



THE VILLAGER

The Official Newsletter of the Plasticville Collectors Association

Volume 17

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Number 2

Twentieth Anniversary Special Edition Piece Chosen

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee is pleased to announce that a 20th anniversary special edition Plasticville piece has been chosen. It will be the Frosty Bar. Colors for the piece has yet to be decided but look for an order form in the August issue of *The Villager*.

The top three most requested pieces were the Town Hall, the Apartment Building, and the Frosty Bar. A request for a price

quote on all three of these pieces was sent to Bachmann. A quote was only given on the Apartment House and the Frosty Bar. The lack of a quote on the Town Hall is that it is no longer current production.

Our thanks to all who emailed or wrote in suggestions.

A VISIT TO MR. ROGERS' NEIGHBORHOOD

JOHN L. NIEHAUS #00-3

Foreword: While visiting Pittsburgh, PA for the Train Collectors Association convention I had the distinct privilege of visiting Mister Rogers' Neighborhood. What you may not know is that Mister Rogers lived in a small house at the end of two streets on an approximate 6 x 6 foot diorama.

The last diorama used in the opening sequence of the Mister Rogers' Neighborhood television show is preserved at The Fred Rogers Company offices in Pittsburgh. It is not available to the public. What some may not know is that Mister Rogers' house is a kitbashed Plasticville HO Cape Cod house. I was aware of the Cape Cod being on the diorama as well as what seemed to be a Plasticville HO Split Level. I was curious as to what other Plasticville pieces may be on the diorama.

Through good fortune and volunteering many years for Iowa Public Television I met and maintained a somewhat sporadic communication with David Newell. That name may not be familiar to most but if I said "Mr. McFeely", that name may be familiar. David Newell played the part of Mr. McFeely on Mister Rogers' Neighborhood. His catchphrase was, "Speedy Delivery." With his assistance I was able to visit The Fred Rogers Company offices and take photos of the diorama.

Let's take a fantasy trolley and walking trip through Mister Rogers' Neighborhood and see what we can discover. Mister Rogers lives in the far North Central section of the diorama. The trolley originates on the West Central side of the diorama on what I consider the main East /West Street. Here's a trivia tidbit for you. The trolley is not an electric piece but was pulled back and forth by a string from under the diorama.



I stepped onto the trolley (right) and was on my way east towards the stop where I would disembark and walk the remainder of the distance to Fred's house. The trolley ride was nice and smooth for being pulled by a string. I was on the lookout for any Plasticville buildings and did find an HO Split Level house on the corner of the



continued on page 7

The Villager

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Vice President: Frank Ross

Webmaster: John L. Niehaus

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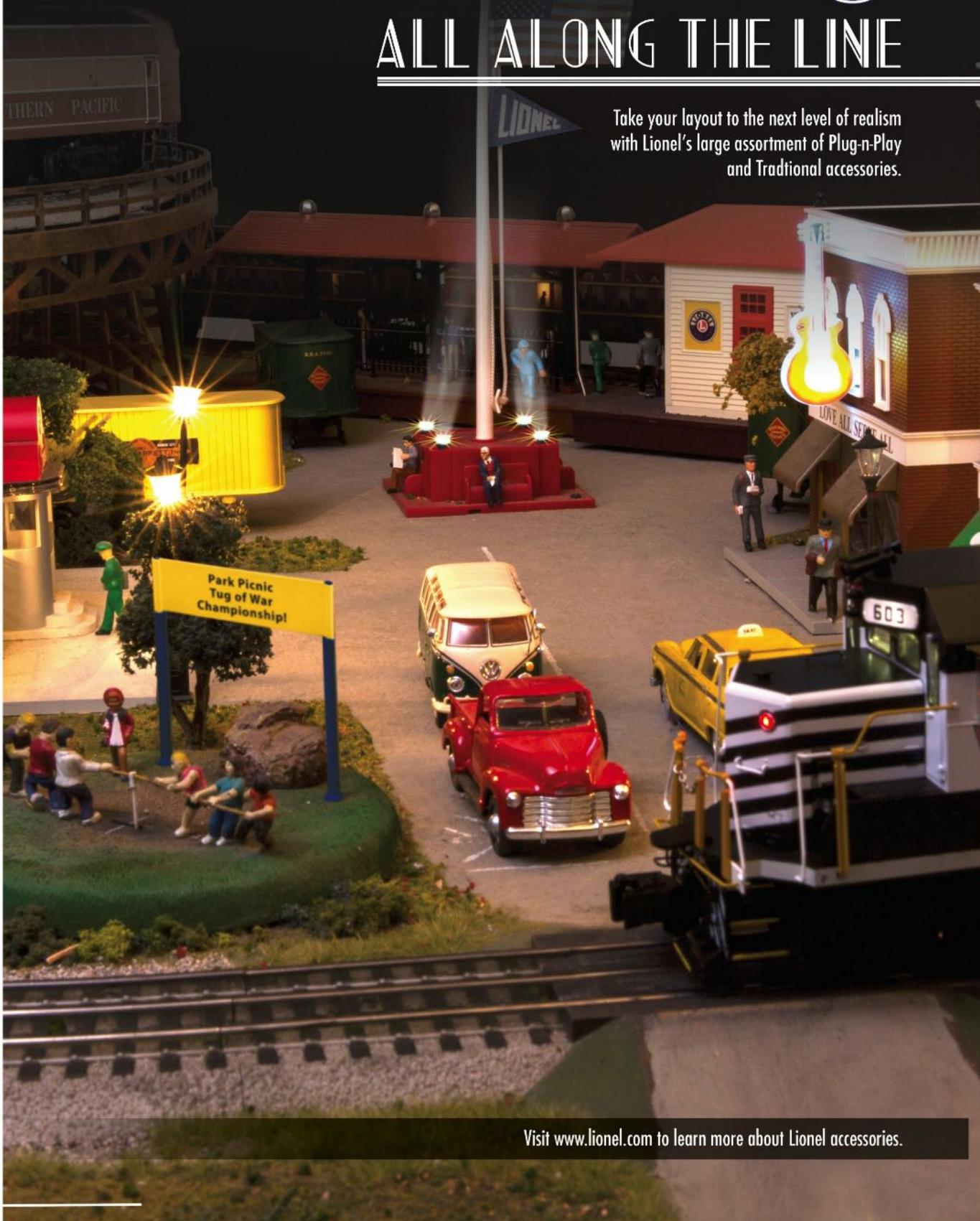
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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



