

RIDING RAILWAYS NEWSLETTER



Grand Scales
Quarterly

JUNE 2006

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Robinson & Associates
PO Box 8953
Red Bluff, CA 96080 USA
530-527-0141
Fax: 530-527-0420
www.grandscales.com
www.7plusrailroader.com

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Welcome to the June issue of the **Riding Railways Newsletter**. Summer is always a busy time for railroading and there is much to do this summer as well. Please keep us updated on your own railways. If you're building rolling stock or laying track, designing new web sites, have new photos to share or just want to say hello, please contact us and let us know.

In a few weeks we will be visiting Train Mountain for their Triennial Meet. We will once again be filming the event and producing a new DVD program with the full consent of the TM Crew. And we are also sponsoring the seminars that will be taking place. Look for a partial list on page 6.

Thanks again for your continued support of both *GSQ* and the *7+RAILROADER*. Our family thanks you.

Susan

THE GRAND CANYON RAILWAY

In March of this year we were able to climb aboard the famous Grand Canyon Railway in Williams, AZ. Our host was the lovely Heather Gearhart, public relations specialist for the railway.

I should note that there was a great deal of snow on the ground when we arrived. Enroute to the railroad the day before we encountered a severe snow storm which resulted in a 50 car pile up. Yes, 50 cars. We were in one of the front 20 cars.

Fortunately, we were all fine.

The next day, still shaken, we met Heather at the railway. We needed an enjoyable trip after the excitement the day before and we were very pleased with the whole experience.

We will be running a full article in the *7+RAILROADER* since we also run prototypical articles in it. For now, I thought I would share a few photos.

If any of you have any his-



Left photo: The Grand Canyon before the morning fog burned off.



Right photo: Inside the Grand Canyon Railway's shop building.

toric photos of this railway or stories they would like to share, please forward them to us before June 10th. We would be pleased to use them if possible.

If you would like to learn more about the Grand Canyon Railway, you can visit their web site at <http://www.thetrain.com/>. If you are a member of AAA, they also have brochures and information available in their offices. 

Photo, right: A “hold up” aboard the Grand Canyon Railway. This kind lady, seated across from us, wasn’t about to let this villain win!



RAILWAYS IN THE NEWS

Storybook Land Express

Tom Blanchard has been working on the Storybook Land Express, readying it for its first run of the season. Storybook Land, located in Aberdeen, SD, USA, opened Labor Day weekend for the Summer season.

The park is home to a 1920’s model steam engine built by Bob Larson and Dennis White in 2003. The mile long train ride takes about 12-15 minutes to complete and is the most popular ride in Storybook Land.

Rhyl Miniature Railway

Rhyl Miniature Railway (15” gauge, Wales, UK) has been mentioned in GSQ many times. The spokesman for the railway is our friend, Simon Townsend of Wales. Simon and his group have been working hard to upgrade the railway over the years and has lately been able to receive money

from the Heritage Lottery Fund in order to redevelop the railroad. Plans include a new station and museum, which should be completed next year, and more engines to be added to the roster.

Rhyl has been operating since 1911. Simon mentioned to the folks at BBC News that many of their riders “are descendants of people who rode on it as children”. These trains were built for this railway and operate in the same place they did in the beginning. (Note the postcard above that shows how the railway looked in the early 1900s.)

7.25” Gauge Rwy Looking for New Home in the UK

Martin Neeves was hoping to run a 7.25” gauge railway



along the sea front in Criccieth, UK. Unfortunately, the town council didn’t feel the same way as they voted against the railroad. One councilman said that the railroad would change the character of the area. Mr. Neeves response was that “Criccieth is a Victorian town and miniature railways are a very Victorian thing”. So now Neeves is searching for a new location. We wish him well.

