

by Tom Madden

Albert E (Al) Turner Jr., of Lakewood, Colorado is Master Model Railroader #80. Al earned his award with Achievement Certificates for Structures, Motive Power, Cars, Chief Dispatcher, Association Official, Association Volunteer, and Author. Al is married, the father of three daughters, and is an expectant grandfather for the fourth time.

Al's introduction to model railroading came back in about 1928 when he received an Ives train set for Christmas. It didn't become his hobby, however, until about 1946. Like almost everyone else who started back then, Al acquired a Varney Little Joe switcher. It's still on the roster of Al's Furnace Creek and Colorado, albeit changed considerably with a superstructure scratchbuilt from tin can stock. (That was before Al knew you were supposed to use brass!)

At about the same time, Al started a somewhat related hobby: circus modeling. Al's "Turner Bros. Circus" started out to be just a loaded circus train, but it kept growing and is now a virtually complete circus set-up, loaded with animation. National Convention attendees will remember it from Rocky Rails '77 in Denver and Calgary in 1979. It has been displayed at almost every Rocky Mountain Region Convention and Division Meet for the past five years, and

NMRA BULLETIN

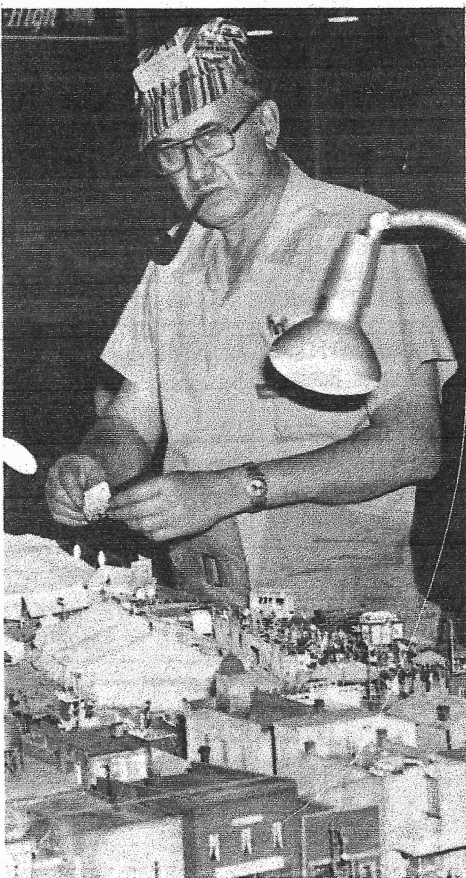
was featured in the October 1976 issue of Model Railroader.

Al first joined the NMRA back in 1948 in Ogden, Utah. He was instrumental in starting the Ogden Model Railroad Club, and served as its President for several years. He dropped out for a while while he served as Project Photographer during construction of the Glen Canyon Dam. Next came a move to Farmington, New Mexico, where he helped rebuild the Farmington Model Railroad Club layout.

Al moved to Denver in 1966, and it took him a few years to get involved with the NMRA again. But when he did he really got involved! He has served three years as Denver Division Superintendent, was RMR Publication Chairman for a year, and is the Regional Achievement Program Chairman, Region Vice President, and Chairman of the Centennial Rails '84 Committee. In addition to his NMRA activities, Al is the Director of District 12 of the Circus Fans Association and a long-time member of the Circus Model Builders International.

Al still works in HO and is a notorious and addicted scratchbuilder. His prime interest is building motive power and unusual cars. Although not a chronic contestaholic, he has managed to pick up several plaques and ribbons in Regional and Division contests, and a couple of National awards. Al has had articles published in the BULLETIN, Model Railroader, Railroad Model Craftsman, and the RMR Callboard. He has presented clinics at National and Regional conventions, and at many Division Meets and meetings.

Now retired, Al devotes his time to displaying Turner Bros. Circus in shopping malls and at conventions, writing articles on model railroading, and vigorously promoting the Achievement Program in the Region. **A**



MMR NO. 80. AL TURNER JR.