

Part of Jack Rice's Layout Lives On

Our friend and fellow NCMRC member, Jack Rice passed away earlier this year. Jack's son John and Jack's longtime friend (and NCMRC member) John Bennett were facing the task of dismantling Jack's HO scale layout. Along with a few others, I had volunteered to help with that effort.

Anyone who had seen Jack's layout will fondly remember the multitude of small vignettes incorporated into the layout. Jack's sense of humor and creativity were on full display. During the early sessions of the dismantling, I thought some or all of the vignettes need to be saved. I managed to save (with John and John's blessing) some or parts of some of these vignettes, and incorporated them into the diorama I brought to show and tell at the June 2023 NCMRC meeting. Please see the April 2023 issue of the DISPATCH for photos of the layout.

Everything that is included on the diorama came from Jack's layout. There is the observation tower that provided the tourists a unique view of "Mt. Stoogemore" ; the scratch built fireworks stand Jack modeled after a prototype on the Colorado/Wyoming boarder, including the guys loading fireworks on the pickup; a tour bus (Jack must have had a dozen or more buses on the layout); the "park train" being taken to the shop for repairs; a hotdog stand and picnic tables from a park scene; the teens having to push the old Chevy to get it started; the space ship (an old computer roller ball mouse) that had to make a pit stop so the little green men could use the bathroom and the modern "hippies" having a look at the space ship.

Enjoy and remember an excellent modeler.



