



Don Buckley, #199

When the first issue of *Model Railroader* hit the newsstands in Washington, D.C., Don Buckley talked his granddad into selling their standard gauge Ives and Lionel—and going for a mix of scale and tinplate in O gauge.

Trains took a back seat during Don's stint playing tenor sax and clarinet with the big bands. They all but disappeared during college and service in the Pacific with Navy Air in WWII.

In 1946, he settled in Wilmington, Del., to start a family, a career as a copywriter, and an HO pike named the Edgemoor & Potomac—all steam and Pennsy. Strapped for cash, he kitbashed a K-4 from an A.C. Gilbert Hudson, making boiler modifications out of tin cans and a trailing truck from brass.

His route to the Madison Avenue bigtime was circuitous, via Baltimore and Cincinnati where he built a playroom storage wall with a large fold-down scenicked 027 layout for his son.

When New York beckoned, the trains stopped again and Don became an award-winning creative director for some of the top ten agencies, building campaigns for Revlon, Clairol, P&G, General Foods, TWA, Mobil, Frito-Lay and Bristol-Myers. One morning in 1970, he shaved and kissed it goodbye and started an organic farm in Connecticut.

In 1976 Don and Gloria were married and founded Buckley & Buckley, a partnership dealing in 18th Century American antiques. Don was teaching miniature cabinet-making on the side as a fellow of the International Guild of Miniature Artisans. At Christmas, he found himself done in by an N scale Pacific in a shop window. Back to trains. This time for good!

Don first joined NTrak and then the NMRA and started planning the Podunk Valley Line (of the PRR). He designed and made a pilot model of the NTrak lapel pin, giving it to Jim FitzGerald at Minute Man in Boston. He got involved with the AP by assisting Rick Shoup with PR and promotional ideas.

He's been a frequent contributor to the *Bulletin*, *NTrak Newsletter*, *N Scale Magazine*, and recently *Model Railroader*. He holds certificates for Scenery, Structures, Cars, Electrical, Author, Volunteer and Prototype.

Don Buckley's Podunk Valley pike is temporarily on ice as he helps the Iron Yankees of the CNE get off the group with an ambitious research and modeling job, reviving the fallen flag of the Central New England Railway that used to run through his own backyard. Other distractions include two terrific grandchildren, singing bass with a barbershop chorus, and chairman of the Board of Deacons for the Congregational Church of Salisbury.