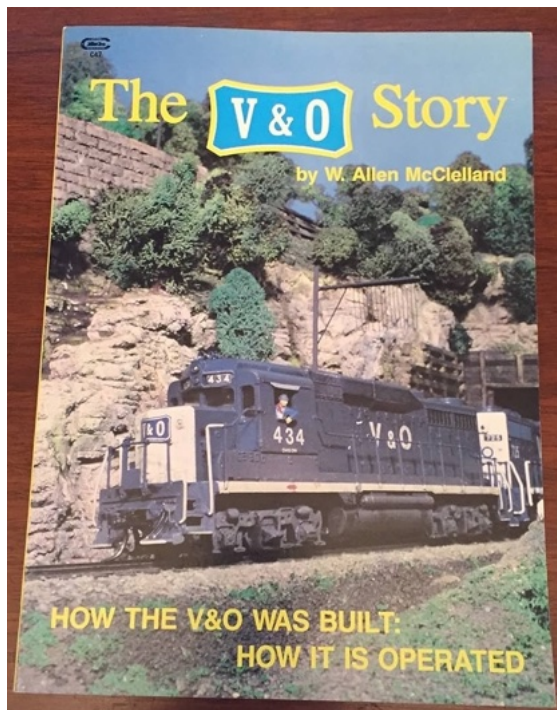


## 12. DOUG GURIN'S FAVORITE BOOK



My first choice for favorite book is *The V&O Story*, (aka *The Virginian & Ohio Story*) by Allen McClelland [as well as its sequel *Allen McClelland and his Virginian & Ohio: The Man Who Changed Everything*, by Tony Koester 2022.]

The first book of this series is my favorite because it not only describes and illustrates Allen's layout, it reflects a groundbreaking analysis of Allen's underlying creative thinking behind its wide influence. When Tony Koester was planning the original V&O series of eight articles for *Railroad Model Craftsman*, he invited me to do a background search of Allen's prior articles. Beginning in 1976, he invited me to help outline each installment and generate probing questions he posed to Allen seeking explanations how the his V&O developed so many breakthroughs of design, construction,

and operations. Allen helped me write one of the series' articles (also in the book) about the V&O's freight train procedure directory, which Allen said was more significant to his railroad's success than the V&O timetable! In 2021, I helped Tony again, in a retrospective book of Allen's many legendary, groundbreaking hobby contributions. In retrospect, Tony and I agreed that our efforts had provided a once-in-our-lifetime journalistic experience (kinda like a walk on the moon)!

**Doug Gurin** (founder of the Layout Design Special Interest Group)

