

Model Trains Run Smack Into an Eviction; Housing Shortage May Force Line Outdoors

One of the nation's largest model railroad systems may be forced to "ride the rails" in the open after the first of the year unless the housing shortage is eased, it was disclosed yesterday.

The New York Society of Model Engineers, operators of the Union Connecting Railroad, crack line of the model rail system, got an eviction notice about a month ago from the new owners of the premises at 51 West Thirty-fifth Street, where it operates the model terminal in the basement. The society appealed the verdict, and the Municipal Court granted it a stay of eviction until Jan. 1. After that, the fate of the society is anybody's guess—at least so far as staying indoors is concerned.

The 5,000 feet of trackage and the 100-odd pieces of "rolling stock" have been quartered in the

Thirty-fifth Street basement since May, 1944, when the railroad was forced out of the Knickerbocker Building at 152 West Forty-second Street. Prior to that it had occupied cellar headquarters at 130 West Forty-second Street. It was started in the Engineering Societies Building at 29 West Thirty-ninth Street in 1929.

"If we could only get out of cellars and basements and into the sunshine, we wouldn't know what to do with ourselves," said K. P. Kallman, a spokesman for the society.

The society's problems are complicated by the fact that its sixty-odd members, including all occupations "from bootblack to bank president," feel they are unable to pay more than fifty dollars a month rental for whatever quarters they will occupy after Jan. 1—if any.

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