

Belding H. McCurdy MMR # 174

Belding really started in model railroading in 1920 with a complete layout including running water and an O gauge mechanical train with two switches. This was built by his mother (as a Christmas layout), who continued into O gauge Lionel, then standard gauge Lionel. Finally the layout was turned over to Belding and his brother for use in the basement all year.

Belding volunteered for military service in April 1941 and served in the Pacific leaving the service as a Lt. Colonel, Field Artillery.

Upon his return from the war Belding was active in NMRA in the Forties and until he moved to Florida in 1957, at which time he sold his entire HO layout. At this time Belding owned a model railroad store and manufacturing business, and was chief engineer of a large automotive man-

ufacturing company, not leaving any-time for layout construction.

After retiring for the second time in 1981, Belding received an N gauge train set from his son. This soon became a four by six layout and then an L-shaped layout, in the spare bedroom, in his 18th-story penthouse apartment. Eventually Belden moved to a three story townhouse, and now has a 20 x 25 layout with almost 1,000 feet of track.

After moving to Florida Belding joined the Power Squadron, and is now a Life Member with full certificate and a Past Commander. He joined a Yacht Club and is now a Past Commodore and a Past International President of the Blue Gavel, (past Commodores of recognized yacht clubs throughout the world).

Belding is currently a director of a bank and large insurance company, and is still very active in his yacht club, his

church, and the NMRA. Belding is the current NMRA Scouting Railroad Merit Badge Coordinator in the Achievement Program, and is also a Life Member of the NMRA. He also serves as an officer in the Gulf Coast Railfan Club and actively participates in the operation of a local club. 

