

METROPOLITAN



Model railroad delights community

by Robert Lothian

One weekend remains for viewing the popular model railroad exhibit at the Columbia Gorge Model Railroad Club headquarters, 2505 N. Vancouver Ave.

The 60-member club labored for two years to create an HO scale layout of the Columbia Gorge from Portland to Wishram, east of The Dalles. The members take shifts and operate trains that start at a scale model of Union Station, and then move on to Troutdale, past the Vista House and Multnomah Falls, and Hood River.

Over 40 different toy freight and passenger trains chug along 2200 feet of track, through tunnels and over trestles, and through gorge scenery featuring handmade rocks and trees that are works of art in themselves.

The exhibit will be open Saturday and Sunday, from 1:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is \$1.50 for adults and 75¢

for children.

Over 3000 people have lined up to view the exhibit each weekend, and over 9000 total were expected to have attended by Sunday night, said show chairman Doug Auburg.

"It's a community thing," said Auburg, who was dressed in a vintage dark blue Southern Pacific conductor's uniform.

Mike Nolan and Isaac Harpole are two club members from the community who contributed many hours to the project.

Nolan, 37, a self-employed linoleum and carpet layer, made all 85 switches for the layout. He has another 450 to make before the exhibit is completed several years from now, he said.

Nolan also contributed his handiwork to the logging railroad section, building scale model logging equipment, bridges and trestles from

designs he researched in railroad magazines.

"My father, he loves trains," said Nolan. "When I was a kid I had trains pushed in my face all the time." Now his son Hamani, 6, is picking up on his father's and grandfather's enthusiasm, Nolan said.

Harpole, a street cleaner operator for the city of Portland and like Nolan, a lifetime train enthusiast, contributed six boxes of model rolling stock to the exhibit from his collection of 60 engines and 600 cars.

His job was one of the most important—building the risers which hold the track at a special grade. "I've always had a train set," said Harpole, who continues to live in the neighborhood he grew up near Emanuel Hospital. He keeps busy with a large train layout at home. "I have two apartments. I live in one and my railroad lives in the other," he said.

Both men said they were hooked on model railroading because the hobby offers a fun and creative outlet.

Nolan spends about four hours a day on his hobby. "I'm always doing something every day," he said. "That's the fun part of model railroading—when you can build stuff from scratch and stand back and look at it."

The showpiece of the exhibit is an authentic scale model of Union Station built by architectural modeler Olaf Bockel and his wife Glenda using original blueprints. They spent 500 hours on the model, which will feature a working clock in the tower when completed.

Harpole said that many women participated in creating the exhibit and are members of the club. "Everybody takes a different part, that way it's mass produced. It works really well," said Nolan.

Neighborhood murals in bad shape and have no place to hang

by Nathaniel Scott

The murals hang silently awaiting the next phase in the process of change.

All that's left in remembrance of the Albina Human Resource Center at 5022 N. Vancouver Ave. are two murals.

The resource center recently moved to the Walnut Park Building at N. Killingsworth and Union Ave. Thomas C. Darby, manager of the center said, the murals do not belong to the state, therefore we had to leave them.

The murals are two of six murals, five paintings and one wood carving, that were unveiled in 1978. And even though it hasn't been that long, all of the murals must be reconstructed.

The two murals that are hanging, and the ones stored, must be reconstructed before they can be rehung, Isaac Shamsud-Din said. According to Shamsud-Din, the murals are the results of a CETA grant he received in 1977-78.

Through the grant money, some \$50,000 plus dollars, five paintings and the wood carving were completed, Shamsud-Din said. Weather proved to be the major factor in the early deterioration of the six works of art. Thus, some six years after the dedication, the murals must be reconstructed.

However, reconstructing the murals is not the only problem; funding is a problem too. Shamsud-Din maintains that the CETA grant money has been spent. In fact, he said finding money to pay for storage

space has been somewhat of a problem.

Another problem associated with the murals is finding another building where they can be hung. "If we can get the funding to reconstruct them," Shamsud-Din said, "[the murals should be] placed on one building."

Therefore, three things must be accomplished. First, facility to store the murals must be found. Then funding to restore them to their original state must be secured and finally, a building, possibly in the Albina district, must be found.