What a winter! Even as I write this in mid-April some of you are shoveling out and skidding on ice. As someone on Facebook has written, how much forward did Spring spring?

The good news, of course, is that this winter provided retired folks like me with a good excuse to spend some extra time in the basement. For me, my rebuilding of the HO layout from scratch got a major boost. First came the 1"x4" framework. Then came the lighting and power busses and terminals every four feet on the outside of the framework. No more soldering under the layout for this guy - every power or lighting connection will be a home run to a terminal. Then came the 2" pink foam layout base -- no more heavy 3/4" plywood modules, either. Next was the track outline and the cork roadbed attached with Loctite adhesive, then sanded and sprayed with clear varnish to reduce the effects of being in a basement. I have been able to reuse 75% of my flex track and Peco turnouts. And about three weeks ago, a locomotive made its first complete run around the outer loop, followed quickly by a full train. The Paradise Valley Railroad lives again.

You may note that I have applied several unique building techniques here, most of which could be applied to S or O gauge layouts, too. We'll see where it gets me. Pre-wiring the busses and adding about 200 cable clamps to route wiring was a personal stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. I still have to reach under the 48" high layout, but only to feed wires through clamps. I'm hoping the foam base eliminates possible swelling and contraction in my barn basement -- yes, my house is a converted 1850's barn, so there is no state-of-the-art walls and ceiling and flooring here.

All of that work meant the combined O/S layout at the other end of the barn basement stood idle for the winter, so my version of Plasticville will have to wait for the next burst of inspiration. But all of those left over foam blocks are already calling out to be the mountaintop airport and hillside for Storytown. If only retirement didn't keep me so busy.

Anyway, now for something completely different. It has taken much longer than we planned, but the Executive Committee is getting closer to finishing up work on the 20th Anniversary Plasticville piece. This required a bit of coordination between Bachmann and the membership. It seems like ages ago that we asked you for suggestions. Then we had to compare those suggestions with what would be in production in China via Bachmann. Finally, after adding in things like cost and attractiveness to the membership, we have decided that a Frosty Bar in some unique colors would be our anniversary piece. We are now in final discussions about details with Bachmann, and then -- target date August newsletter -- we will open the doors to orders. We will remind you then, but I also will start now, that this is a very special thing Bachmann does for us (particularly because more decisions are made in China than in Philadelphia), and Bachmann will only produce what we order, and we can't afford to order more than is requested - soooo, when the time comes, get those orders in quickly.

Well, if winter ever ends, enjoy spring or summer, whichever comes first. Most likely it will feel like summer whizzes by, and before you know it, it will be train time again!

Chris Matthy
PCA President

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Well, spring is finally in the air after a long dragged out period of winter. I was getting a little impatient waiting for the temperatures to start to turn warmer, and the winds to subside.

The 20th Anniversary piece activity is still chugging along slowly with no updates that I can offer right now. We've gotten some input from Bachmann, and now we are trying to resolve what to do with it from here.

We had a large turnout at the scheduled PCA meeting at the York train show last week. I didn't do an exact head count, but I'll estimate that we had approximately 40 attendees of mostly members and some non-members as well. There were some interesting show and tell items presented by our members, including a uniquely colored O Gauge Suburban Station roof. Our Secretary/Treasurer John announced that Bachmann is discontinuing the O Gauge Town Hall in their catalog this year. So if you want to have one (or more) in your collection, you better get one if you can. He also organized a door prize drawing. One of the prizes was a memo sized light cardboard sheet with a colored print of what I believe to be accurate reproductions of one

of each of the window inserts utilized in all of the various building kits. I wish that I would have won that prize myself, but my ticket number was one digit away from being the winner.

As Lou Palumbo always says, "Keep Searchin"
Frank Ross
PCA Vice President

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NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY



Hello to all. I hope that all of you survived what seems to be extreme weather this winter wherever you lived. There have been over 18 measurable snowfalls this year where I live which means the snow needed to be shoveled or snow blown that many times. That definitely pales compared to the Nor'easters that have hammered the East Coast or the rains on the West Coast. Do you have a Plasticville story related to this winter's weather? Why not write it up and send it to your newsletter editor at villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org. He is always looking for articles to include in *The Villager*. Don't be concerned with what you write. As your previous newsletter editor I know that between you and Matt anything you submit can be turned into an entertaining article for the members.

