



September 2016
Volume 7
Issue 9

INSIDE THE OC&E

Trussell Junction Dedicated at Hobo Stew

Published by the
Colorado Model
Railroad Museum
680 10th Street
Greeley, CO 80631
970-392-2934
www.cmrmm.org

On Thursday, August 11, 2016, the Colorado Model Railroad Museum conducted a very special fund raising event that we hope is the start of an annual tradition. "Hobo Stew" was a relaxing evening of food and entertainment, where museum supporters could gather and celebrate the success of the museum and discuss its bright future.

This year we had a special presentation; the City of Greeley joined forces with the museum to dedicate the area at the corner of 10th Street and 7th Avenue as "Trussell Junction". Dave and Micke Trussell, along with their son Tim, were back in town to receive the honor. This presentation was a surprise to them, as they didn't know about it beforehand.

A second important purpose of the event was to publicly recognize and to thank Norm Lyster and Trinidad Benham Corporation for their significant donations to the museum. Their "Senior Executive/Vice President," Linda Walmsley, represented the Trinidad Benham Corporation at the Hobo Stew. Norm donated the \$50,000 to purchase the south property last year, and the Trinidad Benham Corporation donated \$25,000 on July 26th.

of the Museum's sponsors, Mineral Resources, owned by Arlo Richardson. In addition, Island Grove Park lent their chairs, and the Greeley Tribune provided the services for the event logo and advertising.



A rainbow caps off a great evening of celebration at the first annual Hobo Stew celebration. Photo by Wayne Hansen

The Museum team would like to also thank Mr. Jim Emmett from Magnolia River Manufacturing for the gift of his and his company's time in fabricating the signage for the "Trussell Junction Monument."

Board Chairman Tim McMahon also recognized several people who made the event possible:

- Board Member and director, Lee Ann Sterling
- Executive Director, Michelle Kempema
- Museum Curator, Susan Kuznik
- Museum Coordinator, Sherrille Escobido

Steve Palmer, OC&E Layout Manager, had acquired six undecorated HO scale centerflow hoppers and decorated them with Trinidad Benham Corporation's corporate logo. Four of those hopper cars are now running on OC&E trains (two eastbound and two westbound); and the other two were presented to Linda Walmsley and are now displayed in their office lobby in Denver.

"Hobo Stew" was made possible through the generosity of one

Board President Tim McMahon also prepared the following points to highlight the goals and activities the museum leadership was pursuing:

Two years ago, the Museum's Board of Directors, along with Executive Director Michelle Kempema, began work on its

first strategic plan and also began to develop and evaluate options for expansion of our programs and facilities. Our plans are based on three fundamental points:

-First, our sole objective in expansion is not to get bigger, but is to become better in terms of the experiences we can offer our members, guests, and volunteers.

- Second, we will sustain our current operations, programs, and facilities based on a balanced, disciplined budget. We will not risk CMRM's future by taking on debt to expand.

- Third, we will approach our future with equal doses of careful planning, disciplined management, and optimism.

Our approach is consistent with the way Dave and Micke brought this museum into existence to the community in the first place.



Dave and Micke enjoyed their Hobo Stew at the event.



CMRM Board Member Joel Rothman and wife Joyce got into the Hobo spirit for the event.



Museum volunteer Kyle Kempema created the burning fire barrels for the event.



Left: Dave Trussell thanks the supporters in attendance. **Right:** CMRM volunteer Steph Frank gets her stew.



Below left: Even though the South Building's previous purpose in life was newspaper storage, it still makes a nice meeting facility. **Below right:**

Many volunteers came to run the OC&E layout and help in general.



Above left: Rusty 44, a local Blue Grass band, provided musical entertainment. There wasn't any dancing, but there should have been. Lead singer Stacy Heikes also performed for CMRM at the museum grand opening in May of 2009.

Above right: CMRM Board President, Tim McMahon greets CMRM Board member David Todd.



