

Garden Railroad

The PHILLIP PRATT MEMORIAL GARDEN RAILWAY

Phillip Pratt developed the ability to transport himself to other worlds through his love and recognition of great cultures, music, art, nature, and beauty. As a child, he created a fantasy railway where he and

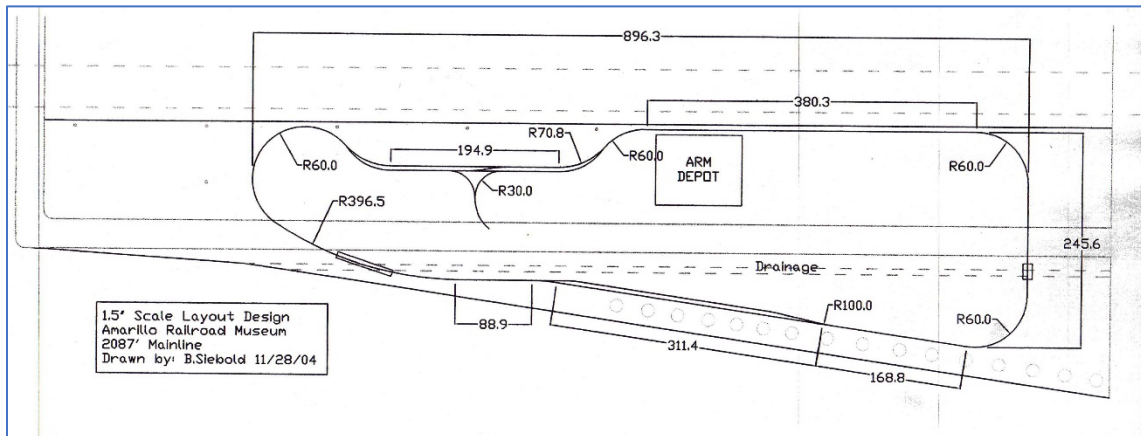


his friends could escape to other places and times. He discovered the joys of planting a garden and seeing it grow. Using his inventiveness, he installed a drip irrigation system. He mastered three foreign languages and was captain of the Tascosa Academic Decathlon team, embarking on an intensive study of complex global subjects.

Phillip graduated from the University of Texas at Arlington, receiving a special Marketing Honors designation for his independent research study.

The Phillip Pratt Memorial Garden Railway is approximately thirty by fifty feet and raised about two feet above ground level with a retaining wall of interlocking rock castings. The retaining wall will be encircled by a series of commemorative steppingstones. The layout is built on a compacted soil and stone foundation formed into a series of hills and valleys with a flat area on the north end with a village and train yard. Xeriscaping and placement of rock formations will follow the direction of Amarillo Area Master Gardeners and the Potter County Extension Service.

THE AMARILLO RAILROAD MUSEUM, 1990-2023



Before we get into building the Phillip Pratt Memorial Garden Railway (PPMGRwy), we need to mention that Bruce Siebold was a museum member for a short time. He proposed a 1 ½" scale railroad on the museum property. One-and-a-half-inch scale is in the live steam realm.

Because of Bruce's short tenure, the railroad only exists as a drawing (**Above**). We want to mention that Bruce has been a loyal booster of the museum. He is responsible for letting us know about the availability of the BN scale test car (more later).

Union Pacific 844 (**Below**) is a magnificently crafted 1-1/2" "live steam" locomotive is an example of serious, and expensive, outdoor model railroading! A nice video on live steam action on the Wabash, Frisco and Pacific Railroad at Glencoe, Missouri, can be found at:

