

# World's Greatest SPECTRACKULAR News

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## MODEL RAILROAD IS FAIR'S BIG HIT



**LONDON TERMINAL** — The main starting-point of the innumerable trains of the World's Largest Model Railroad Spectrackular is seen above. Passengers and porters go about their business on the platforms, while trains arrive and depart. Shunting engines on side tracks marshal new trains into position. From here leave the main trunk lines which run around the entire 3000-square-foot area of the Spectrackular. This is the corner of the layout directly in front of the control panel.

### "CITY OF THE FUTURE" SHOWS SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME

Scientists and those interested in space developments and other problems of modern science will find The World's Greatest Spectrackular's "City of the Future" of special excitement to them.

Mr. Bertram Otto has incorporated into it many new ideas of his own. These include revolving silver spheres, with antennae projecting from them, which are intended to absorb radiation, fallout, germs and dust, and thus make the City of the Future almost aseptically clean.

There are also various levels of transportation, for freight, for passenger cars, for pedestrians, and for public transportation, making life as simple as possible for the people of the future.

In addition, each section of the City of the Future has its own color, so as to facilitate postal delivery — better, Mr. Otto feels, than any system of zone number or zip-codes. The colors of the various sections also serve as guides for the landing of helicopters, which will in his future conception normally come in to land on the roofs of large office and apartment buildings.

In the five years that the City of the Future has been a part of the Spectrackular, Mr. Otto has had to change and update it several times — for many of the ideas he introduced as dreams of the future have now become reality. It is safe to assume that what he is showing us now is at least a good likeness of the "shape of things to come."

### SPECTRACKULAR PRESENTS WHOLE WORLD IN MINIATURE DISPLAY

The result of some eight years' work, and a cumulative investment of almost \$200,000, the Spectrackular is the scale-model hobbyist's dream come true. As presented on the ground floor of the Better Living Center at the World's Fair, it is the largest model railroad display ever assembled anywhere.

It has over 8,000 little people in its miniature world, engaged in every business, pastime and activity conceivable.

Its many trains, the mainstay of the exhibit, number over 1,000 pieces of rolling stock. These include more than 400 locomotives, from a wide variety of countries: England, America, France, Germany, Italy, Holland, Denmark, Switzerland, Japan, and even Russia.

#### Huge Area

The area of the Spectrackular is approximately 3,000 square feet, and there are more than two and three-quarter miles of track laid on the baseboards and the superstructures such as mountains, viaducts, bridges, trestles, and so on.

The scaled-to-life settings include 24 churches, 148 country cottages and farm buildings, 400 shops and stores of all descriptions, 200 schools, fire stations and other public buildings, 150 factories and administrative buildings, 100 skyscrapers, supermarkets and multiple-business structures, and over 500 railroad stations and siding sheds.

Throwing geography to the winds, Mr. Bertram Otto, president of the Thames Ditton Model Railway Society, Surrey, England, who built the Spectrackular, has included within its boundaries such diverse locations as London Terminal, New York, and a "preview" idea of its World's Fair, Rome, Paris, Switzerland with its Alps, Germany, a City of the Future, and even rockets taking off for Mars.

#### All HO Scale

The entire Spectrackular is scaled to HO size, the most widely-used of railroad modelers' scales (3.5 mm. to the foot, or 1/87th of actual size approximately). Needless to say, "modeler's license" has been exercised in a few cases. On the scale, if London and New York were actually

separated by the scaled distance, the Spectrackular would be some 35 miles long.

#### Tells Story

The careful observer will note that every unit of activity and every group of people in the layout has its own justification and story. While the modeler leaves it to the viewer to interpret these in his own fashion, the narration presented from time to time at the display explains many of the individual aspects of the different sections.

It will be seen that, as the viewer goes around the Spectrackular, passing from section to section, the trains in each area are those of the country represented, the signs on stations and buildings, the costumes of the people, the local cars and street transportation, and so on, are all in character for the given country.