Greeley Mayor Pro-tem, John Gates, reads the Proclamation recognizing the museum for its achievements and designating the museum grounds as Trussell Junction



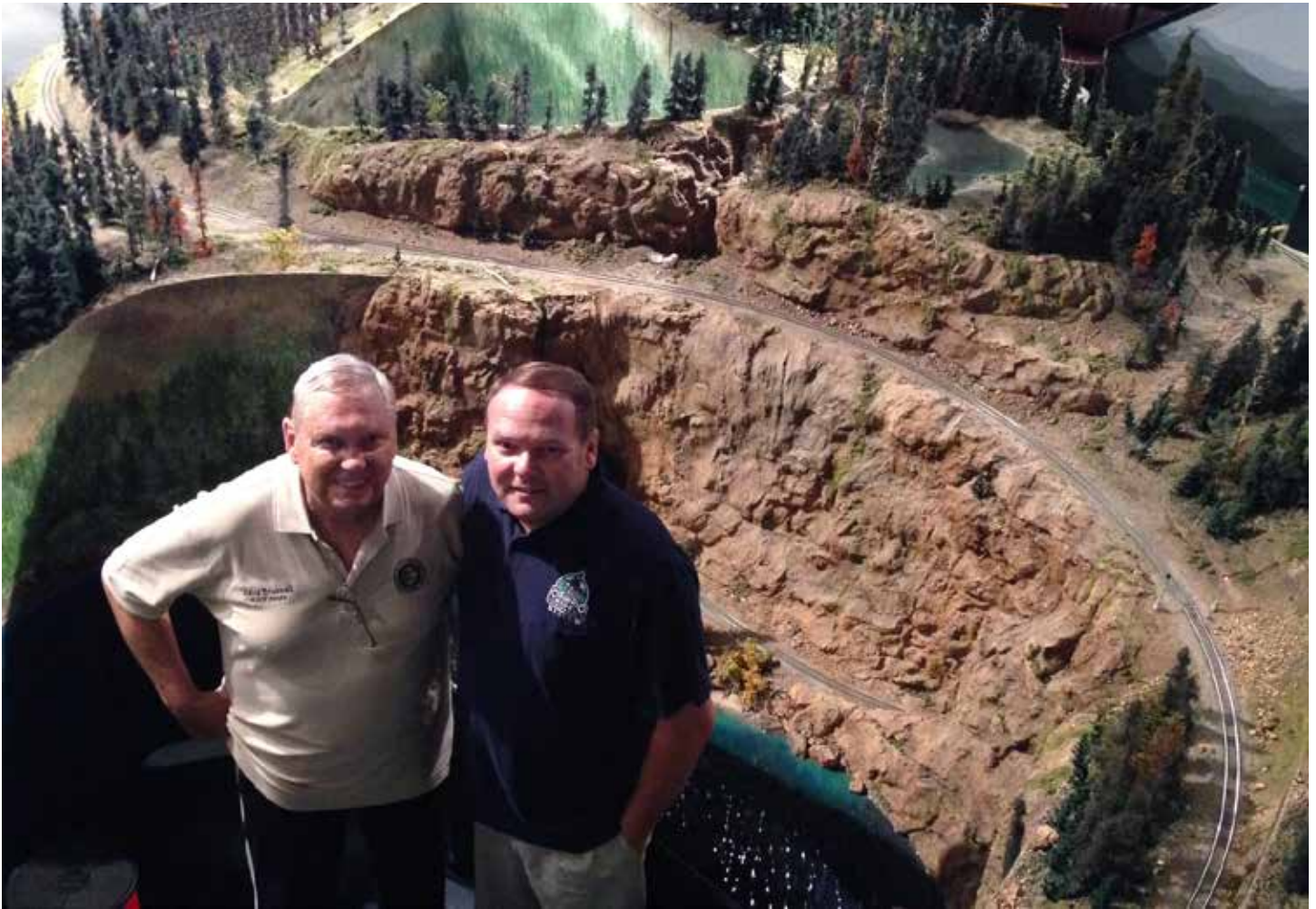
Museum board president starts to address the guests at this point a fierce storm blew into town; forcing the closure of the door to his left and making it much darker inside.



Before dinner, Alfred Rodi shows off the museum's MW02 Fairmount M19-H speeder that he expertly restored after the 2013 floods. See the March 2014 newsletter for more information on the work he performed.



Joseph Rodi, son of museum volunteer Alfred Rodi, is ready to test-drive the museum's handcar. The handcar was originally donated by John Erdkamp, then rebuilt by Bob Owens and painted by Michelle Kempema in 2011..



Above: Dave Trussell and his son Tim pose in front of the OC&E Loops. Tim is a college professor at Millersville University in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.



