



Recently, it was my pleasure to meet Robert Wilson, a retired farmer who lives on Woodchuck Alley in the Town of Kendall. Actually, Kendall Supervisor John Becker tipped me off about Mr. Wilson and his historically accurate hobby.

It seems that during the last four years or so Bob Wilson has become a master model maker. But what is really fascinating about his work is, that he has undertaken to build a model of the railroad yard in Kendall as it would have been around 1913-1914. His train display and model buildings which he has constructed, is 32 feet long, stretching all along one wall in his basement.

In this display there are now over thirty model buildings that would have been located along the "Hojack" some 85 years ago. Bob says, "Next, I'm going on to Morton and then maybe W. Kendall". The model buildings are meticulously executed. He has used old photos and the 1913 map which is inserted here as reference guides. Indeed, the model buildings are visually correct right down to siding and roofing materials. Therefore, in the display, there are brick, board and batten, novelty sided and stocco buildings. Buildings which had roll roofing have that, while metal roofing and wood shingles are used on other structures. Some of the buildings included are: Kendall and Morton Cold Storages, dry houses, vinegar works and vats, cooper shop, lumber sheds, section house, peach packing shed, pickle factory, scale house, well house, ice house, out houses, cooling tower and coal elevator. The train set is a 32-volt electric system and includes steam engine, box cars and passenger cars.

Bob laments that most of these structures have

disappeared. Two bad fires swept through the railroad section of Kendall in 1924 and again in 1926. Because of changes in shipping methods for produce, these buildings were never replaced.

When you look at Bob's facsimile, it is hard to believe that there were so many related businesses in Kendall back then. Naturally, there would have been many people employed here years ago. There were also eight passenger trains a day back then.

One of the few buildings which remains, but in deteriorating condition, is the old Kendall Cold Storage which was built in 1914. Bob remembers when carrots were stored in the cellar to await shipment on the railroad, while peaches, then apples each season, were stored on the main floor. Onions from the muckland were stored every year on the second floor. Two elevators were used in the cold storage to get the produce up and down.

He remembers that a tremendous amount of peaches were shipped from here years ago. But brown rot and peach tree bore caused severe problems. Bob indicates that Henry Newman, a produce dealer from Hamlin years ago would ship out 125 carloads of apples each season.

In Bob Wilson's 75 years he has seen a lot of changes in farming and farm related businesses. His model railroad yard of Kendall is one way of preserving the past and reminiscing about the days when this place bustled with activity.

Our photos show models of the Kendall Cold Storage and Depot plus Bob Wilson adjusting cars on the track which includes two sidings and a passing track.