

# **MASTER MODEL RAILROADER #115 DAVID W. MESSER**

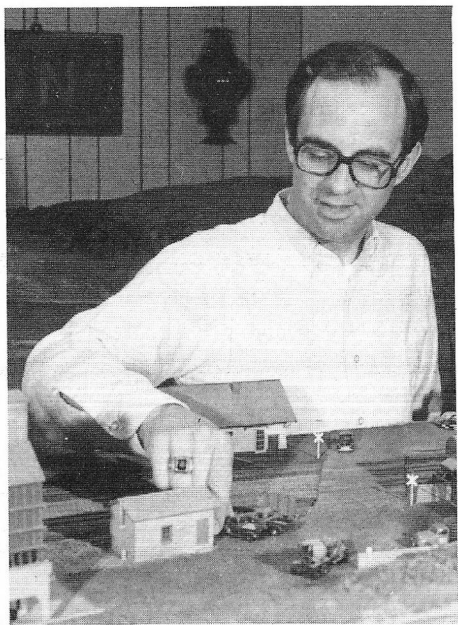
Our 115th MMR is Dave Messer of Wyantskill, N.Y. Dave is Director, Regulatory and Administrative Services, for the research division of Sterling Drug. Married and the father of two teenagers, Dave's hobby interests include gardening, reading, stamp collecting, jogging, and swimming. Dave is a church trustee and is also a supporter of youth hockey and historic preservation.

Dave has been an active model railroader for nearly forty years, starting with the usual Christmas train set. He modeled in S, O, and TT scales before settling on HO. His present 18' x 25' HO layout was begun in 1967. It's set in eastern New York/western New England in the mid-1950's. The setting is hypothetical, but many of the models are of actual structures. Motive power is mostly New Haven and Pennsy, late steam/early diesel, with some Erie and L&NE planned for variety.

Dave's models have won many prizes in regional and national contests. He has had articles and drawings published in MODEL RAILROADER, RAILROAD MODEL CRAFTSMAN, and the New Haven Association publication the SHORELINER. While a student, Dave served as president of the famed RPI Model Railroad Club. In 1967, he organized the Hudson-Berkshire Division of the Northeastern Region, and has since served the NER in many capacities, including two terms as president/trustee. Dave is currently chairman of the NMRA Library Commit-

tee, responsible for bringing the A. C. Kalmbach Memorial Library into operation, and is modeling editor of the SHORELINER. He holds Achievement Certificates for Cars, Structures, Scenery, Civil Engineering, Association Official, Association Volunteer, and Author.

Dave views model railroading as a creative art form, and he particularly



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enjoys creating historically accurate scenes with all equipment and details correct for a particular period. He says, "Carrying out the research and obtaining information to create a believable setting or piece of equipment is a rewarding challenge and is one reason setting up the NMRA Library is so important. Good historical material on railroads of only a relatively short time ago is increasingly difficult to obtain." He feels participation in the Achievement Program can also be a rewarding challenge, by encouraging the modeler to explore all aspects of our diverse hobby.