Right: This shot really reflects how much we appreciated last Thursday's events and how much appreciation Micke, Tim, and I feel toward the museum's volunteers, staff, and Board members. It says it all. -DT

Caboose Hobbies to Close its Doors on September 25 (or sooner if they sell out)

By Bill Kepner

On July 13, 2016, Caboose Hobbies in Denver announced that the building they had been leasing had been sold, and they were starting a "Transition Sale" to reduce the size of their inventory that they would need to move. Then on August 16, they announced that the owners, Duane and Joanna Miller had decided to shut down the business completely so that they could retire. As of this writing, the owners are entertaining offers for the store's assets.

Duane and Joanna were big supporters of the museum and made themselves readily available for advice and guidance. Dave Trussell remembers driving to Denver with Joyce Rothman, who manages the museum's gift shop, to receive a priceless tutorial from Joanna on which children's toys sell well and which collect dust on the shelves. They would often show the Allen Keller videos on the museum's layout in their store to promote both the video and the museum. They were generous with gifts to the museum, including a special presentation during a Northern Colorado Model Railroad Club in 2008 or 2009 when Don Yacovetta presented Dave with a California Zephyr passenger train gift.

One of the big differences between Caboose Hobbies and other hobby stores is that they usually hired experts in the hobby who had retired from other successful careers. You also might run into several CMRM volunteers who worked there.

It wasn't surprising that the first weekend after the "transition sale" was announced, several CMRM volunteers made the trip to Denver and were the first ones in the door that day. A group photograph was contemplated, but there was no time for that; shopping there was always serious business!

By the middle of August the store shelves were starting to look rather bare; the photo of "Aisle 10" above shows that the

majority of the HO structures in stock had already been sold. The N scale structures were also almost completely sold out. It was initially a surprise to me that scratch building supplies were also completely wiped out, but maybe it shouldn't have been. After all, most of us are wondering where we will find those supplies in the future.



Thirty years ago, there were small train-only shops in Loveland and Fort Collins, as well as *Don's Hobbies* in Greeley, just up the street from the museum. Denver had at least two other large train shops, Trainmaster and Mizell's Trains and Hobbies. Now there are none, the closest shops being in Colorado Springs.

Some are saying this is a sign the "hobby is dying." That is a topic for debate, but the way hobbyists are purchasing items has definitely changed.

CABOOSE DAILY NEWS

More than a Hobby Store - A Model Railroad Institution
- Denver Colorado 1938 - 2016 -

Vol. 001, 2016 one page Thank you to all of our loyal customers, friends, staff and family. Full Steam Operation

DUANE MILLER DECIDES TO RETIRE -CABOOSE HOBBIES TO CLOSE-

My father, Glenn Brazelton, bought Hobby House in 1951. He converted it from a mostly model plane store to all trains in 1963 and renamed it Caboose Hobbies. I started working in the store during high school and in 1969 starting working full-time after serving in the Air Force.

Joanna and I moved the store to its present location on Broadway in 1981. In 2014 the Guinness Book of World's Records certified us as "The World's Largest Model Train Store." We are proud of our many employees and our wonderful customers. Sadly, the time has come for Joanna and me to retire. Therefore, with regrets, Caboose Hobbies will close its doors effective 09/25/2016. We would like to thank all our loyal customers for their years of support.

Duane and Joanna Miller

August Visitor Counts

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Week 1	456	628	527	700	609
Week 2	757	590	491	523	552
Week 3	473	518	432	531	446
Week 4	337	479	345	390	330
Week 5		334	379	378	
Totals	2023	2549	2174	2522	1937
Avg	506	510	435	504	484
YTD	12931	12944	12506	14498	13076

Inside the OC&E

Inside the OC&E is the official newsletter of the Colorado Model Railroad Museum. Its purpose is to communicate news and information to museum volunteers and others interested in the museum.

The October issue **PUBLICATION DEADLINE: Monday, October 3, at 5:00 PM.** Send submissions to drwg0579@comcast.net.

Bill Kepner, Editor.
Ed Hurtubis and Bob Owens, Associate Editors

These Will Make Great Christmas Presents!

The museum's gift shop, *The Little Shop that Could*, was able to recently acquire a set of 18" x 24" prints for a special price. The images below, as well as several others, are now on sale

in the gift shop. These are printed on high quality paper, and the artists include Harold Fogg, Gil Bennett, and John Winfield. Visit the gift shop and buy a few prints!

