

# MMR 96, Thomas P. Eckstein

personality profile/**Tom Madden**



**M**MR No. 96 is Thomas P. Eckstein. Tom and his wife, Shirley, live in Madison, Wis., where Tom is a registrar with the Madison Metropolitan School District. He also put in 10 years as a telegrapher-agent for the C&NW Railway before going into the education field.

Tom has two model pikes: a 6 x 8-foot European N scale railroad called "Die Schnitzelbank Bundes Bahn," and a 20 x 13-foot HO layout, the "Tired, Pooped and Exhausted." His interest in European railroading springs from his attendance at the 1971 NMRA convention in London. A pre-convention rail tour of the continent led to the purchase of some European N scale equipment "just for display," and it grew from there. His HO railroad is freelanced, but based on the Camas Prairie, and is set in the 1930-1950 era. Tom has also built three 1½ x 4-foot traction modules for a modular traction group he belongs to.

A visit to the famed Minirama in the Wisconsin Dells over 16 years ago started Tom in the hobby. He joined the NMRA in 1969 and has attended almost every national convention since. He served two terms on the Midwest Region BOD, several terms on the South

Central Wisconsin Division BOD and was assistant editor of the SCWD "bad order" for several years. Tom is also the author of two NMRA tape/slide clinics. He earned his MMR award with Achievement Certificates for cars, structures, scenery, civil engineering, electrical engineering, association volunteer and author.

Tom has won both novice and advanced awards in division-level contest. Nevertheless, he would like to see less emphasis placed on entering contests, where there can be only one winner, and more placed on the merit award system, where you don't compete against your colleagues.

A life member of the NMRA, Tom also belongs to the C&NW Railway Veterans Association, the C&NW Historical Society, the National Association of Railroad Passengers, the Wisconsin Association of Railroad Passengers and the Morse Telegraph Club, Inc.⊗