

Pine Valley and Tusitteez Railroad

By Bob Sobol

This month's layout tour was at **Ted and Blanche Pulles' Pine Valley and Tusitteez Railroad**. Over sixty people signed the guest register, and it seemed as though most stayed for hours at a time!

Since the **DISPATCH**'s last visit in the fall of 2000, the PV&TSR more than doubled in size, expanding into another room across the basement.

One of the real joys of visiting with Ted and Blanche is seeing how they work together and share in the hobby. Another is how the "Geritol" work group provides support and help. Rumor has it that Blanche agreed to help paint backdrops for Don Benz's new layout (her work on the TR is fantastic!)

Here is what Ted told us in a history of the layouts:

"The Pine Valley section of the layout was started on March 24, 1999 in an 8 by 10 foot room in the north east corner of the basement. After considerable discussion Blanche and I decided that did not satisfy our desires. Blanche suggested that since she no longer was doing any sewing she would donate this room for a new layout. This new layout is now in a room 13 by 15 feet in the south west corner of the basement. This layout was started on February 15, 2002. The Pine Valley was to be dismantled, however Blanche did not want to do this, so now we will have two layouts. The new layout is known as Tusitteez (two cities) because Tusitteez sounded rather interesting.

The track plan is a variation of a dog bone with a reversing loop that goes below one end of the dog bone, through a couple of tunnels. The layout design was the brainstorm of



Workgroup member George Franke keeps the Pine Valley running for guests to enjoy.

Ted Nutting. Our work group had a major part in the building of the layout.

The scope of the layout is far from being prototypical. We liked the western mountain scenery and the rural life style. Running trains to us becomes secondary. We do not count rivets. I suspect our work group just plain humors us oldies in this respect.

The two layouts some day will be connected. At present the two are connected only electrically. To connect the two as one we must make up a height difference of 17 inches. When completed the trains will run from the Pine Valley to Tusitteez through a cedar closet, a small shop store room and my woodworking shop. The trains are Lenz DCC controlled.

The Railroad Work Group:

*Don Benz
George Franke
Bob Lorenz
Ted Nutting
Blanche Pulles
Ted Pulles"*

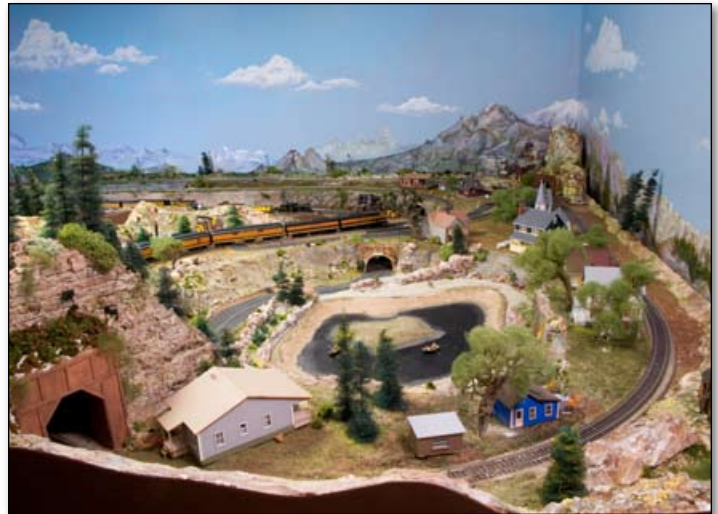
Thanks Ted and Blanche for letting us share a wonderful afternoon with you and your layouts! 🇺🇸



Our hosts, Ted and Blanche Pulles.



One half of the new Tusitteez layout. A track to the left heads to a turning wye and eventually will connect through Ted's shop and two other rooms with the Pine Valley.



The other half of the new Tusitteez layout, which runs as a folded dogbone.



Workgroup member George Franke constructed much of this scene, including the waterway.



Workgroup member Don Benz installed a DCC sound system into this Stewart FT AB pair..



"Two very happy friends."



Brent Vanderpol came with his dad Darwin.