Tweetsie Railroad

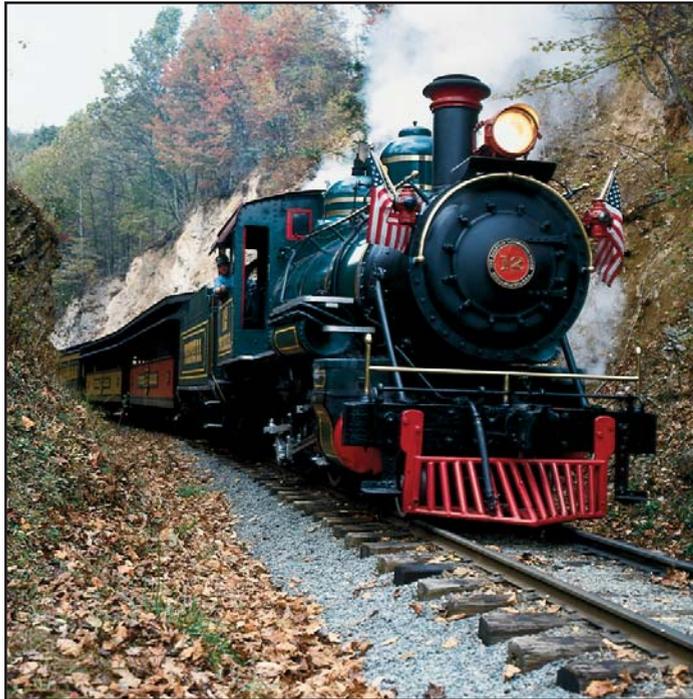
The Tweetsie RR has been active for 50 years and will be celebrat-

ing the accomplishment all year beginning July 4th.

Grover Robbins Jr opened the park in 1957 after bringing home the famed East Tennessee and Western North Carolina engine No. 12. The engine was known as "Tweetsie" to the locals. The original run was a one mile ride to the picnic area which then returned to the station. Today, visitors are taken on a scenic three-mile journey through the mountains. The railway is located in the Blue Ridge Mountains in North Carolina. For information, visit www.tweetsie.com. (Photo, right, courtesy of the Tweetsie RR)

Valley Zoo

The Valley Zoo in Edmonton, Canada, is having to close their railway while they construct a new lemur enclosure. The train will be unavailable throughout 2006 but the zoo hopes to have the train up and running for the 2007 season.



The zoo has two engines, an Allan Herschel S-16 (No. 7407) that the zoo bought in 1959. The S-16 pulls the "Little Western Railway" train. The engine was built in 1958. An early photo of the zoo is found below. It was taken in 1959 when the train first began operating. (Photo courtesy of the Valley Zoo.)

The second engine is the MTC G-16 (No. 7406) which

pulls the "Valley Zoo Express". The G-16 was built in 1964. During peak times, both trains run. One is in the station loading passengers while the other is out on the loop.

Highlights of the 1/3rd

mile ride include the trestle which is nearly 7 feet high, a tunnel that is 125 feet long, and then, of course, the views of the zoo! The operators are supposed to provide an interpretive guide of animals along the track.

While the new lemur exhibit will no doubt be outstanding, there will be many disappointed children (of all ages) who must wait until 2007 to ride the trains. 🚂



Been in the news?

If you or your railroad / club have been mentioned in the news media, please send a note to us. Much of the time you can send a link directly from the media's web site.

When these articles appear, we encourage you to take a moment to write the editor and thank them for writing about the hobby. It lets others know that this is a strong, growing hobby and can help bring others in.

VENDOR NEWS

Big Schnitt Model Cars

Curtis Hustace wrote recently to tell us his latest news: "I will be firing up a new model car company. Big Schnitt Model Cars. It will be up and running shortly. We will be supplying frames, flat cars and gondolas to start in 1.5" scale. Larger scales made to order. Flat cars, ready to run will have a price tag of around \$450.00, Gondolas \$550.00 (two seats standard.) They will be fairly detailed and ready for trucks and couplers. 2.5" and larger will run just a bit more expensive.

Contact information is as follows:

Big Schnitt Model Cars
P.O. Box 24
Inglefield, IN 47618
812-499-4450

We will have a web site as well. Turn around time is going to be about 2 weeks on every order. We will have a full line of cars including cabooses and mainline passenger cars, hopefully by years end."

We wish you much success
Curtis!



many other parts, they can be shipped out right away. Notice the stack of wheels in the photo to the left. Just waiting for your next project!

They also have a large work area that enables them to work effectively on their building projects. Dave Rohr is building a narrow gauge locomotive below.

We're impressed that the Kearny family are investing the time and funds to help the hobby. And it's good to see Paul able to focus on what he does best: building good looking trains! 🚂

Rolls Models

Not long ago we had the opportunity to visit Paul Garin in his new facility. As you no doubt already know, Roll Models was purchased by KBW, Inc, a large family run enterprise that has the resources to help Roll Models flourish. Paul is still in charge and the momentum is building.

