

MASTER MODEL RAILROADER #131 WALTER C. JOHNSON

MMR #131 is Walter C. Johnson of the Mid-Continent Region and lives in Midwest City, Okla., with his wife Jan. Walter retired from Southwestern Bell management in 1986 with 34 years of service. Although he and his wife are interested in other hobbies, including photographing and 4-wheeling in the mountains of Colorado, railroading is #1 on their list.

After being interested in trains from childhood, Walter started modeling around 1957 and joined the NMRA and MCoR about 1964. He is also a member of the Lone Star Region-NMRA, Colorado Midland Chapter/NRHS and the National Railway Historical Society.

As Director of the Greater Oklahoma City Area from 1983/1987 he chaired yearly area meets and the 1987 MCoR Regional Convention held in Oklahoma City. He has also worked and supported the Oklahoma City Train Show each November that has drawn as high as 8,000 of the public and is sponsored by the

Central Oklahoma Railfan Club which he is a member of. Walter and his wife have been supporters of the NMRA at various conventions around the country including the 1984 Kansas City National.

He has been instrumental in recruiting new members for both MCoR and the NMRA and for this and other efforts was presented the Kenny John Memorial Award from Regional President Jim Hammer at the 1985 Regional Convention in Little Rock, Ark. In 1987 he was awarded a Badger Air-Brush from Badger for his recruiting efforts.

His Wheel City Junction Railroad is a 16 x 18 HO/HOn3 layout with PFM sound and runs steam. It includes a water and coaling facility and a large scratchbuilt trestle. It has (three-color) block signals, a five-stall roundhouse with turntable and yard area. There is dual-gauge trackage for access to the narrow gauge portion with a switchback running to a mining area with turning wye and several scratchbuilt dual and narrow gauge switches built by Walter. A logging area features multiple switchbacks in HO to access the top logging camp. With his interest in 4-wheel-



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ing in the mountains of Colorado it is no surprise the scenery on his layout is rugged and mountainous.

Walter holds certificates for Association Official, Association Volunteer, Cars, Structures, Scenery, Civil Engineering and Electrical Engineering.