

# *Everything You Wanted To Know About Model Railroad Decals*

Bill Mosteller  
Great Decals!

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# *Types of Model Lettering*

- ◆ Pad Printing
  - ◆ Favorite of manufacturers – no film
- ◆ Dry Transfers
  - ◆ I don't know anything about them
- ◆ Water-slide Decals
  - ◆ The rest of this talk

# *Manufacturers – The Big 3*

- ◆ Champion
  - ◆ Oldest, O- and HO-scale
  - ◆ Printed with letter press
  - ◆ Out of business
  - ◆ Steam era focus
- ◆ Walthers
  - ◆ O-, HO-, and N-scale
  - ◆ Printed with letter press
  - ◆ Out of that business
  - ◆ Steam era focus

# *Manufacturers – The Big 3*

- ◆ Microscale
  - ◆ O-, HO-, and N-scale
  - ◆ Prints with magic machine
  - ◆ Currently active
  - ◆ Steam era to today
- ◆ Herald King
  - ◆ HO-scale
  - ◆ Prints with silk screen
  - ◆ Again active
  - ◆ Modern era focus

# *Manufacturers – The Rest of Us*

- ◆ Smaller folks with lines of one to over 100 titles
- ◆ List of about 75 on:  
<http://www.greatdecals.com/Decals.html>
- ◆ But tell me if I've missed someone

## *Manufacturers – Custom*

- ◆ Decals for the Joe Blow & Western
- ◆ Ron Roberts, Rail Graphics
  - <http://www.railgraphicsdecals.com/>
- ◆ Does much of my work
- ◆ Minimum order: 25 sets

# *Who Else Does Custom Decals?*

- Kadee Corp.
- Don Manlick
  - 2127 South 11<sup>th</sup> Street
  - Manitowoc, WI 54220
- Herald King?

# *What Do Decals Cost?*

- ◆ Or, How High is Up?
  - ◆ How big?
  - ◆ How many colors? Registration?
  - ◆ Is your artwork camera ready?



# *Bill's Ideal Project*

- ◆ Decal is 4½" by 2¼"
- ◆ Hobby shops have 3" by 5" card drawers for Champ, Walthers, and Herald King
- ◆ 5" plastic tube and sealer machine
- ◆ One color
- ◆ Wide appeal
- ◆ But not so wide somebody else has done it

# *Bill's Ideal Project*



# *Can I Make a Decal from a Decal?*

- ◆ Copyright issues
  - ◆ *Everything* is copyrighted
- ◆ Optical issues
  - ◆ White on light blue doesn't scan well
- ◆ Quality issues
  - ◆ Did the manufacturer get it right?

# *Who's Got Old Decals?*

- ◆ eBay
- ◆ Northern Central Supply:  
<http://www.northerncentralsupply.com/>

# *Advertisement!*

- Join the Potomac Division Yahoo Group!  
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- Decal Related Yahoo Groups:
  - Railway\_Decal\_Express\_Agency
  - rr-decal