



**Bill Bell**

**Bill Bell—MMR #158**

Bill Bell of Spokane, Wash., is MMR #158. Bill holds certificates in Motive Power, Structures, Scenery, Electrical, Civil, Dispatcher, and Author. He has had many articles on modeling published in the BULLETIN, THE SCALE COUPLER, PROTOTYPE MODELER, and MODEL RAILROADER.

Bill grew up in Washington in a home situated between the branch line of the Milwaukee Road and the UP. The MR had a turning wye on its property. Following service during WWII, he married. He turned to modeling to relive the memories of past trains that passed near his boyhood home. He was an NMRA member during the '50s and '60s, but dropped out during the '70s. In 1984, Bill rejoined and was challenged by a friend to work in the AP. Bill says that the AP has added enjoyment and quality of modeling to his work and in his involvement in the hobby through the help of other modelers. The AP also got him interested in helping and encouraging others in the hobby. This role led to the position of Superintendent of the 5th PNR Division.

Bill has been influenced in his modeling by Frank Ellison, John Allen, Bill McClanahan, Ed Ravenscroft and many others who have published their experiences in model railroading. He has had an operating group on his layout for over 40 years, and to Bill, operation is the ultimate proof of all the work and planning that goes into modeling. His Palouse & Pacific Railroad is operated on a card system with a fast clock and radio communication between major points.