

by Tom Madden

MASTER MODEL RAILROADERS

MASTER MODEL RAILROADER #109 JOSEPH A. KOCSIS

Meet our 109th MMR. He's Joe Kocsis, 46, of Westland, Mich. Joe is a senior materials lab technician with the McCord Gasket Division of the Ex-Cell-O Corp. in Wyandotte, Mich. Joe and his wife MaryAnn, have two grown children, Christopher and Victoria. Joe says MaryAnn is one of his most avid critics, especially of his backdrop painting!

The traditional Christmas Lionel set started Joe in the hobby. As the years went by he thought, "There must be more to the hobby than this." The discovery of MODEL RAILROADER magazine confirmed this suspicion, and he has been hooked on the hobby ever since.

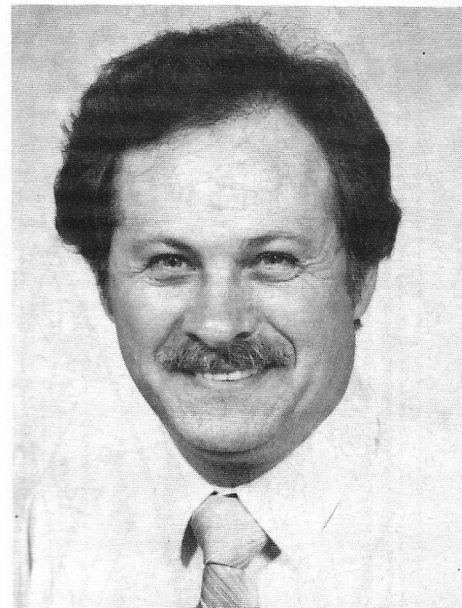
Joe has built a half-dozen layouts, and helped design "a couple of dozen more" for friends. His present layout, the Am-belwood & Drinton Inlet RR., is the most complete of all he has built. It's an HO, around-the-wall, 36' x 23' basement pike featuring handlaid code 70 track and a hand-painted, curved-corner backdrop.

Joe credits two close friends, Dr. Barney Conn and Stan Rajca (MMR #110), with helping him develop his creative skills. Joe says, "Together, we have attained heights we never thought possible in our model building." Many of their ideas have been published in the BULLETIN and the North Central Region publication, THE HOTBOX. Joe, Barney, Stan, and some friends comprise a modeling group known locally as The Extra Board.

"Get involved" is Joe's advice to anyone who wants to know what's going on in the organization, be it division, region or nation. Joe has served his region as both contest chairman and elections chairman. He enjoys entering contests, and picked up a First at Rocky Rails in Denver in 1977. He was MODEL RAILROADING magazine's first Master Modeler, having picked up that honor in the July/August 1984 issue. He earned his MMR award with Achievement Certificates for Cars, Structures, Scenery, Civil and Electrical Engineering, Association Volunteer, and Author.

Model contests are not competitions, in Joe's view, but are rather opportunities to display and view examples of creativity and craftsmanship. He feels such

contests are important not only to the NMRA, but to the hobby as a whole because the models and the skills they represent serve as inspiration and example to all of us.



Joseph A. Kocsis