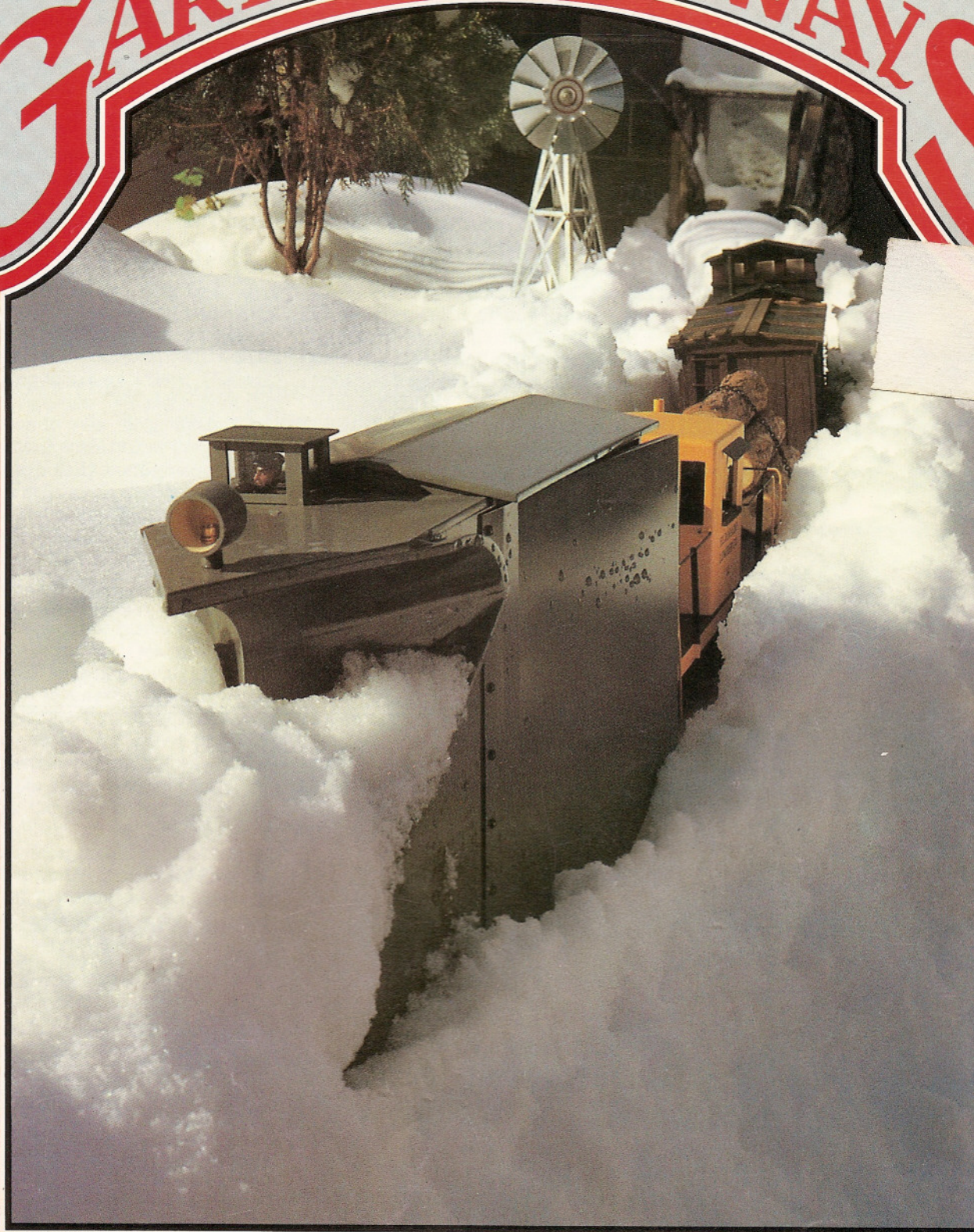


L.A. County's
Garden Railway
Our 5th Anniversary Year!

January-February 1988

\$3.00

GARDEN RAILWAYS



Snowplows

Editorial

Slick?

You, our readers, have often admonished us not to allow *Garden Railways* to become "too slick." Well, you may notice some differences in this issue over past ones. We have acquired a Macintosh page layout and typesetting system, and this issue of *GR* is our first effort with it. In one sense this is a step toward slickness, and in another it is not.

We have been complimented frequently on the hominess of *GR*, and on our promotion of whole-family participation in this hobby. We value these concepts very highly, and try to project them in every issue. This might be construed as being unslick. So be it. It is not our goal to become an impersonal publication or to make *GR* a magazine that people want only to read, without contributing their own ideas. That road leads to stagnation. We pay a great deal of attention to your input, through surveys we have published in the past, and also through daily correspondence and telephone calls received. We continue to welcome and invite all of your remarks. As far as the content of this journal, we intend for it never to become slick.

On the other hand, there is one more reason for publishing this magazine than that of pleasing our readers. We must also please ourselves. One way we have of doing that is by improving the magazine; both in content and in visual appeal. We are constantly looking for new ways to make *Garden Railways* more attractive and interesting. Adding color to our pages was one way, and improving the page layout and typesetting is another. So we will be striving toward a slicker product in that respect. Our wish is for *GR* to compare favorably with all of the other magazines on the stand, and we believe that you will enjoy these new changes, too.

Cover Photo

Byron Fenton's plow, being pushed by Alan Olson's 44 tonner, moves the snow on the Ogden Botanical Railway. See page 11 for Byron's article, and pages 26 and 38 for related articles.

Photo—M. Horovitz

Going Outside

We'd like to step out into the winter garden at this point, to share some of our observations on what could have been a dreary scene here in this season. In the cold climate that we have in Denver, the picture outside looks entirely different to us now than it did in those brilliant, warmer months. We would have been disappointed by that fact if we hadn't designed in elements that would create a beautiful railway garden for this time of the year.

When we went out into the chilly air to photograph this issue's cover, we appreciated all the bits of winter interest our garden provided. That is, every bit that could peek up through the thick blanket of new snow. The structure of the garden gave a fine backdrop and sidedressing to the dynamic lines of the snowplow and the train behind it. We noticed the wonderful qualities of light and shadow on the snow, and the interesting bronzy and steely purple colorations our little conifers had taken on for winter. As the sun brought the temperatures up, its thaw revealed the railway's bridges once again. Running trains along the plowed route in the shimmering snow is a fine sight.

The heaths and heathers, with their diverse evergreen foliages, will further grace the railway with profusions of flowers beginning this month or next. There are many such evergreen, early bloomers along the line.

And then there's the matter of those three hundred-plus miniature bulbs we dug in this fall around the beginnings of the Ogden Botanical. . .

Marc & Barb

Marc & Barb

GARDEN RAILWAYS

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Editor

Marc Horovitz

Assistant Editor

Barbara Lilly Horovitz

Contributing Editors

Peter Jones

Larry Lindsay

Petria MacDonnell

John Wenlock

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