### HOW TO GET TO THE SPECTRACKULAR

The World's Largest Model Railroad Spectrackular is located on the ground floor of the Better Living Center at the Rodman Street entrance of the New York World's Fair. This is designated as gate 7 on maps of the Fair area and is Stop #7 of the Greyhound Rapid Transit line which carries passengers through the Fair.

The Spectrackular can be seen at the end of your visit to the Better Living Center as all ramps lead down to it. It can also be seen first by swinging around to your left from the front entrance of the Better Living Center, to the side entrance facing Rodman Street.



## UNUSUAL FAMILY COMBINATION IS INVOLVED IN SPECTRACKULAR

One of the most unusual family combinations in show business is featured in The World's Greatest Spectrackular.



**MRS. GLADYS PALMER**  
"Chief Engineer"  
of the Spectrackular

Built by Mr. Bertram Otto, the Spectrackular has as chief engineer his mother-in-law, Mrs. Gladys Palmer, whom spectators can see operating the fantastically-complicated control panels in the glass-encased area at the corner of the display.

Mrs. Palmer came by this most unusual occupation — only woman scale-model chief engineer in the world — quite unexpectedly.

One day, when Mr. Otto had just about completed his first Spectrackular, he was at lunch with his wife and his mother-in-law.

"Where will I ever find an operator?" he asked himself aloud.

Simultaneously, he and his wife, Lillian, turned to Mrs. Palmer and, half-jokingly, said,

"Why don't you run it, Mother?"

To their amazement, with typical unruffled British calm, she replied, "I will."

And she has, ever since, although at the time she knew nothing about model-railroading.

In addition to being the Spectrackular's most dependable and accomplished operator, Mrs. Palmer has also become her son-in-law's right hand in maintenance, modeling and even the complex logistics of moving the Spectrackular, as when it was recently shipped over the Atlantic for display at the Fair.

Mrs. Otto and two volunteer helpers, Brian Purse and Frank Pollock, complete the Spectrackular's "crew."

### SPECTRACKULAR GAVE SHIPPERS A SCARE!

When the U. S. Lines cargo-liner, S. S. American Courier, transported The World's Greatest Spectrackular from England to New York, the bill of lading caused quite some shock to the shipping officials. It read "400 locomotives, 600 assorted railway cars" and various other such huge consignments — an insuperable problem, until they realized that these were scale-models in HO gauge (3.5 mm.-to-the-foot scale). The shipment arrived safely and is now being seen in the Better Living Center at the World's Fair. The only casualty was a few gray hairs for the steamship officials.

### RAILROAD WHISTLES ORIGINATED HERE

A little-known fact about railroading is that the first two locomotives equipped with whistles were built in 1836 under the supervision of George Washington Whistler.

What adds to the interest of this fact is that the first one, called the "Hicksville," went into service at Jamaica, Long Island—within whistling distance of the Better Living Center where the Spectrackular is being displayed at the World's Fair.

A contemporary account reported that it made "a shrill, wild unearthly sound, something like drawing a saw flat across a bar of iron."

The other of the first two whistles, the "Susquehanna," was tried out at Wilmington, Del. Traveling at the then-impressive speed of "35 or 40 miles an hour," it was said "to give awful notice of its approach to any point."

The World's Largest Model Railroad reproduces the whistles of the Hicksville and the Susquehanna, along with the various other forms of warning sounds, bells, etc., that are now in use, or have been employed during the 150-year history of the railroading industry.

## OTTO SPEAKS SEVEN TONGUES

Bertram Otto, builder of The World's Greatest Spectrackular, speaks seven languages — and uses bits of all of them in his running commentary, plus English as it might be spoken in the various countries his trains pass through during the show. He even does a passage in "Martian" — and defies anyone to prove that he's not actually talking the language!

## Professional Pickpocket Is On Duty At Fair

While the Queens County Supreme Court has impaneled a special World's Fair Grand Jury to deal with crimes committed at the Fair, one of the most likely of which is pickpocketing,

the Better Living Center has gone to the other extreme and brought in a professional pickpocket!

