

1. John Paganoni's Montville, Connecticut



Here is one of my favorite hometown scenes. It shows three places in Montville, Connecticut: Radgowski's grocery, Pistol Pete's Tavern, and Vic's restaurant. These are all scratch built from styrene. Photos were used to draw plans. Pistol Pete's and Vic's have lighting and interior detail. Vic's was a favorite place on Friday evenings in the 1950's for a gathering of the gang for the best "grinders" ever made ("grinders" are called "subs" elsewhere in the nation, but the oddity here is that a U.S. Navy Submarine Base is just seven miles down the river. I'll never know why they weren't

called "subs" in the local area). After a "grinder and a coke" we'd all head out for the "hop" at the Salem Firehouse.

Most of the structures and scenes on my layout were built from my fondest memories of the late 1940's and 1950's. Previous issues of the *Flyer* have included photos of Joe Perringer's Garage, Doyle Sand & Gravel and the Montville station.



Here is a picture of a scratch built model of our house on Maple Avenue in Montville. I could see the end of the Central Vermont Palmertown Branch from our yard. the Branch ended at the Robertson Paper Box Co.

Sadly, the house is now gone with just about every other house in the area. Also, the Palmertown Branch was abandoned in the early 1980's due to a trestle washout. So all of this is now a memory and I'm glad I modeled these treasures from the past and have photos that were a great help in the modeling process--plus pleasant prototype memories of all that I have modeled. I recently sent some photos to my older sister who lives in Florida so she can also let her mind wander back to yesteryear. The poor lady is suffering from cancer, so these photos have brought her some happiness.

John Paganoni, MMR