Membership records that seem to be in error

Will those listed below help me to bring your membership record up to date:

Michael Kawaler, Lebanon, PA, member #12-782 - Your membership record shows 314 846-7519 as the phone number but when I call it I am told it is unavailable. What is your current phone number and is it a land line or a cell number? Your membership record shows mkawaler@gmail.com as your email address. Any emails I send to that address comes back as undeliverable. What is your current email address?

Robert Smith, Kansas City, MO, member 16-986 - Your membership record shows 816-853-2931 as the phone number but when I call it I am told it is unavailable. What is your current phone number and is it a land line or a cell number? Your membership record also shows robert-smith06@att.net as your email address. Any emails I send to that address comes back as undeliverable. What is your current email address?

Gary Nessel, Thornton, IL, member #15-917 - Your membership record shows 708 380-6049 as the phone number but when I call it I am told it is unavailable. What is your current phone number and is it a land line or a cell number? Your membership record also shows lacness.gnd@gmail.com as your email address. Any emails I send to that address comes back as undeliverable. What is your current email address?

Member passings

Our membership retention chairman was made aware that Cork Smoker, #16-964 passed away last fall.

I am also aware that Victor Bodek, #11-722 passed away earlier this year.

Please let me know if you are aware of any members who have passed so that they can be mentioned here.

Thanks for the returned postage stamps

I was remiss in not thanking all of you who sent in your used stamps with your membership dues in the February issue of *The Villager*. Please accept this belated thank you. Please keep me in mind when you receive your mailed newsletters and other mailed communications with the various assorted stamps on them and cut them off the envelope leaving about 1/2 inch margin.

I accumulate these returned stamps and send them on to a 90 year old gentleman in rural St Louis MO who conducts stamp collecting programs in three different elementary schools. The stamps benefit both his program and the PCA as I am able to purchase what you see on your envelopes at a discount over their face value. Purchasing the stamps at a discount helps to keep down the PCA dues.

John L Niehaus, Secretary/Treasurer

APRIL 2018 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The April 2018 Executive Committee meeting was unable to be convened due to Committee member scheduling conflicts.

Pending old business and all new business will be addressed at the July meeting.

WHAT MEMBERS ARE SAYING

NICE Calendar – THANK YOUs to Jim - will print out for my PCA folder when we get back ... Geraldine Scott #04-321

John, Thank you, and thank Jim! Steve Getman #11-707

John – I have received the calendar PDF and printed it, very nice! Fred Hachmeyer #13-799

I forgot I want to make a request again on PCA items in the pen hat cup thing I think we should have PCA nice big sticker to put on your car truck train box or where ever you please .. please consider this item thanks. KEN HONICK

Please feel free to send a copy of what you envision for the sticker by email to secretary@plasticvilleusa.org or mail your full size idea to him at the address on the front page of this newsletter.

I am finding it more difficult to buy present day Plasticville product. Oh well I still have collected all my older made Plasticville items I wanted. Getting present day Bachmann Plasticville is "icing on the cake". #08-543 Bob Stout

Plasticville pieces that are still in production can be purchased directly from Bachmann

By the way, I wanted to let you know that I followed *John Niehaus'* in the last Newsletter on removing paint from vehicles using Super Clean. I had an orange ambulance that was painted white and it is now back to its original orange color. Thanks for the tip. Anthony Santay #09-568

I have an empty 1st edition SC-4 school house box with a sticker ON THE COVER... The sticker is square. red, white and blue. blue stripe top and bottom w/ Plasticville, USA and Bachman Bros., INC. Red star in center w/ 'with NEW ACCESSORY'.

What was the 'new accessory'? The book implies the playground accessories were not included until the scenic classic- 1980 release...any info? Sue Shaw #14-883

It was the 48 star flagpole and only in the box with that added label to the best of my knowledge. BE CAREFUL though because the current Trailer Park comes with a 50 star flagpole. The playground accessories only came in the Scenic Classic sets to the best of my knowledge.

... I have a question about the colonial mansion. Particularly the back door. Is my observation correct that the Plasticville one has 8 small windows but the Unlimited Plastic one (Littletown) has one medium size window towards the top? The front doors seem to all be the same the 8 window type. Paul Rorer #17-1032

The Littletown front door has three small windows in a horizontal row as does the Plasticville front door. The back door on the Littletown piece has one single large window whereas the Plasticville piece has the same front and back door. There should also be the name Unlimited Plastics molded onto the underside of the roof if it is a Littletown piece.



The Villager is looking for new contributors. Contact the editor to find out how to participate and share your knowledge.

KEEP YOUR INFORMATION CURRENT

Have you moved? Have you dropped your landline phone? Have you changed your email address? Do you have a cell phone? Help the PCA keep your membership record current.

Please email secretary@plasticvilleusa.org or mail him any changes that should be noted in your membership record using the address on the first page of this newsletter.

EDITOR'S COLUMN



Another busy spring as already turned to summer in the blink of an eye, with temperatures already topping 90°F. You may have noticed that the newsletters are arriving a bit late these days. My schedule is such that the current publication dates fall at awkward times for me. I have asked John to propose shifting the newsletter to Mar/Jun/Sept/Dec for next year. That should let me get the newsletters done closer to the start of those months.

I had a blast a few weeks ago watching the Stout auction of the original Plasticville Artwork. Prices started off moderate in the \$200-300 range but quickly went up. I am lucky to have gotten one early on before prices reach closer to \$ 1000.

I am back to receiving very few inputs from members, please contact me by e-mail or regular mail using the information below to submit photos, articles, and comments. Remember that I am available to help you turn your ideas into an article. You supply the raw material and I will help finalize the article.