He is Bertram Otto, builder and operator of The World's Greatest Spectrackular. When not working at his avocation of scale-model building, Mr. Otto is a professional pickpocket of some thirty years' standing. His light-fingered feats of pilfering have long delighted British vaudeville and cabaret audiences, as well as members of royalty and high society, at whose parties he is often engaged to relieve guests of their valuables, only to restore them later when the gag is discovered.

Otto has not only assured the Better Living Center that he will NOT — repeat NOT — indulge in such legerdemain at the Fair, but also hopes that the authorities may call on him for any help he can render in trying to solve any pickpocketings that may puzzle them.

When appearing in his professional capacity as a stage pickpocket, Mr. Otto is billed as "Ming Chow, the Light-Fingered One."

### Children's Hour

As part of his theatrical activities in England, Bertram Otto, builder of the Spectrackular, puts on a children's show, known as "Uncle Bertie's Hour." A tiny billboard in the Spectrackular advertises it.

### MILLIONS ENJOY SCALE-MODEL HOBBY

It is estimated that there are over 2,000,000 scale-model railroad hobbyists in the United States. A majority of them are grouped in some 200 hobby clubs.

About 84% of these hobbyists build their models in HO gauge, the scale of the Spectrackular. The balance are split just about evenly between the larger O gauge, and the smaller S and TT gauges.

Most of the clubs are affiliated with the National Model Railroad Association, which has its headquarters in Canton, Ohio.

Those interested in forming clubs or joining the national association may write to Bob Bast, Office Manager, National Model Railroad Association, P.O. Box 1238-K, Station C, Canton 8, Ohio.

The principal magazines of interest to scale-model hobbyists published in the United States are:

*Model Railroader*, published monthly by the Kalmbach Publishing Co., 1027 No. 7th St., Milwaukee 7, Wis.; and

*Railroad Model Craftsman*, published monthly by Model Craftsman Publishing Corp., P. O. Box 469, Ramsey, N. J.

## FAIR "PREVIEW" IS FEATURED

When Bertram Otto's record-size "world-in-miniature" and model railroad exhibit was on display last year at the British resort of Eastbourne, one of its key features was a fanciful "preview" of the 1964 World's Fair in New York. Now, his own prediction coming true, Otto is starring with his display, The World's Greatest Spectrackular, in the Better Living Center at our Fair. But he hasn't changed his "preview" version of it. Americans may get a chuckle from the trans-Atlantic vision of the Fair.

## Commissioner Barnes, Take Notice!

New ideas in traffic control are shown in The World's Greatest Spectrackular, mammoth scale-model "world-in-miniature" display at the Better Living Center of the World's Fair.

In past seasons in Great Britain, the Spectrackular furnished innovations which have been adapted for current use in London's busiest thoroughfares, Oxford Street near Marble Arch and Piccadilly Circus.

This year's display, making its American debut, contains a "City of the Future," conceived by Otto, involving new traffic flow systems that might well solve some of Commissioner Barnes' knotty local problems. We hope he will take a good long look at them.



# SPORTS FACTS

## BERTRAM OTTO WAS ONCE A LEFT-HANDED PITCHER

With our national game of baseball virtually unknown in the British Isles, Mr. Bertram Otto, builder of The World's Greatest Spectrackular, is that rare bird: an Englishman who has played baseball.

Born in London, of Swiss-English parentage, Mr. Otto spent much of his youth in Switzerland and India, where his father's work took the family.

While in the latter country, he was captain and left-handed pitcher for four years for the Cathedral School Old Boys' Team of Bombay. They played in a four-cornered league, which also included teams representing local employees of General Motors, and the American Colony and the Japanese Colony living there.

During his stay in New York for the Fair, Mr. Otto is making his home in Kew Gardens for the summer — and the biggest thrill of it all, to an old ball-player, is that he is told his apartment used to be rented by Roger Maris.

