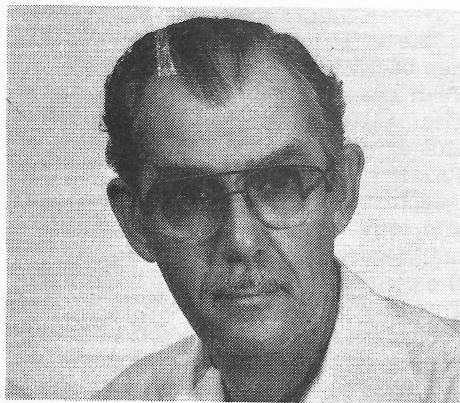


MMR 94, Dr. Robert F. Wilhelm

personality profile/Tom Madden



Dr. Robert F. Wilhelm of Fort Lauderdale, Florida is Master Model Railroader No. 94. Bob holds Achievement Certificates for Cars, Motive Power, Structures, Scenery, Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, and Association Volunteer.

Bob is a graduate of the University of Alabama and the Northern Illinois College of Optometry. He practiced optometry in Chicago until 1971, when he moved to Florida. Bob, who is the father

of twin girls, served as a bombardier with the Army Air Corps in WWII.

As is the case with many of us, Bob's first exposure to model trains came at the base of a Christmas tree. He built a semi-permanent layout on two ping pong tables, and wishes he still had his American Flyer President's Special! He visited his first hobby shop in 1948, bought a Mantua kit, and has been hooked ever since.

Bob became interested in narrow gauge very early, and his first home layout was an out-and-back HOn3 pike. A move to a new house brought a change in scale, and Bob built the South Georgia Railway in On3. Before moving to Florida, Bob was a member of a loosely-knit club called the Flat Wheel Society, and he now belongs to the South Florida Society of Model Engineers. Despite a separation of over ten years and 1000 miles, Bob and some of the other Flat Wheelers still get together each year at the national convention.

Bob's primary interest is scratch-building, and he has won numerous awards for his efforts, including the

Gold Award for his bascule bridge at the Chicago national convention. He enjoys building in all scales, and his current favorite is On2.

A member of the Sunshine Region, Bob was honored with that region's Silver Rail Award, given for service to the region. He was regional contest chairman for five years, and has judged nationally for four years.

As a contest judge, Bob is concerned about the dwindling number of entries in regional and national contests. He is also concerned about the growing number of special interest conventions, feeling that they may be sapping the strength of the NMRA. Although his own main interest is in old-time narrow gauge, he does like to see modern railroading, traction, electronics, etc. at conventions and read about them in the BULLETIN.

While he is not involved in the political side of the NMRA, Bob does serve the hobby, attend NMRA functions, get together with his friends, and have a great time. What more can you ask from a hobbyist!⊗