

DECEMBER

1926

# The CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO and HOCKING VALLEY EMPLOYEES' MAGAZINE



The December, 1926 C&O/HV Employee Magazine cover, as was each December issue, had a Christmas theme. We see what may be an H-7 forging through the snow below as the C&O employee comes home from work to his family. The little boy has his WWI helmet and rifle and the little girl her doll, while the wife looks on. -- "Those also serve who stand and wait." (C&OHS Collection)



## ***Message from President***

This year's CanDo campaign comes at as critical a time for the society as any fundraising drive we have made. As we reach the turning point between our first 50 years and our next 50 years, we can survey a multi-faceted business that has been created to further the legacy of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway. To fulfill our mission, the success of our publications operation, archive, Heritage Center museum, retail initiatives, regular events and conferences, our staffed administrative offices, and the professionals within that keep the operation moving forward every day all require the support of our members and other donors.

Our founder and most enthusiastic member, Tom Dixon, led the charge with this year's CanDo campaign when he personally appealed for us to contribute to the society's operations together at this crucial moment. I can echo the need we have for your support to which Tom has called us. Both the foundation of our business and any new initiatives must find supporters beyond membership dues.

As you consider your response to this year's campaign, you will be pleased to know our operation is functioning with the utmost fiscal conservatism in mind. We have a number of exciting projects on the horizon to advance all facets of the business described above, but the foundation of our society is the first priority for our officers and board members. Let me close with the first of many expressions of gratitude to our members and donors for not only your support this year, but the support you have provided over the entire history of the Chesapeake and Ohio Historical Society.

*-Mark Totten*

## **Early Days of the C&OHS - Bill Vivian's Influence**

*By Thomas W. Dixon, Jr., C&OHS Founder*



*Bill Vivian (center) joined Tom Dixon and Chessie System/CSX CEO Hays Watkins as he and Watkins are both made honorary life members in 1982.*

In this installment of my memories of the early days of the C&OHS that I am writing as part of our 50th anniversary I will tell about William R. Vivian and his influential contributions to the making of the organization.

I am not sure how Bill Vivian “found” me and the Newsletter, but sometime in 1969 he sent me his dollar and subscribed. We began a correspondence. Bill was a modeler using C&O as his inspiration and was quite interested in corresponding with people who had data he could use for his modeling. He was a scratch builder of structures and a modifier of locomotives and cars

to make commercial models look at least somewhat like C&O designs. There were few C&O-prototype commercially-made models in those days.

Bill was a retired army lieutenant colonel living in Hampton, Va. when we met. He was born in 1911 in New Jersey, I think, and grew up around St. Albans, W. Va. He was a member of the National Guard when WWII started and joined the regular army, serving in Europe as an artillery officer. He ended his career at Ft. Monroe, Va., retiring, about 1962. In his retirement years he enjoyed model railroading as a hobby. Once I entered the army in the fall of 1969 he felt a particular affinity for me as a young officer. My first active duty was schooling at Ft. Eustis, Va. (C&O station at Lee Hall), so I was within a few miles of Bill's home. Of course, he immediately invited me to visit and picked me up from my bachelor officer quarters at Ft. Eustis since I had no vehicle at the time. He and his kindly wife Irma treated me as a son from that point onward for many years. I soon had my auto and could then visit when I was not engaged at Ft. Eustis. In the spring of 1970 I was transferred to Ft. Lee at Petersburg, Va., so was well positioned to drive down to Hampton on weekends to visit Bill and Irma. I often spent the weekend as their house guest. Irma fed me great home cooking while Bill showed me his layout and modeling work and we had long talks about C&O history, modeling, and the Newsletter, which by then was growing apace both in numbers of subscribers and size.

By this time, I was having other folks do the production work of memographing the publication, including Tod Hanger (more about him in another column) and others in my Alderson, W. Va. hometown. I don't know how we did it, but we managed to get out a newsletter every month! Also,

Bill was starting to supply columns and articles, especially about modeling, by this time. He was, however, more importantly giving me all kinds of advice on how to organize a formal group of C&O modelers/fans. Bill's approach was that of an army staff officer: he wanted organization, standards, plans, etc. But, he also had the same vision as I for developing a group of C&O fans/modelers but with a wider purpose than just a hobby. This was the vision I had articulated in that first crude Newsletter of January, 1969. Bill was completely aligned with it. I was the young upstart, he the wise experienced old man. Together we made a great team.