I was disappointed that I did not make it to York in April due to a prior travel engagement for work. I plan to return in October. I look forward to seeing many of you at the PCA meeting then.

Matt Harvazinski
The Villager Editor
villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org
4115 W. Ave. J7 Lancaster CA, 93536

PROPOSED MEMBERS

The following have applied for membership in the Plasticville Collectors Association. The names of all proposed members must be published for the review of the general membership before being accepted as members in accordance with the by-laws of the PCA. All names listed below will be permanently added to the Plasticville Collectors Association rolls if no objection to such action is received prior to June 30, 2018.

- #1031 Thomas C Post, Hatboro, PA
- #1032 Paul W Rorer, Lansdale, PA
- #1033 Ann C Schaefer, Stamford, CT
- #1034 Jim Bunte, Blanco, TX
- #1035 Thomas J Schmech, Owego, NY
- #1036 Darrell L Berg, Northwood, IA
- #1037 Robert Weidman, Waukegan, IL

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The following individuals' names have been added to the Plasticville Collectors Association membership roster as of March 31, 2018. Their names are now permanently listed in the on-line roster.

- #1038 John B McLean, San Francisco, CA
- #1039 John J Kozul Jr, Havertown, PA
- #1040 Fred C Stillwell, Marietta, GA
- #1041 Tom C Webber, Elkader, IA
- #1042 David W Phillips, Concord, NC
- #1043 Donald H MacCormack, Huntsville, TX
- #1044 Jill Kaufman, Seminole, FL
- #1045 Leo E Weiss, Richmond, IN
- #1046 Kenneth Noll, Springbrook Twp, PA

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main street and the street one block before the trolley stop for Fred's house (below).



I thanked the motorman for a pleasant ride and started north up the street towards Fred's house. Along the way I spied what definitely looked like a kitbashed HO Ranch House (top of page 7). I continued on down the street until I came to Fred's house. It seems that he knew I was coming for a visit as both he and Mr. McFeely were waiting in the yard (top right). A quick once over of Fred's house convinced me that it was an HO Cape Cod that definitely had some changes made to it.

I also notice that there were two additional Cape Cods to the West of his house although both were positioned and detailed differently (bottom right).

I bid adieu to Fred and Mr. McFeely after a short visit walking back down the street, that's me in photo 5. I boarded the trolley for my return trip to my starting point. It had been a very pleasant and enlightening trip.



Acknowledgements: I wish to thank David Newell (Mr. McFeely) and Paul Lally (one of the last directors of Mister Rogers' Neighborhood) for their assistance and insight into the history of the diorama. I also wish to thank The Fred Rogers Company for their permission to photograph the diorama and share photos in this article. This article and the historical information regarding the Plasticville buildings on the diorama would not have been possible without these and other unnamed individuals. I extend my most gracious thanks to all who made my visit possible.

Mister Rogers, Mr. McFeely, and Mister Rogers' Neighborhood are copyrighted by The Fred Rogers Company and are used in this article with permission.



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PLASTICVILLE BOXED SETS 104

Letter Era HO

ROBERT SPIVEY #02-154



Plasticville HO boxed sets of the letter era closely resembled their O & S counterparts. The letter era set designations each began with the same two letters "HO-". Their buildings had simplified details especially on their store fronts or roofs. For comparison, the O & S buildings were four times larger than were the HO buildings. Subsequently, some HO building details were simulated. As for the boxes, a major "C" change in box design and graphics came earlier for the HO line than it did for the O & S line. The HO boxed sets of the letter era had two tone box colors split diagonally, just like the yet to be O & S number era set boxes. Moreover, even before 1956, the final group of HO letter era boxed sets began to exactly resemble what all number era Plasticville set box tops would soon look like. Even while they used the similar logo font and the similar graphic placements, the HO sets had fewer slogans than their O & S counterparts. The characteristic "built by Young America" was not used. No icon of the boy or the girl in a circle ever appeared on an HO boxed set. Bachmann's HO product designers had their own way of doing things. In many ways they showed early indications of becoming the tail that wagged the dog. The first set that they created was a very basic one.

Unit HO-350 was the first Plasticville boxed set. It retailed at \$3.50. Its theme was a mixture of railroad, city and residential buildings. The HO buildings were four times smaller than their O & S counterparts. Subsequently, this set lacked the powerful dominating presence for which the original O & S boxed sets demonstrated. When placed inside O27 curved sections the O & S sets provided better open area coverage than did the HO structures. Because HO track sections spanned 36 inches in diameter, the number of buildings in this set was insufficient to make an impressive scene. Anyway, HO operators were primarily interested in landscaping, thus they compartmentalized the scenes of their populated areas. The set's components were: a suburban station with a platform extension, a fire house, a jail, and a ranch house. The trim on the two public buildings was simplified. The house and the station were an identical match,

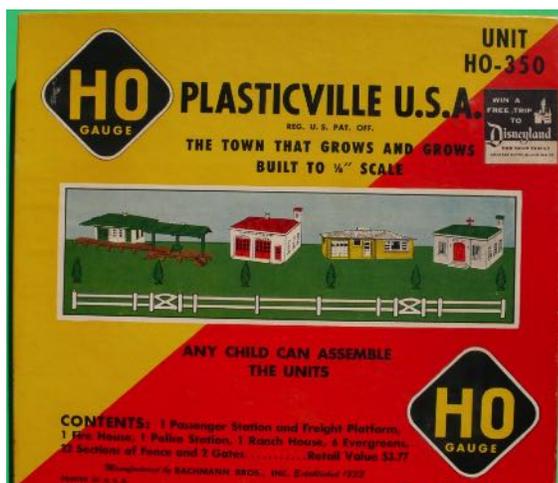
albeit the platform extension was lacking a third pole. The set also included two lawn accessories: two squares of house fence and gate with six shrubs.

