

MINI - SCENES

I like to think of a mini-scene as a scenic focal point within a much larger scene, such as a module. Of course, there is nothing new about this concept, and it's been around for years. (Gerge Sellio's Franklin & South Manchester layout comes to mind.)

A mini-scene can be something as simple as a guy on a ladder replacing a burned out bulb in a streetlight, or a scene that is more complex.

I was never much satisfied with the parking lot on my amusement park module. I had all these neat cars from a different era, (1940's) but felt they didn't fit well with the more modern vehicles on Larry & Ray's, modules.

I composed some simple artwork on my computer, eventually printing out a sign reading "Classic Car Show Today", and everything finally fell into place. The parking lot now looks a lot more logical.



I also sat down at the workbench and modified a flatbed truck to resemble a searchlight truck. The light came from an HO yard tower light that was in my junk drawer, while the generator affair was cobbled together from parts cut from a mini-tractor Christmas tree ornament.

I animated the searchlight with surplus timing motor and a simple set of bell crank arms on both the motor and searchlight shafts.

I now have a logical place for all those neat Micro machines and long-gone Dick Tracy and Dukes of Hazard cars.

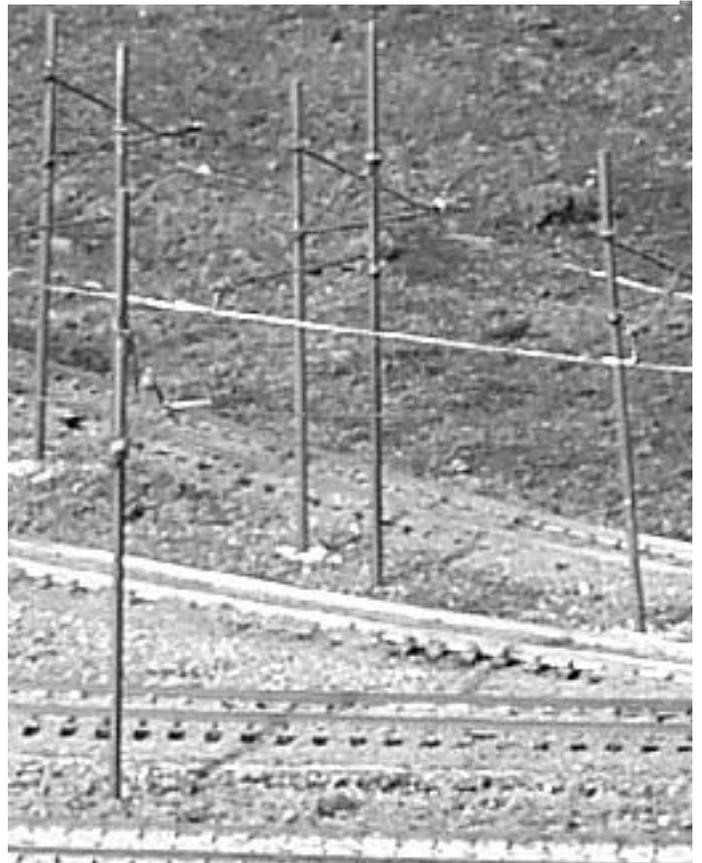


BEAUTIFUL SYSTEM

It's not necessarily good - looking, not particularly prototypical except for "feel", but it's quick and easy to construct and has withstood the test of time. The materials are not very expensive, and are pretty easy to find, and when it does break, it's easy to repair.

Perhaps you've already guessed that I'm speaking of Hal Riegger's system of overhead line poles for "N" scale traction modeling. I just added a new spur track to my St.Paul, Buffalo, and Thunder Bay modules in order to have extra space for displaying all of my traction equipment at model railroad shows.

Lest management not look like total incompetents, I figured it best to put overhead above the new spur. I suppose I could have used idler cars, (lowa Traction does that,) but hey, this looks better. (Not to mention more prototypical.)



I didn't want to dip into my secret stash of line poles, so it was time to get out the soldering iron and other materials and build a dozen or so poles.

I got out my plywood template / soldering guide, but went back to my old method of building the poles freehand. (Something that drives Larry Ede up the wall, but he's a retired engine, if you catch my drift!) At any rate, this is Wobegon Electric, and a lot of their stuff is decrepit and doesn't match anyway!