

MODEL RAIL 'BUFFS' HOLD CLINICS HERE

Business Leaders, Technicians
Lecture and 350 Serious
Students Jam Sessions

Railroad "buffs" from all over the country wandered through the New Yorker Hotel yesterday attending clinics on railroading and the construction of miniature reproductions of road equipment.

The visitors were members of the National Model Railroad Association, an organization of 9,000 hobbyists interested in all phases of model railroading. The occasion was the sixteenth anniversary convention of the association. House flags of sixteen railroads, draped around the walls of the mezzanine headquarters proclaimed the character of the gathering.

Business executives and technicians were among the speakers who delivered lectures on various aspects of scale-railroad building. They included W. Watson House, general agent of the New England Mutual Life Insurance Company; E. A. Ravenscroft, vice president of Abbott Laboratories, a drug concern, and R. H. Huebenthal, auditor for the General Electric Company.

The convention, which opened Friday, will end tomorrow. Last night the members attended open house exhibitions at the Lackawanna Terminal in Hoboken and at the Westchester Model Club in Pelham Manor.

There they watched members operate eighty-five locomotives and 700 cars over 4,500 feet of track on their model railroad in the former Pelham Manor waiting room of the New Haven Railroad's Hellgate branch. Since 1937, when a "golden" spike was driven to open the first loop of its "eastern lines," the Westchester group has developed what experts have described as the most extensive operating model railroad in the world. The club's forty-five members, including professional men, railroad executives and other fans, rent the old depot for their activities.

Robert D. Hickok, president of the Westchester Club, greeted the guests.

At 9 A. M. today the delegates will embark from Forty-second Street and the North River on a boat trip around Manhattan Island, with guides provided by the Port of New York Authority. Perry M. Shoemaker, vice president of the Lackawanna Railroad, will speak at the annual dinner tonight in the hotel.

Three hundred and fifty persons are attending the convention, and the New York Society of Model Engineers is host. New officers of the organization, installed last night at a trustees' meeting in the hotel, are Edward Van Leer, of Rochester, N. Y., president; David L. Stearns, of Seattle, Wash., vice president; Paul Mallery, of Murray Hill, N. J., secretary, and Mr. Huebenthal, who comes from Syracuse, treasurer.

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