The themes of the murals are: "The Civil Rights Era" by Henry Frison; "The Early Migration by African-American to Vanport" and "The Vanport Flood" by Shamsud-Din; "Early Homesteaders in the West" by Frison; "The Middle Passage" by Jenny Herata; and Charles Tatum's wood carving, which is about the ship yards in Portland, Shamsud-Din said.

Shamsud-Din estimates the cost of reconstructing the murals will run between \$3,000 and \$5,000 per mural. Moreover, he said, it will take six to nine months to complete the reconstruction job.

Shamsud-Din said reconstructing the murals will make them stronger and by using new boards and chemicals for weatherproofing, the murals should last longer than the first time.

Thus, the moving of the Albina resource center has left the Albina neighborhood without a spot to hang the murals but, the neighborhood still retains six murals.

Educational vouchers proposed

A bill recently introduced in Congress with the backing of the White House and the U.S. Department of Education would shift \$3.3 billion in grants for remedial education for the underprivileged from local school districts to parents directly under a voucher system. Chapter 1 funds, as they are called, currently provide support to public schools for remedial programs in such subjects as math and reading. Under the bill proposal, funds would be directly given to needy families in the form of vouchers varying from \$200 to \$1100 a year, averaging \$630.

Parents could use the money to send their children to private schools, including religious schools, which raises issues of constitutionality vis-a-vis the issue of church and state separation. Early predictions indicate a slim chance of passage for this and other factors including opposition by

the public education lobby, and the fact that the bill is seen as another phase of the ongoing efforts of the Reagan administration's attempt to dismantle the Department of Education, or at least limit its policy-making activities.

Maurie Caba, Director of Grants Management for the Portland Public Schools, commented that though extremely unlikely, passage of the voucher bill would devastate the public schools, where the Chapter 1 programs have the best record of any Federal activities. Caba believes use of the vouchers to take children out of the public schools and place them in parochial schools would render the bill unconstitutional even if passed. The most likely beneficiaries of the voucher system are considered to be financially hard-pressed Catholic schools in inner city areas.

Inner N/NE HCD drafts plan

The Inner North/Northeast Housing and Community Development Neighborhood Improvement Plan steering committee met last Thursday night to discuss the preliminary draft of a neighborhood improvement plan. The committee, made up of neighborhood and community organization representatives has been working since May to develop a three-year plan in conjunction with their hired consultant, Bus-Com, Inc.

Information has been solicited from the six Housing and Community Development neighborhoods—King, Vernon, Sabin, Humboldt, Boise and Eliot—and prioritized. Needs identified on which to concentrate HCD

funds are housing programs, economic development, community services and neighborhood improvements.

The consultants' report outlines specific proposals that are still being reviewed and considered by the steering committee. More meetings will be held this week to refine and adopt the proposals. When adopted by the steering committee a series of community-wide meetings will be held to present and discuss the plan. These will be held in December.

Steering committee meetings this week are Thursday, Nov. 21, 6:00 p.m. at King Neighborhood Facility; and Saturday, Nov. 23, 9:00 a.m. at Emanuel Hospital.

Portland man helps protect labor convention in El Salvador

A local letter carrier, along with 35 other U.S. trade unionists, helped shield an historic labor convention in El Salvador last week. "We were there to keep the military and their death squads on good behavior," declared Jamie Partridge, member of the Portland letter carriers union and chairman of the Portland Labor Committee on Central America. The National Union Federation of Salvadoran Workers (FENASTRAS) held its first open, above-ground convention in five years Nov. 7 and 8.

Also attending the convention was El Salvador's Nobel Prize nominee, the popular opposition leader, Hector Recinos. Returning home after four years in jail and one in exile, FENASTRAS' Secretary-General was cheered at the convention by 300

delegates from 14 affiliated unions, by dozens of fraternal unions representing over half of El Salvador's 200,000 organized workers and by international delegations from North America, South America and Europe.

The theme of the FENASTRAS convention called for trade union freedom and dialog and negotiations to end El Salvador's civil war. Recinos and other leaders also called for a new national patriotic front of all Salvadoran workers, peasants, students, christians, refugees, small business and any other organizations who could agree with a unified platform for peace negotiations, for better working and living conditions, and against the repression of the U.S.-backed Duarte government.

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