


# Train And Trolley Time In Hershey

**All Gardens  
Great & Small**  
by  
York Co.  
Horticultural Agent  
**Tom Becker**



### Try A New Holiday Plant

While the poinsettia is the traditional plant of the Christmas season, other beautiful foliage and flowering plants are available. Buy a new plant to add to your collection or use it as a gift. Here's a few new ideas.

Look for new Christmas cacti varieties, schlumbergera species, with shades of red, pink, purple, white, orange and even yellow flowers. Look for larger flowers, prolonged flowering and more compact types this season. The Christmas cactus is easy to grow and very long lived.

Holiday cacti prefer bright, indirect light, temperatures of 60 to 70f and an evenly moist soil during flowering. Exposure to cold temperatures (carefully wrap plants when transporting them outdoors in winter), moving plants from one location to another, drafts and excessive watering can cause the buds to drop from the plants before blooming.

New amaryllis, hippeastrum species, are typically red blooming types for this time of year. Brilliant red, deep red, solid white, light pink, orange-red and other color varieties are available. Their trumpet-shaped flowers often are 3-4 inches long and 2 to 3 inches in diameter.

A good foliage plant choice for the holidays is the dwarf "peach lily," spathiphyllum cultivar "petite." It flowers freely (a small white/spath-type flower) and makes a useful gift choice for friends lacking window space. Or try flamingo flower, anthurium species, with their exotic red waxy "palettes" with a colored "tail" at its center. Anthuriums look exotic

with 9-inch long heart-shaped leaves. Blooms on anthuriums last for several weeks.

Miniature plants, terrarium or plants for a bottle garden are space-saving holiday plants. 10 or 12 individual miniatures can grow on the same windowsill or shelf space as 3 to 4 standard varieties.

The Gesneriad family is lush with blooming species and cultivars. Pocket size gesneriads thrive at even lower light levels than their larger relatives. Some other possibilities are gloxinias, sinningia cultivars like White Sprite, Star Eyes, Bright Eyes or Snowflake.

Dwarf or miniature African violets such as Mini-fantasy and Small Change enjoy a warm, humid situation such as that provided in a terrarium or bottle garden. Place in a moderately sunny window or under fluorescent lights. Other plants to consider for the same environment would be smaller flowering begonias or foliage begonias.

Other miniatures suited for hanging baskets in humid, moderately to well-lit areas are: miniature forms of Peperomia, Pilea, and Selaginella (creeping moss).

For the cool, well-lit windowsill some likely candidates would be: miniature ivy cultivars; diminutive geranium cultivars like Arcturus, Dopey and Volcano.

A holiday favorite is the cyclamen. It has dark green heart-shaped leaves with silver markings. The flowers are produced on long stems held above the foliage. Look for white, pink or red flowers.

Select healthy, dark green plants that have just begun to flower. A check beneath the leaf

HERSHEY (Dauphin Co.) — The Chocolate Town Special will be chugging through the Hershey Museum from now through February 4, 1996. Designed and built by John Cassel and Dave Laughery of Scale Model Railroads, this holiday train layout depicts Hershey as it appeared in the 1920s. Surrounding the town is an imaginary version of the rolling Pennsylvania countryside dotted with the farms and other buildings so typical to this region.

Three trains and three trolleys will traverse the area, passing scenes of tree cutting, ice cutting and fishing, ice skating and other winter activities. Trains steam through tunnels, up mountain grades past snow covered forests and over bridges spanning rivers and frozen lakes. Visitors can see replicas of Hershey's train station and platform, the department store, bank, fire house, YMCA, mansion, chocolate factory and surrounding buildings as well as farms and a one-room school. All will be dusted with snow and decked out for Christmas.

During this period of Hershey's history, the trolleys and trains played a vital role of transporting workers and production materials to the Hershey plant. The trolleys also provided Milton Hershey's employees with an inexpensive and convenient way to travel

through the area. The trolley line, which opened on October 15, 1904, extended from Palmyra to Hummelstown, and the fare from either end into Hersey was five cents.

Milton Hershey's trolley never paid dividends in cash, but "the Old Man's Christmas tree train" gave his employees the freedom he wanted them to have. It is said that he would ride the trolley himself — sometimes even as early as 5 a.m. — to be sure that it was being patronized.

The project of building the trolley line began on January 30, 1903, when a charter was granted to the Hummelstown & Campbelltown street Railroad (which later became the Hershey Traction Company of Dauphin and Leba-

non Counties). There was very little opposition to the project, and in less than two years, the first run was made.

Train lovers of all ages will enjoy this exhibit, which is planned as an annual Christmas event. In the following years, the layout will be changed to reflect different areas and aspects of Hershey.

The exhibit can be viewed daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Extended holiday hours correspond with Hersheypark Christmas Candy-lane. Call (717) 534-3439 for information. Admission is \$4.25 adults, \$.50 discount for senior citizens, \$2 youth ages 3-15, under 2 free. Group rates are available.



## Lancaster Society 20

On Thursday, December 7, Lancaster Farm Women 20 met at the home of Dorothy Eckman with Helen Tout as co-hostess. Following the refreshments Helen read the Scripture taken from Matthew, first chapter. Dorothy read the poem "Christmas Time" and the Lord's Prayer was prayed in unison. All repeated the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. The president, Nancy Axe, presided at the business session. In answer to the Roll Call each brought a gift for

the shut-ins in the society.

Dorothy Eckman was installed as Corresponding Secretary. Dorothy Crawford reported 8 cards were sent during the month. The State Convention will be in January and Vivian Trout, Nancy Axe, and Marie Foose will be attending. For the program there was a food auction and Jeff Shirk was the auctioneer. The meeting closed by singing "Brighten the Corner" to meet in January with Nancy Axe in Strasburg.

canopy will reveal the number of unopened buds. The cyclamen should be placed in sunny, cool location. A temperature of 50 to 65°F is ideal. Keep the soil moist, but avoid getting water in the crown of the plant as it may promote rotting. Fertilize the plant every two weeks while in bloom. When given proper care, individual flowers may last three to four weeks and plants may bloom continuously for several months.

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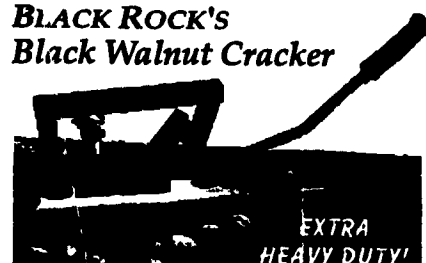
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