Unit HO-350 was packaged in an 11 inch x 9 & 3/4 inch x 1 & 3/8 inch lift off gift box. Its color was yellow over red. The contents were neatly separated by six trays measuring: 3 & 1/4 inches x 5 inches, 3 & 1/4 inches x 5 & 5/8 inches, plus twin trays measuring 4 & 3/4 inches x 3 & 1/2 inches, and twin trays at 4 & 3/4 inches x 1 & 3/4 inches. There was also a 12 inch long filler insert that ran across the width of the box. Its function was similar to the dividing septum found in a Lionel HO set box or a Tyco Set box. The HO-350 was the only Plasticville boxed set to have used this feature. The box top herald "PLASTICVILLE U. S. A." was slightly offset near to the top edge of the box. A circle "R" does not yet appear on the HO-350: "REG. U.S. PAT. OFF." appears below the herald. A primary slogan "THE TOWN THAT GROWS AND GROWS" was placed further below, with a line description "BUILT TO 1/8 SCALE". The set designation "UNIT HO-350" was printed at the extreme upper right hand corner. The secondary slogan "ANY CHILD CAN ASSEMBLE THE UNITS" was cen-

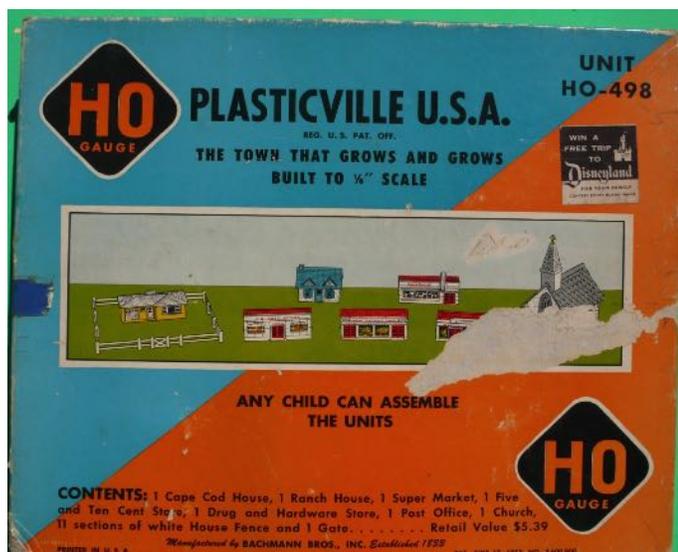


tered below the letter boxed rendering of contents. The line listing of contents was placed near the lower edge of the box top followed by "... Retail Value \$3.77". Only one other Plasticville boxed set ever shared this selling pitch: Master Unit (MU- 1). The set's scale "HO GAUGE" was put on two targets shaped like school zone crosswalk signs. One target was offset to the left of the herald near the top edge, and another target was offset to the lower right of the line listing of contents. The letter boxed rendering of contents was set on a dark green lawn under a pale blue sky. Only a few of the fence sections were displayed, otherwise the picture represented and accurate scene. The "HO GAUGE" targets and a sketch of the built up scene (with a complement of fence) was placed around all four box side panels.

Unit HO-498 complemented the HO-350. The set contained the following buildings: a church, supermarket, drug and hardware store, 5 & 10 cent store, post office, ranch house and a Cape Cod house with attic windows. The houses included trim and accessories which were never included in their O & S counterparts: window awnings and covered back porches with two lounges and a patio table. The set's accessory was a square of house fence and gate. The set was packaged in a 12 & 1/2 inch x 10 & 1/4 inch x



1 & 3/8 inch lift off box. It's color was turquoise over tangerine. The set's contents were divided by eight trays measuring: 5 x 3 & 1/8 inches, 5 x 6 & 1/4 inches and six trays equally measuring at 5 x 2 & 1/2 inches. The box top graphics were arranged just like the HO-350. The letter boxed rendering of contents was set on a lime green lawn under a washed out sky. The house porches and awnings were not represented. Therefore, with the purchase of both the Unit HO-350 and the Unit HO-498, an HO operator could set up a well rounded township. Practically all the city buildings which were available at the time would be represented. The next set was a little more suburban, thus typifying the "town that grows and grows".



Miniature Community (HO-499) was designed to extend the township out into suburbia. The set included: the two different homes, school, frosty bar, fire house and a church, plus six phone poles, a pair of spruce trees and six shrubs. The set was packaged in a 10 & 1/4 inch x 9 & 3/4 inch x 1 & 3/4 inch box. It's color was yellow over blue. The contents were precisely separated by six trays measuring: 7 & 1/8 inches x 2 & 3/4 inches, 7 & 1/8 inches x 3 & 1/4 inches, 3 & 1/4 inches x 4 & 1/2 inches, 3 & 1/4 x 2 & 1/2 inches, 2 & 3/4 inches x 4 & 1/4 inches, and 2 & 3/4 x 5 inches. The box top graphics were and advanced design which will become typical of all future number era Plasticville set boxes. A brand new herald style was printed in cursive style font "PLASTICVILLE, U.S.A. by BACHMANN" (the circle "R" was used). The descriptive term "MINIATURE" was placed at the top left edge of the box top. The set name and designation "MINIATURE COMMUNITY" was found right below the letter boxed rendering of contents. The artwork for the scale identification "HO GAUGE" was styled on two banners which implied a side ways carried



motion. These banners appeared at the upper right and also the lower left (along with a second descriptive "MINIATURE" line) of the letter boxed picture. The line listing of contents and corporate identification were placed near the lower box top edge. Sketches of several unrelated HO buildings were arranged all around the box side panels. The letter boxed rendering of contents was set on a pea green lawn under a light blue sky with clouds which suggested a sideways movement. The house porches and awnings were not represented.

