

## NGPF Preserving Significant Narrow Gauge Models

Article by Fred Hill with photographs from the NGPF archives and Jim Buckley



The Narrow Gauge Preservation Foundation's [NGPF] goal and purpose is stated in the title – to preserve. This is the reason the Foundation was created and why it exists.

We have accomplished this task in the railroad preservation community by sponsoring, funding and supporting many projects such as locomotives, rolling stock, cabooses and even a turntable. Some of these stories have been told in past issues of this newsletter with many more to come. But, there is more to us than just prototype preservation, as important as that may be.

Imagine this scenario - Model Railroaders "Extraordinaire", Chuck Francis, Rudy Van Wingen, Loran Brown, Jim Finnel, John Coots, John Herrmann, Ed Greenberg, Swede Norlin, Cliff Grandt, John Olson, Lonny Shay, Mike Pearsall, Paul Scoles, Ed Greenberg, Dave Grandt, Rob Grandt, the Swedler brothers (Sheldon & Stan), Jan Rons, Eric Bracher, Jim Vail, Russ Simpson, Charlie Getz, and Bob Brown are at a club layout on a Saturday night, talking about all aspects of modeling from weathering techniques, model structures, scratch-building of locomotives and rolling stock, scenery and how to recreate what the eye is seeing. Imagine you are there. Well, this happened to me one night at the Slim Gauge Guild and it was the experience of a lifetime.

Do you remember "Rusty and Dusty"? Mic Greenberg and Gary Nash in the early 80's were winning all the model contests on the west coast. I believe they were the nucleus that gave the inspiration to many modelers to weather effectively and attain the skills and build models that became the talk of the Model Railroading world. How many times have you heard at the NMRA Conventions – "Boy, if you want to see the "Crème de la Crème" of models - go to a Narrow Gauge Convention"!

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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 massed 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 the original Whistle Stop in Pasadena, a major hobby shop in Southern California. He has long been active in railroad preservation for both narrow and standard gauges 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 (Peter Built Locomotives), a major supplier and importer of Sn3 locomotives and equipment. He also has dedicated much of his life researching the history of D&RGW narrow gauge equipment and has served as a historical advisor to both the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic and Durango and Silverton Railroads. Jimmy volunteers at a local museum as a steam locomotive engineer.

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I give credit to John Kalin, Craig Brown, Herb Koenig, Richard Rand, and George Warner for having the vision to create an event called the Narrow Gauge Convention, in 1981 in St Louis, MO. These conventions afforded us all the opportunity to be with the "Masters of Modeling" and to learn from them.

Quite a few years later, the NGPF was created in part to preserve these experiences in the form of the epic models that have been produced by some of these masters. We started to obtain models of extraordinary detail and historical significance to preserve and display them for all to enjoy.

The first models donated were Joe McCrea's "Jefferson Station" in 1/2 inch scale featured in the NG&SLG (Jul-Aug 1987). We also have a quarter inch scale freelance operating logging operation, Sonoita Lumber Co., completely scratch-built (except for 4 wagon wheels by Grandt Line) in a space 3'x3' by Richard Simon, featured in NG&SLG May 1991.

We were also able to save pieces of Whit Tower's, Len Madsen's and Malcolm Furlow's, layouts, just to name a few. One of our early donations was an "in kind" gift from the estate of Dr. John Akin at his bequest. Another major donor, Mr. Jerry and Mrs. Heidi Merker, gave us their entire On3 layout.



A member of the board was able to purchase a collection of models built by Ed Greenberg, John Elchlepp, Bruce Bechtel, John Herrmann, Rollin Whitick, Malcolm Furlow, Jim Finnell, Jan Rons, and John Almon. This collection includes

structures, locomotives, rolling stock and bridges, from many time periods.

We collect not just for the purpose of preservation, but with hopes to one day display these models in a natural environment that tells the story of the model, the prototype and the builder. One example was the subject of our very first newsletter, the Chama Display at our Chama New Mexico Welcome Center in the Chama Mall across from the yard of the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railway. There, you can view the PBL Sn3 model of the Chama yard as it appeared in the 1940's. We are in discussions with the Colorado Railroad Museum in Golden to display additional models reflecting their prototype collection. Visitors will be able to view the prototype artifact, then see a model representation of that artifact and discover why modelers build such models.

We accept donations of models that meet the criteria of being historically significant, exceptional, innovative, and/or built by modelers who are in the Narrow Gauge Hall of Fame. We have a secure storage facility and are working with the NMRA in the development of a permanent display to tell the history of modeling the narrow gauge and short line railroads of the United States. Your support and contributions insure that this part of our mission to preserve and document the story of narrow gauge is fulfilled.



## The Locomotives of Doc Akin

Photographs by Jim Buckley

As mentioned in the lead article, Doctor John Akin bequeathed his collection of On3 models, which included award-winning models by Mic Greenberg and Gary Nash among many others and a stable of locomotives unrivaled in any collection. All of "Doc" Akin's engines were meticulously detailed and often rebuilt to a specific era by noted modeler Larry Edwards. They were then



professionally painted by Jerry Spoelma and photographed by Jim Buckley. Models represented include the C&S, DSP&P, D&RG, D&RGW, RGS, Shasta Lumber, SPNG and the West Side Lumber Co. They represent different eras and amount of wear. We present a small gallery of these models and will feature more in the next issue.

### From The Executive Director

In this issue and the next, we feature models from our collection. This issue highlights models in our Pasadena facility; the next will also include our Redwood City facility with the models of Len Madsen amongst others. The NGPF is unique in preserving significant narrow gauge models as well as being a leader in prototype preservation.

Also, if you are going to the NG Convention this September in Maine, don't forget our clinic and roundtable on the NGPF. Come by and say hello. Thanks for being a member.

*Charlie Getz*

Since 1975, Charlie has written a column for the Narrow Gauge and Shortline Gazette and has been active in the NMRA, currently serving as its President. He has been Executive Director of the NGPF since its inception.



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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. Donations to the Foundation are tax-deductible, acknowledged and appreciated. By donating, you support a variety of worthwhile projects and thereby enhance preservation of Narrow Gauge.