

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM – CONTINUED

he'd better have a try at the Achievement Program. His AP awards to date include Motive Power, Cars, Scenery, Railroad Author, RR Engineer-Civil, RR Engineer-Electrical, and finally Structures.

His activities on the CRRR have recently been curtailed again for a while as he has become involved in a cosmetic restoration of the original Krauss 0-6-2 side tank loco that operated the old Buderim Tramway between 1914 and 1935. As

Chairman of that group, and also restoration coordinator, he has had to adjust priorities until the job is done. Meanwhile, he dreams of scratch building more freight cars and maybe another loco. 🚂

Raymond Grosser Earns MMR 362

The earliest memory I have of the railroad is when my parents moved from Minneapolis to Glenwood, Minn., where my dad was a brakeman on the Soo Line Railroad. It was the spring of 1945.

I had a wooden model locomotive that I could play with on the floor of the apartment house across the road from the Soo Line depot where we lived. When I wasn't pushing or pulling that engine around, I was pretending to be the engineer of the 2-8-0 switching locomotive I watched every day, and my mom and sister would be the box cars that I kept bumping into.

Christmas of 1948 came and I got my first model train, a Marx windup train that rode on real track. I wore that thing out in about two months and my folk's decided to get something more substantial, so I received my first Lionel set. In 1952 I discovered HO and built a layout in the

basement of the apartment house where I modeled until I went into the Navy in 1958.

When I returned from the Navy, I went to a technical school in Alexandria, Minn., to become a tool and die maker, and I built as my project a 1-inch scale 4-6-2 live-steam locomotive with Little Engines castings.

A lot of time and living passed by, and when I had to have a hip replaced in the winter of 1989 I had to find something else to do for a hobby. Riding horses and Army Airborne parachute operations were no longer an option, so my wife Renee and I started modeling railroads again.

We built a coffee table N-scale layout in January and February while recuperating from the surgery, but soon graduated to HO and started our first of several sectional layouts that we could take to conventions and shows. We built



those in an old barn and we could only put it up and work on it for a month in the spring and a month in the fall.

It was then that we decided to start modeling the areas of our youth, the Soo Line yard at Glenwood, Minn., and the Great Northern car shops and street Renee grew up on in Waite Park, Minn.

We have met so many wonderful people in this hobby and we have such great memories, but like everything else in life, change is inevitable.

In 2001, we decided to stop traveling with our layout, and we nearly scrapped it until a man I work with insisted that we build a building to put the layout in permanently.

We had a barn raising in April 2002 and moved our layout into its new home in July of that year.

I continue to build and paint railroad models while Renee continues to build structures for our Nostalgia Trip railroad. Now, instead of us bringing our layout to shows and conventions, people come here to see us.

We have an open house all the time when we are here, and modelers are always welcome. It is a wonderful hobby and we are very blessed to be able to participate in it.

My Achievement Program certificates are for Cars, Scenery, Electrical Engineer, Structures, Author, Prototype Modeling, and Volunteer. 🚂