Miniature Farm (HO-298) was brought over from an original classification of early boxed sets. It came into the HO boxed set line a little late. In keeping with the mindset of HO operators, who compartmentalized their scenes into their landscaping, Bachmann's product developers gave this set a lot of phone



poles. The farm site was seemingly well beyond the township site. The set's core components were a barn with an extended shed, and a Cape Cod house with no porch or awnings. It was accessorized with twelve phone poles, three spruce trees and six shrubs, 50 pieces of fence, and 16 O & S scaled fowl and domestic animals. Although the barn is almost alike in architectural style to it's O & S counterpart, it was different in shape. The Miniature Farm was packaged in the same size box and graphics style as the Miniature Village. It's color was blue over red. The contents were separated by five dividers measuring: 9 & 7/8 inches x 3 & 3/8 inches, with twin trays at 6 inches x 3 inches, and also twin trays at 6 inches x 1 & 7/8 inches. The artists rendering followed the same perspective and setting as the Miniature Community and



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represented the contents fairly, but less than half of the fence was shown.

Railroad Accessories (HO-497) contained track side structures that could be used along the mainline. The set's contents were: a suburban station with two platform extensions, two signal bridges with a switch tower, a trestle bridge and six phone poles. The set was packaged in a box with graphics and dividers just like the Miniature Farm. The box color was yellow over red. The letter boxed rendering of contents retained the same elemental style as the Miniature Village and the Miniature Farm box tops. The scene was accurate, however just like the O & S box top art, the signal bridges and the trestle bridge were incorrectly colored gray to better help in contrasting the details.

In conclusion, the Plasticville HO boxed sets of the letter era followed a logical progression for building "the town that grows and grows". Each new boxed set complemented those sets that came before. But, for the HO operator, Plasticville buildings served individual needs, and they sold much better individually. Although these sets are rare, for today's collectors outside the PCA, they remain largely unappreciated. For the most part, Bachmann's marketing strategy was admirable. They became aware of the rapidly expanding market for HO scale. They had the ability to beat their competitors to production by simply scaling down Plasticville's existing buildings. Most importantly, they were able to take action because they knew that the sales department had already forged the means to promote the HO line in almost all of the large towns in the nation - Woolworths.

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THE YORK REPORT

JOHN NIEHAUS #00-3

Another York train meet has come and gone. The weather kinda sorta cooperated although it was quite windy and a bit cooler than other Spring shows. All in all a good show though.

Both of our Show N Tells were well attended. The morning session had about the usual number of attendees. The afternoon session had almost twice the usual attendance. It was my intention to forego the afternoon session if there was not sufficient attendance in my opinion. Due to this uptick in attendance this time I will ask the show people to continue allowing us the room for the afternoon session. Various and sundry unusual items showed up at the sessions.

Richard Byrd presented a suburban station roof in a blue-gray, what he termed an Air Force blue. Another member stated that she has seen these before and has one or two in her collection. Another member offered that he might have the needed doors in the same color in his stock of parts.

Buddy Meade always seems to come up with unusual pieces. This session was no exception. He showed Littletown telephone poles in a light brown. The underside of the bases were marked Unlimited Plastics thus validating that they were a Littletown product. He also had a Britains plastic shed to share. Lastly he brought forth a brown park bench. Questions arose as to whether this was a molding machine cleanout piece or whether brown benches were included in the Make N Play sets. Does anyone know if the benches in the Make N Play were brown?

Another member passed around a set of twelve postcards from the Storytown amusement park in Lake George, New York. I apologize for not noting his name. Tom Friesner showed a Spectrum brand two story house. Tom Landis had a complete kit of figures with the paint palette and the carbona paint thinner bottle. What made the set unique is that the carbona bottle still has the original cork which would make the set one of the earliest as later sets came with capped bottles. It is presumed that Bachmann went to capped bottles to eliminate evaporation of the carbona before the sets were sold.

Yours truly presented a complete BN-1 Barn with the very early production cream colored roof. I also showed a very dilapidated HO built-up box with the original Cape Cod house although it had been removed from its scenic base.

My last piece was a boxed #590 American Flyer Control Tower. It is actually a Bachmann Switch Tower that was custom made with lighting for American Flyer. I am trying to determine who assembled and painted the piece. An article will follow if I can find adequate documentation.

I found prices for Plasticville to be fairly reasonable. A Water Tank for \$7. A Switch Tower for \$5. As usual there were a very, very few who were quite proud of what they had such as a glued church for \$35. But all on all it seemed that one could find reasonable prices on pieces this time. It is my feeling that this meet deserves only 2 ½ gold bars due to many items I saw at very reasonable prices.



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FIGURATIVELY SPEAKING

Miscellaneous Odds, Ends and Questions

RON SCHLICHT #02-109



Let me preface this article and subsequent future ones, in regards to many of the photos that I occasionally attach.

