

# The Train Room

Written by: **Dan Whetzel**  
Photography by: **Lance C. Bell**

The Train Room in Hagerstown, Maryland has the largest inventory of model trains and supplies in the Tristate region. Fully stocked shelves offer customers choices from all gauges of Lionel, Weaver, USA, Atlas, MTH, Bachman, and other manufacturers. The Train Room features a large operating O gauge display that highlights accessories, current locomotives, and rolling stock.

Charles Mozingo, owner, has been involved with model trains since receiving a Lionel Commodore Vanderbilt set at the age of nine. While working at a filling station during his teenage years, Charles was able to purchase additional trains to build his collection. As a result of repairing and restoring the used trains he acquired, an interest developed in their mechanical operations, an interest that continues through today.

Charles' collection later became available for public viewing when he was operating a filling station in Hagerstown. A room adjacent to the gasoline business housed his ever growing hobby. As time passed, Charles retired from the filling station business and opened The Train Room at its current location.

The Train Room is well known in the area but has also gained nationwide recognition after being featured in industry publications. Customers and visitors now arrive from all over the country to enjoy the displays and train selection.

Charles has received much acclaim for his vast collection of vintage trains that are now displayed in the Museum, a specially designed section located adjacent to the retail store. According to Charles, "This is one of the largest train collections in the country, especially for operating accessories."



**Charles Mozingo (left), owner of The Train Room retail store and museum, talks "trains" with *Mountain Discoveries'* writer, Dan Whetzel.**

Rare versions of Lionel trains, toys, fishing equipment, transformers, and military equipment produced by the company during World War II are displayed on shelves and layouts. While electric locomotives and rolling stock are the most numerous items, Charles' exhibits of operating accessories may be without rival. "I have always liked accessories. Figuring out how the small motors worked, and then repairing and cleaning them have always interested me."

Today, Charles enjoys greeting customers and talking about the trains that he has loved for a life time.

The Train Room is located at 360 South Burhans Blvd., Hagerstown, MD 21740. See [www.the-train-room.com](http://www.the-train-room.com) for more information and hours of operation, or call 301-745-6681. *See map location on page 46.*



**Some of Charles' vast collection of Lionel products and exhibits in The Train Room Museum (adjacent to the retail store).**