

NGPF EXHIBIT IN CHAMA NEW MEXICO



In May 2011, the NGPF opened the first of hopefully a number of planned exhibits, this one in Chama, NM, which serves as the southern terminus of the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad. The Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad or "C&TS" is owned by the States of Colorado and New Mexico, and is a sixty-four mile remnant of the original narrow gauge mainline between Alamosa and Durango, CO.

Chama, has been a division point on the railroad since 1882. Each year from approximately Memorial Day until October, the C&TS operates on a daily basis allowing visitors to experience Rocky Mountain Railroad, as it existed in the late 19th to mid 20th century. Because it features an intact engine facility and narrow gauge yard full of historic equipment, Chama was a natural location for the NGPF to open its first interactive exhibit.

The exhibit prominently features the Chama display layout, which is the subject of an article in this newsletter. In addition, monitors display a continual loop of videos of the C&TS and D&S, photographed by board member Sam Furukawa. (A video is available for sale from the NGPF. Write or e-mail us if you would like one.)

The exhibit has proven to be very popular with visitors. Thousands have signed the visitor guest book since the opening of the exhibit.

The exhibit was honored shortly after its opening, with a visit from New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez, as shown by a photograph in the accompanying article and on our website. Her reaction is typical of those visiting this exhibit. Indeed, the NGPF's Chama exhibit has become a de-facto welcoming center for the NGPF and the C&TS.

Here is a comfortable place to learn more about the importance of Chama and the Narrow Gauge. Visitors can get their questions answered and discover how Chama appeared in the 1950's from the Chama display layout.

If you are anywhere in New Mexico or southern Colorado, a short trip to Chama, New Mexico and a visit to the exhibit during the summer months would be worthwhile.

Welcome from the Chairman

As Chairman of the Narrow Gauge Preservation Foundation (NGPF), I want to welcome you as a charter member. For the past ten years or so the NGPF has administered the generous contributions of a number of narrow gauge rail fans including Sam Furukawa. While the NGPF was not the only organization involved in these projects, it is fair to say that without our help #463 and #315 would not be in steam, Ardenwood would not have their new car barn, and the Colorado Railroad Museum would not have their turntable. Again, welcome and thanks for your support.

Bob Brown

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UPCOMING ISSUES

- Chama; A Division Point
- Rebuilding #463 on the C&TS
- The K-27 Class Locomotives on the Rio Grande
- Turntables On The Narrow Gauge
- EBT Hoppers – A Long Way From Home
- Preserving Early California Narrow Gauge

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Mission

The Narrow Gauge Preservation Foundation will preserve, exhibit and interpret significant prototype and model Narrow Gauge artifacts, as well as educate the public on the importance of Narrow Gauge railroading

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BOB BROWN

is editor and publisher of the Narrow Gauge and Shortline Gazette, the premier magazine devoted to Narrow Gauge. Since 1975, the Gazette has documented the history of narrow gauge in articles, plans, photos and has acted as a focus for the Narrow Gauge community. Bob Brown, a Master Model Railroader as recognized by the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA), has been building narrow gauge models for over sixty-five years and has amassed a collection of pioneer narrow gauge models reflecting his own interest in the history of Narrow Gauge. Bob also serves on the Museum Committee of the NMRA. Bob is the chairman of the Board.

SAM FURUKAWA

is a recognized photographer of Narrow Gauge, author and modeler. Retired from a long career at Microsoft Corporation, Sam is now a professor at Keio University in Tokyo, Japan. He is an author of three books on Colorado's preserved narrow gauge railroads. He has extensively photographed the operations of the surviving narrow gauge lines of Colorado and New Mexico and some of his videos have recently been released to the public by the NGPF.

FRED HAMILTON

was a long time employee for Kalmbach Publishing serving on the sales staff of both Trains and Model Railroader magazines. Fred is also an avid On3 modeler and remains close to the model railroad industry. In the past, he has served as President and Executive Director of the industry's trade association and currently serves as the Treasurer of the NGPF.

BOB HAYDEN

is the author of numerous articles and books on narrow gauge topics and also was a long time employee at Kalmbach Publishing working on Model Railroader, Trains, Classic Toy Trains, Garden Railways and Fine Scale Modeler magazines. Bob has also built narrow gauge models for over fifty years and currently works in the publication field. Bob serves as Secretary of the NGPF.

FRED HILL

is the owner of two hobby shops in Southern California, the original Whistle Stop in Pasadena and Allied Hobbies in West Los Angeles. He has long been active in railroad preservation for both narrow and standard gauge and is involved with two model companies, The Coach Yard and Thin Film Decals. He has served with distinction for many years as an officer and board member on several hobby trade associations.

JIMMY BOOTH

comes from a distinguished career as a principal at P-B-L or Peter Built Locomotives, a major supplier and importer of Sn3 locomotives and equipment. Jimmy also created Hi-Tech Models, creating exquisite parts and details for model railroaders.

CHARLIE GETZ

serves as Executive Director for the NGPF. Since 1975, he has written a column for the Narrow Gauge and Shortline Gazette and has been active in the NMRA, currently serving as its President.

