



Gene Casto, MMR #179

Gene Casto is Master Model Railroader 179 and is a member of the Lone Star Region from Kingwood, Texas. His introduction to railroading began with the real thing. He was employed by the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway Company in the early Forties as a machinist apprentice in the Huntington, W.V., shops. Uncle Sam called and he traded his greasy overalls for an olive drab uniform. Upon

returning from the services, he became so disenchanted with the transition from steam to diesel that he left the railroad and entered the construction field. His love for the railroad and the steam locomotive never waned. In 1948 he built his first model—a C&O caboose. This achievement catapulted him into the next 40 years of building models, mostly from scratch.

Gene joined the NMRA and the North Central Region in 1969 and attended his first NMRA national convention in 1970 in St. Louis. The bug really bit him. Since that time he has attended 27 regional and six national conventions, receiving 31 regional and 12 national awards along the way. He feels that his modeling success was due to his involvement in the NMRA Achievement Program and also to the inspiration he received from a fellow modeler, Irv Schulz, MMR, of the North Central Region. Although he enjoys all aspects of model railroading, the building of cars, structures, and animated dioramas are his forte. More attention is being extended to the Achievement Program, which presents a better understanding of its purpose to both old and new members alike, ensuring that the National Model Railroad Association will always be what its name implies.

Gene holds certificates in Motive Power, Cars, Structures, Prototype Modeler, Model Railroad Civil Engineer, Association Volunteer, and Author. 