

Father sparked interest in trains

Ken Byrne earns MMR #267

BY PETE MOFFETT, MMR

Ken Byrne, who was recently awarded the title of Master Model Railroader (No. 267) was born in Toronto in October 1930, but has lived in Hamilton, Ontario, since he was six years old. His father introduced him to the joys of model trains at a very early age with a combination of a Lionel locomotive, Ives freight cars, a scratchbuilt caboose and a small hand-laid layout in O scale.

In his early teens he became a member of the O-scale model railroad club at the Hamilton YMCA and spent several happy years helping to build their layout.

In 1948, an HO model railroad club called "the HOMES Club" (HO Model Engineers Society) was formed and Ken joined at the second meeting. He is the only person from that time who is still involved with the club, though at the present time he is an associate member.

Ken married in 1953 and is still happily married to the same woman after almost 45 years. Ken and his wife have three children and five grandchildren ranging from 24 to 12 years old.

After 40 years as a maintenance electrician, Ken retired in 1990 and has spent the last seven years traveling, sailing and working on his layout, the Ontario Electric Railway which was featured on the cover of the June 1997 Bulletin. The OER is an interurban line with lots of freight work, schedules and a car forwarding system that is operated by command control for realistic operation. When asked how is enjoying retirement, Ken replies: "I don't know how I found

the time to work because I sure don't have the time now".

While never planning to become a Master Model Railroader, Ken got his first certificate of achievement as Chief Dispatcher in 1989 and it just went on from there.

Ken holds certificates of achievement as a Master Builder of Cars and Scenery, Model Railroad Engineer both Electrical and Civil, Chief Dispatcher, Association Volunteer and Official.

Ken is planning to switch back to O scale, tear down his HO layout of eighteen years and build a switching layout in the same 10'x20' area using only 0-4-0 steam locomotives with plenty of industries to keep them busy.

Congratulations Ken.

