

## MMR\_0072 Earl T. Johnson

Our newest Master Model Railroader is Earl Johnson, 45, of Grants Pass, Oregon. Earl and his wife, Janeen, have four children, ages 17 through 22. After graduating from Dental School in 1955, Earl was stationed in Ethiopia until 1960, thereby completely missing the end of the steam era in the U.S. Earl has never forgiven his employer, the U.S. Army, for this!

Earl has been in and out of the hobby since the early 1940's and has had four layouts over the years. His present layout had its beginnings in 1968 during what Earl describes as a "lull in a long session with radio-controlled and free-flight model airplanes." He kit-bashed

a caboose and was "hooked again, this time for good." He lettered it "Wolf Creek Lumber Company" after a small town near his home, then began building a diorama on his kitchen table. From this modest beginning, the WCLCo has grown until it now almost fills his 14' x 18' game room.

Since he particularly enjoys building scenery, Earl likes to completely finish each layout addition before starting more benchwork. Last December, however, he undertook a major layout expansion while working toward his Civil Engineer Achievement Certificate. As a result, a large portion of his layout is now bare framework, a condition Earl is eager to change. At present, the WCLCo has about 300' of trackage in an out-and-back arrangement, with lots of line yet to be built.

Earl gets his greatest enjoyment from building, and seldom operates his layout. While primarily an HO modeler, he also works in O and occasionally dabbles in N. He began participating in earnest in the Achievement Program



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in 1974. After entering models in many Regional and several National contests, Earl reached a personal high point at the 1976 Chicago National Convention by winning four prize ribbons and just missing a fifth. He earned his MMR award with Achievement Certificates for Motive Power, Cars, Scenery, Structures, Civil Engineering, Author and Association Volunteer. Earl found that participating in the Achievement Program vastly improved his modeling skills and helped him overcome the universal fear of messing up a project.

A life member of the NMRA, Earl belongs to the Pacific Coast, Sunshine, North Central and Pacific Northwest Regions, as well as two local clubs. Much as Earl enjoys contest modeling and writing for hobby magazines, he says his greatest pleasure comes from the many friendships he has developed at conventions and through correspondence. He is now looking forward to working with Ray Gillette, his Divisional A.P. Chairman, in helping others participate in the Achievement Program and share the satisfactions he has received.