged acceptable by three persons designated by the achievement committee. Once the Merit Award has been granted it can be applied towards an Achievement Certificate. The number required vary with the category: locomotives would need three, cars four, and structures six. National and Regional contest winners are scored more heavily, for example, to get the Master Builder-Cars Award requires one win in National competition or two in Regional. The point system works on the assumption that the bigger the gathering, the tougher the competition. Those unable to attend or send their models to these large gatherings will have to be content with the point system as it is, for the present. This seems wise, since uniformity of judging can be a big problem. At the conventions the selection of available qualified judges is presumably larger, insuring higher quality.

While the popularity contest is open to all, only the work of NMRA members can be judged for Merit Awards. Anyone interested in the Achievement Program should get complete information on the various requirements from the Regional Committee Chairman Don Clerke, 132 Laurel St, Wapping, Conn.

As anyone who has attended a Regional convention knows, judging by the NMRA point scoring system can take a lot of time, 100 models averaging about four hours. Such complete judging will be impossible at the GSD Convention due to time restrictions. As a result, the judges will not score models which obviously do not come close (70% of the total possible point score is necessary for a Merit Award). They will, however, be available to discuss the whys and wherefors after the judging is completed. In addition the

NMRA tape-slide clinic on judging will be shown. By noting how the models are judged and then observing the models on display, it will be easier to discern the difference between the ordinary and the award-winner. This cannot help but make you a better modeler.

THE CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

More than 100 replies to our survey of model railroading needs in the GSD have given the result statistical validity, and substance and detail as well. A full report will be made at the Annual Convention and in the next Whistle Post. Some highlights: ..GSD modelers want both basic and advanced clinics at meets but they want the level clearly labeled. They want through coverage of narrow topics, whether basic or advanced. Clinic givers, take notice.

..Cost and location of meets met no great criticism. We should try for more activity north and west of Newark, and many opt for occasional Sunday meets because they can't make it on Saturdays. Next Board take note.

..Few modelers are sure enough of themselves to exhibit. Many are between layouts or haven't started. Motivation is needed.

..There is much confusion about the GSD, its nature, purposes, coverage, etc. Some think we are a club, others confuse us with a group in competition with the NMRA, still others never heard of us. More contact and communication is necessary. Ideas are welcome.

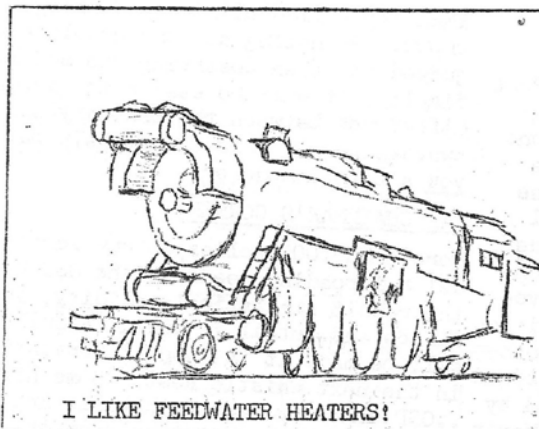
The GSD Convention upcoming is no longer "Little" in either name or interest. We hope you attend. We are sure you will be rewarded if you do. For one thing, we shall be trying to incorporate some of the items requested in the survey mentioned above. Come. Bring models, static, operating or even human.

This is the present Chairman's "swansong" and as such an opportunity to thank the Board and many others for their efforts this year. It has been interesting. We have tried to innovate and, I believe, the Division is on its way to becoming an even more useful adjunct to model railroading activity in this area. 73's and 30 as Chairman.

Rix Beals

FALL 1969 NER CONVENTION

The NER has requested the GSD to sponsor the fall 1969 NER Convention. New Brunswick is a possibility.



THE EDITOR'S SPUR

It has become customary for the retiring Chairman to write a farewell note but there was no regular Whistle Post in 1964. So I shall take advantage of this editorial.

In 1962 upon returning from the Army I sought something to do in the NMRA and decided to start a Division in N.J. Thanks to the help of many others, this proved an easy task. It is my belief that part of the success story of the GSD is that the members of the first Board had never even met each other before the founding meeting. Thus there never was a tradition of a founding group and the complete absence of politics has been remarkable and gratifying. No one who has ever expressed an interest in helping has ever been excluded. The label "Not Politically Acceptable" has never been used in the GSD.

