

THE CHARLESTON, ATHENS & SANDUSKY RAILROAD

The Charleston, Athens & Sandusky Railroad (CA&S) began when the founding fathers of the Ohio canal system realized that the railroad was going to supplant the canal. The use of the old canal bed filled with the tracks on top or along side was the most economic method of construction.

The CA&S runs from the Charleston, WV, region up to Athens, OH; from there it follows the Hocking River to Lancaster, OH, then to Canal Winchester. The CA&S then goes north to Sandusky. At Sandusky, the CA&S has an outlet to the world through the port. Coal, brick and grain are shipped to the entire world using the St. Lawrence Seaway.

The time of year for the model is the fall of 1967. The scenery is beautiful, tourists are just coming to appreciate the hills, property is still cheap, and the Hocking Pioneers are looking to repeat as State Division III Football Champions.

This layout is 14' by 9 ½'. It is G shaped. It grew from an L shaped layout 6' x 6', which contains a small yard, turntable, engine service facility and the town of Rushville. The first addition was 3' x 8', and contains the second city, Rightsville. Later, a third addition was added to give more running room between Rightsville and Rushville.

The CA&S is fully scenic, only detail scenery needs to be finished. The details are being added slowly and will be stripping the roads, cross walks, RR warning marks, etc. Signs from Blair Line are used. The billboards are from Bar Mills and Blair Line. The structures are from many source including DPM, Walthers, and Lifelike. Many have signs from Blair Line or scratched built on them. All have electric meters.

The future of the CA&S will see a branch line constructed up to the village of Constance. The structures here are all laser cut buildings from many manufacturers.

Craig Sonnen has been married for 28 years to a loving wife, Connie, who tolerates his strange hobby. Connie enjoys the MCR conventions as she can talk with other wives who feel as she does about this hobby. But, as she says she does get to see a lot of different places. At least she knows where I am all the time, the basement, hobby shop or hovering waiting for dinner. I remember my third Christmas (1953) as that was when I received the Marx train set I ran the wheels off of. I have been in trains ever since. I started an HO 1860's layout in 1965 and had the track and some buildings down before college and law school. After marriage, the trains were packed away. When my oldest son was in Cub Scouts, we visited the Division 6 layouts at the Ohio State Fairgrounds. Seeing some old friends from school and scouting, I joined the NMRA and started again with this hobby. I have earned 5 AP awards, Volunteer, Dispatcher, Master Builder Scenery, Model Railroad Engineer-Electrical and Master Builder-Cars. Model Railroad Engineer-Civil is almost completed; I am in the process of scratch building the three track examples. Then onto Master Builders-Structures!!