



Bob Clarke

MASTER MODEL RAILROADER #144 BOB CLARKE

Bob Clarke, 49 years young and holding, resides in Schertz, Texas (San Antonio is a suburb of this thriving metropolis). Bob and his lovely wife, Mary Lou (both of whom are transplanted to Texas from Indiana), have two sons. Bob is a senior management analyst for the United States Air Force at Randolph AFB, Texas. He has been a federal employee nearly 27 years, 22 of which being in active duty serving in the United States, Vietnam and Germany.

Yes, Bob received the traditional Lionel for Christmas in his single-digit years of age, but that really didn't stimulate his interest in model railroading. After graduating high school, he became employed at a local Indiana manufacturing plant, and his friend, Bill Siberen, is the guilty one who sparked his model railroading interest and caused all this fun for the past 30 years. Although Bob's early modeling years followed no particular direction, a military tour near Tacoma, Wash., hooked him on the beautiful Pacific Northwest and its logging industry. Bob states, "I just fell in love with those big trees and the logger non-conformity law which reads 'if it works, use it.'"

Bob is probably best known for his realistic coniferous trees; he's built hundreds of 'em. His Ironhead Timber Co., which is literally covered with trees, appeared in the October 1985 issue of MODEL RAILROADER. Bob is presenting a trees clinic at the AstroRail '89 convention in Houston. He strives for realistic scenery, hence he earned his first achievement certificate for Scenery followed by his second love, Structures. Author, Association Volunteer, Civil Engineer, Electrical Engineer, and Cars followed some years later. His goal is to complete the requirements for all the certificates.

Model railroading enters into Bob's everyday life, whether it be entertainment, vacation, business, or socializing. It's the best medium Bob knows to promote camaraderie between similar interests with little inference to social class or income. He lives trains! And, he's involved! Bob is the Lone Star Region MARKER LAMP editor. Also, he enjoys chairing model railroad functions from one-day local events to national conventions. He is co-chairing the '90 LSR and the '93 National Narrow Gauge conventions.

The future! Bob wants to continue promoting model railroading as a great hobby and a possible cure for what ails you. It's fun!