

Model trains always a part of life

Carroll Powell earns MMR 230

Model railroading has been a part of my life for most of my 71 years. My hobby began when I was a small child putting together the engines and cars printed on cereal boxes and running the “train” around the breakfast table!

By the time Arliss and I were married in 1943, I was building real model kits. We had several layouts in Des Moines, Iowa, plus those in Tucson, Ariz., which became our home in 1957. We made several side-tracks into U-control model airplanes and more recently RC boats, but railroading has always been my first love. HO is my primary scale, but I have built/modeled in O, HOn3 and N; and had a vintage Lionel set.

In 1985 I retired from Electric Motor Co. after 28 years, the last 17 as manager. Several years ago we began building our current layout, the C&A (Creakin and Akin) a mythical road in the era of transition from steam to diesel. We both earned our Scenery Certificates on this layout — mine for the roundhouse-turntable-yards area and hers for the town area.

My wife and I just received our 25-year NMRA membership certificates, thanks to LeRoy Thompson, MMR 69, who long ago gave me some “fatherly” advice about staying with NMRA. Frank Townsend taught me many of the finer points of model and layout

building. He and my partner Herb Davis often told me: “It’s a good building — now where’s the interior?”

When I began putting together my paperwork and filling in gaps, PSR AP Chair Dottie Finch gave me a lot of encouragement. Dottie also asked me to be the Tucson area AP person. I’m pleased to join George Feltovic and Al Gibes as new MMRs here in Tucson. My thanks to these folks. But my special thanks go to my wife, Arliss, who was always able to decipher my terrible handwriting so she could type the entry forms. She never let me be discouraged or quit, especially that last certificate when I felt I just couldn’t get it completed. Thanks, Kitten!•