One of the very first things that Bill convinced me about was that we should NOT be a modelers society, but rather a "historical" society. If the history we published happened to fit modeling, all the better. This was an important decision because almost all the Newsletter folks were modelers. We developed the approach of doing good history, with a little detailed modeling mixed in. And it so happened that the history we did was mainly of the operational, mechanical, and engineering variety, so it fit perfectly for use by modelers. This is the way we have progressed right down to the present. The formula has been exactly what was needed to attract interest from people and organizations of all types interested in and using our information and in supporting us.

As I mentioned above, Bill wrote articles that were basically "how to" pieces on building models of C&O prototype. John Armstrong (another early C&OHS "founding father" that I will treat in another column) carried that on more formally with the "Basement Subdivision" articles in each Newsletter.

Being around Bill I thought I might want to do some modeling as well, but that was too much for me. I found I had no ability with my hands, not enough money to buy brass locomotives, and not enough time, so I decided to stick with history.

Bill helped organize our early meetings, introduced me to some of his modeler friends in the area, including his personal physician, Dr. Bill Watkins. He took me to my first railroad show, at Gaithersburg, Md. The C&OHS later participated in this and other shows, selling 8x10 prints for \$1.00 each, (that's about \$8.00 in today's money). I have the fondest memories of those early times. I was fortunate enough to spend a total of nearly four years at Ft. Lee, so was always in close coordination with Bill and got a lot of help. I was ordered to Viet Nam twice during 1970, both of which were cancelled at the last minute, so I escaped the war. It was the beginning of a charmed army career in which I spent 17 of my 21 years in assignments in Virginia, with only a year in Korea and a year in Saudi Arabia. This, of course, helped me continue my hobby work, including weekend photography trips along the C&O, sometimes in company with others. Bill was not a railfan, so he stuck to his home and his models.

Bill continued his help and lined us up with a local Newport News lawyer who did our incorporation work in 1975. As time passed, he wanted us to get into computers (ADP or Automatic Data Processing as it was then called), and started a campaign to raise money. We acquired a Tandy Radio Shack TRS-80 computer that had one megabyte of memory contained on a disc drive that was about 24x24 inches and had to be carried by two people. Bill got his friend who was an ADP manager for ITT to advise and assist. The computer went into Bill's den and he began to catalog the photos and drawings we had started to acquire. That was the start of our hit-and-miss computer work that finally evolved into today's high-end state-of-the art system managed by Lars Lemberg.

As the Society grew and we searched for a location to install our museum, archives, and administrative headquarters, Bill campaigned heavily for a Hampton location. He dreamed of building a replica of the large Hampton C&O depot right by I-64 just before it dived into the tunnel at that location. It was about this time, in the mid-1980s that Bill and I had a falling out. I can't even remember what it was over now, but we were estranged for any years. He returned to an active interest in the 1990s and lived to his mid-90s.

Bill's vision, his energy, his intense dedication and work very materially helped shape the C&OHS that was to emerge in its present form.

I can never forget him as a man, as a friend, as a supporter and helper, and as a real southern gentleman in the best connotation of that.

Bill looked like this from the time I first met him in 1970 until the last time I saw him in the early 2000s. He was one of the folks who aged to a point and then never changed.



# The Chessie Shop

A selection of merchandise and models for our members and C&O fans.



**New River Mining Company Building Kit, HO Scale** Very popular kit, the prototype was built in the early 1950s and is similar to those found in all parts of the country.

**MD-15-754 \$59.98**

**AVAILABLE IN HO SCALE ONLY**

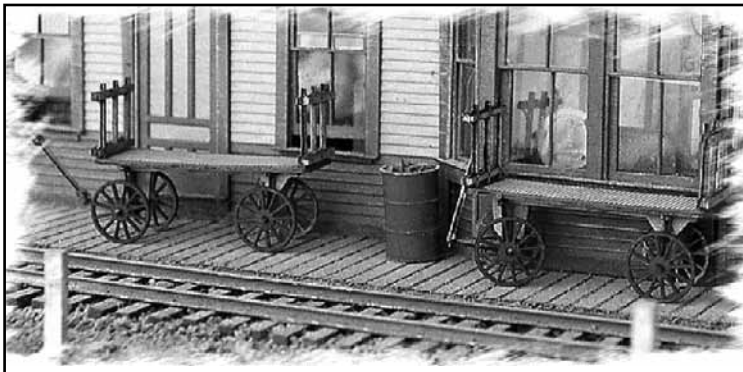


**Sleep like a Kitten Lighted Billboard** This is a fully built-up custom handmade billboard which is ready to place on your layout and connect. It consists of a plaster design fully painted & decorated and features a billboard such as C&O would have used in the era 1937-1955. The billboard design features Chessie and the slogan "Sleep Like a Kitten and Wake Up Fresh as A Daisy," C&O's famous slogan that brought so much attention to the line.

