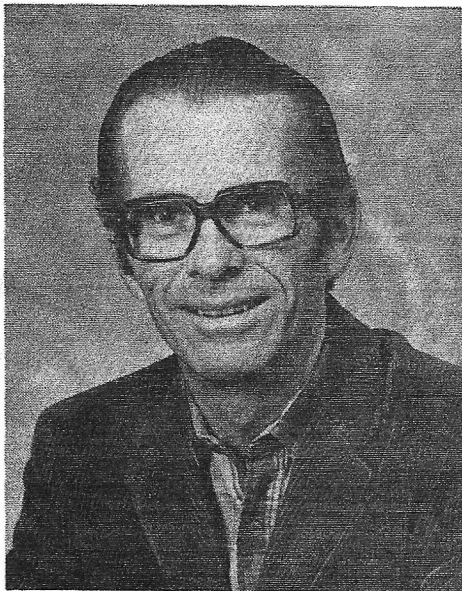


Master Model Railroader 100, John M. (Moe) Smith

personality profile/Tom Madden



The honor of becoming Master Model Railroader No. 100 goes to John M. (Moe) Smith of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Moe holds Achievement Certificates for Cars, Structures, Scenery, Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Chief Dispatcher, Association Volunteer, and Author. He had the additional distinction of receiving his

award before an appreciative audience in his home town at the 1983 Winnipeg National Convention. Moe also served on the convention committee.

A journeyman electrician by trade, Moe has worked for the Canadian Broadcasting System for over 25 years as a lighting technician. Moe and his wife Joyce have two grown sons. Joyce takes an active interest in the hobby and, as an artist, is Moe's best critic for details such as coloring and perspective. Moe is also very proud that he and his oldest son Dick have each won MODEL RAILROADER Magazine's Model of the Month award.

Moe was a model airplane enthusiast when younger, but grew weary of seeing a winter's worth of work destroyed on the first test flight of the spring. He decided to try a hobby he could enjoy without having to contend with major wrecks, and wound up with a small Revell HO trainset for Christmas in the late '50's. That was the start of what is now the Smithville and Western Railroad empire.

The present S&W railroad is Moe's sixth layout. His first was 4' x 6', and each succeeding one has been larger than the last as Moe and his family have moved to successively larger liv-

ing quarters. One of Moe's specialties is bridges, and for years Moe was known as the "bridge nut" of Winnipeg. He has since passed that title on to his friend Roger Wood, who has built a bridge 34 actual feet long!

The accomplishments of Moe and fellow Winnipegger Stafford Swain (MMR No. 98) have generated a lot of interest in the Achievement Program in Winnipeg. Moe was initially lukewarm toward the AP, but earning his first certificate challenged him to try for more. That first one was followed by the Civil and Electrical certificates, which Moe says go hand in hand and should be earned together. Moe found that not only did his hobby skills improve as he worked his way through the program, but his writing and drafting skills improved as well.

Moe feels that recognition and awards, no matter how small, should be an important part of our hobby. They serve both as rewards for accomplishments and as incentives to improve, and can be particularly beneficial in keeping younger modelers in the hobby. Moe's accomplishment in becoming MMR No. 100 is obviously a source of great pride for him, and an inspiration to the rest of us.

