



Larry Deagon,
MMR #182

Larry Deagon, 67, lives in Birmingham Alabama with his wife Jane. He received his Master of Music degree from Northwestern University in 1953. Now retired (almost) Larry was a member of the Birmingham Symphony, a high school band director, music supervisor and a free-lance musician and conductor.

Larry can't remember a time when he wasn't interested in trains. His grandfather was a claim agent for the Pittsburgh, Shawmutt & Northern, and his uncle worked for the Erie Railroad. He received his customary Christmas Lionel train set in the early 1930s, and by high school graduation in Toronto, Canada, he had built a large tinplate layout in the basement, inspired by the Frank Ellison articles in *Model Builder Magazine*.

Following a stint in the Navy, during World War II, Larry discovered HO gauge and started building the ultimate layout in the family garage. Marriage ended that venture and the next one was a 4'x 6' layout that fitted behind a Murphy bed in a one-room apartment. The present layout, the Delta Central Railroad, is built around the walls of a 26'x 30' room in the basement and is loosely based on the Maryland & Pennsylvania Railroad in the time frame of 1940 more or less.

Larry joined the NMRA in 1964, the Southeastern Region in 1975 and learned a great deal by attending their conventions. He is also a member of The Wrecking Crew, a round robin model railroad club. Mark Stone introduced Larry to the Achievement Program at the 1988 National Convention in Birmingham which opened a completely new challenge for him.

Among the many phases of model railroading, Larry enjoys scratchbuilding and has won first and second place awards for his national contest entries and best-in-show at the regional level twice. He has earned Certificates of Achievement in Cars, Scenery, Structures, Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Association Volunteer and Author. He is currently working on the requirements for Motive Power, Chief Dispatcher and Association Official. He is serving on the NMRA Standards/Electrical Committee, and as Southeastern Achievement Program

chairman, Southeastern Region director, Steel City Division superintendent and has served as Steel City Division Train Show chairman. He was a member of the 1988 Birmingham National Convention Committee.

Larry finds his association with the people in the hobby very invigorating and the hobby of model railroading with its variety of interests extremely challenging.