

Best of both worlds: Dick Tinder and wife Susan combine hobbies

By Jennifer Whitham Johnson

It's no secret to anyone who knows him, Dick Tinder, professor of computer science, loves trains and railroads.

He's had a passion for locomotives most of his life. So, it isn't surprising that when wife Susan, who has an admittedly green thumb, read about a way the couple could combine their separate interests (her love of gardening and his love of railroading), Tinder jumped at the chance.

It's called garden railroading and in honor of November being National Model Railroad Month, Tinder shared the couples' hobby with coworkers on Nov. 14, designated Take Your Train to Work Day. He set up a loop of track in his office in Carver Science and ran his garden railroad locomotive through his office all day.

"It was very amusing to see how people reacted," shares Tinder.

He describes garden railroading, which is a fast growing hobby across the country, as being a variance on the art of building traditional model railroads, the difference being garden railroads use larger equipment and are set up outdoors. In simple terms, the railroad and the garden are constructed simultaneously, with the rails winding through and around the shrubs and flowers and over the occasional wooden railroad bridge straddling a garden pond. The scale of garden railroad pieces is 1/20 of the real size.

At this time last year, the Tinders got the idea from a model railroad magazine and began construction on their garden railroad last May. They selected a 20x30 foot area on their property near Pleasantville as the spot for their project.

Although Tinder says it's similar to

the typical, basement model railroads set up on tables with buildings and scenery, garden railroading requires a considerable amount of grunt work.

"Unlike the basement railroad, you work a little bit more like you would on the real thing," explains Tinder. "Because you have to build up the roadbed, make a plan and decide where bridges and things



like that are going to be. Then you do it with a shovel instead of a saw and a screwdriver."

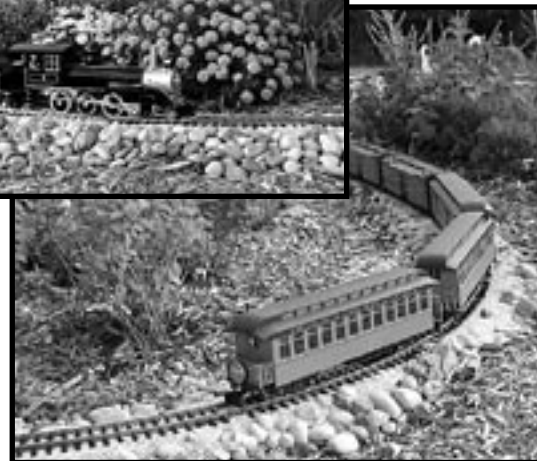
Once the plan was complete and the dirt moved, Tinder buried the wiring to charge the track, which then charges the wheels, making the train a working locomotive. Interestingly enough, Tinder finds the planning and shoveling more enjoyable than actually running the train.

"I think the digging is a lot of the fun," shares Tinder. "The civil engineering part of it was really lots of fun."

Once the wiring was securely buried, the stakes leveled and placed, the river rock piled and the track laid, Tinder added what's called the ballast. Tinder explains

that chicken grit is used for garden railroad ballast due to its composition and texture. "Feed stores sell chicken grit. Chicken grit is granite, which is the same stuff real railroads use for ballast," says Tinder. "Granite has sharp edges to it so once you set it in place, it's fairly stable and locks itself together."

Tinder poured the chicken grit ballast (which he knew to use after reading about it in "Garden



Dick and Susan Tinder combine her interest in gardening and his interest in trains into the mutual hobby of garden railroading.

Railroading" magazine), over the track. He then raised the track slightly, allowing it to set securely on top of the ballast. Of course, this entire process required some give and take because the grades can only be so steep in order for the train to have enough power to get up them.

While Tinder dug and laid track, Susan planted a variety of shrubs and flowers strategically throughout the train's route; resulting in a garden railroad complete with some of her favorite plantings, a

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A look at life with Patti Young

Young

Title: associate professor of education

Family: daughters; Katie, 13 and Alex, nine

Lives: Des Moines

Been at Simpson: since 1991

Likes most about job: “The education students and their eagerness to not just do well in class but to make a difference. That’s why I do what I do. I like teaching human relations most because it’s the heart of teaching, forming meaningful relationships with kids.”

Outside of work: enjoys music (James Taylor, Joni Mitchell), reading, carting her girls around to sporting and musical events, running and playing tennis (in the warmer months).