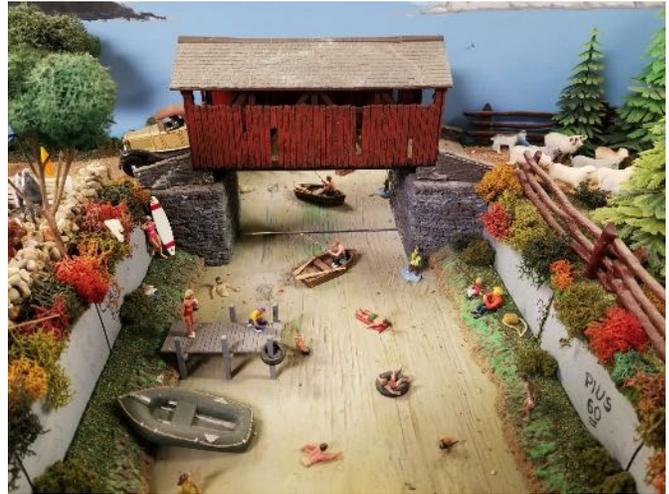
"I have two layouts." One is my permanent home layout and one is a portable traveling layout that I take to a number of model railroad shows in Wisconsin. In many cases I have the duplicate Plasticville structures. Although they are duplicates each has been modified in a different fashion (Brothers from different mothers) not identical twins.

Many of us are diehard PV devotees and I believe this comes along with our generational interests. A number of the attendees at the shows that I attend are much younger. When reading the name Plasticville on the structures I had to put up with the same inane question. "Plasticville" What's Plasticville? This has led to me renaming many of the structures with more current or creative names. Now the only questions that I get are from the older folks asking "isn't that Plasticville? This is called "you can't win.

No Virginia, there was no rare third hobo shack; it was just another way to make use of some other broken stuff. The Motel 6 is just is a Lionel accessory load crate. It is just that some people prefer a private room. As a sidelight where else could I have put Mother Teresa but with the homeless. Hotdogs are on the menu.



Next to the hobo village is a more rural setting, log cabins aren't exactly found in many subdivisions. This also gave me a location to place some of the other unusual accessories like the pond, wishing well, pump, outhouse and rustic fence. Not pictured is the "DOGPATCH" sign; however Daisy Mae is chasing Lil Abner. Just next to this venue is a rather busy recreational spot. The river was an accident. I ran out of plywood and there was a gap. By mere happenstance the opening was just fractions of an inch of the length of PV's covered bridge. Not genius just dumb luck. Even a blind squirrel finds a nut once and a while.



As if you haven't seen enough Frosty Bars, here's two more. Both versions have had the insides detailed. The home layout incorporated many of the playground accessories offered by PV. With the addition of some washers, I decided to add some additional seating on both sides. This one also has interior lighting. As you can see the Frosty Bar provides enough calories to sustain most of those who partake of the delicacies. In addition Michael Jackson has made a personal appearance. Nearly every PV phone booth on my layout has a caller inside. The "travelling" layout features the Rock and Roll Drive-in complete with roller skating waitresses. Also making their presence known is Daisy Duke, Professor Xavier (X-Men), yours truly and the "please don't have another hot fudge sundae" lady pondering the menu. Directly underneath the drive-in is a CD player which naturally plays 50's music. Is there any other kind?



As you can see near the park is the PVgreenhouse. One of the challenges is keeping it from falling down without glue. I use clear silicon sealer for keeping many structures together. If you want to keep it original and undamaged RTV (silicon sealer) will in no way damage the plastic and peels right off. If applied sparingly it is hardly visible.



A HISTORY OF PLASTICVILLE: PART II

SOME 1950'S ACCESSORIES

TOM FRITSCH #01-4

CHRISTMAS TREE (CT-6)

The **Christmas Tree** or Evergreen Tree was one of the many items that were sold to retailers in boxes of one dozen in 1950. However, it was available the previous year in the JC-3 **Build a Fence Master Unit**. The **Christmas Tree** was included in many additional **Master Units** over the next few years. Evergreen Trees were only cataloged in green and white, and they were called **Christmas Trees** when cataloged as a singularly available piece in 1950 and 1951. They were also a part of the **Log Cabin Kit (LC-2)** and **Build A Fence (JC-3)**. In addition to the cataloged white and green colors, the **Christmas Tree** also is found in translucent green with speckles, translucent red with speckles, solid red and red tree with white base in various **Master Units**. This tree shared the same base design as the **Maple Tree**.

MAPLE TREE (MT-2)

The **Maple Tree** came in only the one color: bright green with a brown base. It shared the same base design as the **Christmas Tree**. This tree was available in 1949 in the uncataloged VU-4 **Community Unit**. Only in 1950 was it sold individually to dealers in a box of one dozen and was numbered MT-2. From 1950 to 1954 it was available in the following **Master Units** – 1950: HU-6, RU-2, SU-4; 1951: CU-7, CU-9, HU-6, RU-2, SU-4; 1952: BA-7, HU-7, RA-6, RU-3, YA-9; 1953: BA-7, HU-7, MU-1, RA-6, RU-3, YA-9; 1954: CU-1. The **Maple Tree** continued as part of the **Yard Accessories Unit** until 1957.

BIRD BATH (CB, CBR)

The **Bird Bath** was one of many accessories issued in dealer boxes of twelve during 1950. Two birds, one with the tail pointing up and the other with the tail down, were glued at the factory to the rim. The birds were available in three different colors: red, yellow or light blue. The **Bird Bath** is partially constructed by using an inverted base of a white CT-6 **Christmas Tree**. This **Bird Bath** is excessively large for "0" scale and would be more suited to "G" scale. Based on one-quarter inch scale, the **Bird Bath**, not

counting the height of the birds, is seven feet tall. Taking into consideration the height of the birds, it totals out at approximately ten scale feet.

