

NMRA  
MER  
DIVISION 11

# SUSQUEHANNA SIDETRACKS

SUSQUEHANNA  
DIVISION  
NEWSLETTER  
1993 No. 3

## Club Celebrates 50 Years

*by Alan Frame*

The Miniature Railroad Club of York will be observing our Golden Anniversary this year. There aren't many model railroad clubs that have been in existence for 50 years.

The club was founded in 1943 and incorporated in 1948. Starting out in OO scale the club was located in the second floor of a building on East Clark Ave. in York, PA. The club found it needed a home of its own.

Members constructed one of the few buildings in the United States that is dedicated only to model railroading. Finished in 1955 the club built its railroad named "York Connecting Railroad". A connecting railroad usually operates in a large metropolitan area and is owned and operated by all of the railroads serving that city. This avoids duplicating facilities. In our clubs case, this allows us to operate trains from many railroads and still be prototypical.

Our railroad needed to expand and the building was enlarged in 1966 to its present 30' by 90' size.

In the past 6 years the railroad has been 80 percent rebuilt with new scenery, yards, engine facilities and control systems. The club has over 13 scale miles of track. Two main lines are located (continued on page 2)

## Lancaster Meet Update

The Division Meet at the South Penn Model Railroad Club in Lancaster, PA has been finalized. The meet will be on December 4, 1993, from 10am to 4pm. There is a lot planned to do so be there early.

There are four clinics planned. A clinic on scenery and one on repowering locomotives are scheduled for the morning. The afternoon has two scheduled. The first is a clinic on soldering and the second is on airbrushing. Sounds like a great line up.

Other activities include Favorite Train and Favorite Model contests. AP judging will be available upon request. Videos will also be playing during the day so if you have a favorite train tape that you would like to share, bring it along.

The club also invites you to bring your equipment to run if you wish. The only stipulation is that it must be have Kadee equipment on it. Their HO layout measures 18' by 72'.

There are food places within walking distance of the club and for the morning there will be doughnuts, tea, and coffee available.

We are informed that if it is cold that day, be sure to bring a sweater or jacket for in the club room.

The club is located at 139 Nevin Street, Lancaster, PA. A map is included in this

## Upcoming Events

**December 4, 1993:** Division 11 Meet, South Penn Model Railroad Club, 139 Nevin St., Lancaster, PA.

**November 24, 1993:** Conewago Valley Model RR Club Auction, 7pm, New Oxford Fire Hall, New Oxford, PA.

**Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12, 19, & 26, 1993:** Miniature Railroad Club of York Open House, 1 to 5pm, 231 Wheatfield St., York, PA.

**Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12, 19, & 26, 1993:** South Penn Model Railroad Club Open House, 1 to 4:30pm, 139 Nevin St., Lancaster, PA.

**Fall 1994:** MER Regional Convention, Hagerstown, MD.

**May 18-21, 1995:** White Rose '95, MER Regional Convention, Hosted by Division 11, Holiday Inn, Holidome, 2000 Loucks Road, York, PA.

issue to locate the club. Parking is along the street, however the club is working with a church a block away for additional parking. If this is available there will be someone standing outside the club to direct you there.

So come on out and support the division and the club. Hope to see you at Lancaster.

## Super's Corner

*By Don Yingling*

First things first, I would like to thank a few people for getting division 11 going again. Alan Frame for serving as Superintendent and doing a real fine job of getting things in order. The first year is the toughest to get your ducks in a row and pointed in the right direction. Joe Krepps as Asst. Super and serving as election committee head. Paul Tice for Clerk/Paymaster and getting the accounting and bookkeeping in order. Charlie Potter for division AP chairman and giving a lot of guidance and setting goals for the division. Rick Maguire, MER VP and Division Liaison, who was always ready to help when ever his phone rang. This group and myself were the driving force to get started again. Thank you very much guys.

You may have noticed the 5 digit number number on your mailing label. It is your member code. The 1st 2 digits are the year your dues are good for and

the last 3 are your member number. So if you have a '93' for the first 2 then your dues run out on Dec 31, 1993.