Our Division was lucky that it was shielded by geography from the political storms which raged in the NER during our formative years. But you, the members of the GSD, can take pride that you were one of the most significant forces for stability in the NER. Without the GSD, the NER might have been sundered.

In my last Editor's Spur I wish to thank all who have contributed copy. My objective as Editor was to build a paper which was a useful source of information about model railroading in N.J. Your new Editor, Rix Beals, will make many improvements but you must help him. Get

in your news, particularly you publicity chairmen of clubs. Do not confine your opinions and ideas to bull sessions, send them to the Whistle Post. Remember this is your paper and any letter will be published.

The GSD organization has worked well for its first five years. Its government is informal and flexible as befits a new organization. But I would conclude on a note of caution. The GSD government is based on the NER government which worked well but collapsed with a thud. We have the same weakness; we too can have a Bellows Falls election. Maybe it will not happen in the GSD but then who expected it to happen in the NER? We perscribed area Directors and direct election of officers for the ills of the Region but did not take this ourselves. Perhaps it is not too soon to give this matter consideration.

Paul Mallery

DIVISION MEMBERSHIP

As of March 9, 1968: 280 families
One year ago: 217 families

REPORTS FOR ANNUAL MEETING

The superstreamlined business meeting of the GSD depends upon having all reports published in the special issue of the Whistle Post which serves as the convention program. All reports must be in the hands of the Editor (the old one, not the new) not later than April 12. Space will be held for the President's report, the Secretary's report, the Nominating Committee, the Permanent Convention Chairman, and the Whistle Post. Any other report received will also be published. Remember the deadline, April 12.

BY PULLMAN AND COACH TO MONTREAL

The May 25 and 26 NER Convention in Montreal promises to be a good one, every NMRA convention so far held in Montreal has been among the best. Going up together by train will really round this one out. Three Pullmans have been reserved for us on the Montreal Limited leaving Grand Central on Friday, May 24 and returning to Grand Central at 7:10 AM Monday. Arrangements have been made to let us board the train early so our coach group can get together.
(Continued on page 9)

HISTORY OF THE GARDEN STATE DIVISION

Preorganizational History

Divisional activity in northeastern N.J. started on July 10, 1951 when the Metropolitan District of the NER, the first division in the NMRA, was formed by Manny Padin. That division was based on N. Y.C. and included the surrounding areas. It did not prove a success. Soon thereafter the Hub and Nutmeg Divisions were formed and demonstrated the division concept was sound if based on a logical area. In 1954 the idea of a N.J. division was raised but that and the following efforts failed up to Nov. 25, 1962 when Paul Mallery wrote to President Frankel of the NER that he proposed to start a N.J. Division at the 9th Annual North Jersey NMRA Meet to be held at the Summit-New Providence HO Railroad Club on March 20, 1963.

Organizational Meeting, March 20, 1963

The organizational meeting was held at the Summit-New Providence Club. Richard Taylor, Club President, was appointed as acting Chairman of the meeting by NER President Frankel. After it was voted to form a Division, Paul Mallery was elected permanent Chairman of the meeting. The name "Garden State Division" was proposed by Len Frankel and adopted. The petition to form a Division was signed by 19 NER members present. A steering committee consisting of Vincent Waterman, Bill Biller, John Decker, Eugene Wolfe, and Paul Mallery as Chairman was appointed to study details and report back to the organization meeting which was then adjourned to June 8. The committee prepared a proposed Constitution which was adopted by the 27 attending the reconvened meeting. This meeting elected the first Board of Directors.

