

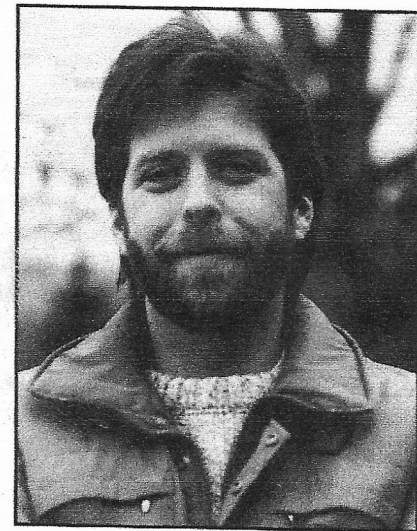
Master Model Railroaders

**Kent Stephen Roberts,
MMR #195**

Railroads and model railroading have been a life-long interest for Kent, so it's only natural that mastering the hobby's skills be a priority. He's grateful

to the NMRA for extending an avenue through the Achievement Program of goals for improvement.

Interest in railroads started when Kent's dad lifted him onto the steps of a L&N caboose (his first memory in life). Modeling began when he received a used American Flyer S gauge set at age four. Since Flyer additions were



not easily found, his parents ("Bless their hearts") gave him an HO set for Christmas at age nine. It wasn't too long before the first layout was started. Kent's grandfather (who lived within walking distance) granted trackage rights in his basement, so within a year a small layout was under construction.

The next major inspiration came in 1968 while on a visit to Nashville. Although the Tennessee Central was on its death bed, it was still a soulful line. The visit to the TC yards has had a lifelong effect on his model railroading. The current layout, the Tennessee Carolina & Coast, is heavily influenced by the TC with a spice of the L&N and the Southern that served Kent's hometown of Maryville, Tenn.

While attending both the University of Tennessee and Carson Newman College, modeling was sidelined by studies and musicianship, only managing to sneak off every now and then to see the Southern or chase Alcos in the Kentucky coal fields. Upon graduation, Kent married the beautiful and patient Linda Courtney. This settling presented the opportunity to resume model railroading by building a 12 x 40-foot layout in the basement of a rented house. Enough was learned (usually by mistake) to construct the current pike, the Tennessee Carolina & Coast. This 13 x 28-foot layout features Alcos and F-units hauling coal and merchandise traffic through rural Appalachia.

Besides railroads, Kent is an elder at Waynesville First Presbyterian Church, enjoys sports, music, and most of all being the father of two wonderful sons, Wesley and Will (future MMRs?) He has been a member of the NMRA for five years, assistant superintendent three years, and division super the last two years within the SER. Kent holds AP awards for Volunteer, Cars, Scenery, Dispatcher, Author, Civil and Electrical Engineering.