



Al Scofield and Roy Lumpkin test hosteler's controls at table-less roundhouse. Coal shute on left.

FLAGSTOP: *The Atlanta Railroad Club*

A Nights Activities on one of the most progressive O gauge Clubs in the South, founded in the early thirties.

by IRWIN KIRBY

Photos by the Author

SOME twenty model railroad fans hold forth Monday nights at their large loft at 486½ Edgewood Avenue, in Atlanta, Ga. Although founded back in 1932, the club has been at this location only four years. Shortly after the war, when their former landlord's business expanded, the members were forced to give up their surroundings on Forsythe Street.

One experience like that was enough for these hard working businessmen. In order to insure the club a permanent site, one of the members bought a two-story business structure as an investment. He rented out the lower floor and let his fellow club members have the sizeable loft for a long-term lease at a nominal sum—practically a giveaway.

The present layout was no accidental construction. When the loft was bare, the members designed the entire set-up, complete to the last supporting beam. Every piece of wood was cut to size before the layout was assembled. Now, after four years of hard work, the hobbyists are ready to "run." Only major items to be completed are the roundhouse, turntable and landscaping.

There are some 750 feet of O gauge main line trackage in addition to 1250 feet more in sidings and yards. As well as striving for authenticity in construction, the club is realistic in operation, even down to "rule G" which specifies that no one shall operate any of the equipment while under the influence of intoxicants.

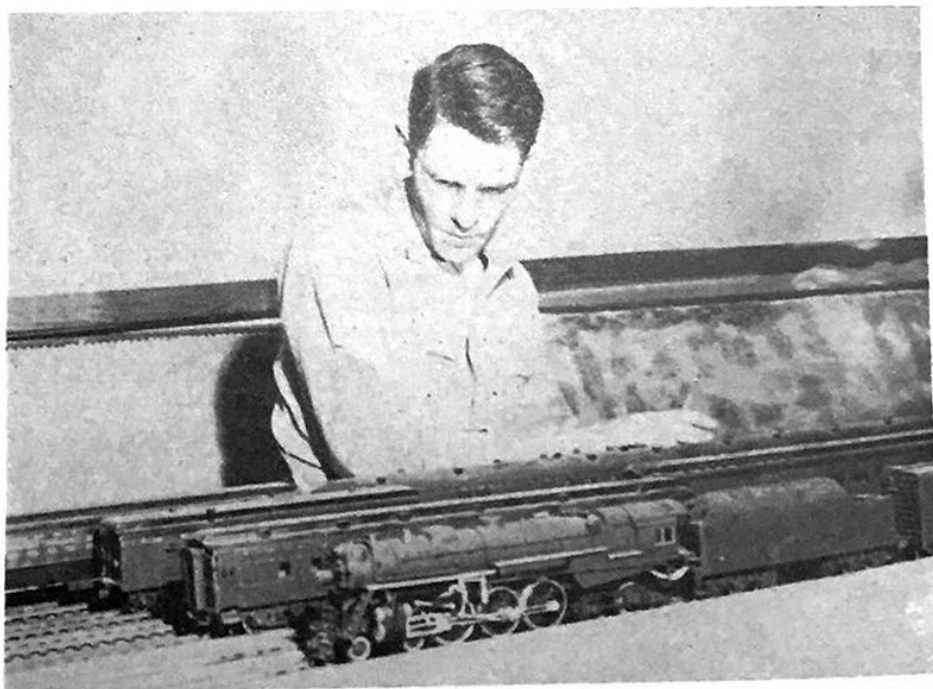
Much rolling stock was moved over from the old location and with mass production methods, even more are under construction. About 200 freight and pas-

senger cars of many varieties are now on the rails powered by about twenty locomotives of all types, with another dozen being built.

An odd feature of the layout is that very slight grades are employed. The steepest incline anywhere is only 1¼ percent, so that no worries crop up about straining motors or insufficient pulling

power of locomotives, most of which are of modern design.

Who rents out the lower story of the building? A hamburger machine manufacturer moved in beneath the club. Curiosity got the better of him one Monday night; he went upstairs to see what was going on and promptly "caught the bug." Now he's a member too.



Atlanta club member takes his post and checks operation of his control panel. That's a 4-6-4 Hudson type passenger locomotive in foreground.