Mr. Otto has practiced many other sports, in addition to baseball and, of course, its British counterpart, cricket. His highest accomplishments were in tennis, which he played at a tournament level, having been pitted in his earlier days against such past greats as Big Bill Tilden and other champions of that era.

## PLENTY OF ACTION FOR SPORTS FANS

Sports fans will find almost a dozen different scenes of special interest to them in The World's Greatest Spectrackular.

The builder, Mr. Bertram Otto, himself an athlete of no mean accomplishments, has included such scenes as the following:

A soccer match, the most popular sport in England (and in most countries of the world, outside the United States);

Swimming and water-skiing on various bodies of water seen in the Spectrackular;

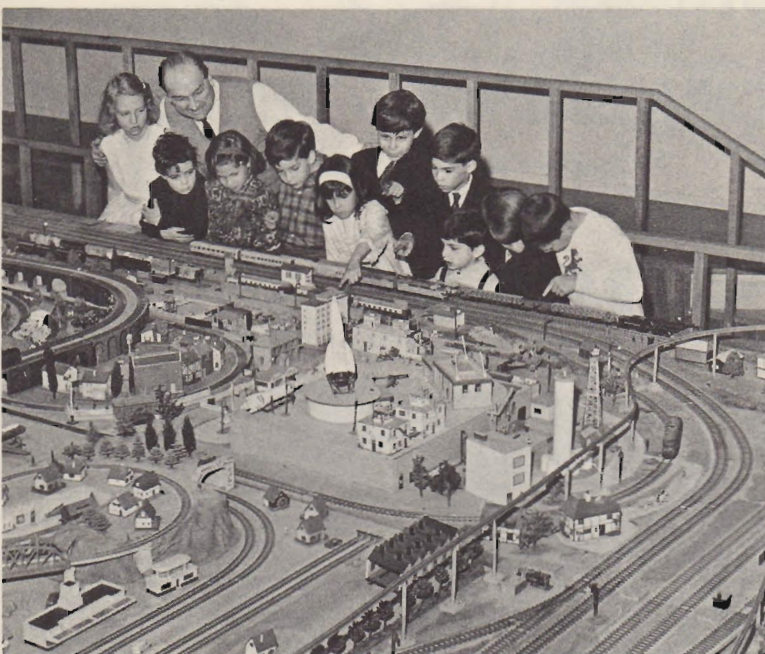
A lawn tennis game, which is one of the first scenes that audiences will see as they come in to the display;

Skiing and bobsledding in the Swiss Mountains sections at the center of the Spectrackular;

Hunting, in several different settings;

Also, horsemanship, as displayed both in the circus scenes and the military tattoo, motoring, including stock cars, sports cars and racing cars, and bicycle riding and other forms of sports transportation.

And, last but not least, one cannot overlook model-railroading, a hobby, if not a sport, which is one of the most widespread both here and abroad. It has received a tremendous impetus from the showing of the Spectrackular in England, and it is expected that the same will occur in this country.



BERTRAM OTTO, builder of the Spectrackular, explains his display to a group of children during a "preview" visit. In the center may be seen the passenger rocket of the future, circling in its cradle, to find its proper orbital angle for blastoff. Passenger and freight trains run around the perimeter of the layout. This corner is diagonally across from the control panel.

## "GOLDEN SPIKE" ANNIVERSARY

Railroaders and model railroaders throughout the U.S. observe the date of May 10, as the 95th anniversary of the driving of the Golden Spike at Promontory, Utah. This famous event in 1869 signaled the completion of the first transcontinental rail route in the United States.

Rolling stock of the period can be seen in the Spectrackular, World's Largest Model Railroad, in the Better Living Center at the World's Fair.

## HOBBY MAKES NEW CAREER FOR OTTO

Bertram Otto is one man who can be said to have turned his boyhood hobby into a life's occupation — and a highly-successful one. All his life a model-railroad enthusiast, Otto seven years ago put together his first public display, for exhibit at the British resort of Eastbourne. He has built it up and added to it year by year, until today it is unique, the most fantastic world-in-miniature ever constructed. It is, of course seen in the Better Living Center of the World's Fair as The World's Greatest Spectrackular. When not displaying the Spectrackular, Otto continues to make his living as a theatrical entertainer, magician and illusionist.

