

A SUPPLEMENT TO THE TRAIN ORDER

SUPPLEMENT #1

**A Human Interest Story
By: Robert Reynolds**

Because of file size constraints, this issue of the Train Order is being sent in two sections.

The Editor



Division One — A Human Interest Story

What Model Railroading Means To Me

Essay by: Robert Reynolds

I have been a longtime fan of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. My Grandfather and several other family members worked for the B&O and Amtrak when I was a young boy. My Grandfather would take me to see the trains in Brunswick, Maryland in the days of the Chessie System. I remember those big yellow locomotives like it was yesterday and might admit to you that when I saw the first CSX locomotives in Baltimore, I was quit angry.

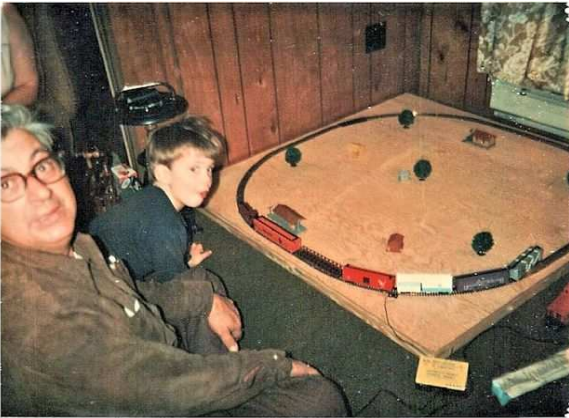


I remember my first train set and opening it on Christmas Day. It was an O scale Coke Train set and the greatest gift that I ever received. Mined you I was pretty spoiled at Christmas time by my Grandparents. My father was good to me when I was a young boy and before he got to sick to play with me anymore. I remember my father getting down on the floor to play with the Coke Train even though he was not a big train fan himself.

A few yeas later my Grandfather put me in his truck and we drove down to the bridge that crosses the Potomac River. I asked him what we were doing and he told me that we were going to catch a train. I knew that he was joking but, I was not at all sure what he meant. Then I heard the sound in the distance and saw the billowing smoke as the Chessie Steam Special rolled across the bridge from Harpers Ferry, West Virginia into the tunnel on the Maryland side. I told my Grandfather that we had to follow it and we did. We chased that train all the way to Brunswick. It is one of the greatest memories of my life.



By this time I was collecting HO scale trains, and getting new locomotives and cars every year. I remember that I would complain on a regular basis that I didn't have a Chessie locomotive or caboose. That following year I got the locomotive. It was an Athearn Chessie locomotive but, I do not remember the type or number. I think it was 4125 and that would make it a GP 40-2, if I 'm right. I can remember playing with my train a few year after that and had my train parked in a tunnel on my small layout. My Grandfather told me to pull it around and there it was, the Chessie System caboose that I had been hoping to get for years. I remember it was a very well detailed model but, that was all. With that said, I was always adding on to that set of models.



The most important part of this story is there were three men in my life that have made me the man that I am and model railroading is how I remember them. At one time or another, each one of the most important men in my life shared a love of playing with me and our toys. The toy of choice was a train. This is my Grandfather the family matriarch that was teaching me history about the railroad at age three.

To the right is my Uncle Jay who was a kid at heart himself. He would get me at least one toy a year for Christmas playing with me, and my train. I remember the year he got his HO scale train set, and we played together. It was a USS Steel set with removable loads and a crane, what fun that was. Now sadly all three of these men have passed away, and modeling trains is the way I honor and remember the fun times we had together.



I would like to encourage all of our organization members to build a memory with someone. It can be a son, grandson, or any other young person or even old. I think that if I had continued modeling with my family, I would have stayed on the right track. Now it is time for me to share with others, and to build lasting memories. I don't think that I would have the love for trains that I have without all of this taking place. We are all concerned about the future of our hobby, and this is the future. If we build it they will come, not to be too cheesy. It is a shame that there are 200,000 model railroaders in this country, and only 20,000 NMRA members. I will do all I can to continue this hobby, and to take my children to see and play with trains.



Robert Reynolds