**N Scale MD-13-704 \$44.95**

**HO Scale MD13-705 \$64.95**

**O Scale MD-13-706 \$84.95**



**Baggage Cart HO Kit, Set of Two** Every station seemed to have these, now you can have a few of these too!

**HO Scale MD-11-620 \$12.95**

**O Scale (SINGLE) MD-11-621 \$12.95**



**Track Crew Work Kit, HO Scale**  
Includes 3 Speeders (Nonpowered) 2 Trailers & Trailer w/ Small Crane.

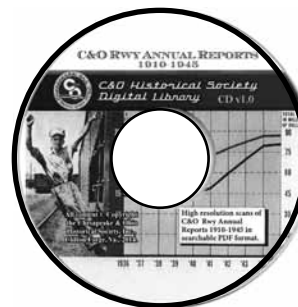
**AVAILABLE IN HO SCALE ONLY MD-12-638 \$41.95**

## The Basement Subdivision

### 2006-2007 Book on CD

C&O Historical Society's modeling column, The Basement Sub-Division. This volume collects the first year of those columns from October, 2006 through October, 2007. 138 pages.

**AV-17-215 \$12.95**



## C&O Annual Reports 1910-1945

**CD** These reports are a treasure of information for historians & anyone interested in the progress and development of the C&O. There are detailed sections about what major yards, signal systems, piers, structures, tracks, branches, new lines, etc., were built in that particular year. They

can provide some great time-lines. They list the type of locomotives, and rolling stock the railway had, usually by type (for example: in passenger cars: express, postal, mail & express, combination, coaches, parlor cars, company, etc.). The same applies for freight cars. The period of the annual reports on this CD is 1910-1945. **AV-14-160 \$24.95**



**Company House Kit** Company houses were found in many coal mining towns and timber camps. This was a standard design was provided to workers by the employers and towns would have several of these housing units. Most of these homes would be little more than a 2-3 room structure with no indoor plumbing and bare electric light bulbs or oil lamps for illumination. If you are modeling a mining town or timber camp, you should have at least three of these to indicate the entire town is company housing. This kit would also make an excellent sharecroppers house, small farm house, hillbilly shanty, or housing on the wrong side of the tracks. Kit includes one laser-cut wood structure that features precision tab and slot construction and laser cut doors, windows, roofing and trim with peel-n-stick adhesive. Also include laser etched porch floor and laser cut walls, stairs and stair assembly.

**N Scale MD-18-823 \$17.99**  
**HO Scale MD18-824 \$27.99**  
**O Scale MD-18-825 \$35.00**



**C&O Depot, Standard Station #1, Laser Cut Kit, by Blairline** This structure is based on the C&O Railway Standard No. 1 Depot design. At 20' wide x 50' long, this is a medium size wood combination passenger and freight station. Exterior walls include board and batten siding with a scribed wood wainscot. The decorative gable trim and eave brackets along with the bay window on the front make this a very quaint and attractive station. Although this structure is based on a C&O design it would be at home on many railroads. Kit features laser-cut walls with tab and slot connections, floor, sub-roof and decorative trim. Also includes laser-cut peel-n-stick trim, doors, windows and roofing for easy assembly. And no tedious individual battens to apply with this kit. Each wall assembly includes a one-piece trim and batten sheet, pre-cut with stickyback adhesive applied for fast and easy assembly.

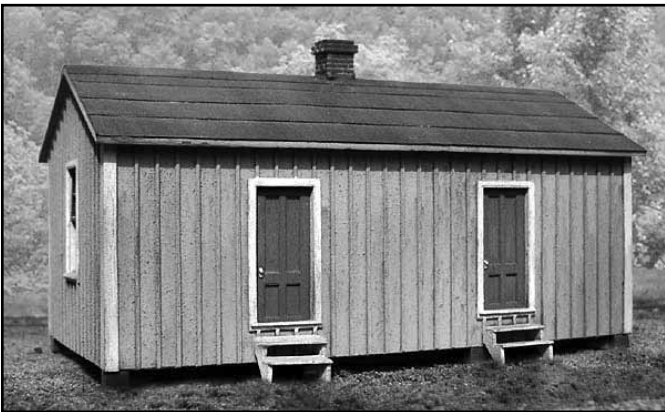
**N scale kit dimensions: 1.50" x 3.75" MD-18-831 \$39.95**  
**HO scale kit dimensions: 2.75" x 7.00" MD-18-832 \$69.95**



**Thurmond Crew Quarters** Thurmond is located in southern West Virginia, about 14 miles north-northeast of Beckley, along the New River and the C&O main line.

