

"I'm a trainaholic," admitted Daniel DeLong. "I never get enough—of trains that is." Here he operates the switchboard with its 47 switches.

## Hundreds Of Trains Do Not Satisfy Trainaholic's Craving

**BY LOU ANN GOOD BOWERS (BERKS)** — With his head bent over the control panel and his railroad cap pulled over his forehead, Daniel DeLong admitted, "I'm a trainaholic. Just like an alcoholic I never get enough—of trains that is."

Although he has 100 engines, 500 cars, 600 feet of track, 47 switches and 4,000 feet of wiring, DeLong laments that he doesn't have enough space to expand his toy train collection.

"Look at this," his eyes sweep across his basement. "It's full. I don't have any more room. You ought to see the stuff I have packed in boxes because I don't have enough room."

Since he was a kid, DeLong has been collecting trains and all the accessories to make an impressive display.

"I built everything myself from scratch," he said as he pointed to the layout. The rail road tracks are made from real wooden ties. He

has modeled his family's homestead and laid real stones for the stone wall. Details such as an electric fence, a rail fence, and a gravel driveway give the farm an authentic touch. DeLong said, "It took me 15 years to do this."

Train collecting is not a passing fancy nor a seasonal past time for DeLong who keeps his train display set up year around.

As a child, DeLong developed his fascination with trains when his father, James DeLong, set up his Lionel #8, the train he had received as an eight-year-old. Now, the son's display boasts his father's train.

"I tell you," DeLong said, "my father took care of his train. I go to about eight train meets a year, and I see a lot of old stuff that is in bad shape. But my dad's doesn't have a chip on it. It looks almost like new."

Not only that, but he still has the original boxes that it was packed into. DeLong said, "The boxes

themselves are worth \$25 with nothing in them."

A member of the Train's Collection Association, DeLong frequents shows and seeks out other collectors. "But I just buy, I never sell," he emphasizes.

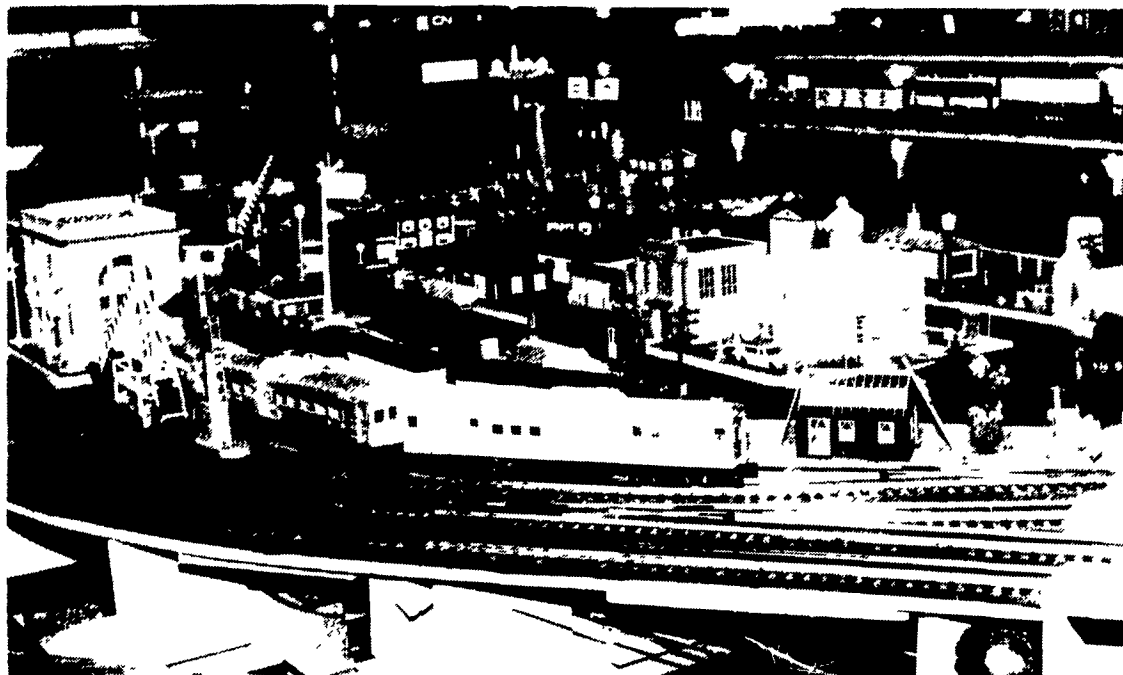
He looks for models and accessories he does not have. His most recent purchase is a train carrying a video camera that shows the scenery that the train passes.

His favorite train is a Hudson. "But that's packed away. It'll never get run," he said.

His setup enables four trains and a trolley to run simultaneously. "I can switch others over," he explained.

No matter how deteriorated a train can be, DeLong can restore it by replacing wheels and couplers and by grinding, sanding and painting.

DeLong enjoys sharing his love for trains with the public. For those interested in seeing his train collection, call (215) 682-6091.



This is only a small portion of DeLong's train setup that includes 4,000 feet of wiring, 600 feet of track, 47 switches, 500 train cars and 100 engines.

## Clothes That Change Color

Are you tired of seeing perfectly good clothes never leave your teenagers' closet because they want something new and different? Do you long to do away with the phrase—"But I have nothing to wear?" Well perhaps there is hope in a new sportswear line aimed at every kid who's ever complained about being bored with his or her clothes.

A finishing corporation has developed a special dying tech-

nique that allows consumers to change the color of their clothes with the help of liquid bleach and a washing machine. Sound too easy? Well this is how it works. A color series is built into the dye formula and when a color change is desired the garment is washed in chlorine bleach. You can change the color of the entire garment or just a certain section, or create designs and graphics with Q-tips, paint brushes or stencils. For example, red jeans

can be bleached to orange, then bleached again to yellow. Another spectrum ranges from purple to royal blue to aqua.

The change can be subtle or dramatic, depending on the amount of liquid bleach added to the wash. The process works on a variety of fabrics, including twills, sheeting, denim, corduroy and fleece.

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