

The
Model Railroad Club, Inc.™
Founded 1949

PRESS RELEASE

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A. Paul Mallery, Model Railroad Club Founder, 1918-2004

UNION, NJ -- The Model Railroad Club, Inc. announced today the passing of its founder, Paul Mallery, on January 7, 2004 after a brief illness. He turned 86 on December 25th.

Paul Mallery is considered one of the pioneers of model railroading. He authored over three hundred articles and numerous books covering many aspects of the hobby. He was one of the earliest recipients of the title "Master Model Railroader," a recognition given by the National Model Railroad Association to its members who achieve a level of expertise in seven specific areas of the hobby. Over the years Mr. Mallery was the recipient of numerous honors from the model railroading industry for his many contributions to the hobby.

"Our hobby has lost a man of great intellect and skill, and our Club has lost its undisputed champion," said Model Railroad Club president Ray Russell. "His legacy lives on at the club he loved so much. His vision and commitment to excellence will guide and inspire us at The Model

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Railroad Club for decades to come. I am personally grateful to have known him. My thoughts, and prayers go out to his family”

Mr. Mallery had a distinguished career in the United States Army, retiring with the rank of colonel. He also enjoyed success in the private sector, which included a consulting business and a career at Bell Labs. But it was model railroading that provided Mr. Mallery his greatest joy. On February 17, 1949 Mr. Mallery, along with Paul Draper, Walter Kalin and Ken Robinson formed the Summit-New Providence HO Railroad Club. For the next twenty-five years, the club was housed in the basement of Mr. Mallery’s home in Murray Hill, New Jersey. In the late 1960’s Mr. Mallery was instrumental in securing a permanent home for the club by forging a partnership with the Union County (New Jersey) Department of Parks and Recreation. The plan was ambitious. A large building expressly for the purpose of building and operating model railroad displays would be designed, financed and built by club members on vacant park land, adjacent to a light industrial area off U. S. Route 22 east in the Township of Union. Upon completion, the building would be donated to the county and in return the club would be granted permanent occupancy, provided it maintained the facility and agreed to certain other civic responsibilities.

Two other area model railroad clubs were approached and a merger proposed. The combined clubs would be headquartered in the new building. When the other clubs decided not to join in,

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the Summit-New Providence club changed its name to The Model Railroad Club, Inc. and went ahead with the planned construction. That building has been expanded several times since the cornerstone was laid in 1972 and today it houses one of the largest model railroad displays in North America. Future expansions are planned. The Model Railroad Club, Inc. today has over one hundred members.

“This is my baby, there’s no question about that,” Mr. Mallery once said of the club during an interview. When asked if the club had become what he expected, he replied: “The Club has exceeded my expectations.”

Private arrangements were pending.

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