



## The Man and His Mountains ... and canyons

I have seen **Steve Goshko** perform his magic in making our CLRC Layout the wonderment it is. He is responsible for the “Beltline” portion of our CLRC Layout, which was the beginning of our permanent layout system.



The CLRC Beltline Layout wrapped in a 120' Picture surrounds the work that Steve put onto the layout.

He is now working on our second layout stage where we have a coal mine, logging valley, staging yard, mountain views and much more. A really nice layout. **Steve** is working from the bottom up where he envisions a canyon stream working up to 10 feet of mountains.

I wonder if he sees a picture in his mind, or has a sight in mind when he creates these wonderful scenes. Whatever the situation, it is really nice to see him work from his concept to me seeing the finished valley and mountains.

He starts with a frame and then weaves cardboard slats, attaching them to the framework that becomes the deep valley and the mountainous wall. Nylon screening is then secured to the cardboard. The plaster is then applied in skin coating. Further applications of plaster develop texture and mountainous depth showing rocks and cut up stratus walls. More detailing follows.

I love to watch **Steve** make mountains, valleys or anything he puts his mind to. Each step is a process. He knows all of the steps. I am bewildered how he gets from one step to the other. It is logical for him. He always says how anyone can do this. Riiiiight!

This story deserves to be told and shown in person. **Steve's** creative Magic has no justifiable word to describe his ability to go from available space to Imagineering concept to implementing to finishing the project. This man is just fascinating to watch.



Everything starts out with a space to fill. **Steve** takes the space in his mind and lets the creative juices render a scene that fortunately needs to jump out onto our CLRC layout. Structurally, the cardboard weaving on the framework supports everything. Plaster goes onto the cardboard. Heavier chunks of plaster are added to give the mountain some stony character. An inspection window is added to get to possible M of W work needed to keep trains on track behind the mountain. Finishing touches are made to take out unwanted flaws. (Some flaws are welcome as they give the rocks a natural look.) Foam board is layered and cut to begin the texture of the canyon base. .



The canyon foam board is rounded out to bring out natural erosion. **Bob Ciolino** drops by and admires **Steve's** work. Plaster is chunked on to continue the rocky textured appearance.



Landscape is painted outside of the layout and then dropped into the desired landscape. Paint from the can is used. General Store items are used to mold the scenery to the desired concept that is pictured in the mind of **Steve**. Highlights are added giving the textured rocks further realism. The river gets painted in.



More painting. The access wall is addressed. Further highlighting is performed. Every step brings out the much enhanced realism of the project.



**Charley McCarthy** gets or gives **Steve** some tips on mountain building. The canyon walls get painted. The river is highlighted with blue paint.



The blue paint is worked into the river showing how deep the river is and its current flow. Much more will be added to give the scenery the wow factor, but getting a train view shows how nice it is already. **Roger Keller**, who made the trestles, looks over the scenery and enjoys how they fit in the **Steve Goshko** canyon.

I am happy to say that **Steve** continues with his evolution of the CLRC Mountain. More work is being performed this summer and through the year. Many other exciting projects are continuously being worked on bringing our layout to a high expectation. It gives the members who contribute in making the layout very proud. All of us enjoy running trains in a museum sophisticated railroad. How nice.

We look forward to seeing LCCA convention in Chicago and being able to share our facility with you.

Story and pictures by Herbert W. Koch, CLRC President and long time LCCA member.