In the last newsletter, some phone numbers were omitted. They are: Joe Krepps, 845-7771 and Paul Tice, 225-1688. Charlie Potter is the current AP Chairman for the division and his address is 43 North West Street, York, PA 17404. Phone 843-2513.

Charlie and Joe make up the division meet committee and are looking for sites for future meets. If you are interested in hosting a meet, give one of them a call or contact them at the Lancaster meet and they will be glad to work with you to set one up.

One more item to mention is congratulations to Charlie Potter for being elected to the MER Board of Directors.

Hope to see everyone at Lancaster but if you can't make it have a safe holiday season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

## Celebrates 50

(cont'd from page 1)

around the perimeter of the building.

The branch line is towards the center of the room and is a single track folded dogbone design linking the various industrial areas.

The two main freight yards have a design capacity of 1000 forty foot box-cars. A number of smaller yards are located around the railroad along with other venues. We have an operating coal car dumper, ski slope, saw mill, cog railway, Ferris wheel, carrousel and many other automated features.

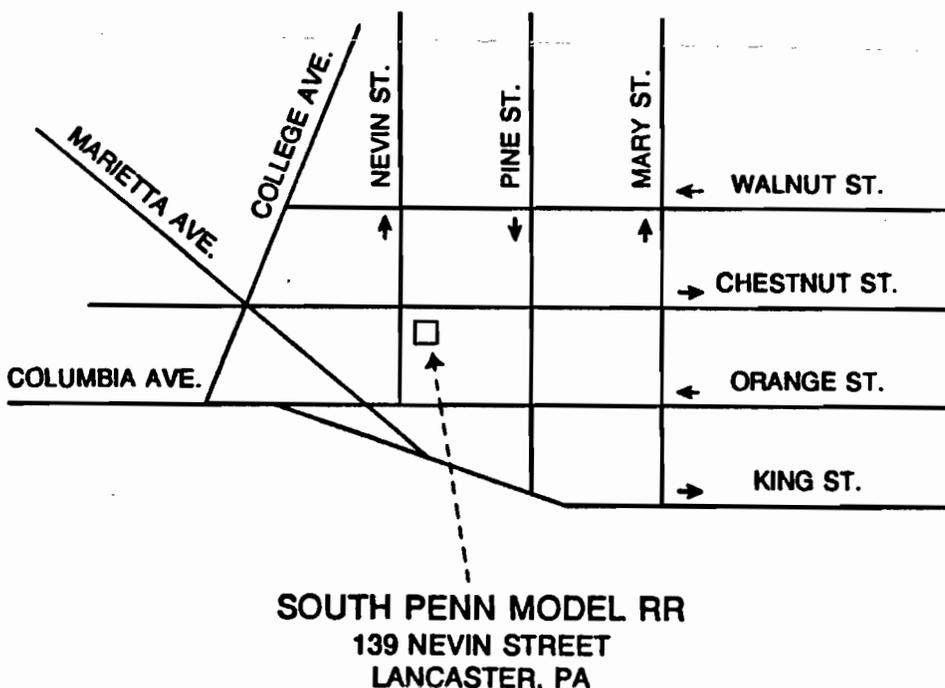
To control train movement 4 manual control cabs can be used on either of the 2 main lines or the branch line. The dispatcher can control one train with an automatic cab while also dispatching trains around the railroad. Three branch line cabs can be used in conjunction with operations in the industrial areas.

Each engineer operates the train over the entire layout via "Pennsylvania Railroad type cab signals" located in each cab. This allows each engineer to maintain a safe distance between trains. Fifteen people are required to fully operate the railroad.

Please join us for our Fiftieth Year of operation on Nov. 28, Dec 5, 12, 19 or 26 from 1 to 5 PM.

**Newsletter Editor:** Don Yingling

If you have any short articles or information on events of interest please send them to my attention at 2420 Heather Road, York, PA 17404. I will try to get them included in the newsletter.