Favorite sport: volleyball. Used to play intramurals on the faculty team. Would like to see a noontime faculty volleyball game get started on campus.

Vacation spot: Central Florida to visit her brother, nieces and nephews. “Every year I have to get to the beach for at least awhile otherwise I can’t function.”

Garden railroads *continued from page 1*

pond, a couple of buildings and 200 feet of track.

Tinder says their project is far from done though, in fact he hopes it won’t ever be. “Every model railroader type that I’ve been around, they’re always building, changing and adding,” explains Tinder. “That’s the fun. There are a few people that really love to just run the trains but most of us are in it because we like the building part. That’s certainly what it is for me.”

The couple does plan to expand, adding more track, putting in a wooden bridge that Tinder built and perhaps add some wooden buildings before next July. That’s when the 60 members of the Central Iowa Garden Railroad Society will meet at their place, so Tinder says they have to be ready to showoff their work.

In the meantime, anyone interested in viewing Tinders’ garden railroad throughout its progress can go to bart.simpson.edu/gardenRR09/ Tinder



A view of the Tinder’s garden railroad on their property.

also maintains a website for rail fans on Simpson’s server at www.simpson.edu/~tinder/

Weather closing information

Although fall has been unusually mild this year, the chance for severe weather looms, as does the possibility that Simpson will need to close because of deep snows or icy roads.

In recent years a president-appointed committee has studied the procedures for weather-related cancellations and has developed a series of ways for students, faculty and staff to access information about closings. The same procedures are available for the traditional college and the adult learning program.

The decision to close will be made by the president, or in his absence, by the dean of academic affairs. The director of the adult learning program will make the decision regarding class cancellations of evening and Saturday classes.

Members of the Simpson community will have a number of ways to learn of the cancellation of classes and/or the closing of offices.

The local media has traditionally been informed of closings and they will continue to be informed. Simpson contacts three local television stations—WOI, KCCI and WHO. In addition, most local radio stations are notified (KIOA, KLTl, KSTZ, KRNT, KAZR, KPSZ, WHO, KKDM, KMXD, KJJY, KGGO and KHKI).

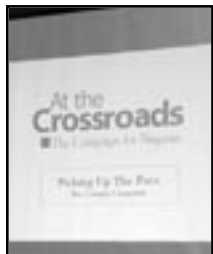
The Simpson Weather Line will have the latest information about school closings. That number is 961.1414.

Also, information services will post information about closings on the college’s web site. Click on the snowflake.

Lastly, a campus-wide phone mail message will be left on all office phones. Off-campus access to that message can be made by dialing 962.3000, dialing your extension number and the #sign, then your password and the #sign, then press 3 to listen.

'Picking Up The Pace' faculty/staff phase of capital campaign continues

"Picking Up The Pace," the faculty/staff phase of the Simpson capital campaign, "At the Crossroads," is still in full swing.



Pam Pepper, assistant vice president and director of annual giving, says, "Picking Up The Pace" volunteers have done a great job contacting people across campus and raising awareness about the campaign. Adding, she is pleased with faculty/staff generosity thus far and that it's not too late to make a pledge or gift to the campaign.

"We're very excited that many pledges are coming in and the faculty and staff are being very generous in their support of Simpson," shares Pepper. "We are continuing to strive for 100 percent participation in the 'Picking Up The Pace' campaign."

Pepper stresses the importance of a high participation level from the Simpson family when the campaign goes public.

"As we move forward and go public with the campaign to solicit all alumni, friends and corporations, there will be questions asked about the support on the homefront," says Pepper. "The more support we receive from the Simpson family, the more other people outside the institution will want to give."

Results of the "Picking Up The Pace" phase of the campaign will be announced at the Simpson Holiday Party on Friday, Dec. 12.

Anyone with questions, concerns, or who would like to make their pledge, may contact Pepper at 961.1540.



Betty Dyer, John Bolen, Ev Laning and David Richmond go through the line during the campaign kickoff breakfast in Great Hall, as Jane Tebbe looks on.

NEW FACES



DeYoung

Missy DeYoung has joined the information services staff as web architect. Previously, DeYoung was employed at Drake University in the position of web editor.

Walter Lain is the assistant dean of multi-cultural and international affairs in the office of student development. Lain practiced employment discrimination law at Dallinger and Lain Law Firm in Bloomington, Ill., prior to joining the Simpson staff.



