



# NMRA BULLETIN

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## IN MEMORIAM

### BOBBYE HALL 1909-2007

**F**ormer hobby industry icon Bobbye Hall of Dallas, Texas, passed away Saturday, January 27, at a Dallas hospital from congestive heart failure. She was 97.

A native of Whitney, Texas, Mrs. Hall rose to prominence in the hobby industry and National Model Railroad Association during a 55-year career with Hall's Hobby House and Hallmark Models, Inc. In the late 1960s, she became the first woman to import brass models from Japan with a line of locomotives and cars from U.S. Southwestern railroads. Mrs. Hall went on to import models from Korean manufacturers as Hallmark Models became a recognized importer in the industry.

In 1996, Mrs. Hall was inducted into the Model Railroad Industry Association's Hall of Fame along with industry moguls Hal Carstens, A.C. Kalmbach, Bruce Walthers, Irvin R. Athearn, and William K. Walthers. She also received the NMRA's Pioneers of Model Railroading award the same year. She was the first woman elected to the Hobby Industry Association's board of directors in 1953. She served three years on the board before stepping aside, but continued to serve hobby industry associations in numerous capacities until closing her business at age 92 in 2001.

In May 2006, Mrs. Hall released her autobiography, *TRACKS FROM TEXAS TO TOKYO*, which chronicles her rise from the early days of Hall's Hobby House in Dallas, where she along with her husband, Buddy, converted a former ice cream parlor into a hobby and antique furniture business in 1946. Since the book's release and until her death, Mrs. Hall toured several cities in Texas and Oklahoma making public appearances and signing her books. She last signed at a Dallas-area train show in mid-January. 📖

rev 12-06

All notices of changes or corrections to this page must be directed to the NMRA Secretary

2007 NMRA National Convention Dates and National Train Show Reservations:

Detroit, MI • July 22 - 28, 2007 • Info: • <http://www.nmra.org/2007/>

Trade Show Booth Reservations—Debbie Draper, Registrar • 10837 N. 34th Place, Phoenix, AZ 85028-3310 • (602) 569-9072 • [nattrainshow@aol.com](mailto:nattrainshow@aol.com)  
2008—Anaheim, CA • 2009—Hartford, CT • 2010—Milwaukee, WI • 2011—Sacramento, CA



**BRUCE WALTHERS  
1919-2007**

**B**ruce J. Walthers was born in Plymouth, Wisconsin, on September 9, 1919, and left this world at his home in Solana Beach, California, on January 28, 2007, after a valiant battle with multiple cancers.

Bruce was actively involved in many different industrial, civic, and church groups, often serving as their diligent and hard-working president. A graduate of South Division High School, Milwaukee, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Bruce served in the Navy during World War II as a meteorologist on Kwajelein Atoll in the South Pacific. After active duty, he continued to serve in the Navy Reserves at the Glenview Air Station achieving the rank of commander.

Bruce's civilian career spanned 60 years at Wm. K. Walthers, Inc., a manufacturer of model railroad equipment founded by his father in 1932. He became president in 1958, and under his leadership the company became the largest distributor of model railroad products in the world. He successfully transferred the family business to the third generation in 1984, remaining active as chairman of the board to the present. He was a board member and served as president of both the Model Railroad Industry Association and the Hobby Industry Association of America. The HIAA awarded him its highest honors, the Meritorious Award of Honor and Lifetime Membership, in recognition of his many years of service and significant contributions to the industry.

Bruce was a lifelong learner and mentor to others. Early in his business life he overcame a fear of public speaking by com-

pleting the Dale Carnegie training course. He used his new skills to help others do the same, both as a Dale Carnegie volunteer leader and later as an alumnus of the program. As a member of the HIAA board, Bruce was often designated at the national meetings to interact on behalf of the association with the celebrity performing that year. He had fond memories of sparing on stage with Joan Rivers, Mel Torme, Bill Cosby, George Burns, Joel Grey, Alan King, Julie Budd, Vic Damone, and Billy Crystal. As the president of the Milwaukee chapter of the Council of Independent Managers and Organizer and President of the National Council of Independent Managers, he helped to strengthen the expertise of countless small business owners. A community leader, he served as a board member of Cardinal Stritch University and board member and president of St. Anthony's Hospital.

