Most Colorful Issue

The Enpleinair Railway

Editorial

Winter is nearly upon us as this is being written; our nights are falling all too early. Work in the garden is being finished up at a feverish pace so all the unplanted plants get planted before our first hard freeze.

Among other things getting tucked into the railway are miniature bulbs. Their inclusion should be considered by all garden railroaders, and if you live in a climate that has a late frost, there may be time to plant some yet. Miniature snowdrops, grape hyacinths, tulips, iris, windflowers, squills, and daffodils are some of the many appropriate springblooming bulbs.

The railway part of our Ogden Botanical line progressed this summer; not as much as we had hoped, naturally, but enough to give us a feeling of satisfaction when we look at it. The garden through which the railway runs filled out more than was expected in its first year, and by the time the Garden Railway Convention rolled around in August, it was looking pretty good.

Although the line is not officially open yet, we have had several offthe-cuff runs, as it were. Steamers, battery power, and clockwork have run over the OBR rails this summer, and so far the hand laid trackwork is holding up well. We had hope of beginning the long trestle this fall, but as the season wears on that looks less and less likely.

Garden railroading is a very diverse hobby, but I sometimes feel that we have gotten bogged down in what we see the most of; that is, ½" scale, gauge one trains. While these certainly fill the greater part of the void, they are by no means all that there is out there. And even if you are most interested in modelling 1 scale on gauge one track, why not try a little of something else to add variety? aren't necessarily advocating mixing scales (though that is not as uncommon as you might think, either), but rather, separating the scales and running them independently. Give No. 1 scale (1:32) a try. This is modelling standard gauge trains on gauge one track. Or, if you particularly like 1/2", why not build some standard gauge equipment in this scale, as well as a short length of track on which to run it. The gauge, known as gauge three, is 21" (or 64mm).

In future issues, we'll be running articles on gauge three railroading as well as some more esoteric stuff, like $1\frac{1}{2}$ " scale (1:8) trains running on on gauge one track. Stay tuned.

Our next issue begins the fifth year of publication of Garden Railways; the preceding four have been very interesting and rewarding ones. We are looking forward to the coming year, as we hope you are, and we'd like to take this opportunity to wish all of you the best for 1988.

Marc & Barb

Marc & Barb

COVER PHOTO: "Sunnybrook," a gauge I live steam locomotive, heads a mixed train on the Enpleinair Garden Railway. Turn to p. 20. Photo: J. Landis

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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