

MMR No. 88, Cyril J. Durrenberger



Master Model Railroader No. 88 is Cyril J. Durrenberger. Cyril, his wife Lynn Anne, and five-year-old son Carl, live in Austin, Texas. Cyril is with the Texas Air Control Board in the field of air pollution control. He has a B.A. in Math from Texas A&M University, and an M.A. in Math and M.S. in Engineering from the University of Texas. In addition to model railroading, Cyril's other hobbies are gardening, refinish-

ing antique furniture, listening to classical music and square dancing.

Cyril's railroading interests are wide-ranging. As a youngster, he often accompanied his father on train-watching trips. Summer visits with his grandparents in Shepherd, Texas, kindled a continuing interest in the old Houston East & West Texas, now the SP, and he remembers the last stand of steam on the SP in Texas. Vacation trips to Colorado brought the Rio Grande Southern and other narrow gauge lines to his attention. Since his wife is from Minnesota, Cyril has added the Great Northern to his list of favorites.

Cyril credits his father for getting him started in the hobby. The usual tinsplate set (which Cyril and his brother wore out by running so much) was followed by an HO kit when Cyril was 12. Cyril's dad helped him build his first layout, and showed him how to measure and photograph railroad equipment so it could be modeled. His present layout, modeled after the Houston East & West Texas in the 1925 era, was featured in the December 1979 issue of *Model Railroader*.

Cyril's dad was especially proud of that article but, sadly, passed away soon after publication.

There is not much having to do with our hobby that Cyril does not claim to enjoy. Photography, train watching, prototype research, historical society meetings, building models and operation are all of interest. His particular interest in freight cars has led to the development of an extensive library of information on them, with an emphasis on cars built prior to 1930. Cyril has taken the commendable additional step of sharing his knowledge with us by writing articles for *Prototype Modeler* and *Model Railroader*.

Cyril earned his MMR award with the following Achievement Certificates: Cars, Structures, Scenery, Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Chief Dispatcher, and Author. Admitting that he did have some misgivings about the Achievement Program before he started, Cyril now says that his standards for detail and quality of work have improved greatly. He also says that each of us should do what we enjoy in the hobby and not be bothered by what others may think.