



VIEW FROM THE CAB

All of the model train magazines I subscribe to are bringing up ways to modify or improve your seasonal display. I spend the Christmas and New Year holidays with my daughter in Naples Florida, and so I have not built anything "Around the Tree" for years. And when I did, I restricted the effort to a loop of track around the tree. Now I am not knocking those that go a lot farther for the Train displays at Christmas; I've seen some that are 8 feet long by 4 feet, raised a foot from the floor, and with serious buildings and streets, and cars and people to enjoy the miniature town. I hope everyone gets a chance to exercise their favorite engine(s) this year.

Our annual display activity at the Georgetown Library is well under way and I saw a nice crowd there last Saturday, November 27th. The condition of our traveling O Gauge modular display is starting to show its age. I hope to start a repair/rewiring program this winter, bringing a few modules at a time to my place to work on them as time permits.

Plans are moving along for our Christmas Party on December 9th. If you have not contacted Jessie Pieplow as yet, please give her a call at 215-896-6676 or 215-896-8272, or use the E-mail Address of: jwpieplow@aol.com.

We also have two parades scheduled for our team to walk in, including our trailer with operating G scale trains aboard. Dates are Selbyville December 3rd and Rehoboth Beach on Dec. 6th. Volunteers should still contact me or Doc if you want to walk the parade route and hand out our club house flyers.

Due to the Dates for Christmas Day and New Years Day falling on a Saturday this year, our club house will be closed on both of those Saturdays so volunteers can spend time with their families.

Our next meeting is set for December 8th at the club house at 6:30 pm. Again, bring a chair.

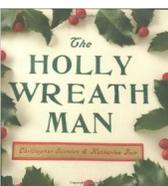
This year, like 2020, has brought our club many challenges. Without the hard work of a few dedicated people, we could never have made the move such a success. Once again, the worth of these folks cannot be understated, and we owe them a great deal. I thank them all once again.

I will be leaving town on December 16th, and will be gone for about 4 weeks. If I do not get a chance to say so personally, I hope the holidays bring you peace and comfort, and I look forward to seeing you again in 2022.

John Hodges

Setting up the Georgetown Display





At the beginning of the 20th century, to Charles Jones, the sight of cash-strapped farmers bartering handmade wreaths for merchandise in his father-in-law's general store on Federal Street in Milton sparked an idea. Jones bought \$50 worth of postage stamps and, overcoming the objections of his skeptical wife, began marketing homemade wreaths from Sussex County.

In the first year, Jones, who became known as the "Holly Wreath Man," turned a profit of \$360 and helped launch the Christmas wreath industry in Sussex County. By the 1920s, making holly wreaths became an important part of many Sussex County farmers' income. By 1930, Delaware was the leading maker of yuletide holly wreaths in the country. Charles G. Jones was known as the "Holly Wreath Man" from Milton, Delaware.

After his death in 1944, his son William T. Jones took over the family business. In the photograph, taken in 1951, W. T. Jones stands in front of an eleven-foot-wide wreath, which was described as the world's largest at that time. It was placed near Radio City Music Hall in New York City.



As Busy as a Delaware Holly Wreath Maker



Philadelphia Evening Bulletin, 1935



Checking the trains up close!



Wow, this is fun!

Christmas Trains in Georgetown

Open Days:

- December 2 - 10 to 3
- 4 - 10 to 2
- 8 - 10 to 3
- 11 - 10 to 2
- 14 - 10 to 3
- 16 - 10 to 3



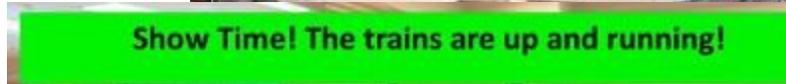
Children with masks view the O gauge trains.



The Polar Express loaded with Xmas gifts.



Four busy layouts at the Georgetown Public Library 11/27/2021.



Show Time! The trains are up and running!

