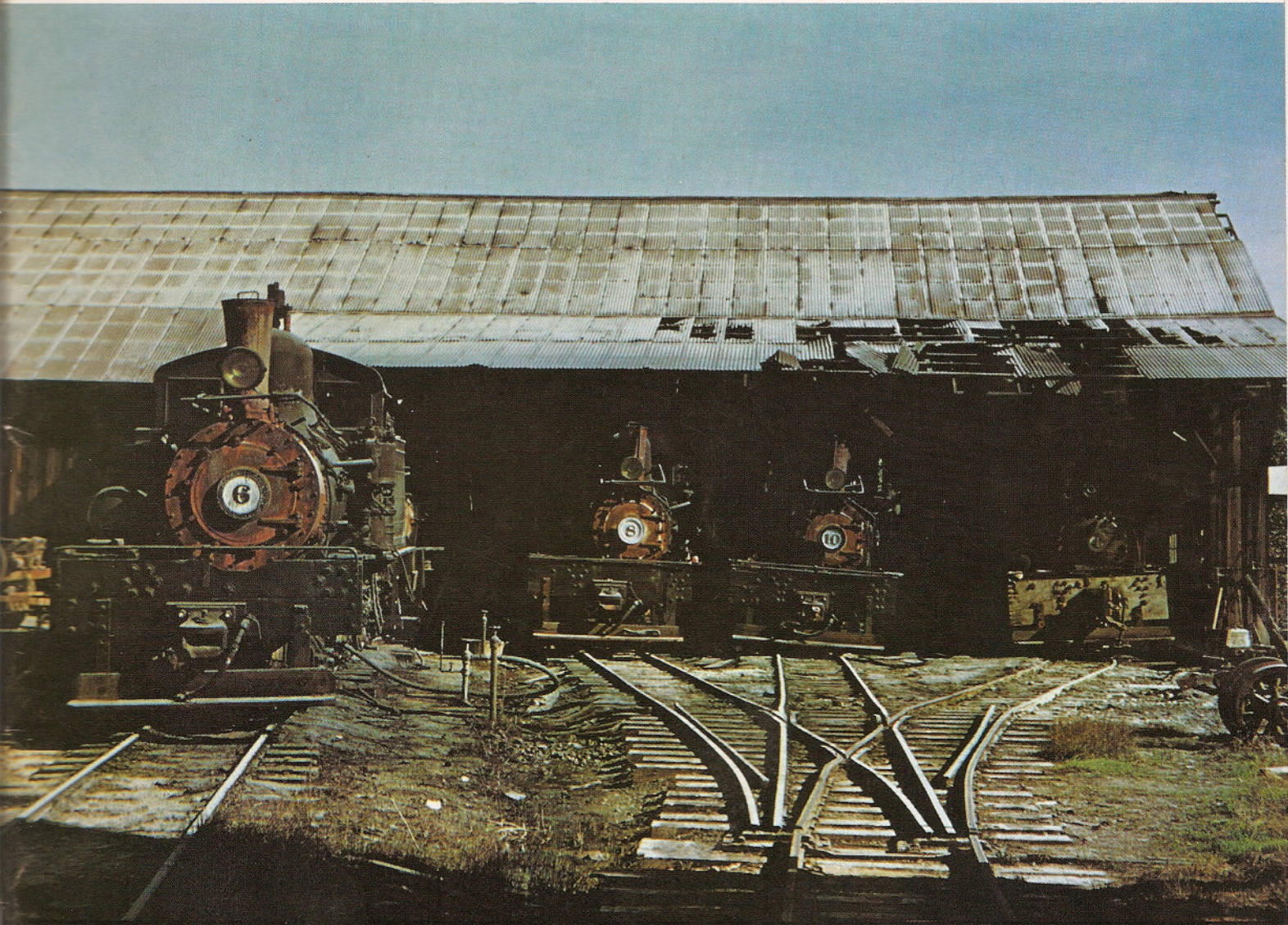


NARROW GAUGE AND SHORT LINE GAZETTE

Accurate Information For Fine Modelbuilding

September 1975

\$1.25



**Narrow Gauge in New Zealand
plus**

2 NEW SERIES

NARROW GAUGE AND SHORT LINE GAZETTE

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Sept. 1975

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Jerry Hoffer Rocky Mtn. Editor
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COVER

The last wintering of Diamond & Caldor's Shays. A classic logging portrait taken in Feb, 1953 at Diamond Springs, California.
Photo by Charles Givens

ROBERT'S RAMBLINGS

Now that another NMRA Convention is over it might be a good time to review our attitudes toward The National Model Railroad Association. I have heard so called "serious" modellers say that who needs the NMRA? They seem to feel that since they do not use NMRA standards there is no reason to support the organization. Is this really true?

It seems to me that it is important to remember that without the NMRA we would have little if any standardization in the hobby, which would mean each manufacturer would have his own standards and would have to produce all the various components to go with his standards. The British have had this situation over the past many years. The British model railroad industry has dictated the standards for the hobby and they have decreed that their standards are the only workable ones. This has led to the offshoot efforts such as the Protofour standards which were discussed by Malcome Cross in the July, 1975 *Model Railroader*.

These comments about standards are obvious and have been discussed many times before. However, I feel they are worth repeating here because even those of you who scratch build most of your equipment or who work to a finer standard than recommended by the NMRA are dependent on a healthy industry to support the minority sales of some of the specialized parts you need in your modelbuilding. With a base of standard sales items to build on the industry as a whole can support the minority following. A healthy industry supports healthy magazines, books, and other sources of information which we all use and need.

Contests are another positive aspect of the association. If you really want to improve the quality of your model building then enter an NMRA contest, especially at the national level. Again this is not everyone's idea of fun but it sure sharpens your modelling eye.

The response to the ditcher special was enthusiastic and several of you have volunteered material for future special issues. We hope you will continue to send in material for publication. HO material is especially needed.

We have two new series starting in this issue. The first is Ken Schmelzer's series on logging Mallets. Ken has quite a bit of material on this subject so the series should run for quite some time.

Charlie Givens is starting his new series on prototype data in this issue. Entitled *Straight Talk About Bent Pipes*, Charlie plans to go as far as he can in the nuts and bolts area. Let us know what areas you feel should be covered in this series.

We are also starting an Sn3 column in this issue so make sure you keep John Engstrom up to date.

We have another one of Gene Deimling's fine articles coming up in the November issue and we are now in the process of firming up our Climax issue. Any Climax material or plans would be appreciated. Send them in! ■

Bob Brown

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