In retirement, Bruce was a frequent traveler, and participated in numerous Elderhostel programs. He stayed active by bicycling, researching family genealogy, and serving as board member and president of condominium associations in Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin, and Solana Beach, California. He was a founding member of Holy Family Parish in Whitefish Bay, served as President of the Holy Name Society, and was a Parish and Regional Chair of the Catholic Family Movement. At St. James Parish in Solana Beach, he was actively involved as an Associate of the Congregation of Jesus and Mary (the Eudist Community), a Lector at Sunday Mass, and facilitator of a Small Church Community Group.

## ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

**I**t has been brought to our attention that during the transition of the editorial staff, the May 2006 Achievement Program report was not printed in the *NMRA BULLETIN*. Please accept our apologies for the omission. Here is the missing report in its entirety.

### NMRA AP CERTIFICATE REPORT

\*Indicates first Certificate of Achievement

**MAY 2006**

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### JANUARY 2007

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Benjamin Horn, MER 687, Arlington, Virginia

### MMRS EARNED



STEVE SANDIFER EARNS MMR 389

Steve Sandifer received his first model railroad for Christmas in 1950. He was 18 months old. That Lionel layout soon was mounted to a board kept under the bed and eventually was expanded to a permanent layout in his bedroom. During his junior high years, he became dissatisfied with the lack of realism in Lionel and obtained his parent's permission to swap it for HO. He then was granted permission to build a room in the attic, accessible through a disappearing stairway in his bedroom. The room was 10x32 feet, with 4-foot ceiling at the sides and 7-foot 6-inches in the center. This is where he learned to do drywall and electrical work. Since his dad had unlimited access to crate wood and possessed a good workshop, Steve made his own True Scale-style roadbed and hand laid his track and turnouts. The layout lasted until he took off for Abilene Christian University, but he never returned to live in that house again.

He married in 1970, completed his MA in 1972, and immediately moved to Great Britain where he was a minister with the Skelmersdale Church of Christ for nearly six years. Both of his sons were born in Britain. In 1977 the family moved to Houston where Steve remains as a minister with the Southwest Central Church

of Christ. During all of that time he was seen with his film and video cameras recording railways. His photography has appeared in *Trains*, *Railfan & Railroad*, and has been used by Atlas in advertising. On March 4, 1997, he accepted an invitation to attend the San Jacinto Model Railroad Club in Houston and has attended nearly every meeting since. He is now the club's president. He dusted off his old HO equipment and soon built a modular layout called the Sandy Ford Junction which was featured in Model Trains International (UK, November 2003). After extensive research he began his prototypical Santa Fe Howard District railroad in August 2005. It's a double-deck layout in a 20x14-foot expanded former bedroom. Steve has been an active Santa Fe fan and serves the Santa Fe Railway Historical & Modeling Society as its webmaster.

He credits his friends in the San Jacinto club with the inspiration and tremendous assistance in completing his MMR.

*Steve has earned AP Certificates for Master Builder-Cars, Master Builder-Structures, Model Railroad Engineer-Civil, Model Railroad Engineer-Electrical, Chief Dispatcher, Association Volunteer, and Model Railroad Author.*

## CLASSIFIEDS

WANTED: Alexander Scale Models O scale Lufkin Oil Pump kit #430 or just the instruction sheet. Duane Henry at duanehenry@prodigy.net

FOR SALE: Magazines MR 1946-2002; RMC 1957-1996; Mainline Modeler 1980-1996; NMRA Bulletin 1967-2005; Prototype Modeler 1977-1981; Model Engineers Workshop 1994-2002. LSSAE to Brian Taylor, 1836 Highland Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660, taylorarthur1@sbcglobal.net

FREE O scale list: List of O scale train shows for 2007. Send LSSAE to Bob Retallak, Dept SR07, 2224 Adner Ct., Columbus, OH 43220.

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## The final six membership contest winners each bag a new loco!

The NMRA Membership contest ended January 31 with three new NMRA members and the three members who referred them each winning brand new locomotives in that month's drawing. In total, 18 members were Membership Contest winners!

#### New member winners

Jack Cutler, Clifton Park, NY  
Eric Pohlman, Hamilton, OH  
Harold Wilcox, University City, MO

#### Referring member winners

Richard J. Smith  
William Mense  
Richard Lake

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