



**Basil A. McLean**

**MASTER MODEL  
RAILROADER #147  
BASIL A. McLEAN**

Basil A. McLean, 87, MMR 147, lives in Hendersonville, N.C., with his wife, Louise. Basil arrived in the U.S. at age three from Lancashire, England, and lived in California until he was graduated from the University of California as a Mechanical Engineer. He worked for the American Bureau of Shipping for 40 years on many assignments in the U.S. and Genoa, Italy. Before retirement, he became senior vice-president of the firm that checked the seaworthiness of merchant ships. During WWII he worked with the War Research Council checking into problems of welded ship failures. In

1962, he was honored by Italian President Segni as a Knight Commander of the Order of Merit of Italian Republic.

Basil received his first train set at age six. In the '30's he was in New York and visited the New York Society of Model Engineers and caught the bug for model railroading. He began building in OO scale, purchased locomotives, but had no layout. Later he scratchbuilt a brass D&RG K-28 in OO. Later this won MER contest awards and qualified him as part of the Motive Power AP.

A move to Hendersonville in '73 after retirement brought a shift to HO. He has a layout now that reflects his memories of the California Northern Electric Traction which served the Sacramento Valley. The layout attempts to replicate, with some license, that portion of the SN line between Oakland and the car ferry at Mallard. Port Chicago is an interchange yard with SP-ATSF pool trackage loop. All equipment is based upon SN design, some of which is brass and some scratchbuilt. His models of the car-ferry Ramon and a Holman motor car have won contests at MER meets. A Montezuma Slough drawbridge also won a first at an SER meet.

Basil joined the NMRA in the '40's. He has an assistant and super of Division 8 of MER. AP certificates held are Motive Power, Cars, Structures, Prototype Modeler, Civil, Electrical, and Volunteer.

He feels the greatest dividend he receives from the hobby, aside from the pleasures of accomplishment, are the many friendships he has formed not only locally, but throughout the NMRA, many of whom he has met only through correspondence. Often in a quandary about a modeling problem, he has written well-known modelers asking for help and has never been disappointed.