

Spring 1973 Baldwin Trophy Winner

Earl Smallshaw's Clerke's Cannery



In 1973, the Hartford Workshop, a model railroad group comprised of Harold Horner, Don Clerke, Al Kalbfleisch, and myself, worked on a section of Don Clerke's narrow gauge section modeled after Wiscasset, ME. It was 4' X 8' in size. We decided to enter it in the contest as a display, not to be considered in judging.

Don had already constructed all the major prototype buildings of Wiscasset when I offered to build a structure at one end of the wharf where there was some vacant space. Don didn't hesitate to take me up on my offer and thus was born, Clerke's Cannery.

The structure is entirely scratch built. The walls and roof were constructed of 1/16" illustration board and, to represent old clapboard siding, I cut many strips from old IBM cards I had and installed them, one at a time. Ever once in a while I would let a clapboard sag or omit a section that may have dropped off over the years. Campbell shingles were used for the roof of the main structure and the ell.

The freight part of the structure was sided with Campbell Shingles and weathered to a silvered finish. The roof was made to sway a little and covered with strips of tissue to simulate roofing paper.

All the doors were paneled from thin strips of IBM card stock. Small round-headed pins served as the doorknobs. Other strips were used to make the sashes of the windows.

I used scribed sheet wood to fabricate the truck loading platform. Freight doors were made from the same material and weathered.

The sign "Clerke's Cannery" was hand painted on the end of the freight building. The letters were streaked to imply the "whitewash" exposure to the weather.

Since the building was weathered to look like it hadn't been painted in a long while, I included a figure painting the ell portion of the structure. A paint can was made from a small section of 1/16" diameter tubing, filed to thin the inside diameter a bit.

Sadly, Don Clerke prematurely died in 1999 and Don's family asked the Hartford Workshop to help in disposing of his model railroad and equipment. The Wiscasset scene was cut in half, lengthwise, and moved to the layout of Paul Mangini, a member of the Hartford Workshop. It is now incorporated into another narrow gauge scene and dock area on Paul's layout. Don's creation lives on in many of our layouts. Some bridges Don built are incorporated in layouts in Syracuse, NY area.