Lain

Wayne Stacy has been hired in the athletic department as men's and women's track coach. Prior to joining the Simpson staff, Stacy worked as head men's and women's track and cross country coach at Defiance College in Defiance, Ohio.



Stacy

Elves Auction sets record

This year's Simpson Guild Annual Charity Elves Auction raised \$5152.50

The auction was held Saturday, Nov. 8 at 9 a.m. in the Matthew Simpson Room.

Simpson staffers and Guild members, Becky Beaman, Sheila Allbee and Donna Gade organized this year's auction. Items included a variety of unique holiday crafts such as wreaths, blankets, decorated stackable boxes, the Math Quilt, two round-trip tickets to Las Vegas, donated by AAA Travel and Allegiant Air and much more.

Bruce Sloan, Bill Dunning and Rick Spellerberg, professors of mathematics, went together to buy the Math Quilt, which sold for \$700.

The public was invited to attend the auction and participated in bidding on the holiday gifts and other items.

Simpson Guild serves as a link between the Indianola community and the college. Guild membership dues and money raised through annual projects including the Elves Auction provide financial support for scholarships, equipment and capital improvements.

FACULTY FOOTNOTES

Ron Albrecht, professor of music, served as a judge for the Iowa Music Teachers Association's Student composition Competition in late October. Albrecht performed a solo piano recital in Great Hall on Saturday, Oct. 11. Featured in the program was an original composition titled "Masada" for saxophone and piano. **Michael Duke**, instructor of instrumental music, was the guest artist on the saxophone.

John Benoit, associate professor of music, has recently been appointed treasurer of the Historic Brass Society, (in which position) he will also serve on the organization's board of directors. Benoit is currently finishing a term as advertising manager for the *HBS Journal*.

Jim Bohy, assistant professor of computer science, successfully defended his dissertation and earned his Ph.D. from the University of Northern Iowa on Oct. 10.

Tricia Calkins, associate professor of Ger-

man, began a two-year term as president of the Iowa chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German.

Amy Doling, assistant professor of biology, attended the Sixth Annual Iowa HIV/AIDS conference in Des Moines on Oct. 14.

Terry Hoy, professor emeritus, presented a paper at the Iowa Philosophical meeting, Nov. 15. The title of the paper was: "Critical Theory and Esthetic Imagination' the Contribution of John Dewey."

Bob Nutgrass, associate professor of physical education, attended the Iowa State Physical Education convention, run by the Iowa Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (IAHPERD), on Oct. 25 and 26. Nutgrass concluded his three-year commitment as president-elect, president and this last year, past president. Nutgrass was responsible for finding and finalizing the slate of candidates who will run for offices for the next year within the association. He also presented a session to future professionals titled, "Don't Smile until Christmas: How to Start Your School year Out Right-Are You KID-ding Me???" He will be the IAHPERD scholarship chair for the next two years, as the association gives a \$1000 scholarship to an Iowa college student in the field. This year's winner was Simpson's own Jesse VonBehren, who just returned from Alabama after attending a National Student Leadership Development Conference and reported his experiences to the Representative Assembly, also at the State PE Convention in Cedar Falls.

Jeff Parmelee, assistant professor of biology, presented a seminar at Iowa State University (Department of Natural Resources Ecology and Management seminar series) on Oct. 17, titled, "The Ecology and Conservation of the Timber Rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*) in an agricultural landscape: Preliminary Results."

Professor of philosophy, **John Pauley's** article, "Evil and Intention: Chasing after Eichmann," a philosophical discussion of two new books on the problem of evil, has been accepted for publication in the *International Journal of Philosophical Studies*.

Tom Schmidt, assistant professor of management, published an article in the *Journal of Marketing Education*, Vol. 25, number 2, August 2003. The article is titled, "The Impact of Voice and Justification on Students' Perceptions of Professors' Fairness."

Brian Steffen, associate professor of communication studies, attended and presented several sessions at the National College Media Advisers convention, Nov. 5 through Nov. 9 in Dallas, Texas.

Carol Carder, *Zenith* yearbook advisor and art director in marketing, also attended the conference in Dallas. The 2003 *Zenith* won a third place Best of Show award for yearbooks 299 pages or less. This is the *Zenith's* second national award in five years.

THE CORNERSTONE

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