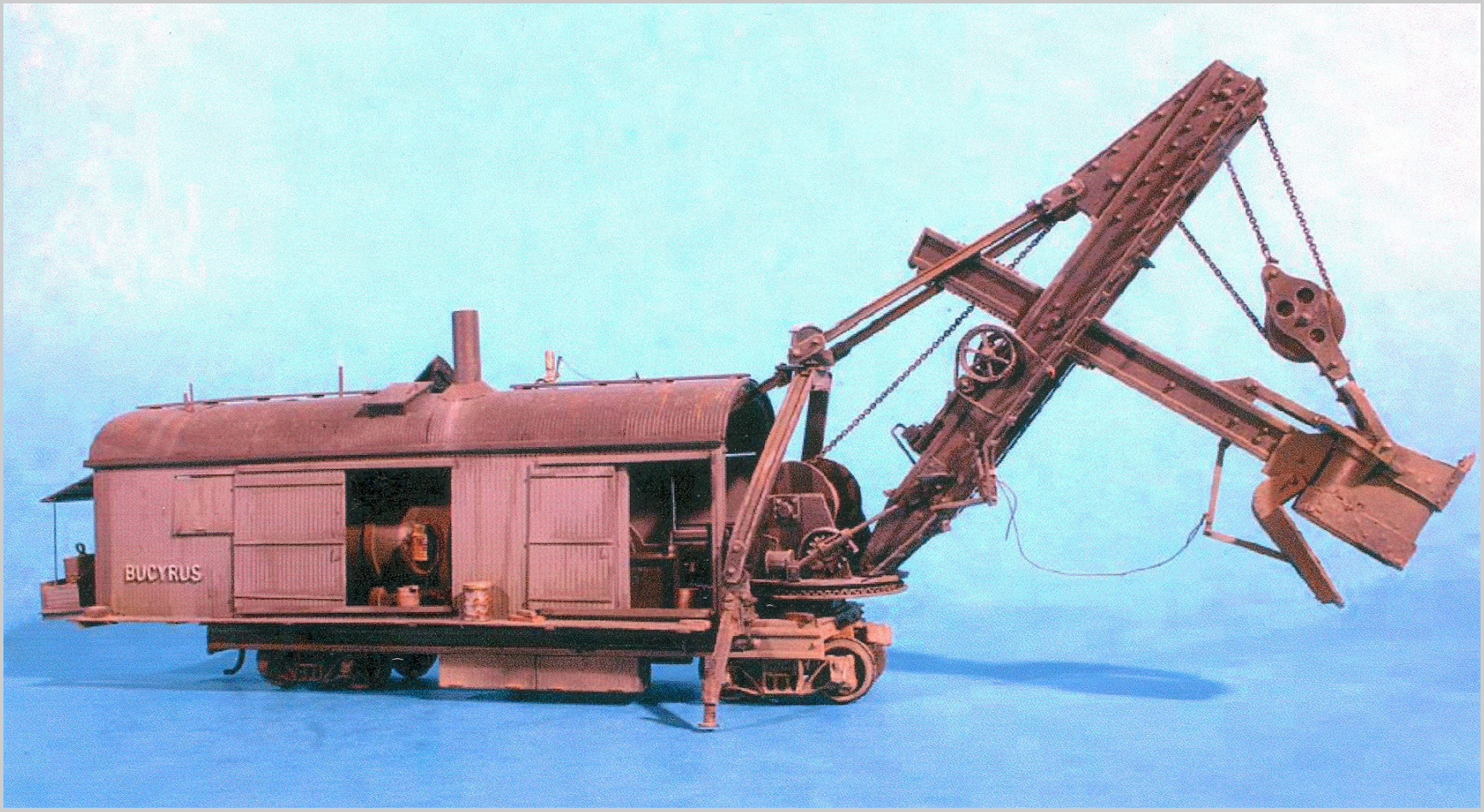
Spring 1984 Baldwin Trophy Winner
Bob Boudreau's Bucyrus Steam Shovel



I credit this model as one of my first introductions to scratch building. It started as a Roundhouse "3 in 1" kit that said on the box "extra parts to be added by modeler" - I'll say! The "kit" was extremely basic - a white metal floor and plastic body from an MDC boxcar and a pair of trucks. The main part of the kit was the multi page set of detailed instructions. Returning to the hobby after 20 years, I did not have any scratchbuilding supplies, nor did I know anything about them. The kit instructions were quite specific in the requirements, which helped me considerably. I carried around the list of required Plastruct shapes and Evergreen strips and scribed styrene with me until I found them all in area hobby shops.

I duly followed all of the instructions, cutting the plastic shapes and fitting everything together. The instructions showed me many techniques that I used as my skills progressed. I was quite proud of the finished model, which did not look anything like the one in the photo. After completing the model, I discovered an old book that had photos of actual steam shovels at work. My model was considerably simplified from the prototype, which bothered me, but not enough to re-do the model.

Then an accident happened that changed my mind - the model fell off a shelf and landed on the floor, coming all apart. Nothing was actually broken, it was just disassembled. I took this occasion to rebuild the model into what is seen in the photo.

A new body was made using scribed styrene, and I made all of the doors, vents and rear platform operational. The roof was made curved as in the prototype by making some styrene formers and heating a sheet of thin styrene with a hair dryer so it would conform to the contour. Campbell corrugated aluminum covered the roof later. Almost the entire model received new detailing. So that's how this model came to be.