**HO Scale MD-10-598 \$69.99**  
**O Scale MD-10-599 \$129.95**

*Member Discount Does Not Apply to This Item*



**C&O Standard Section House** In 1902, the C&O developed a standard section house as a place for employees in remote areas to sleep. This kit consists of laser-cut basswood, cardstock, plywood, and positionable doors and windows.

**HO Scale MD-12-688 \$34.95**  
**O Scale, MD-12-687 \$59.95**

*Member Discount Does Not Apply to This Item*



**Storage Shed Kit, HO Scale** This storage shed is typical of sheds found in back yards as well as businesses. **MD-17-803 \$14.95**  
**AVAILABLE IN HO SCALE ONLY**



**MD Cabin Structure Kit** Cabin was the name used by the C&O for their interlocking towers. Meadow Creek, WV was the home of MD Cabin on the New River Subdivision and controlled a crossover and access to the Sewell Valley Subdivision.

**HO Scale MD-09-543 \$69.95**

**O Scale, MD-10-600 \$129.95**

*Member Discount Does Not Apply to This Item*



**Cliff Top Double House Kit, HO Scale** This house, or duplex, is based on double houses used in Cliff Top, WV and Sewell, WV. The kit is all laser cut with the exception of Tichy chimneys. Measures 6"X 5". Makes a wonderful duplex for any mining, timber, or mill community. **MD-17-802 \$54.95**

**AVAILABLE IN HO SCALE ONLY**



**Babcock Coal & Coke Tipple, HO Scale kit**

This tippie was built in 1926 by the Kanawha Manufacturing Company in Sewell, WV. Sewell was located on the New River, along the C&O Railway main line between Thurmond and Fayette. Sewell served as a junction point between the Manns Creek Railway, a 3' narrow gauge railroad which brought coal down the mountain from Clifftop and lumber from Landisburg, Between the tippie and the river there were 193 coke ovens that were in operation until 1956. The town lasted about a decade and a half after the ovens shut down, and the last resident moved out in 1973. This kit has a footprint of about 8" X 14". It contains 620 laser-cut parts, 42 3D printed parts, and 240 Tichy NBWs (Nut-Bolt-Washers). This is a limited edition series. There will only be 250 of these made and each kit is numbered with a Certificate of Authenticity. **MD-18-827 \$254.99**

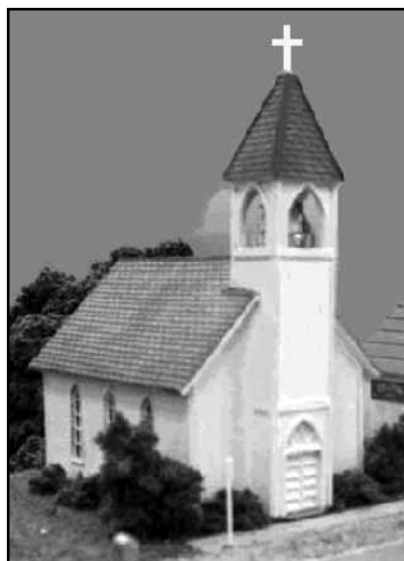
**AVAILABLE IN HO SCALE ONLY**



**Pile O' Ties Treated by Blairline** Piles of ties, made of lasercut wood, pre-assembled and ready to place on your layout. Random pattern ties so each stack is unique. Untreated ties for use in railroad yards, tie yards, sawmills, lumber yards, construction sites and as railroad car loads or truck loads. Treated ties for use along your right of way, in railroad yards, tie yards or as railroad car loads or truck loads. **Treated ties (2 piles)**

**N Scale MD-18-281 \$8.99**

**HO Scale MD-18-822 \$9.99**



**Laser Cut Church Kit, by Blairline** Laser-cut wood, featuring tab and slot construction, for quick and easy assembly. Precision fit and professional looks that only CAD design and laser cutting can deliver. Peel-n-stick trim doors and windows. Shingles are 3-tab printed shingles with adhesive backing and laser cut to size for fast assembly and realistic looks. Kit now includes stained glass windows. Kit based on wood frame churches found throughout North America. May be used on model railroads of all eras.

