

## Frank Ellison and Delta Lines Display

Frank Ellison

(1887-1964)

“Dean of Model Railroading”

Frank Ellison was a well-known model railroad operator and modeler. He authored over 400 illustrated articles and created the famous Delta lines layout in his home in New Orleans, Louisiana that inspired so many model railroaders.

He was the winner of the NMRA Pioneer of Model Railroading award in 1994. In his career, he also worked as a telegrapher, advertising salesman, and musician, touring as part of a Vaudeville Act, the “Three Ellisons”.

### Delta Lines

Delta Lines was a famous O scale model railroad created by Frank Ellison and located in the basement of his home in New Orleans, Louisiana. It ran on O gauge outside third-rail track and was constructed with an estimated 3,100 feet of track, 24,000 spikes, & 200 switches.

A golden spike ceremony took place for Delta Lines in 1941. The ceremony was attended by Ellison and other charter members of the Delta Lines group. Joseph Lallande, general freight agent for the Southern Pacific, drove in the golden spike. Over several decades, Ellison continued to construct and grow his Delta Lines layout.

Delta Lines inspired modelers with its realistic scale structures and scenery. Organized into two divisions, Chapelle and Fillmore, Ellison reproduced the operations of real railroads, using call boards, schedules, and dispatchers for the running of Delta Lines. It was operated weekly by Ellison and others.