

Achievement Program

Award crowns lifetime of work

Ed Kieth earns MMR #201

Ed Keith looks on this award as the culmination of a lifetime of model railroading.

He has been a life member of NMRA since 1951, through thick and thin, with both his modeling and the organization.

His interest in the hobby developed not through the usual route (a tinplate set as a child), but through a school friend who had a Lionel layout.

His friend subscribed to the *Model Builder* magazine, published by Lionel Corp.

When they ceased publication in the late 1940's, they arranged with *Model Railroader* to complete their unfulfilled subscriptions. His friend was not interested in MR as it was mostly scale, so he gave about a year and one-half of these issues to Ed.

Reading these magazines showed him the wonderful possibilities of scale modeling and he was hooked.

Ed's basic modeling is done in HO, but he also belongs to an N-Trak modular group, which gives him a place to operate, as his home layout is not yet finished and operating.

Many of his achievement awards were earned through work on the modules. He is probably one of the few to earn MMR with awards for and with N-scale models.

He looks upon this award as a means to giving-back to the hobby and the organization the hours of enjoyment and comradeship that it has given to him.

The long hours spent in completing the requirements and paperwork for the various awards were enjoyable and led to this developing skills in areas he had never tackled before.

He encourages every serious modeler to pursue at least some of the achievement awards as a way of learning something new and different, and of finding out how good you can be in areas of the hobby you have never tried before.

Ed's private road is a western short line which is hard to reconcile with his interest in the Baltimore & Ohio and Western Maryland.

He also models some narrow gauge and logging operations, an interest he follows as his mother's family were all lumbermen.

The home layout is not yet finished because he devotes too much time to building unusual freight cars.

Ed's certificates are for Motive Power, Cars, Civil Engineer, Scenery, Dispatcher, Volunteer and Author. •