One important thing that we noticed was the vast inventory of parts that Paul is now able to keep in stock. Now when you call up to order track, wheels or

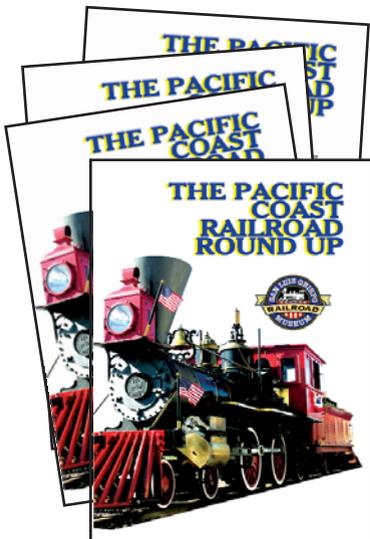


NEW DVD AVAILABLE

This new program features the private three-foot gauge **Pacific Coast Railroad**. The featured locomotives are an 1897 Vulcan and a 1921 Porter. The passenger cars are original equipment from Disneyland, one of the best known theme parks in America. The memories are priceless!

Come enjoy a ride through the wind swept grasslands of this historic ranch. Listen for the whistle echoing off the hillside. Picturesque scenery is enriched by the attractive trains as they meander through the property. Plenty of run-by shots provide an up-close look at these beautiful steam engines.

\$20 plus \$4.50 s/h. Please call **530-527-0141** to order. In the future this DVD will also be available at www.grandscales.com.



The Heywood Display Building

By Michael Crofts, Perrygrove Railway

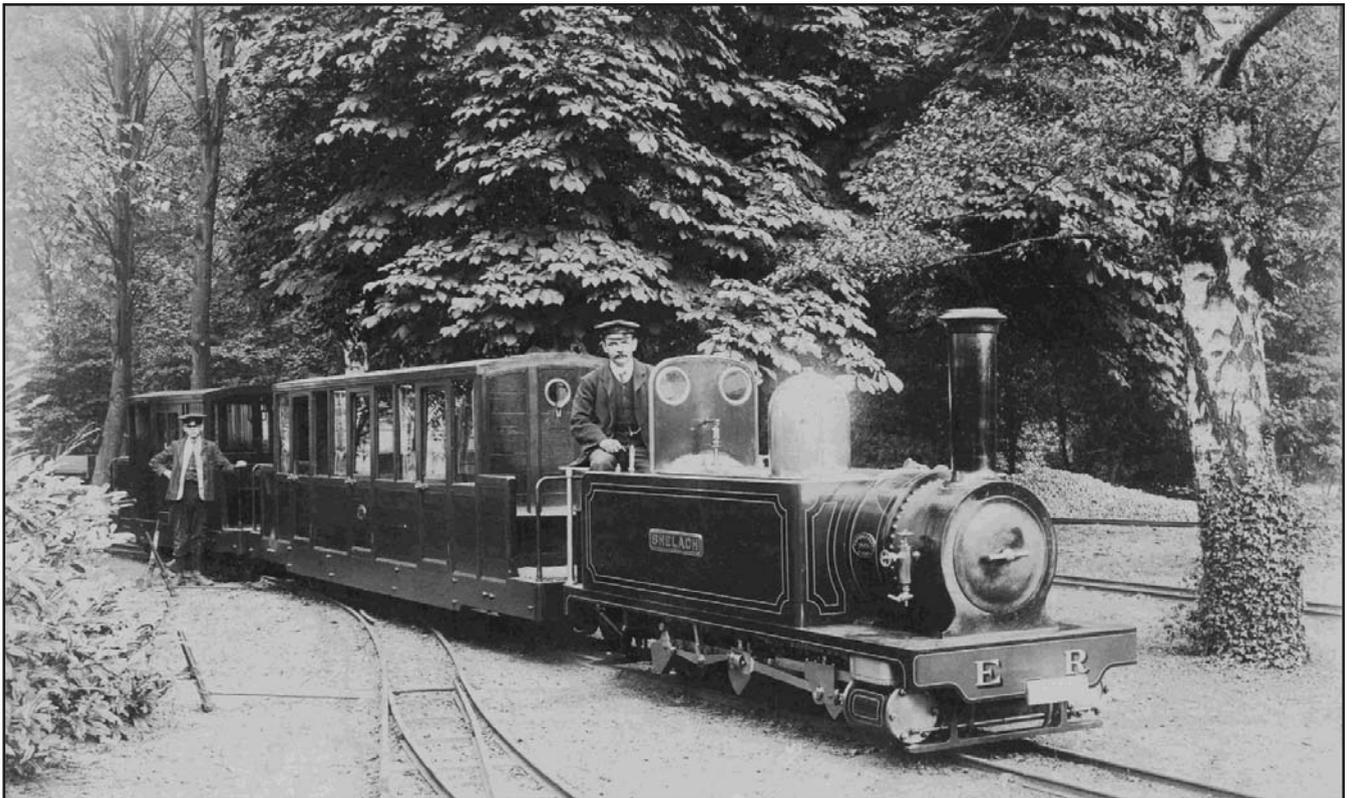
Many readers of *Grand Scales Quarterly* will know that although 15" gauge railways are now used almost entirely for passenger carrying they have also been used for industrial purposes in the past. The pioneer of this gauge for carrying freight was Sir Arthur Percival Heywood who concluded from his experiments that it is the narrowest gauge 'possessing the necessary stability for practical use'. Many people are interested in Heywood's work, particularly model makers. There is a large amount of pub-

