

NARROW GAUGE AND SHORT LINE GAZETTE

Accurate Information For Fine Modelbuilding

January 1976

\$1.25



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TODAY**

NARROW GAUGE AND SHORT LINE GAZETTE

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COVER

GAZETTE COVER: A brace of K-36's work up the 4% grade past Cresco water tank on a happily current day in October, 1972. This freight for photos trip was run on the Cumbres & Toltec between Chama and Big Horn Wye with engines 483 and 484.

Photo by John Parker

ROBERT'S RAMBLINGS

Several weeks ago I received a letter from a reader expressing a hope that **THE GAZETTE** would not become involved in "the childish controversy" between Scale Structures Ltd. and Paige Enterprises. We at **THE GAZETTE** do not feel this controversy is in any way childish. Charlie Getz discusses the Paige situation in more detail in his column the **HOn3 Scene** in this issue.

Is this problem any concern of yours? I feel it is! The model railroad business can be risky and markets are limited. Those who do provide kits and parts try to make a reasonable income from their efforts. For detailed kits there a great many original parts necessary that are best made by casting. This means that time and money are invested in producing the patterns, and in making molds and casting parts. How fair is it for an individual to buy a kit from off the shelves of a hobby shop and then make molds of the parts and produce a kit which is so similar to the original that an undiscerning modeler will buy the cheaper version of the kit? This modeler cuts the already narrow profit margin for the original kit maker and gets an inferior kit. What manufacturer, knowing that his newest kit will be pirated, is going to take the risk? If enough of this pirating should take place it would not be long until there were very few new kits or parts on the market. This problem is indeed a concern of yours.

Not only would legitimate manufacturers stop producing if kit copying continued but a certain segment

of the modelling fraternity would be buying copied kits. Anyone with any kind of standards can tell that these copies are of inferior quality. When you take a casting from another casting you lose quality. Detail becomes less distinct and thus the crispness is lost. When you buy a kit you are buying pleasurable hours of assembly time; these valuable hours should be spent assembling the best possible kit. I find it hard to understand why one would waste valuable hours on an inferior kit in order to save a few dollars.

Even if you don't appreciate this aesthetic point of view; such pirating of kits is legally actionable and two firms which have been pirated have filed suit in the United States District Court for the District of Delaware. Both Scale Structures Ltd. and Keystone Locomotive Works have brought action against H. Brook Paige of Paige Enterprises for copyright infringement and deceptive trade practices.

Again I say this problem is your concern. Your responsibility is never to buy pirated parts and/or kits. Put your money into the original; support the manufacturers who do the original development work and assure the hobby a continuous line of quality products.

Bob Brown

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