

Love of trains started at grade crossing

June Maier earns MMR No. 243

Iam pleased to announce that June Maier of Norton, OH, a member of the Mid Central Region has become Master Model Railroader No. 243.

June holds AP Certificates as: Master Builder - Motive Power, Master Builder Structures, Master Builder - Scenery, Model Railroad Engineer - Civil, Model Railroad Engineer - Electrical, Association Volunteer and Model Railroad Author.

In 1956 when June and her husband Rick (also an MMR) were saving for their future home and wedding expenses, they chose not to go out on weekends to save money. Instead, they spent their time together building and painting models for a future layout. Rick's interest in model railroading started when he was a small boy and June was able to share her interest in the hobby as they planned their first layout together for their new home. From an early age June had an interest in trains and would count each car in a train as it passed in front of her at a crossing. She often wondered what was inside each car. She lived near a six-track crossing, so there was never a lack of railroad presence.

As June's wedding drew near and she worked to finish a degree in education as well as save for the wedding, the layout took a back seat to other more pressing interests. She lovingly wrapped each structure, car and locomotive in newspaper and packed them in boxes for the future.

As time passed a few layouts were built and changed and

built and changed. On each layout June helped solder the wires under the layout and muttered often that "this is the last time I want to do this down here." June helped lay track the old way, by hand. She nursed her aching and dented fingertips. She had a permanent dimple in her index finger from pressing hard on her X-Acto knife. There always seemed to be one more thing to add to the current layout.

June and Rick started a family with a son, but then increased it with two daughters. As the family was growing up June was involved in racing sports cars, camping, scouting, football, scuba diving, cheerleading, dancing lessons, swimming, skiing and anything else that the kids were interested in. All this time the trains and the layout were in the background.

A large garage was built on the back of their home and the "final" layout was planned. To the idea of a "final layout" June scoffs "sure!"



Once again June was under the layout doing the wiring. This time it was a bit different. The layout was higher and new tools and technology made the job easier. June and Rick are building a period railroad set in the 1880 to 1900 time frame. They do research and build from scratch.

Now the children have been raised and have moved away from home and their first grandchild is on the way. June has had a variety of interesting job experiences along the way including education, insurance and catering, not to mention being a mother. The trains still go up at Christmas, one under the tree as has been the tradition since Rick was a boy and one on the porch railing for the neighbors to enjoy. June still counts cars as trains cross in front of her at crossings and she still hears the evening train whistle as she goes to sleep at night.

June says "there is just one difference from those things I have experienced over the last forty years in model railroading. Now, I have been honored to receive the Master Model Railroader Award. My husband and I join one other couple in the NMRA to have received this honor. Will our layout ever be finished? Are layouts ever finished? We all know that answer to that."

June is currently serving as the AP Chairman of Division 1 of MCR, editor of the Division 1 newsletter, *The Peddler Freight*, and also does the calligraphy on all our Master Model Railroader certificates.

Congratulations June and welcome as a Master Model Railroader.

— Pete Moffett