



Alan Means

MASTER MODEL RAILROADER #154 ALAN E. MEANS

Alan E. Means, 76, is MMR #154. Alan came into model railroading in rather a round-about way some 25 years ago. Someone gave him a Campbell building kit. Alan had wanted to be an architect, but the math and the slide rule were riddles he says he never solved and building the kit was a challenge. The kit was never put on display because he says it turned out to be a mess. But out of all this, Alan discovered Northeastern Scale lumber, Grandt Line window and door castings, and all the other goodies in the local hobby shop.

It didn't take him long before he had a sizeable collection of scratchbuilt structures, but no place to display them. This problem led to the construction of a Christmas layout around the mantelpiece of an open, free-standing fireplace. This, in turn, proved so fascinating, that it led to a more permanent layout in the basement. The layout was constructed in modular form so it could be disassembled and moved.

The layout has been taken down three times, moved more than 600 miles, and is presently being reassembled in Tryon, N.C. Alan continues to be amazed at the versatility and creativity of people involved in the hobby of model railroading. He is impressed with their eagerness to lend a hand.