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MASTER MODELER - Walt Chamberlain is working on an H-O train layout that recreates Dallas in the 1950s, when the Lehigh Valley Railroad tracks were still in place. He is shown above with an earlier layout of Swoyersville and the Harry E coal breaker.

POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE

Building '50s Dallas in H-O scale

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

From the time the Lehigh Valley Railroad came through the Back Mountain in 1886 until only a couple of decades ago, the iron horse was intimately connected with the area's history and development. Old enough to remember the high trestle across Carverton Road, Huntsville resident Walt Chamberlain wants to recreate a portion of this extensive rail network in H-O scale. He has already recreated the Harry E breaker on Swoyersville's back road in an

H-O layout so lifelike that photos of it are indistinguishable from the real thing. Now that the Harry E is nearly finished, Chamberlain's next project is more ambitious. He wants to do Dallas. Big time. "My biggest enjoyment is recreating the miniature world, figuring out what I can use to make it appear lifelike," Chamberlain said. "I've begun to sketch out the tracks from Bankovich's Seafood on Route 415 to the vicinity of the Commonwealth Telephone building on Lake Street. I want it to look like it did in the mid-1950's."

Eventually he plans to enlarge the layout to include the entire Back Mountain's rail system, from the Coxton Yards in Duryea through the rock cuts to the old trestle over Carverton Road, then to the Bowman's Creek branch to Ricketts Glen's ice ponds, the Tunkhannock line and the Harveys Lake branch. "It sounds ambitious, but I have the rest of my life to do it," he joked. Because he wants everything to look just as it did in the '50s, Chamberlain is currently researching old photos and any

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Christmas light vandal was big, bold and furry

Dallas Township police chief Carl Miers has announced that his officers have a suspect in a recent spree of vandalism to Christmas decorations at several township homes. First attributing the torn-down colored lights to young people, police later traced the damage to a black bear after Glendalough residents reported December 18 seeing one in their neighborhood ripping some colored lights from several bushes. "This damage was consistent with other damage reported earlier at Haddonfield Hills," Miers said. A Haddonfield Hills resident

had also reported that a van used to store the candy that he sells had been broken into and the candy disturbed, Miers said. Police found broken glass, blood and bear hair at the scene. A bear was also seen rooting through garbage cans at the Country Club Apartments and the Dallas Mobile Home Park on Route 309, Miers said. "We're sure that it's the same animal," Miers said. "We can understand him hitting the garbage cans, but we're not sure why he's attracted to the colored lights. He's probably just out on one last spree before he goes into hibernation."

Eagle project aids emergency crews

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

Helping a neighbor in need, one of the most unselfish acts which anyone can do, can place the "Good Samaritan" himself at risk, especially if the victim is bleeding. This concern, that people stopping to help at accidents could contact blood-borne diseases themselves, has inspired a Shavertown Eagle Scout candidate to develop an easy-to-use kit which could save lives by minimizing "Good Samaritans" exposure to diseases such as hepatitis-B or HIV, the virus associated with AIDS. As his Eagle Scout project, Aaron Getz designed a "First Responder Kit" small enough to be carried in the glove compartment or first aid kit of a car, camper or boat, which can help to protect someone offering help in an emergency. Each First Responder Kit consists of a plastic pouch containing latex gloves, a gauze pad, adhesive bandages, disposal bags, biohazard stickers, instructions on how to use the kit and information on universal precautions which people should take against blood-transmitted diseases. "Two of the most dangerous blood-borne diseases are hepatitis-B and HIV, the virus which causes AIDS," Getz said. "The infected person may not even know

that he or she is infected." Often the first person to help out at an accident are passers-by, friends and family who are at the scene before trained emergency personnel arrive, Getz said. "By using a kit like this, these 'Good Samaritans' can still render assistance while protecting themselves from these and other blood-borne diseases," he continued. Getz noted that although latex gloves don't guarantee complete protection, they are much better than using one's bare hands to help someone who is bleeding. Although many first aid kits contain some of the materials in Getz's First Responder Kit, Getz said that people don't often use them because they haven't been trained in first aid. His simple kit, a new idea, requires only minimal training to use, he said. The 250 kits were assembled by members of Getz's own troop and Girl Scouts and the youth group from the Shavertown United Methodist Church. Getz distributed them to members of the Kingston Township Ambulance Company, Shavertown United Methodist Church, fellow Scouts assisting with the project and area service organizations, giving a presentation on their use and necessity to each group.

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'Book Buddies' links grade school kids

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

Imagine having to make the transition from carefree childhood to an all-day kindergarten. Although the teacher is nice, there are rules to remember. The world suddenly seems to be made up of many strange faces. Now imagine having your own special friend, one of the "big kids" in sixth grade, who will help you through the maze of letters and numbers. Someone who will color pictures with you, read your neat stories, take you shopping at Santa's Shop at Christmas. This is the new "Book Buddies" program at Lake-Noxen Elementary School, in which each kindergarten is teamed up with a sixth-grader to help them adjust to school. Paired by random selection, the buddies form working relationships with their young friends, according to sixth grade teacher Cathy Edwards. Each class has its own bulletin board area in the kindergarten hallway, where bright crayon pictures colored by each pair of buddies are proudly displayed. Sprawled comfortably in the hallway, the pairs of book buddies recently worked on a Christmas project together. "It's a lot of fun. I like coming down here," said sixth-grader Matt Kehler, who is the youngest child at his home. His young friend, Erica Smetana, chattered happily as she

colored the pictures in a four-page Christmas book that they were making. "I like it when he comes. He brings me real neat stuff that I can draw. We do neat things together. I'm already six and know how to read," she grinned. Erica said that when she's in sixth grade, she wants to be a book buddy like Matt. "They like it a lot," said Chris Murray, while helping kindergarten Spyke Van Campen color a picture. "We did some ABC's with them. Spyke keeps asking me when I'm coming next." Chris said that working with Spyke was easy because he as three younger sisters at home. Spyke grinned and colored his pictures, trying to stay in the lines. "I like reading the best. My favorite story is about Rudolph," said Steven Hendel. "I like having Jamie as my buddy." His book buddy, Jamie Platt, has younger sisters at home. But working with Steven is different, she said. "I have to show him the ropes," she said. "We talk about the books that he likes, brothers and sisters and what he wants for Christmas." Shae Adamshick was proud of the little Christmas book that he and his big buddy, Steve Barber, put together. Shae loves to color. Working with Shae is like working with his nephews, Steve said. Before they plunged into the

See BOOK BUDDIES, pg 12



A TOUGH DECISION - Lake-Noxen kindergarten student Spyke VanCampen and his book buddy, sixth-grader Chris Murray, check out the inexpensive gifts for sale at their school's Santa's Shop.

POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE

Office closed Friday, December 31

The office of The Dallas Post will be closed all day Friday, December 31 for the New Year's holiday. We will re-open Monday, January 3 at 8:30 a.m. News copy for the January 5 issue should be submitted by 3 p.m. Thursday, December 30. Advertising deadlines are Monday, January 3 at 4 p.m.

■ **Breakfast is payoff** for Dallas High students who raised the most in food drive. Page 3

■ **It was a big year** for Back Mountain teams and players in all sports. Dave Konopki's year-end review is on page 9.

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