

Achievement Program

Modeler's journey began at eight *Brown earns MMR 212*

As with many model railroaders, Charles Brown received a Lionel train set as a young child. He spent many enjoyable hours with that loop of track on the floor.

The journey into model railroading really took off when he received an HO set during the Christmas of his eighth year. With the encouragement and assistance of his father, (whose set was it anyway?), that set soon developed into a 4' x 8' layout. Just about every Revell structure kit then available made its way onto that layout along with four locomotives and several cars.

The layout was finally abandoned when Charlie was in the 11th grade and railroads were set aside until after marriage a few years later. All of the old equipment was kept in boxes until Charlie's father pulled it out. The spark was ignited.

A new 5' x 9' layout was begun immediately based on a track plan from the book, *Six Layouts You Can build*. Wanting more space than a spare bedroom, Charlie built a 16 x 24' building in the backyard in 1981 for a new layout. Of course the advantage of building your own building is that one does not have to work around such problems as windows, washing machines and heaters.

Charlie figured if he could build a Fine Scale Miniatures building he ought to be able to do the same thing on a bigger scale with help from two friends. The first layout to occupy this building was a mostly HOn3 layout with some dual gauge in one yard. The last change in layouts came in 1983 when Charlie was inspired by another local modeler, John Mayo, to start building some On3 equipment. That prompted the start of his latest layout.

It was not long after this that Charlie started a video production business, Locomotive Productions. Seeing a need for

model railroad videos, several tapes were made which developed into the Scale Rails series of videos.

While attending the 1991 NMRA Convention in Denver, Charlie met John Koch (also an On3 modeler) of Green Frog Productions. After distributing some of Charlie's tapes for about a year, it was decided to merge the two businesses and combine resources. Charlie

has just recently moved from Baton Rouge, La. to Marietta, Ga., home of Green Frog.

The last layout was torn down and the structures, rail and other parts were saved for the next layout. A new house has just been purchased with a big basement for a new On3 layout. Construction is to begin immediately.

Charlie is a life member of Lone Star Region and the NMRA. He was Achievement Program Chairman for several years for the Bayou Division in Louisiana and has had the opportunity to judge some regional contests. Now a member of the Piedmont Division of the SER, Charlie and his wife Bonney live in Dallas, Ga., and look forward to many years to SER conventions. •

