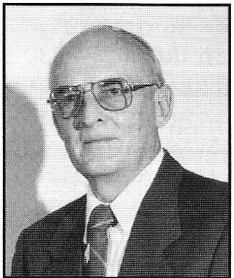


Walter J. Neumen, MMR #205

Walter J. Neumen, is a native New Yorker who started model building at the early age of eight and built model airplanes and ships until age 14. While at a local hobby shop, Walter noticed a Megow model



Walter Neumen

refrigerator car that cost 25¢, and from that time he has been an avid model railroader.

Walter enlisted in the United States Coast Guard during WWII and served for 42 months. He was in the Invasion of Normandy and occupation of Japan at its surrender. After discharge from service, he went on to school, work, and marriage—eventually getting back to model railroading.

Walter has been married for 44 years, with four children and six grandchildren. His wife, June, enjoys going to national and regional model railroad conventions. Walter retired five years ago as senior design engineer, after working for Sperry/UNISYS Corp. for 38 years.

He has been a member of the NMRA, Northeastern Region, and Sunrise Trail Division continually since 1964 and has been a life member of the NMRA since 1986. He served as a director for Sunrise Trail Division for six years and as contest chairman of Northeastern Region for two years.

Walter has been building a layout since 1950, which started in an attic room. This layout was moved to his present house in 1960. From there it expanded in a basement room that is 13 feet wide by 23 feet long. All track is hand laid, using code 70 rail and wood ties. Turnouts were scratchbuilt in place. The layout is point-to-point with a stub yard at both ends, and each with an automatic turntable mechanism of his design. The layout is one-third signaled, with remaining detectors and signals already made but not installed. Several logic boards still have to be made before the remaining track can be signaled.

Scenery has just been started, with the construction of several buildings in progress. Command control is used for operation in conjunction with a computer-generated way bill system.

“The NMRA Achievement Program has been responsible for my doing better work in all phases of model building,” says Walter, “Yes, putting all the paperwork together for each award is time consuming, but very gratifying when you see what accomplishments were made by participating in the program.” AP certificates held are for Cars, Structures, Civil and Electrical Engineering, Association Volunteer, Chief Dispatcher and Motive Power. 