



Larry Keeler

MASTER MODEL RAILROADER #137 LARRY KEELER

Larry Keeler, 59, lives in Overland Park, Kan., with his wife, Pat. Presently he is self-employed as a model railroad manufacturer. Larry grew up around Milwaukee, Wis., and while still a teenager, took flying lessons at the Waukesha County Airport and earned a private pilot's license. In 1948, he went to work for the Milwaukee Road as a fireman. A year or so later he became interested in model railroading.

Model railroading kept pushing Larry toward the electronic field as he was convinced that electronic control of model railroads could be improved. In 1955, he left the Milwaukee Road to pursue an education and career in electronics. In the next several years he drifted through several electronics jobs and fi-

nally in 1961 he wound up in Kanas City with a medical electronics firm. He soon became the corporate pilot for the firm in command of the company airplane. He did this until 1986. It was in 1961 that he got back into model railroading and by 1964, Larry had designed and installed his first command control system. He believes this was prior to any other system at the time. In 1987, Larry founded Keeler Rail Specialties and produces and markets the CTC-80 Command Control System.

Larry feels that the hobby of model railroading has been good to him. He states that he has learned a great deal from it and enjoys sharing what he has learned with anyone who will listen.