

Requiem for the A&O
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Requiem for the A&O



The headlights and dual Pyle National Gyalite of a southbound ghost N&W GP35 punch through the black of after-hours night along River Gorge. *Bob Sobol*



After hours on the A&O

“The truth is out there”

By Bob Sobol on special assignment to the Ridge Tribune

Demolition started normally on David Stewart's O-scale Appalachian & Ohio, closing the final chapter of A&O version 1.0. A last limited operating session and wake rang through the evening of February 19th. Packing up locomotives and cars started just over a week later.

Arriving with a dynamite blasting machine in-hand during rolling stock pack-up, “Gomez Addams” (not his real name) never found enough plastic explosive to blow the big bridge at the bottom of the basement steps. Sources state that intensive counseling and therapy for a depressed regular operator began the next day.

After David disconnected DCC power, whispered rumors started flying throughout Ridge, WV about ghost trains running by themselves in the middle of the night. I went out after hours with camera and caught some strange sights on film. So strange, that special FBI agents arrive tomorrow to investigate. I have a meeting with agent Mulder at the diner. *[Happy April 1st— Editor] I*



A driverless truck silently creeps up to the Ridge grade crossing prior to the spectacular crash shown on the following page.

A ghost train blows past a red signal and into a tunnel, her headlights and number boards leaving the only evidence of her passing.





Above: A ghost train collides with a stalled, driverless delivery truck at the Ridge grade crossing. In the morning light there was no visible evidence that anything unusual had happened, and the United Parcel Service truck was found parked and unscathed in front of the King Coal offices.

Below: Headlights from a phantom F-3 pierce the dark along River Gorge and shimmer off the rock slide fence.





Most mysterious of all, Bob Brook's Northern Pacific Z6 4-6-6-4 briefly appeared in broad daylight along River Gorge. It vanished into a fog bank just before the next tunnel. *Bob Sobol.*