**N Scale - kit dimensions: 3" long x 1 7/8" wide x 4" tall MD-18-829 \$33.95**

**HO - kit dimensions: 4 7/8" long x 3 1/16" wide x 6 1/2" tall MD-18-830 \$42.95**

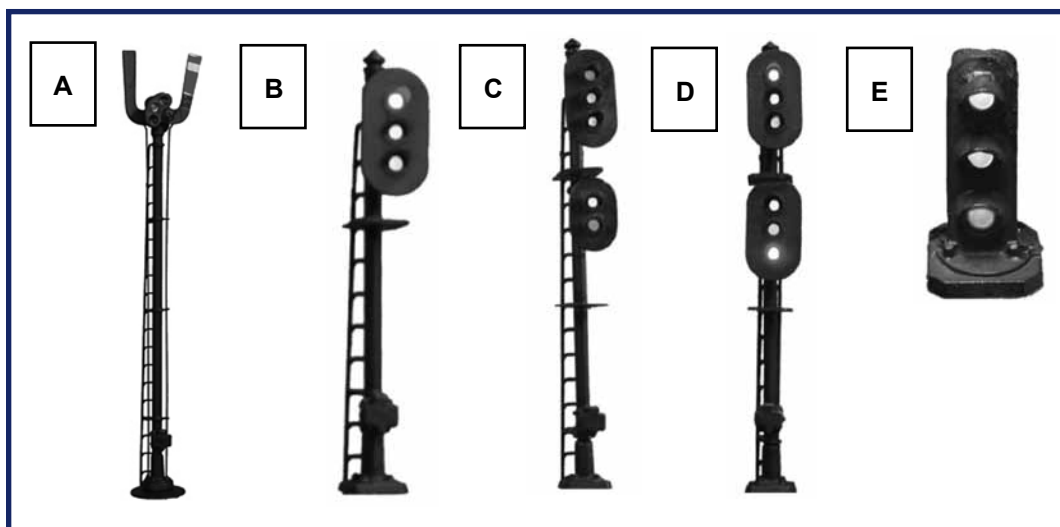
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Tomar Industries makes this accurate C&O Signal especially for the C&OHS. They used standard C&O drawings and photos.

They are literally Ready-TO-Run ..... just put them on your layout any they're ready to be connected, no assembly, painting or wiring.

**A) C&O Signal Train order board**, upper quadrant with C&O junction box 3 position arm, 1.5V lamp red-yellow-green lens, HO Scale. This is an exact replica of C&O's standard train order signal. Fully operational. **MD-15-742 \$70.95**

**B) C&O Signal** - US&S type R-2 Ground Mast Signal Red-Yellow-Green LEDs with C&O JCT. Box, HO Scale. **MD-15-743 \$32.95**

**C) C&O Signal** - US&S type R-2 Two Head 3 over 2 Ground Mast Signal Red-Yellow-Green over Yellow-Red LEDs with C&O Jct. Box, HO Scale **MD-15-744 54.95**

**D) C&O Signal** - Three light Dwarf, yellow, green, and red LED's, HO Scale. **MD-15-745 \$14.95**

**E) C&O Signal** - US&S type R-2 Two head Mast Signal - 3 over 3 Ground Red-Yellow-Green over Yellow-Green-Red LEDs with C&O Jct. Box, HO Scale **MD-15-746 \$58.95**

### Maintenance-Of-Way Motor

**Car** This MOW car has fine detail features. The model requires no assembly and the wheels are fixed. The model has controls in the cab, a headlight, detailed wheels, brake assemblies, hand grabs and other details. 3-D Printed.

**O Scale MD-18-813 \$42.99**

**HO Scale MD-18-812 \$24.99**

### Shipping and Payment Information

C&O Historical Society, Inc., 312 East Ridgeway St., Clifton Forge, VA 24422  
Credit Card Orders (AmEx, VISA, Discover, or Mastercard) call 540-862-2210 9am-5pm Mon.-Fri. Fax anytime to (540) 863-9159  
Virginia residents add 5.3% State sales tax.

Shipping and Handling costs for anything ordered from C&OHS (total order)

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\$150.00 and up add \$16.50

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