

The Mountain Odyssey

**Prepared by my daughter and fellow TCA Member
Peg Holda who also did most of the detail work on this
large 6 foot by 6 foot monster.**



Mountain Magic: The First Layer

Installation of wood frame,
chicken wire and pink styrofoam
reinforcements takes 24 man hours



Mountain Magic: The Second Layer

Newspaper is draped over chicken wire, moistened with water from a spray bottle, and gently pressed against wire to create impression of the mountain's nooks and crannies.



Next, Bounty two-ply paper towel is draped over newsprint and also moistened. Paper towel achieves two goals: "smooths" the look of mountain's surface and assures newsprint will not show through when next layer is applied.

Installation takes sixteen man-hours.



Mountain Magic: The Third Layer



Strips of plaster cloth –specifically made for “scenicking” – were used to create a hard, smooth surface.

The cloth is similar to the type that is used in hospitals to cast broken limbs. Each 8” x 15” strip is gently pressed against the paper towels and moistened with water from a spray bottle. As the plaster dries, the mountain surface grows stiff and sturdy.



Meanwhile, work begins on a smaller mountain in another corner of the layout. Installation is swift, because of lessons learned creating “Mega-Mountain.”

Plaster application takes
32 man-hours.





Mountain Magic: The Fourth Layer

Now it's time to make them look like mountains! First, both mountains are painted "dirt" brown. Then, grey paint is added in selected locations to create "rocks."

Then, "turf" (tiny, fluffy bits of polyester) is applied to the top of painted sections to resemble grass and provide dimensionality. The turf is variegated – dark green, medium green, light green – and interspersed with bits that are earth-colored. To apply the turf, a mixture of Elmer's glue (60%) and water (40%) is sprayed on a section of mountain. Then turf is sprinkled on top.

Glue ... sprinkle ... glue ... sprinkle.
Creation continues

