



Master Model Railroader award No. 83 goes to O-scaler Lorell Joiner of San Antonio, Tex. Lorell holds Achievement Certificates for Motive Power, Cars, Scenery, Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Chief Dispatcher, and Author.

The traditional father and son Lionel train set started Lorell in the hobby at

MMR No. 83, Lorell H. Joiner

age 5. At 10 he received his first HO set and built his first layout. Over the next 14 years Lorell constructed 11 more HO layouts, culminating in what he describes as "a 24x24-foot monster that had handlaid code 70 rail, with full scenery."

In 1968, while stationed with the Army in Germany, Lorell switched to O scale and began preliminary planning for his Great Southern Railroad. The year 1968 was also notable as Lorell and his wife, Cynthia, were married that year. Upon his return to the States in 1970, Lorell built his home and began full-time planning for the Great Southern and the building to house it. That 50 x 60-foot structure was completed in September 1976, and the

Great Southern itself only three years later! Some of the statistics on the Great Southern are awe-inspiring: 2577 feet of track; 68,000 handlaid ties; about 360,000 spikes. The June 1980 *Model Railroader* featured an extensive article and interview on Lorell and the Great Southern.

Lorell is a commercial developer and architect, with additional degrees in Economics and Finance. In addition to his modeling activities, Lorell is a "wine collector, book collector, Chinese porcelain collector, Egyptian history buff, and avid fisherman." He also founded the Texas Dressage Society, a European-type horsemanship and riding club which is now statewide. All this, and he's only 35!—Tom Madden