Division Chairmen

1963 Paul Mallery 1966 Pete Hugger
1964 Don Howd 1967 Rix Beals
1965 Ernest Mikus

Division Vice Chairmen

1963 Vincent Waterman 1966 Rix Beals
1964 Ernest Mikus 1967 Bob Judge
1965 Pete Hugger

Division Secretaries

1963, 64 John Decker 1966 Fred Huss
1965 Paul Mallery 1967 Al Westerfield

Board Members not Officers

1963 Rix Beals, Bill Biller, Ernie Mikus
Calvin Newman, George Smoluk,
Eugene Wolfe
1964 Bill Biller, Paul Mallery, George
McCauslen, Joe Pauer, Vincent
Waterman, Eugene Wolfe
1965 Don Howd, George McCauslen, Richard
Pearson, Joe Pauer, Vincent
Waterman, Eugene Wolfe
1966 Charles Getow, Pete Gray, Bob Judge,
Joe Pauer, Vincent Waterman, Al
Westerfield
1967 Ed Cornish, Charles Gerow, Bob
Herman, Fred Huss, Dick Patterson,
Bob Pool

Division Meets

The 1963 Board decided it would be the objective to obtain a broad base of support for the Division and to hold meets five times per year in as many different parts of the Division area as was possible. The first regular meet was the most ambitious yet held, a bus trip to the Strasburg RR, Vince Waterman meet chairman. It was a fine meet but not a financial success.

1963

March 10, June 8, Organizational Meet,
Summit-New Providence Club
Sept. 16 Strasburg RR, Pa.
Nov. 16 Moose Club, Irvington

1964

Jan. 11 Monmouth-Ocean Club, Long Branch
March 21 Summit-New Providence Club
June 6 YMCA, Paterson
Nov. 14 West Essex Club, Madison

1965

Jan. 23 Convention, Irvington
March 27 Garden State Central, Ln. Br.
June 19 YMCA, Dover
Sept. 25 Picnic, Allaire State Park

1966

Jan. 22 Ramapo Valley Club, Ramsey
March 19 Convention, Irvington
June 18 Pacific Southern, Rocoy Hill
Sept. 18 Picnic, Morristown
Nov. 19 Summit-New Providence Club

1967

Jan. 28 Garden State Central Club
March 18 Convention, Newark
June 17 Sailor's Snug Harbor, S.I.
Sept. 10 Picnic, Ringoes
Nov. 11 Scotch Plains

1968

Jan. 20 Camden and Philadelphia
April 20 Convention, Newark.

The first regular election was held on Jan. 11, 1964 at the Monmouth-Ocean Club. It did not prove practical to fit an annual business meeting into an afternoon-only meet. Therefore, borrowing an idea from the Hub Division, Garden State Conventions were held starting in 1965. Until 1967 these were afternoon and evening meets. In 1967 the morning was added. A severe ice storm plagued the 1965 Convention. In the hope of better weather, the following meets were moved to March, later to April.

Initially the Division was financed by passing the hat at meets but this failed to meet expenses. Starting with the meet of March, 1964, registration fees were adopted for most meets.

A premeet luncheon was held prior to the Irvington meet, Nov. 16, 1963, Gene Wolfe chairman. This proved a great success and has become traditional for all meets except picnics and conventions.

A Family Picnic was tried on Sept. 25, 65 at Allaire State Park with its narrow gauge steam line. This started a tradition of family picnics at some steam RR. They have proven very popular. Over 150 attended in 1966.

Whistle Post

The original idea was to mail a flyer before all meets but for the Nov. 16, 1963 meet the Board converted the flyer into an official publication. The name Whistle Post was selected by Gene Wolfe. A Whistle Post was edited by each succeeding meet chairman until Oct. 10, 65 when Chairman Mikus appointed Paul Mallery as permanent editor. The paper then grew from one or two pages to a minimum of 8. During this period the Whistle Post was reproduced on the mimeograph of the Summit New Providence Club. Starting with the June, 1968 issue Rix Beals will take over as editor.

Newark NER Convention, Oct. 29-31, 1965

The GSD sponsored its first Regional convention at the Robert Treat Hotel. This meet was quite successful and featured a fan trip with a diner to serve lunch, a NER first.

By-Laws Adopted, March 19, 1966

At the 1966 Convention, a set of By-Laws was adopted. These defined the two categories of GSD memberships, the duties of officers, required publication of the Whistle Post, and established a position of Permanent Convention Chairman.

Permanent Convention Chairmen

1965 Eugene Wolfe 1967 Charles Gerow
1966 Peter Gray

Annual Roster of GSD Clubs

Publication of an annual roster of model railroad clubs in the GSD started with the January 67 Whistle Post. Efforts are made to contact all clubs but information is published based on other listings.

