

# Nn3 grew to HOn3, large scale

*Keith Koch earns MMR 228*

Keith Koch resumed model railroading about twenty years ago when he and a cousin built two N-trak modules. An interest in Colorado narrow gauge and his friendship with then Nn3 manufacturer, Robert Sloan, led to several Nn3 projects with fellow modeler Mark Wilson. (See the cover of the February 1984 *Model Railroader*).

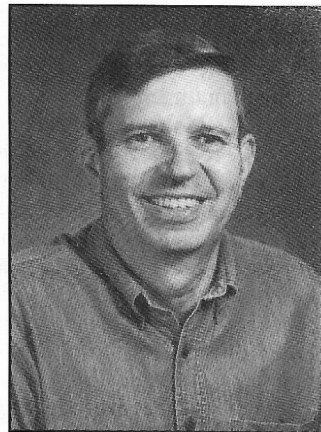
About ten years ago a new home and a larger basement prompted a switch to HOn3. The Bear Creek and Western, which was featured in the September, 1993 *Model Railroader* was Keith's first effort in HOn3. As with any sizable layout, a lot of help and encouragement was needed.

Keith's oldest son, Kurt, assembled and scratch built structures. Members of the Twin Cities Narrow Gaugers club, particularly Jim McHenry and Mark Wilson, provided creative solutions in many tough spots. These three modelers meet once a week on a rotating

basis in each other's homes to assist layout construction.

In 1993 the original BC&W was torn down and a new one begun. The new layout has larger yards and broader radii to accommodate a pair of newly acquired former D&RGW K-28 Mikados. The long-range goal is that the new BC&W will be completed by the 1999 National NMRA Convention to be hosted in the Twin Cities by the Thousand Lakes Region.

Before the original BC&W was



scrapped, MMR John Whitlock encouraged Keith to have it judged for the scenery certificate. John also suggested that as the new layout was constructed, Keith work on other certificates. He has now completed certificates in scenery, structures, civil and electrical engineering, rolling stock, motive power and author. Several of the cars used for the rolling stock certificate and all of the motive power were built in 1/2" scale, quite a change from the Nn3 modeling Keith did previously.

In addition to Keith's membership in the Twin Cities Narrow Gaugers, he also is a member of the G-Whiz Gang (for large scale modelers). The G-Whiz Gang was featured in the July, 1991,

*Bulletin*. Both groups display modular narrow-gauge layouts at shopping mall shows in the Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota area.

As his interest in large-scale modeling has increased, Keith has written several articles for *Outdoor Railroader*. He is looking forward to the day when he can move to the southwest and begin constructing a garden railroad.

Keith's family includes his wife, Bonnie, who willingly agreed to expand the new BC&WS into the laundry and furnace room; three sons, Kurt, Kevin and Craig; and Reebok, the cat, who has carefully inspected all aspects of Keith's modeling. •