The Chama Display Layout



By Jimmy Booth, NGPF Board member and P-B-L executive

It all started back in 1979 when Bill Peter of Chama New Mexico began Peter Built Locomotives, or "P-B-L" to import Sn3 locomotives and rolling stock. Desiring a display layout to demonstrate and showcase their products, a small module of Chama was borrowed by a friend of Bill's for a train show. The limitations of that early display convinced Bill that a new display with better lighting and more operational possibilities was desirable. As reported in the November/December 1987 issue of the Narrow Gauge and Short Line Gazette, the result was the Chama display featured at every National Narrow Gauge convention from 1983 to recent years. For the past two years, the layout has filled a prominent spot in the Foundation's Chama Mall welcome center, located across the yard from the real Chama yard.

The layout was constructed in 1981 with 1/4" plywood boxes using grid bench work and a linoleum backdrop. It was designed to include lighting easily accessible from a removable roof. The two sections are each 10 feet long, 22" high and 24" wide. Thus, an impressive 20 linear feet allowed much of the Chama yard and engine facility from the station north to be represented. Chama was selected not only because of its compact interesting yard but because it was literally a few blocks from P-B-L's shop. The era selected was the mid-1950's to allow use of a wide variety of equipment.

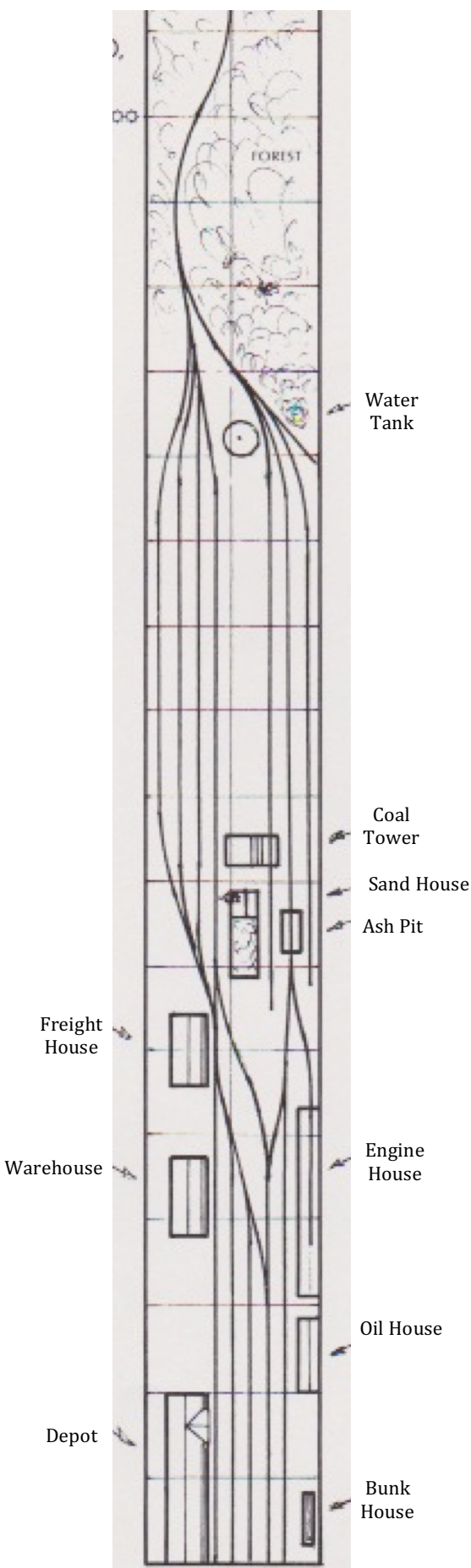
Originally, the scene was oriented facing the town from the Chama River with town buildings represented as flats on the backdrop. However, a 1985 rebuild changed the orientation 180 degrees and now faces the hills behind the river as seen by visitors to Chama from Terrace Avenue. One loss from this change was the open wall in the engine house, which allowed close up views of the tools and clutter.

With a lot of hard work, the layout was completed in only six weeks, but six weeks of intense effort. So much so that in the 1985 re-build, a new layout was ruled out. A fascia that acts as a frame encases the Chama display layout. Painted black with bright internal lighting (twenty-four 40-watt lights), the effect is as if a three-dimensional painting came to life. One end features the Chama depot and the other, the Bridge over the Chama River. The latter looks twice as long due to clever placement of a mirror to double the span. Vegetation, including numerous trees, hides the mirror and provides a natural backdrop to the modeled scene. Featured are such landmarks as the coaling station, sand house, water tank and engine house. There is enough real estate to operate short trains back and forth, using automatic reversing circuitry



NM Gov. Susana Martinez with Sam Furukawa

As displayed in Chama, the layout has proven very popular and continues to fulfill its function of preserving significant models and in illustrating the importance of Chama as a division point on the Rio Grande's narrow gauge lines. We hope to add more models in display cases from our collection to accompany the beautiful videos of the prototype provided by noted photographer and Board member Sam Furukawa. These videos, which continually run on ceiling mounted monitors, add to the overall atmosphere of the Chama display and provide visitors a glimpse of Chama in its glory days.