lished information about the Heywood railways, but the majority of surviving artifacts have for many years been scattered between different collections and very few have been available for public viewing.

This situation began to change when James Waterfield built his replica of Heywood's last engine, "Ursula", which is kept on the Perrygrove Railway which my wife Frances and I run in the Royal Forest of Dean in the west of England. Many people with an interest in Heywood's

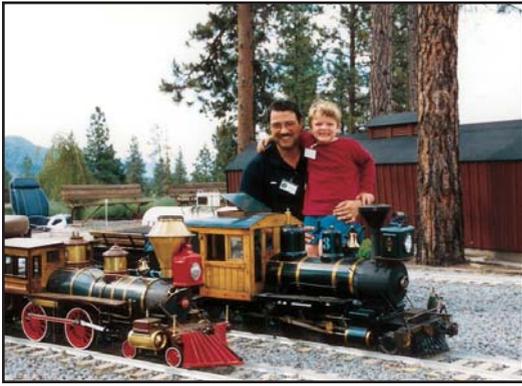
work have come to see "Ursula" and some of them have been able to offer interesting items to go with it. The most recent example of this was when our friends Patrick Keef and Ken Davies were able to facilitate a generous donation by the current Duke of Westminster who has provided the body of the original saloon carriage from the Eaton Hall Railway . . .

*Watch for the rest of this story in the next issue of the **Grand Scales Quarterly** (due out this summer).* ~~***~~



The original Heywood rolling stock at Eaton Hall in 1904. James Waterfield's locomotive "Ursula" is practically identical to "Shelagh", the original Saloon carriage forms part of the Heywood Collection, and so does a replica of the bogie brake van. With the addition of original Heywood track and the growing maturity of trees near the site, this view will be one which the Heywood Collection will be able to recreate.

Train Mountain Triennial Seminars



Once again we have the privilege of sponsoring the seminars that take place at the triennial. This year we once again have some great speakers and topics that you will not want to miss.

TUESDAY

- 9:00 Snow Removal at TM
- 10:00 ABC's of Tender Building
- 11:00 Steel Car Construction

WEDNESDAY

- 9:00 Proposed North American Safety Standards
- 10:00 "Curves You Can Bank On"
- 11:00 The Sum of Parts
- 1:00 Updated Operations at TM
- 5:30 Narrow Gauge Social Mixer at Central Station

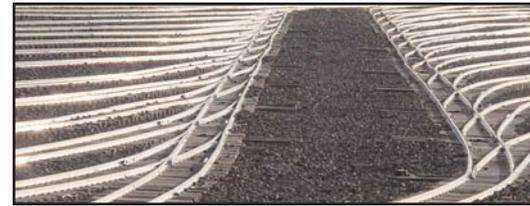
THURSDAY

- 9:00 RGS 20 Project: Three Years Later
- 10:00 Narrow Gauge in Detail
- 11:00 Building a K-27
- 1:00 Chiloquilters
- 2:00 Narrow Gauge Roundup

— gathering of equipment (K&W Yard), photo ops, running.

FRIDAY

- 9:00 Stability Problems & Solutions
- 10:00 How to Cripple Your Locomotive
- 1:00 Fluid Power Transmission
- 2:00 The Fine Art of Laying Track (Containerville Yard)



ROBINSON & ASSOC. VIDEO PRODUCTION

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- "LIVING YOUR DREAM"
VIDEO PORTRAITS



Robinson & Associates Productions has experience in producing videos for private and broadcast markets. Our videos have been seen on Public Television and satellite channels. Would your family enjoy having a personal documentary about your passion for trains and the railroad you've built? Would you like to have a family history for your grandchildren and great-grandchildren? Would your company benefit from a specialized promotional video or a training program? Packages starting at \$8,000.

www.grandscales.com 530-527-0141