Staten Island Joins the GSD

In the Sept. 66 issue of the Whistle Post Charles Gerow of S.I. conducted a poll of all S.I. NMRA members to determine their desires about joining a Division. About 10:1 favored joining the GSD. Therefore a joint Garden State-Sunrise Trail meet was held at Sailor's Snug Harbor, S.I. on June 17, 67. A poll was again taken of all Staten Islanders attending, the two Divisions agreeing to support the result. Again 10:1 voted to join the GSD so S.I. became part of the GSD. But under the area voting rules of the NER, S.I. could vote only for the N.Y. representative on the NER Board. To correct this, Vincent Vasta moved and Charles Gerow seconded a motion at the fall 67 NER convention to amend the Constitution to make S.I. part of the N.J. voting area.

Membership

The initial GSD membership in March 1964 was 19. By Oct. 66 it had grown to 177 families and to 280 by Feb. 68. Division records are kept by families as the major expense is distributing the Whistle Post.

WITH THE GARDEN STATE CLUBS

With this issue news of clubs is being grouped under this heading. All clubs in the GSD are invited to send their publicity to the Whistle Post.

STATEN ISLAND SOCIETY OF MODEL RAILROADERS

By Vincent V. Vasta

This is the 8th feature article about a club. West Essex, Bell Labs, NYSME, Pacific Southern, SNPHORRC, Watchung Valley, and Newark were covered earlier.

The idea of forming a club on S.I. was embryonic for some time. It wasn't until some time in 1955, with the aid of an old NMRA Year Book, it was decided to contact all of the National members on S.I. At the appointed time for the "Big" meeting, you can imagine the disappointment when only one person, a woman, arrived. This prospective enthusiast had brought with her several slides of her and her husband's pike. She had done some wonderful things with drift cork, sawdust, hardware cloth, spackel, dyes, etc. After approximately an hour of oggling her pix and listening to her explanations of the process involved, she suddenly asked if it would be alright to call her husband in as he was waiting in their car. We had seen his name in the Year Book but since it was followed by a "Jr" we figured he was a youngster and we wanted only adults.

That evening a total of seven persons showed for the meeting. However, due to the high moral and enthusiasm of the assemblage, it was decided to start a club with what we had. Quarters were our next problem. With so few members cost was of prime importance. Quite some time elapsed with several false starts before our female member got in touch with one of the higher echelons of the B and O. A little dickering and some persuasion finally culminated with the B and O consenting to rent one half of the waiting room of the Pleasant Plains Station, SIRT, which is our present quarters. The rent is \$12 annually.

The membership really got down to work. Our woman member was instrumental in obtaining our insurance. Her husband, a corporate lawyer, drew up our Constitution and By-Laws and the incorporation papers.

Our draftsman prepared the trackwork, figuring grades, radii, etc. Our carpenter supervised the benchwork which is open grid with endless roadbed of laminated Homasote. Our electronics member wired lighting and controls devising methods for block occupancy and direction of travel. Another member was in charge of civil engineering. It was decided to model the pike somewhat after the fashion of the B and O. Individual ties were cut and dyed, rail laid, turnouts fabricated on the spot. All the while our female member was busy dying sawdust, collecting cork, cutting, bonding and shaping hardware cloth and in general making like mother nature.

We have had our share of bad luck. Our loyal member passed away while on a vacation with his wife in Japan. The Club received the bulk of their home pike. This untimely death also lost us the capable artistry of his widow. Our draftsman and our original President left the Club due to relocations leaving only three of the original members. From 1964 to 66 we limped along but now have five members. The most recent is an enthusiastic junior active in the Staten Island Historical Museum in charge of old model RR equipment.

Our pike covers an area of some 350 square foot. Approximately 600' of track have been laid. 12 main line turnouts have been fabricated and many more in the yards. The pike transcends three cras. An old mining town spur complete with structures and a "Boot Hill" 1860-1890. A turn of the century area with more modern yard facilities, stores and homes- and finally where most of the action will originate is our "Main Yard". Passenger, team, load, storage, engine house, etc. This will cover approximately 75 to 80 square foot. All rail is code 100 nickel silver, power is of dual supply, common rail, route cab control, provision for preselected routes, auto and semiautomatic block control, separate AC lighting for structures, signals, RF for cars. The pike has at present 19 separate blocks expandable to 25. Main line control panel is elevated approximately 3' so engineers can see over heads of visitors. Yard panels are at trackside. The pike does not have an official name nor do the towns and junctions.