Modeling Chama

The plan to the left is of the Chama display, as drawn by Bill Peter and as published in the Narrow Gauge and Shortline Gazette, courtesy of Benchmark Publications. For those of you interested in creating a model of Chama, there are a number of resources available. We include a chart of products but note that not all may be currently in production or available directly from the manufacturer. We also provide the manufacturer's website for more information.

Kits	HO	S	O
Chama Station	CR	PBL	
Stock Yard	CR, Campbell	CR	CR
Water Tank	Durango Press	CR, PBL	CR
Coal Tower	Campbell	Raggs	Raggs
Sand House	Campbell	PBL	Raggs
Oil House	PBL	Finestkind	Sequoia
Ash Pit		PBL	

Campbell	www.campbellscalemodels.com
Crystal River (CR)	www.crystalriverproducts.com
Durango Press	www.jlinnovative.com
PBL	www.p-b-l.com
Raggs to Riches	www.raggstoriches.biz
Sequoia	www.tmwshop.com

Articles:

Chama Engine Facilities And Yard by Charlie Getz
Jan/Feb 1997 Narrow Gauge and Shortline Gazette ("Gazette")
Chama Coaling Tower by Len Madsen
Feb/March 1960 Model Railroader Magazine
Chama Sand House by Len Madsen
March 1963 Model Railroader Magazine
Chama Track Plan by Eric Bracher
June 1972 NMRA Bulletin.

Plans:

Coaling Tower Sept/Oct 1990 Gazette
Sand House Mar/April 1990 Gazette
Bunk House Jan/Feb 1989 Gazette
Oil House Sept/Oct 1987 Gazette
Car Body Shed July/Aug 1987 Gazette
Track Scale May/June 1987 Gazette
Warehouse Jan/Feb 1987 Gazette
Roundhouse January 1973 NMRA Bulletin

Workbook:

Vol. 14 – *Chama* by Mike Blazek www.blazeksplan.com

From The Executive Director

Welcome to the first edition of what we hope will be many of "Preservation News" from the Narrow Gauge Preservation Foundation (NGPF). As a Charter member of the NGPF, we are excited to share with you over the next few issues, some of the projects in which we have been able to provide assistance. With your help and continuing membership, our work can continue. Thank you for your support and enjoy the newsletter.

Charlie Getz



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NARROW GAUGE PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

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WHO WE ARE - WHAT WE DO AND HOW YOU CAN HELP

The Narrow Gauge Preservation Foundation (NGPF) was first established as the Narrow Gauge Trust in 2000. It was the dream of one of our board members to help preserve Narrow Gauge in both its prototype and model form. In 2002, the Narrow Gauge Trust Fund was incorporated as the Narrow Gauge Preservation Foundation, and acquired non-profit status both within the State of California and as recognized by the Federal government. As a non-profit public benefit corporation, our mission is to establish interactive exhibits where the public can learn of the significant history of Narrow Gauge railroading as well as to support preservation activities and projects wherever possible.

The foundation is administered by a board of directors, which does not receive compensation. The NGPF is proud that less than five percent of its funds are spent on administrative costs. Thus, ninety five percent of the funds raised go toward preservation efforts.

Our primary function is the creation of interactive exhibits where the public can be told the story of Narrow Gauge, such as the one at Chama. As with the Chama exhibit, each exhibit will include interactive video presentations and models as well as dioramas, photographs and other graphics to explain the significance of the Narrow Gauge railroading experience. As a secondary function, the NGPF assists Narrow Gauge preservation efforts across North America. These efforts to date have exceeded over one million dollars and in some cases have made the difference between preservation and loss of significant artifacts.

The foundation is also unique in supporting the efforts of Narrow Gauge Preservation projects throughout the United States rather than concentrating on one area or one particular project. To date, the organization has supported projects on the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad, Ardenwood Park in California, Friends of Denver and Rio Grande Engine #169, the Southern Pacific Narrow Gauge Railroad Foundation, The Colorado Railroad Museum, the Southeast Narrow Gauge and Shortline Museum in North Carolina and the Durango Railroad Historical Society, among others. In addition, we have preserved the collections of prominent narrow gauge modelers, extensive libraries of books as well as important art pieces depicting narrow gauge scenes.

One of the unique aspects of the NGPF is the use of matching grants to encourage the receiving parties to reach out to the public for support. Many of our grants require that the receiving agency establish within a set time frame, an equal number of individual new donations from members of the public, which not only shows support for the particular project, but also provides new sources of funding for the organization. As a result of this policy, organizations receiving our grants have reported increased donations. Thus, the NGPF not only supports Narrow Gauge preservation but also encourages those who share our interest to broaden their base of support. In granting that support, we also utilize the expertise of our Board in evaluating the requesting organization and its ability to accomplish its stated goal.

Donations to the foundation are tax deductible and can be either recognized or kept anonymous. All donations are acknowledged and donations in any amount are greatly appreciated. These donations, as well as sales of books published by the Narrow Gauge Preservation Foundation help us to continue our work. By donating, you do more than support one particular Narrow Gauge operation or project; you support a variety of worthwhile projects and can make an enhanced contribution to the preservation of Narrow Gauge.