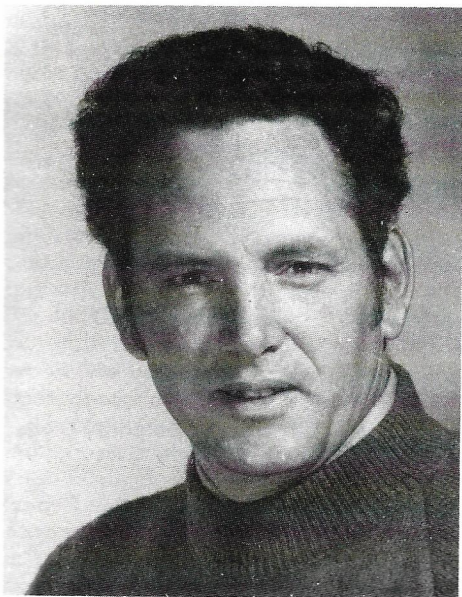


MASTER MODEL RAILROADERS

by Bill Ehler

MASTER MODEL RAILROADER #118 PETER A. WATSON



Peter A. Watson

Pete is 39 years old with a wife, two daughters and a son. He is a firefighter and an instructor for the Massachusetts State Firefighting Academy.

Pete's earliest memories include model trains. His father was a model railroader and he belonged to the South Shore Model Railway Club. His father died when he was seven, and a member of the club, who had been a modeler since 1936, helped his mother pick up the pieces and later became his step-father. Pete's real father never had a home layout, so when he saw the HO models that his step-father had, the Lionel layout that he and his brother shared lost some of its appeal. He has been an avid modeler ever since. A few years after he married, a friend got him into On2, and he has been a "narrow gauger" ever since.

Pete's first taste of the NMRA came in the mid-60's when he attended an NER Convention in Manchester, Mass. He joined the NMRA in 1968, and recently became a life member. He is a life member of the Region and Division. He has attended many NER conventions and

two nationals. He has been on the HUD Division BOD since 1975. He is the NER Photo Contest Chairman and was clinics chairman for the Minuteman National Convention.

Pete says that the Achievement Program was a challenge. Once you decide that you're going for it, the requirements force you to not only do your best, but to cover ground that you may not be well versed in, and so it forces you to round out your modeling skills and knowledge of the hobby.

Pete states, "I have been a model railroader for 30 years, and in that time, I have always found something to suit my moods or interests. My interests in the hobby have changed from time to time, but there was always something there to keep me interested. There are times when I am completely engrossed in building models, and then two months later, I may be totally occupied by scenery or research or planning how to make a section of the layout better. Regardless of what interests me, there is some facet of the hobby that fits the bill.