Because the membership is small, all business is conducted in an informal manner by mutual consent.

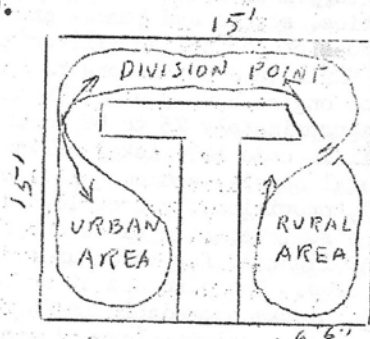
The SISMRR has entertained the visitors to two NMRA functions, the joint NER-MER Convention in Elizabeth in 1960 and the GSD moot June 1967. The Club is 100% NMRA. Our members were among those who asked that Staten Island be included in the GSD and we are also urging that Staten Island be included in the N.J. voting area for area representative on the NER Board.

Two of our members have won several model contests in the NER and MER. The Delaware Trophy was won three times by one member and the GATSMENarrow Gauge Trophy (MER) by another member.

Ed. Note: Vinco is too modest. He, Gene Wolfe, and Walter Olovesky are the outstanding model builders in the GSD and it was Vinco who won the Delaware Trophy three times. For those who do not know, the Delaware Trophy is for best in show NER model contest. Its name is that of the RR of the SNPHORRC.

HACKETTSTOWN MODEL RR CLUB ON THE MOVE

The sketch below is a rough drawing of the new layout of this club. Memberships are open, contact Robert Smith, 852-3181. The club shows movies and tape-slide clinics on the last meeting of the month. They have invited the GSD to hold a meet in Hackettstown, an invitation the Permanent Convention Committee has under consideration for either Nov. 1968 or for 1969.



MODEL ENGINEERS RAILROAD CLUB OF NORTH JERSEY, INC. ANNUAL SHOW

New Jersey's oldest model railroad club will have its annual show April 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28, May 5, 6, 7 at 569 High Mountain Road, North Haledon. Admission 50¢ adult, 25¢ child. 0 gauge outside third rail.

SUMMIT-NEW PROVIDENCE HO RR CLUB

Following the annual show the temporary track connecting the end of the main line at Easton, Pa. to the end of the Traction line at Flomington Jctn. was torn out and the main line is being shoved on through Mifflinburg, Pa. so the show loop will be $1\frac{1}{2}$ scale miles longer next year.

Modelers interested in large yards and engine terminals: Track work is just starting at Clearfield, Pa. which is designed for 240' of track in this one station. If large stations are your interest, come on over, a membership is waiting.

CLYNTON HILL MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

This is a new club just forming in Brownstown. They have a room 24' by 36' in the basement of St. Ambrose School. They also have a layout to start with for they will move the one built by John Prymuszewski into the clubroom some time in April. Meetings are held the last Wednesday of the month in the St. Ambrose Rectory, Throckmorton La., Brownstown. There are at present six senior members and memberships are open to those over 18.

NEW EDITOR FOR THE WHISTLE POST

Starting with the June issue this paper will have a new Editor, Rix Beals, the retiring Division Chairman. Rix has had a long history in the Division being a member of its first BOD in 1963 for a one-year term. He returned to the Board in 1966 as Vice Chairman and became Chairman in 1967. Rix was one of the GSD members most active in putting on the NER 1965 Convention in Newark. All copy, subscriptions, renewals, etc. should be sent to Rix Beals, 2 Lexington Rd., Somerset, 08873.

NMRA 1971 NATIONAL CONVENTION

The British Region is bidding to hold the 1971 Convention in London and their bid is supported by the NER Board. However with the international situation as it is, a back up bid proposal for Newark is being considered by the GSD Board. Such a contingency bid will serve to keep Newark in the picture for 1978 and in effect renews the 1964 bid. Newark has many advantages over New York City for example being less expensive, easier parking, closer to many clubs. The GSD has received encouragement for this bid from the NMRA.