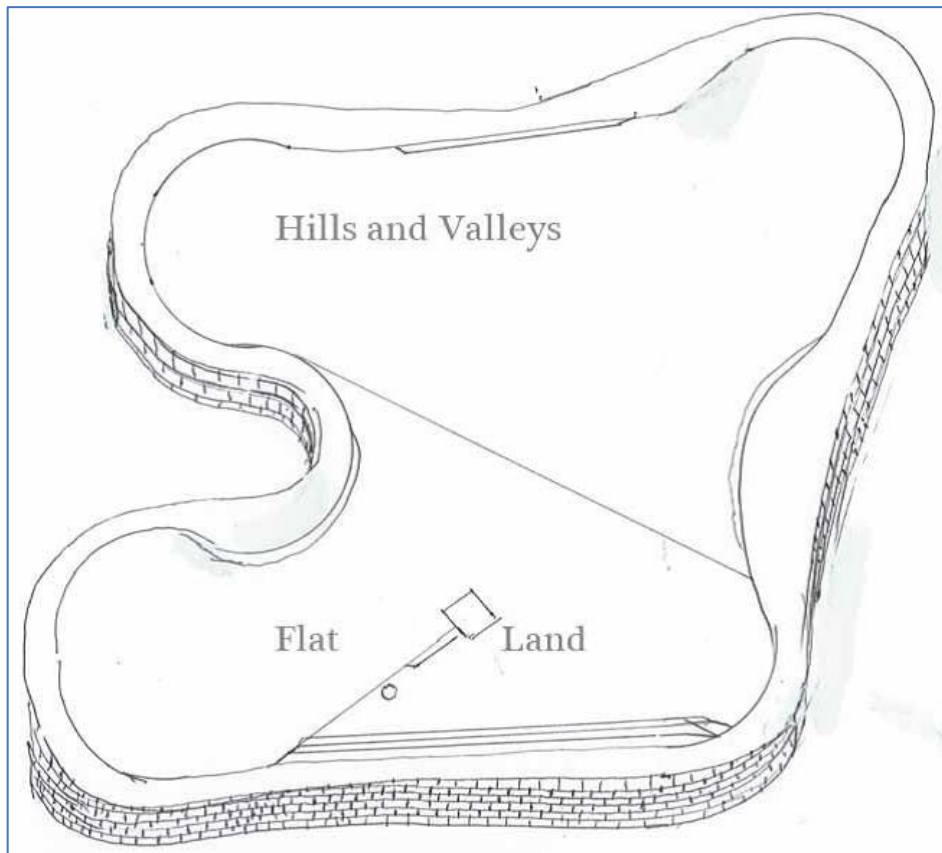
www.youtube.com/watch?v=TxP5WVDQozM



Fred Clark, Jr. photograph. San Antonio, FL, March 2, 2009.



Locomotive 102 was built by Ted Young of Peoria IL. in 1983. The engine is a model of the Colorado Springs & Cripple Creek Railroad's full-sized 2-6-2 "Prairie" engines. *Wabash, Frisco and Pacific Railroad photo*



Left. A schematic of the PPMGRwy. The sketch was made by Virgil and Paula Young. The layout is accurate, the track has been modified over time. Member Carol Abraham graciously funded the construction.

The PPMGRwy is built to *G-gauge*, which has a track spacing of 45 mm between the railheads, but it can accommodate seven *scales*: A:1:29; F: 1:20.32; G:1:22.5; Gauge one:1:32; H:1:24; Seven eighths:1:13.7; and 16 mm:1:19.05



Earl Carrel and Tracy Ball look excited and happy as they lower an old Santa Fe electrical cabinet in place to house the garden railroad electronics. To their left, the first course of bricks is being laid at the same time. A lot of soil was hauled to the site to fill the base of the railroad.



Above. As the electrical box is leveled and “planted,” another load of soil heads toward the layout.

Below. Supervisor Brandie makes sure Tracy and Earl are doing things correctly. The interlocking bricks made a pleasing layout wall. the white tubing in the foreground is for drip irrigation of trees.





Earl Carrel, David Jusiak, and Craig Jusiak work on the roadbed of the PPMGRwy to make sure the track will be laid on a smooth surface.



What could be better? Constructing an eye-catching G-gauge layout outside on the museum grounds as a BNSF freight hums westbound toward Junior Yard in Amarillo. The "Transcon" can see 70-80 trains per day. *Bob Roth Photo*





Above. Ah, weeds! The scourge of any outdoor layout. But they don't stop us. Dig them up and keep working! *Bob Roth Photo*

Below. April 11, 2015, David Jusiak, his mother-in-law, and his granddaughters following the train around the garden. *Bob Roth Photo*





Bob Roth Photo