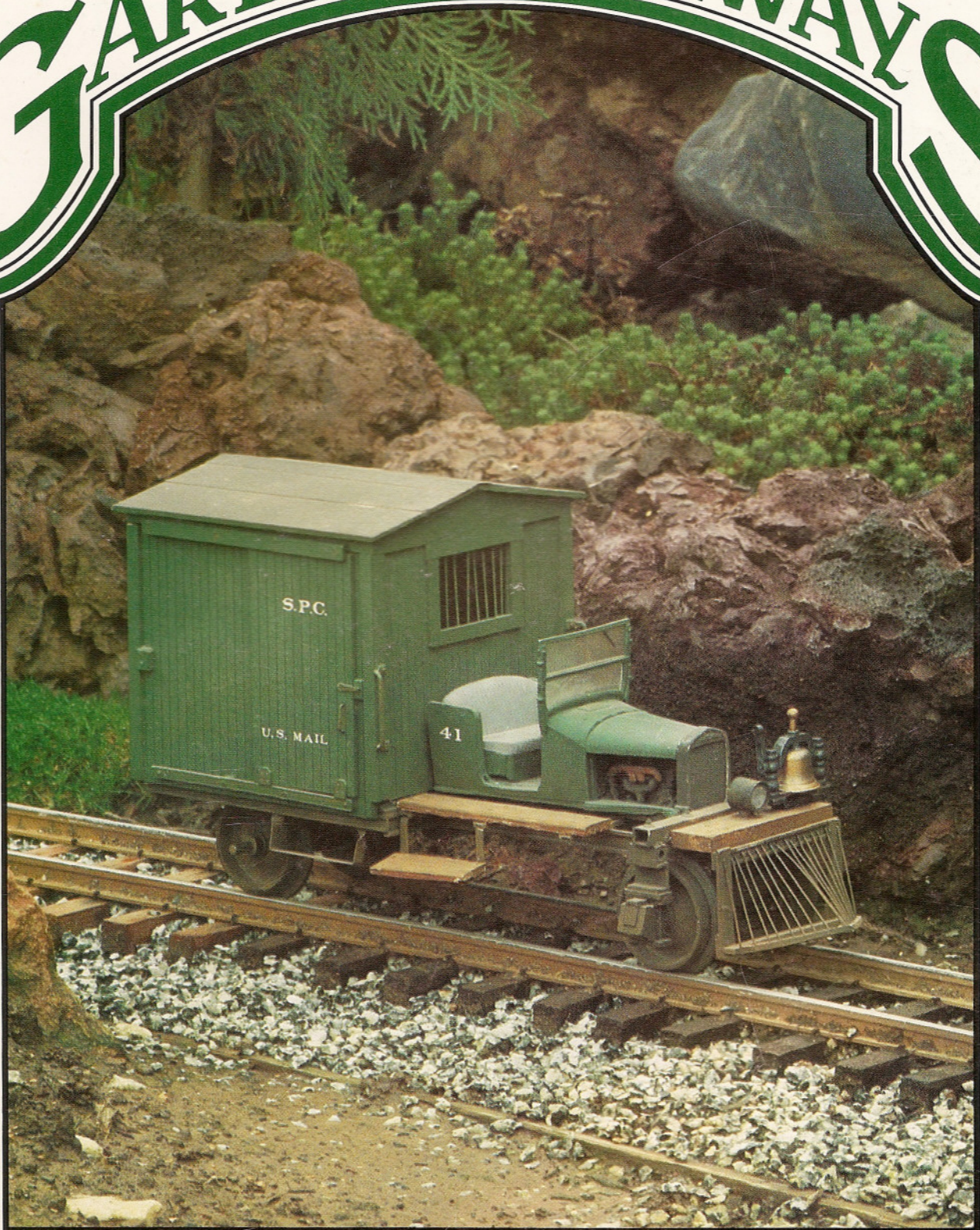


May-June 1987

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GARDEN RAILWAYS



Flagman's Box

Editorial

Clubs

Have you ever wished you knew of more garden railroaders in your area? We hear this wish quite often, and many times from people who live in large population centers, and still know of no others.

One of the best ways to bring people together is through an organization or club. Why not think about forming one in your area?

Here are some answers to the usual excuses for answering "no" to the above question.

We don't have enough people to start a club. The Denver Garden Railway Society was begun in 1979 by three people. We got together on a monthly basis at one another's houses. At each meeting we'd bring along others whom we thought would be interested in garden railways, and slowly the club grew to its present size of over 60.

I don't like formal organizations. Neither do we. When we started our Denver group, the first (and only) rigid rule we had was that the business end of the meetings would be kept to an absolute minimum. This has stuck. Our business meetings rarely run past 15 minutes. Then we have programs, show-and-tell, and a social period. Fourty to fifty people generally attend our meetings.

I'm not a joiner. That's what many of our members said, too.

Cover Photo: Follow along with Grover Devine as he describes the creative process he used in designing this railcar. Turn to page 8.

PHOTO: G. Devine.

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When people saw what a low key group it was, and how much fun we had, they changed their minds.

I don't have time to start a club myself. If you can spend 15 minutes on the phone once a month, you have enough time to start a club. That's all it takes to begin to get people together. As the club grows and more responsibility is required, it can be spread around.

The Denver club now has four "officers." This may sound like a lot, but we have a big club. We started out with one "officer" whose job it was to call the members. That's it. After that, people were added as the need grew, and by that time there was always someone willing to help.

I don't own a garden railway. Neither do 60% of our members. However, they are all interested in them.

So after you realize that you really can start a club if you want to, consider a few of the advantages of them:

* You meet a lot of nice folks with similar interests.

* You can draw upon one another's talents and fields of expertise, which benefits all.

* Clubs supply purchasing power when buying in quantity.

* Club members can help with problem solving, construction, sources of supply.

And if the above reasons aren't enough, it's FUN!

Marc & Barb

Marc & Barb

PS When you decide to start a club, let us know and we'll include a note in our little-used Club News column.

Hotline

If you have any questions about garden railways, small scale live steam, or related topics, or if you would just like to chat, we invite you to use our **Monday Night Hotline**. Just call (303) 377-4777 between 6pm and 9pm, Mountain Time, on any Monday night. We regret that we are unable to accept collect calls.

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