

## The Cochemer Bahn continued...

*“...At a recent town council meeting King Ludwig the Magnificent suggested in no uncertain terms that a new forest be grown behind the Cochemer Burg so his Majesty’s private hunting preserve could be enlarged... At the king’s behest and insistence, the town fathers, under protest, passed the new ordinance and so a new forest will magically appear one of these days...”*

Having reluctantly fulfilled and complied to the King’s request the Cochemer Town Council insisted on some sweeping changes to be instituted on the appearance of the Cochemer Bahn. Being owned by an ordained minister it was only a matter of time that the town council approved a request for the rezoning of part of the northern suburbs of Cochem. The rezoning involved some drastic changes to the Cochemer surrounding geography: At the request of the local church authority a building permit was issued for the construction of a new church and monastery complex just North of the current city wall.



Both the new church and the monastery, as well as the appropriate buildings completing the complex, would take many years to construct, but since time was of no consequence, progress continued well into 2020.

In the 2005 story one might recall that quite some time was devoted to the description of “Falkenstein” that occupies most of the right half of the Cochemer Bahn. The absence of King Ludwig’s hunting preserve was quite an issue at the time. Since those days, a forest has grown up behind Falkenstein, the King’s been hunting and having fun while the left side of the layout, north of Cochem, remained somewhat barren.

Consisting of hundreds of small and smaller parts the construction process of the cathedral and monastery building can be followed steps by step on the following links to the Cochemer Bahn/ Frits Osterthun’s web site:

<http://www.osterthun.com/50.Journal/Journal-12.htm>  
<http://www.osterthun.com/50.Journal/Journal-15.htm>

When in late 2021 the Cathedral and Monastery complex was finally completed and installed on the Cochemer Bahn layout, the total view of the layout was somewhat balanced as the new addition definitely mirrored and complemented the “bulk” of the “Frankenstein” complex.

While the King enjoys his hunting preserve, the monks in the new monastery delight daily in the fruits of their vineyard labor. Their wines are becoming known and are sought after throughout the realm and even the newly ordained minister of the new cathedral makes the locally produced wine part of his communion services.



*The old maintenance shed*

Frits Osterthun’s HO scale “Cochemer Bahn” layout, without a doubt, is one that should be held up, as an example of model railroading at its finest! Then to think it all started with his father’s lay out in the paternal attic so many years ago!