



Pete Moffett

MASTER MODEL RAILROADERS

by Bill Ehlert, MMR

MASTER MODEL RAILROADER #143 PETE MOFFETT

Pete is a 45-year-old computer programmer who lives in St. Catharines, Ontario (15 miles from Niagara Falls), with his wife Lynda and two boys, Sean and Ryan.

Pete was introduced to the hobby of model railroading by his father in Ireland where he had a Hornby OO scale model railroad in the attic of the family home. The family moved to Canada in 1953 where Pete found an American Flyer train set under the tree one Christmas. A neighbor by the name of Dave Roberts taught Pete the basics of the hobby. "Dave was one of the most influential forces in my early days in the hobby, and I am forever grateful to Dave as a mentor and teacher."

Pete joined the NMRA and NFR in 1959. Dave took Pete to his first regional convention and to his first national which turned out to be the 25th Anniversary Convention in Chicago. After this, Pete was hooked on conventions and the NMRA.

Pete took a brief break from the hobby to obtain a degree, a wife, a house and two children, but returned to the hobby when an empty basement and a copy of MODEL RAILROADER magazine combined to weave a spell. Pete started work on the Muskoka & Ferry Lake Railway and Navigation Company which he is building in Sn42.

Another influential person in Pete's

progress in the hobby was the late Bill Carpenter. "Bill told me once that I was a pretty good railroad modeler, but he wondered when I was going to become a model railroader. Bill made me realize that there was more to the hobby than building models. Then I started to work on the layout and running trains."

Another important person to Pete is Tom Pick. "Tom kicked, poked, prodded and kept asking when he was going to be invited over to judge my layout for the Civil and Electrical certificates. These were the last two remaining to get my MMR. Thanks to Tom's friendly, gentle push I kept my goal focused and finally made it.

"To me, half the hobby is the social side, and if it weren't for the friends I meet at conventions and division meets, the hobby would not be as much fun. My wife is very supportive of the hobby and gets as much fun out of it as I do. If we can't go to an event together, we usually don't go at all. With us it really is a family hobby.

"I enjoy scratchbuilding the most, and getting locomotives to run well the least. I seem to have a real problem with getting those suckers to run right. But I am learning some tricks from the guys who are good at it. In this hobby you never stop learning. Being an MMR to me means a start not an end. Now I can really get down to some serious model railroading. Now that I have the tools of the craft, I can begin to use them and share them. I am looking forward to many enjoyable hours working on the M&FL with my friends."