## DO IT YOURSELF!

Visitors to the Spectrackular will get six chances to participate in actually running the world's largest scale model railroad display.

At various points around the layout, there are buttons inside the barrier which spectators may press. As marked, these buttons will operate the Monorail, make the Churchbell ring, run the little Yellow Trolley, activate the Cablecar, send Stephenson's Rocket whizzing on its way — and the last one, marked Mystery Button, will bring about a surprise on the layout, which it is left up to the viewer to locate.

*Watch For*

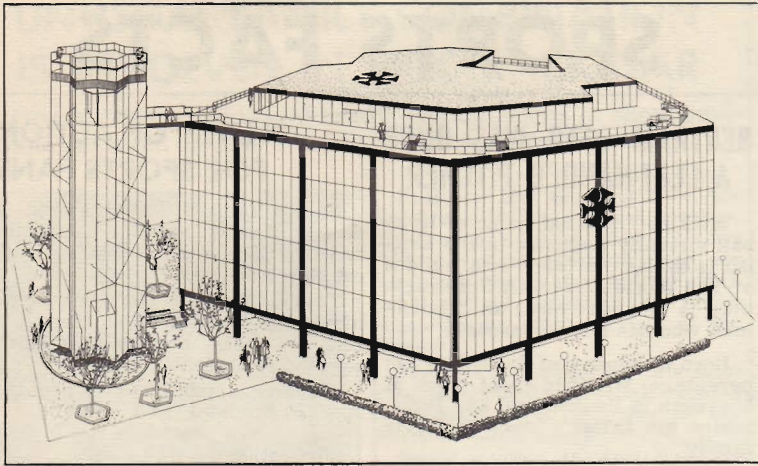
# "SPECTRACKULAR"

## A Full-Length

## Paperback Book

## To Be Published Soon





MORE THAN TWENTY-FIVE MILLION visitors are expected to tour through the Better Living Center, third largest building of the Fair, largest building in the industrial section and the largest multi-exhibitor pavilion. The Life Saver glass elevator tower provides a breath-taking panoramic view of the entire Fairsite while carrying passengers to the penthouse level. Passengers on interior escalators will find themselves discharged on the penthouse level too. The building's traffic flow is from-the-top-down.

## Better Living Center Is "Fair Within Fair"

The Better Living Center, largest multi-exhibitor building at the Fair is also the third largest of all the buildings.

The Crystal Palace of Fashion, on the Better Living Center's second floor, is the Fair's major fashion facility. At least four fashion shows are presented daily in the Crystal Palace. They are produced by the Center and by leading men's and women's fashion magazines, such as *Seventeen*, *Glamour*, *Mademoiselle* and *Esquire*. Lord and Taylor, distinguished New York specialty store, will produce two fashion shows daily during the opening and closing months of each Fair season.

Borden's "All About Elsie," a musical revue, repeating each quarter-hour, is also presented in the Better Living Center. It stars Elsie the Cow, thus bridging the gap of twenty-five years to the New York World's Fair in 1939, where the first Elsie was introduced.

The penthouse, in addition to the Marco Polo Club and the Hilton Cafe International, houses the Fair's Official Women's Hospitality Headquarters. The Women's Headquarters is sponsored by the Purex Corp., and will serve for special functions honoring Women in Politics and Government, and women in such other pursuits as Fashion, Arts, Science and Medicine, Home and Community Education.

A unique, never-before-assembled show, Four Centuries of American Masterpieces, is to be seen in the Center's art gallery. This is the major art show of the Fair. The famed Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture has assembled the works, which represent the

greatest art ever produced in the United States. Proceeds of the exhibition go to the Skowhegan School's scholarship fund.

