



# NMRA BULLETIN

An Official Publication of the National Model Railroad Association

## MARCH 2006

## ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

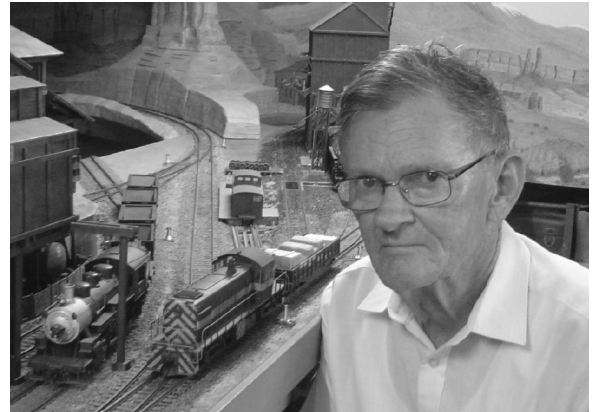
### Garth Fraser Earns MMR 359

Garth Fraser's interest in trains started early with evening walks to the local station to watch the action, and playing on the old South Brisbane coaling wharf while his father fished. After passing through the frustrations of Hornby clockwork tinplate, then a few years making model boats and aircraft, he returned to trains at age 17 in the fledgling Brisbane Model Railway Club. A senior member introduced him to *Model Railroader* and *Trains* magazines and the die was cast. He started scratch building US equipment in 1/48 scale and never saw any good reason to change.

After graduating as an electrical engineer at the end of 1952, he and his new wife, Myra, spent one year on General Electric's Test Program. The highlight was three months at Erie, Pa., where he worked on the commissioning of the first of the Erie demonstrators (which he believes morphed into the U-boats a couple of years later), and on the last of the gas turbines. The test plant was also right next to the main line of the NYC and NKP for added interest. After four more years in Canada, during which he experienced rail travel during the last days of steam several times, he returned to

academia in Brisbane, Australia, picking up a higher degree, and abandoning model railroading in the interests of earning a living and raising a family.

A move to the defence industry took them to Holland for four years from 1971, during which the rather liberal work environment left time to build a freelance HO layout which featured a Garrett built around two Marklin 2-6-0 mechanisms. He still gives this an outing at his current club's Sale & Display days. After retirement in 1990, Garth and Myra moved to Buderim on the Sunshine Coast of South East Queensland, met up with the local club and soon became the group's electrician, and implemented a couple of revisions to their HO modular layout. He also, after a hiatus of 40 years, finally got to work on his long-dreamed-of Copper River Railroad. This mythical 1/48-scale railroad takes its inspiration from the copper-



belt railroads of southern Arizona, with a few touches from the old Copper River & North Western RR of Alaska. (Don't ask why, it's too long a story.)

In mid 1998 he joined the Australian Region-Queensland Division of NMRA, and soon decided

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## BULLETIN BOARD

### Achievement Program

#### NMRA AP Certificates

Report for December 2005

\*Indicates first Certificate of Achievement

#### Golden Spike

Sam Fell, Alabaster, AL

#### Master Builder - Motive Power

None this month

#### Master Builder - Cars

Russ Watson, Quesnel, BC, Canada

#### Master Builder - Structures

None this month

#### Master Builder - Scenery

None this month

#### Model Railroad Engineer - Civil

None this month

#### Master Builder - Prototype Modeler

None this month

#### Model Railroad Engineer - Electrical

Donald Howd, Methuen, MA  
Robert Gardner, Salmon Arm, BC

#### Chief Dispatcher

None this month

#### Association Official

None this month

#### Association Volunteer

Charles Buschman, Crestwood, KY\*  
Ray Rohmann, Louisville, KY\*  
Dianne Mullins, Hastings, NE\*  
Ronald Gilbert, Toledo, OH  
Jeremy Jordan, Cedar Springs, MI\*

#### Model Railroad Author

None this month

#### Master Model Railroader

Donald Howd, Methuen, MA

Membership Thermometer		
	Total	Count Change
Feb. 2005	19,462	(16)
Mar. 2005	19,282	(180)
Apr. 2005	19,284	.2
May 2005	19,404	.120
Jun. 2005	19,471	.67
Jul. 2005	19,389	(82)
Aug. 2005	18,654	(735)
Sep. 2005	19,298	.644
Oct. 2005	19,352	.54
Nov. 2005	19,399	.47
Dec. 2005	19,337	(62)
Jan. 2006	19,579	.242