



THE COUPLER

Official Bulletin of the Northeastern Region of the National Model Railroad Association.

DISPATCHER'S TOWER.

The NER has completed another one of its very successful years. We enjoyed a trip across the border to Montreal, also a very pleasant week-end with the group at White Plains.

It has been claimed in years past that the region was run by only a certain chosen few. We have taken exception to that and this year bears this out again by your choice of three brand new directors, namely Lyman Hurter of Somerville, Mass., Thomas K. Salmon of Yonkers, N. Y. and Irwin Lloyd of Hartford, Conn. We all know Irwin has ably served as Secretary-Treasurer for some years, but was never before a director; Kin is the NMRA Bulletin editor, and Lyman is one of the very active members in the Boston Area.

It is with great pride that I announce two more newcomers to our staff, Roy Gardner of the Bronx, N. Y. as editor of the COUPLER, and Roger Marble of Holden, Mass. as Secretary-Treasurer. Both fellows came to us on a volunteer basis, as Roger made it known about a year ago that he was available for a duty assignment, and Roy answered my plea at White Plains for a COUPLER editor after my several pleas for an editor failed.

It is with humility that I have to apologize for the September issue but again circumstances beyond our control put a full red board in front of its delivery.

Best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a most Happy Model Railroading New Year.

WAYNE ROUNDY, Pres.

THE AUCTION SALE

After a lapse of a year, so that the members could have time to accumulate enough spare items, we had another auction sale at White Plains. Bob Rich was the auctioneer, assisted by Gene O'Connell and Bill Dietz. A large number of very nice articles were on sale, and all but a few were sold to the highest bidders. Those unsold were instances where the owners had placed a minimum price on them, which was larger than the highest bid.

We wish to point out that this results in both unhappy buyers and sellers. We can not and should not expect to obtain full market price at an auction sale, and those who look for that result are not being realistic. The idea of an auction is to get rid of your excess stuff at a price the other man is willing to pay. Try selling some of your used items to a hobby shop and you'll be surprised at how little, if anything, you're offered. That's the idea behind these auctions-- to furnish a market & bring the parties together to make a sale.

We do not intend to run these sales too often, for it does not give the members a chance to accumulate sufficient items. There will be none at either Garden City or in Vermont. But you can now already start getting your surplus items in shape for sale at the next auction.

THE TRAIN CREW.

As the train rolls up to the station gate,
Out of the night and the storm,
And you rush to the arms of the folks who wait
To the hearts that are flaming warm,
Do you ever stop as you turn again
To the welcome of kith and kin,
To think of the weary railroad men
Who brought the Limited in?

Night, and the plain like a sea outspreads,
There's snow, or the lash of rain;
And the rails stretch out- twin iron threads
In the path of the speeding train;
But the eye in the cab is trained and keen
And the hand on the throttle is true,
And if danger or death has lurked unseen
No-one but the trainmen knew.

In the languid ease of your parlor car
You drowsed, at rest, secure,
While the men in front have guided you far,
Steady, and swift, and sure;
And the desert shrinks to the width of a map
Where ever you may roam,
All thanks to the men in the railroad cap
Who pilot the Flyer home.

Stanley Bradley.

Bye-Law Amendments

The two amendments to the NER byelaws, as published in the June issue of the COUPLER, were passed at the White Plains meeting, and are now official. If you desire to obtain your Life Membership in this Region, send in your Lifetime dues of \$20.00 to Roger Marble, and your card will be forthcoming. No provision has been made for installment payments.



DELAYS TO THE COUPLER

During the past year we have run into a number of unexpected stone walls which have delayed getting the publication into the hands of the members. You already know about many of them-- others have come up from time to time to plague us. We are trying to overcome each and every one, but with a volunteer staff, there are many problems. We are hopeful to have the present issue in your hands right on time, and will do everything we possibly can to keep it that way from here on.

