

Operations are focus for MMR

Doug Geiger earns MMR No. 226

BY PETE MOFFETT, MMR

The latest Master Model Railroader in the Rocky Mountain Region of the NMRA is Doug Geiger. Although his model railroad-ing interest began while growing up in Montana, his start really began in the Houston Society of Model Engineers club in Texas. While working for Shell Oil, Doug learned model railroading basics such as track laying, scenery, car building, structure construction, and wiring by working on the HSME's club layout and attending various NMRA local conventions and Austin Jamborees. And he learned about "operation." In fact, he has become so involved in operations on his own layout that some operators feel that they have put in a full day's work on a real railroad after a session! Heavy operations have become the main interest for this very active model rail-roader.

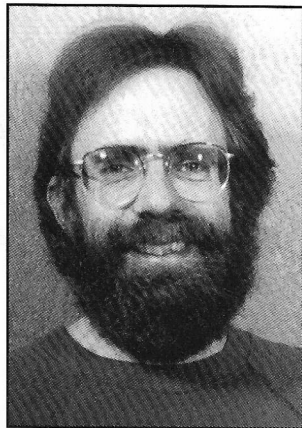
After leaving Houston for Colorado, he began construction of his ultimate dream layout, the Granite Mountain Railway. This multi-level HO/HOn3 layout encompasses approximately 2,000 square feet and occupies the entire basement. Honored by being featured as Great Model Railroad No. 8 in a video by Keller, the layout has been featured several times in magazine layout photo stories. The Granite Mountain includes two large staging yards, four spirals, Dynatrol command-control, a 550' single-track mainline, six other modeled railroads, 600 cars with 70 locomotives, a modern theme (with TOFC and COFC) and operations by 17 operators. A dispatcher, fast clock, operations handbooks and computer-generated switchlists complement the devotion to operation. And visitors are always welcome.

"Taking in visitors is my thanks to God for giving me all the skills

and time needed to build my dream layout," Doug said.

Lately, Doug has been branching out into other scales. Witness his construction and commitment to a fine-scale N-scale module and associated rolling stock. He has also built most of an Sn3 layout (under contract) based on the prototype Rio Grande line over Marshall Pass. He enjoys track planning, especially when condensing prototype scenes. Although his own layout is set in the Rocky Mountains, he has also built both a corner and a straight section HO module to try his skills at duplicating a piece of West Virginia's coal regions. All these modules belong to the module groups in the local Boulder Model Railroad Club, where Doug has served as President and in other positions for many terms. The BMRC group is a social club where he shares clinics, field trips, picnics, and other activities with about 100 other model railroaders.

Although not as active in prototype railfanning as in his younger days, Doug still enjoys excursion trips especially behind steam, like the narrow gauge Cumbres & Toltec Scenic. Still, the narrow and standard gauge D&RGW interest takes second seat behind Doug's favorite prototype railroad, the Milwaukee. He concentrates on Lines West of the Milwaukee and hopes some day to publish a book



about the Milwaukee under wire in the mountains. He also enjoys watching and building intermodal equipment. Recently, he has developed an interest in the C&O railroad to complement his eastern coal interests.

Retiring in 1991 from a career in computer graphics programming, Doug has now become a full-time author and modeler (with many thanks to his very supportive wife, Barbara). His byline should be familiar to readers of model railroad magazines, like *The Bulletin*, *Railroad Model Craftsman*, *Narrow Gauge and Short Line Gazette* and *Model Railroading*. At last count, he had almost 50 articles pub-

lished. Doug obtained his MMR just a month before his 40th birthday. He has earned certificates for cars, structures, scenery, civil engineering, electrical, author, association volunteer and official and dispatcher.

Other interests include: reading and collecting railroad books (including railroad fiction stories), listening to Christian and new age music, watching Rockies baseball games and soaking in hot springs. Doug resides in Longmont, Colo., with his wife and two cats.

Congratulations Doug.