## Division Extra

This issue of Susquehanna Sidetracks is going out to many clubs and hobby shops in the division area. We want to make as many people aware of the division as possible. So to you are first time readers, a welcome from Division 11.

The division covers a number of zip code areas: from 170xx to 179xx and from 195xx to 196xx. This is the area served including Harrisburg, Chambersburg, York, Lancaster, Williamsport, Sunbury, Pottsville and Reading. It covers a great deal of central Pennsylvania.

The division is really just getting going. We have held three one day meets so far in York, Mechanicsburg, and Manheim. A meet in Lancaster is just coming up. They have all been great little get togethers with clinics, videos, contests, operating layouts, and just plain fun and friendship.

We are looking for more people out there that want to become a member of the division and join in the fun. Dues for the division are just \$2.00 per year and they basically cover the cost of the newsletter. We are also looking for new places to go to hold meets and meet new people. You don't have to belong to the NMRA or the MER to be a division member. We currently have 51 members. If you are a club then that is a great spot for a meet. You don't have to have a 100% complete layout. To hold a meet all you need is the desire and say "Yeah, we think that is a neat idea." So just drop a line to one of the officers and we will contact you. Memberships can be sent to Paul Tice. If you are sending a check please make the

## When the "Potomac" crossed the Codorus Creek

*by Joe Krepps as told by David E. M. Carter*

The last Baldwin Locomotive Works 4-8-4's were ordered by the Western Maryland Railway. Routed by the Pennsy from Philadelphia to York, Pa. accompanied by Baldwin reps., the first one was delivered onto Western Maryland rails in 1947. It was not customary for engine crews to set locomotive brakes when sitting in front of the Lincoln Yard office, a trip to the yard today reveals only a slight down grade toward the west. The Baldwin rep. took note of this and said to the crew, "I bet that engine will roll away before you can get back on it." All journals were equipped with the new Timken roller bearings. The crew replied, "Aw, no way!". No sooner had they said that and the brand new engine, later dubbed Potomac's by the railway, began to roll away! The startled crew broke into a dead run trying to catch the engine, but failed. It was necessary to send the yard engine after it and bring it back. The Potomac's were very rarely used east of Hagerstown, Md. Small wonder, how would you tell the boss you let \$240,000 (in 1947 dollars) get away?

check out to **Paul Tice**. Our funds are small yet so we don't have a checking account. Paul is handling the accounting on a cash basis for now.

The officers of Division 11 thank you and are looking forward to hearing from and working with you soon. Come join in the fun.

## White Rose '95 MER Convention

When you get your 1994 calendar, put a note in December 94 to mark the weekend of May 18-21, 1995. That is the weekend that Division 11 is hosting the Spring '95 MER Convention.

Some really great clinics are being lined up and we are looking for more. If you have a special interest or expertise in the field of railroading whether prototype or model and would be willing to share it with others, why not present a clinic. We are also looking for volunteers to help with and at the convention. So if you are interested drop a note to one of the committee members and we will get in touch.

### Convention Chairman:

Bob Martin

45 West Locust Lane

York, PA 17402

### Convention Manager:

Charlie Potter

43 North West Street

York, PA 17404

*Don Yingling, PR Chairman,*

*White Rose '95*

## Division Officers:

**Superintendent:** Don Yingling, 2420 Heather Road, York, PA 17404

**Asst. Superintendent:** Joe Krepps, 1278 W. Princess St., York, PA 17404

**Clerk/Paymaster:** Paul Tice, RD #1, Box 104B, Thomasville, PA 17364

Merry Christmas  
and a  
Happy New Year  
from Division 11

**Membership Application for Susquehanna Division 11 of the Mid-Eastern Region of the National Model Railroad Association, Inc.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Division dues are \$2.00 per year.

Dues include the quarterly newsletter.

Address \_\_\_\_\_

New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Scale \_\_\_\_\_

Please return the completed application, with a check payable to **Paul Tice**, to:

**Suquehanna Division, 2420 Heather Road, York, PA 17404.**