

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Master Model Railroader No. 32

Milton G. Sorensen
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Milt (Tony) considers himself as a railfan with one expression of this interest being model railroading. For the same reason, he does not have a scale preference—if it's railroading—prototype or model, he likes it. While in the Air Force in 1945, Milt bought an "O" scale Walthers passenger car kit, and since then has done most of his modeling in "O" scale. He has built models in all scales from 1 to 1 (for the Union Pacific as a carman) to "N" scale. Both of Milt's sons have "N" scale layouts. His original model circus was in 1/2" to the foot scale, and this was a compromise, since he would prefer to build circus models in larger scales.

His favorite time period was when both steam and diesels rode the rails, but he can enjoy operating sessions of the current 2nd generation diesels back to the late 1920's with appropriate train equipment. He likes the period of yellow diesels (UP) and black steam running in contrast to each other.



Milt's occupation is that of a design engineer. The only opportunity he had to design prototype rail equipment was while employed by a bus manufacturer, where he designed the preliminary proposal for the post-war cars for the LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN INCLINE RAILWAY at Chattanooga, Tenn. The completed cars did not change much from the preliminary design.

Currently, Milt is going through one of the greatest trials that can face a model railroader. That is the destruction of his 12-year-old indoor/outdoor layout

at Los Gatos, Calif. He is relocating to Meridian (near Boise), Idaho, where he has joined an engineering firm as an associate. Although some projects do not pan out, he likes to improvise and try new things and approaches. Eighteen of his 20 powered diesels use under-floor power trucks. He enjoys the challenge of cross kitting, but enjoys even more taking a derelict car from a PCR auction and rebuilding it into a presentable piece of rolling stock.

Milt holds Achievement Certificates in the following categories: Master Builder—Motive Power, Master Builder—Cars, Master Builder—Scenery, Model Railroad Engineer—Civil, Model Railroad Engineer—Electrical, Association Volunteer, and Model Railroad Author.

Milt has been active in many model railroad clubs, both "O" and "HO". He has served in many positions in these clubs, including the position of president. He was one of the two original members of the Santa Clara Valley O Gaugers and it is with regret that he has had to leave this area where "interchange" is the by word and it is next to impossible to tell who belongs to what group. This is because they all pursue the hobby together. It has been during this period that Milt changed from an introverted "O" scaler to the realization that he was a "real rail buff."