

The New NTRAK Newsletter

The NTRAK Modular Railroading Society, Inc.

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The Lake Erie N-scale Society Story

Looking down the pike. LENS uses Plexiglas on the front of each module to provide crowd control and to protect the structures and trains. The trains and scenery shown in the upper left corner are a reflection on the Plexiglass.





Text by David V. Neff Lake Erie N Scalers (LENS)

McCabe Lumber Company in N scale

Many years ago B.T.S., Belington, W. Va., the producer of Master Creation Kits, licensed Republic Locomotive Works, Marshall Thompson proprietor, to produce N scale laser kit versions of the popular McCabe Lumber Company complex which B.T. S. produces in HO and O scales. The complex includes kits for a log dump, the Slatyfork Sawmill, a powerhouse, drying kiln, tramway lumber yard, planing mill, slash burner, sawdust shed, and an office building. A pump-house, water towers, and fire-hose sheds ensure that no fires shall destroy this early-to mid 20th century-style logs-to-lumber complex! While it is not an exact historical replica of an actual lumber mill complex, McCabe Lumber Company captures the many elements of this industry. There are many opportunities to add details—scrap piles, log remnants, boxes, crates, workers, and just plain junk! (most lumber mills weren't nearly so tidy as this model). But ol' man McCabe, seen on the module exiting the office and about to depart in his 1957 Chevy, finally gave in to progress when he purchased

the new 'critter' locomotive to supplement the 'armstrong' tramway which connects the various buildings in the complex. The kits are not the simplest to build, as the plans are scaled down from HO, but it was a labor of love in spending almost 400 hours over 3 ½ months in their construction.

My Ntrak module is 'modular', built to accommodate 'insert scenes', so this complex was actually fitted to meet the constraints of my home layout where McCabe Lumber Company resides when our LENS group is not doing exhibits. I have two other inserts—a coal mining scene and a farm scene—which also come into play in our modular setups.

Republic Locomotive Works utilizes the photograph of this complex as advertisement on their website. There is also available now a series of camp cars, and a McCabe Fire Train, and (hopefully) an additional McCabe Rail Facility complex of structures coming in the future to N scale which will service the Lumber Company complex.