

Blue Ridge memories inspired modeler

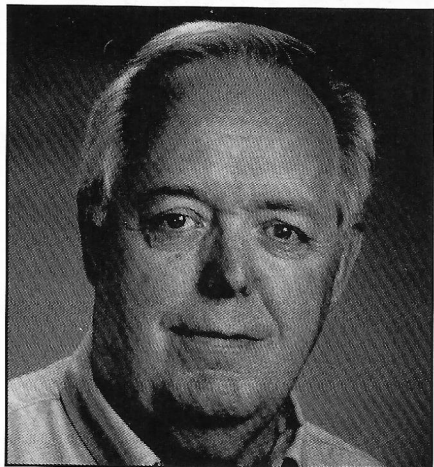
Doug Farner earns MMR #278

Doug Farner, MMR #278, grew up in western North Carolina and this had a profound effect on him. His layout, located in Dallas, Texas is called The Blue Ridge and Southern and is patterned after the familiar mountains and foothills of the Blue Ridge. Doug and his wife Marianne have four grown daughters and seven grandchildren, who always want to run trains with grandpa. While his wife is not active in the hobby, she is very supportive and, on occasion, has been known to throw

out a very good scenery idea. She has encouraged Doug to share his love for the hobby with others.

Like many modelers, Doug's earliest memory of model trains came as a very small boy, when he would visit his grandfather in New Jersey. His grandfather would take he and his brother by the hand, and they would go down to the basement and run his American Flyer trains.

Later on, around 1948, they received American Flyer



trains for Christmas and every year after that until he spent four years in college at The Citadel, Doug and his brother put the trains up over the Thanksgiving holidays and took them down in January. Each year the two of

them would come up with a new track plan and tried to create different scenes. From these experiences his philosophy of creating a complete scene was born. Doug was out of the hobby until he purchased his first home in 1964. He immediately started a small roll away layout.

He was a closet modeler and remained that way until he moved to Dallas in 1973. Through a friend he met Cliff Robinson, who introduced him to operations. From then on he has been hooked and out of the closet. Doug also has discovered that operating the model railroad gives a reason to build model scenes and is also a way

to share the hobby he so enjoys. In short, he feels that operations tie the whole thing together. Doug has a double garage size, HO scale, operational layout. The Blue Ridge and Southern is fully scenicked and has operating sessions every 2 or 3 weeks. Once the layout was basically complete and, since he did not want to build a new layout (before retirement!), Doug began looking for an ongoing project. One of his operators, Paul Richardson, suggested that he look into the Master Model Railroader program.

In Doug's own words: "When I realized that the judging could be done on my home layout and that I had done most of the requirements to receive at least five of the certificates, I decided to give it a try. In going through the process, I admit that I learned some new skills and I have thoroughly enjoyed the whole undertaking".

Doug has earned certificates for Chief Dispatcher, Model Railroad Engineer - Electrical, Model Railroad Engineer - Civil, Master Builder - Structures, Master Builder - Scenery, Master Builder - Cars, and Association Volunteer.

Correction:

In the January issue MMR Howard Smith's certificate number was incorrectly listed. Howard earned MMR No. 260.