BY PULLMAN AND COACH TO MONTREAL, contin-
ued from page 4

Round-trip 1st class fare is \$46.12, additional members of same family \$23.80. Birth in a bedroom is \$13.73, in a roomette \$16.95 round trip. Group coach fare is \$23.55. $\frac{1}{2}$ fare applies on all rail fares for children under 12. Pullman space allotted on a first-come, first served basis. These low rates are based on reservations in blocks. If reservations do not work out even, last to reserve will have to pay a higher rate. First 12 bedroom births will be in lounge car. No reservation accepted without check. Send reservation, check made out to Penn-Central and a stamped self-addressed envelope to Paul Mallery, 94 Oakwood Dr., Murray Hill, N.J. 07974. For maximum flexibility all tickets will be held for delivery on train. Confirmation will be mailed. If you must cancel, we shall try to sell your space, otherwise normal RR redemption will be used. Get your reservation in early or we may not have the space.

We had a great time going in a group on Pullmans to the 1954 convention. It should be just as good this time.

DIVISION OFFICIALS

Rix Beals, Chairman, 2 Lexington Rd.
Somerset, 08873 KI5-8538
Bob Judge, Vice Chairman, 508 Lakewood Rd.
Neptune, 07753 775-2394
Al Westerfield, Secretary, 13 (2B) Carolyn
Terr., Roselle, 07203 241-6168

Directors

Fred Huss, 305 Elissa Ct., So. Plainfield
Bob Herman, 20 Finlay Pl., Newark, 07106
Dick Patterson, 917 Carnegie Ave., Plain-
field, 07060 755-5220
Ed Cornish, 158 Walthery Ave., Ridgewood,
07450, 444-6199
Bob Pool, 2 Lowe Ave., Fairlawn, 07410
SW6-7433

Charles Gerow, 43 Howton Ave., S.I. 10308
Permanent Convention Chairman, C. Gerow
Recording Secretary, Pete Hugger, 812
Prospect St., Westfield, 07090

Editor: Until April 20, Paul Mallery,
94 Oakwood Dr., Murray Hill, 07974,
464-5315. After April 20, Rix Beals
2 Lexington Rd., Somerset, 08873, KI5-
8538.

DEADLINE, NEXT ISSUE: MAY 1, 1965

THE SOUNDING BOARD

Activity on the NER Board has been confined to individual efforts. The Membership Committee, primarily its Chairman, Pete Hugger, has been trying to get the NER membership records straight, and this is proving a difficult and time consuming task. I have placed the proposal before the NER Board to substitute a system of direct election of NER President and Vice President thus eliminating the present problems of local areas essentially controlling the election of the officers. With region-wide elections for officers it is also proposed to elect Directors only by area and make the areas correspond more closely to the actual centers of member interest rather than on an arbitrary state-line basis.

Another proposal up for consideration by the GSD Board is to give definite boundaries to Divisions. At present there is no provision for a boundary even if the Division wants one. Both the GSD and the Sunrise Trail consider they have definite boundaries.

Paul Mallery, N.J. Area
Representative, NER Board

NEW JERSEY EVENTS

April 7, Last day NYSME Annual Show
April 19-21, 26-28, May 5-7, Annual Show
Model Engineers Railroad Club of North
Jersey, 569 High Mountain Rd., N. Haledon
April 20, GSD Convention, Newark
April 27-28, Steam Fan Trip, N.Y.-Rutland
Empire State Ry Museum, PO Box 459,
N.Y., N.Y. 10005
May 5, Steam Fan Trip, Camden-Cape May,
High Iron Co., Lenabon, N.J. 08833
May 17-19, MER Convention, Hampton, Va.
May 24-26, NER Convention, Montreal
June 8, GSD Meet, Iselin
Sept, GSD Annual Family Picnic, New Hope
and Ivy RR.
Nov., GSD Meet, North Haledon

NMRA MID-YEAR BOT MEETING STAYS

At the March NMRA BOT meeting, the BOT reconsidered placing the question on the ballot to eliminate the mid-year BOT meeting so this is no longer in question.