Other leading exhibits include the International Antique, Coin and Stamp Exposition, the display of the National Industries for the Blind, Dorothy Draper's Westinghouse Dream Home, the Gallery of Kitchens, the Promenade of Interiors, and the display of Food-From-Farm-To-Table.

This wide diversity of exhibits devoted to all aspects of better living has earned the Better Living Center its nickname of "a Fair within the Fair."

## Beech-Nut Theatre

The performing arts are represented in the Better Living Center in virtually all their aspects through the 550-seat Beech-Nut Theatre, located on the first floor.

Some of the outstanding attractions of its first season include a musical version of "Young Abe Lincoln," with Armand Brown as Lincoln and a Broadway cast; Anna Russell in the musical farce, "Lady Audley's Secret or Who Pushed George?"; also featured was a widely-acclaimed Austrian Fashion Show.

It was here that Twentieth Century-Fox Films decided to have the world premiere of their film, "What a Way to Go!" starring Shirley MacLaine, Paul Newman and Gene Kelly, on May 13th.

The theatre is fully equipped with the latest facilities including Cinemascope and ultra-fidelity sound. It is also equipped for television and radio broadcasting and has two 35mm projectors which can handle all screen ratios.

# BETTER LIVING CENTER CHILDREN'S WORLD TEACHES TOTS

20 Teachers from All Sections of Country in  
Unusual Program for Four to Eight Year Olds

"I know that only the rarest kind of best can be good enough for the young", Walter de la Mare said in *Bells and Grass*. This sentiment, inlaid in wood outside the entrance to the Children's World, sums up the attitude and program administered by Margaret Woods for the Better Living Center in the ground floor facility for four to eight year olds.

Twenty certified teachers from public and parochial schools around the nation have been granted leaves of absence from their schools in order to serve on the Better Living Center teaching staff. All have been hand picked by Mrs. Woods who is president of the National Education Association's Elementary-Nursery-Kindergarten Department and has directed workshops on creative education in twenty-two states.

The Children's World is completely surrounded with one-way glass enabling parents and Better Living Center visitors to see the tots without disturbing their play or studies. Children are assigned to their groups according to their ages. The maximum number of children in each group is fifteen.

The Children's World is divided into three areas: play, science and art. In the play area, there are experimental toys and climbing gear, a teletrainer for good telephone manners, blocks and a live baby lamb to be fed. Here the children also churn butter and make ice cream for their own consumption.

Going through the science area, the tots watch the hatching of live chicks, observe the goings-on in their cutaway beehive and ant colony, learn about magnetism and dramatize science materials. Under careful supervision, they wash their own aprons in a washing machine.

In the art area they will paint and sculpt, learn the use of a globe and, during snack time, have juice or ice cream and crackers.

The Children's World is specifically designed, according to Mrs. Woods, to build a passion for the world of people and things. The program is regarded as a "learning experience" and provides an environment for creative learning.

Children may be registered from Fair opening to 5:15 P.M. each day.

## FIVE KITCHENS ARE FEATURED IN ROOFTOP HILTON CAFE INTERNATIONAL

Master chefs of five continents preside over their native delicacies in the Hilton Cafe International on the Better Living Center penthouse floor. 18,000 square feet of space are devoted to delicious dining with authentic cuisines from North America, South America, Europe, the Mediterranean and the Orient.

A semi-circular promenade gives access to the five open kitchens. Patrons may walk from one to another to select a variety of dishes. They may also limit their selection to one kitchen, any one of which is equipped to provide a complete meal.

After guests have brought their selections from the kitchens to their tables, they receive service from colorfully costumed waitresses who provide cocktails, bread-and-butter, beverages and desserts.

There is a cocktail lounge which offers a view of the Fair as does the Cafe itself through sliding glass doors and, when the weather permits, from colorful umbrella tables.

WFTM, New York's first stereo station, originates its program "Wendy Barrie at the World's Fair" from the Cafe. Miss Barrie circulates among the diners, interviewing celebrities and ordinary Fairgoers alike. The program is heard Monday through Friday at 1:05 P.M.

## BETTER LIVING CENTER