When these early items were manufactured they were not known as "Plasticville," and there is no documentation from Bachmann available about how these items reached production. It is believed that these early items had no direct "toy train market" link and were simply designed as toys for children. Some of the first plastic items that were manufactured Bachmann Brothers were combs, sunglasses and birthday cake candleholder birds. These candleholder birds are most commonly found in shades of pink, but light blue, yellow and white may also be found.

The early version of the **Bird Bath** had a hole in the base where the stem of a "large" candleholder bird was inserted, though the hole for the candle was filled in. This version is illustrated on the front of the HF-2 **Fence & Gate**. By 1950, Bachmann had modified the inverted tree trunk to allow for the attachment of two smaller birds. These birds were on top of the **Bird Bath**. The revised version of the **Bird Bath** has a solid base with no hole.

GARDEN TRELIS (GT-1)

The **Garden Trellis** was introduced in 1950 and came in a dealer box of one dozen. A five-rung version was issued first and only with a red bird. This was followed by a four-rung version that came either with a red, yellow or light blue bird perched on top. These were the same birds as found on the **Bird Bath**. The **Garden Trellis** was made primarily for Christmas gardens. It is ten feet tall in "0" scale.

FLOCK OF BIRDS (FB-8)

The **Flock of Birds** came in a cellophane bag of eight (four birds have tails up and four have tails down) in mixed colors of red, yellow and light blue. They were packed twelve bags to a dealer box. There are three variations in the cellophane bags – one clear and two designs with bird pictures on it. These 1950-issued **Flock of Birds** were the same birds that were used for the **Bird Bath**

and **Garden Trellis**, except that a base was added. They were made for the builders of Christmas gardens. These birds are three feet in "0" scale height. By 1951, the **Flock of Birds** were gone from the scene.

RUSTIC FENCE AND GATE (2-R, RD-3, RF-1, 1007, 1034, 45982, 45984)

Both the **Rustic Fence and Gate**, commonly associated with the **Log Cabin**, were first seen in Plasticville in 1950. RF-1 is a dealer box of twelve fence sections that was later changed to #1007. RG-3 is a dealer box of twelve gates; later changed to #1034. The 2-R **Rustic Fence and Gate** was introduced in 1951. This kit contained 11 fence sections and one gate. The green-bordered box for this release is similar to that of the early **Log Cabin** kit. Gates were dropped after 1958 and the fence sections in 1962. The **Rustic Fence and Gate** returned in 1997 as #45984 (**Rustic Fence Kit**). This kit contained ten fence sections and two gates. The #45982 kit (**Log Cabin With Rustic Fence**), also issued in 1997, contained five fence sections and one gate with a **Log Cabin**.

The **Rustic Fence** is based on the rail fence that is most closely identified with eastern pioneering areas. The rail fence was proclaimed the "national fence" by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in recognition of its widespread use in the late 1800s.

BILLBOARD (BB-9, 1028)

The **Billboard** was issued in the standard dealer box of one dozen in 1950 as BB-9. Bachmann changed the designation on this box to #1028 in 1957. They were cataloged through 1961. The **Billboard** frames were manufactured in either green or white. The first issue frames had two tabs on each side to hold the inserts while the second issue had a strip on each side.

The **Billboards** provided a forum for Bachmann Brothers to advertise their line of Solarex Sunglasses. There are two cardboard inserts that were first issued: Solarex billboard with a passing car and "DRIVE CAREFULLY SCHOOL ZONE" showing the Plasticville School House and a crossing guard. The second issue inserts all advertise sunglasses: Lady- "HAVE FUN IN THE SUN WITH SOLAREX SUNGLASSES"; Man with fishing pole- "WHENEVER YOU ARE OUTDOORS WEAR SOLAREX SUNGLASSES"; Boy- "COM'ON KIDS FOLLOW THE LEADER WEAR SOLAREX SUNGLASSES"; and Boy- "COM'ON KIDS FOLLOW THE LEADER WEAR MAJESTIC SUNGLASSES" (the 'Majestic' insert is from master units); A "Hires Root Beer" insert was also available. This was only illustrated in the 1951 catalog with the #HU-6 "House Unit" **Master Unit**. Bachmann encouraged people to make their own billboard inserts with an inscription that was printed on the back of the early releases of the **Billboard** inserts.

Sometime between 1950 and 1953, a dark brown **Billboard** was produced in Canada by Frank Martin & Co., Ltd. for the Canadian market. It is not known what arrangement they had with Bachmann, but they did use Bachmann's production numbers for the products that they sold. These **Billboards** were included in the Canadian **Master Units** of the time and all of these **Billboards** came with a "B.C. Apples" insert, showing either red or yellow apples. It is thought that Frank Martin & Company also owned this apple orchard.

OUTDOOR BARBECUE (FR-5, 1004)

The **Outdoor Barbecue** was introduced in 1950 as FR-5, and came in a dealer box of 12. It was renumbered #1004 in 1957. Technically, the **Barbecue** was manufactured in three main colors: light gray, dark gray and marbled gray. However, many additional shades of colors, some of them approaching black, have been found. Bachmann also used this item in other kits such as the **House and Yard Accessories Unit**. The Barbeque disappeared after 1958. A red **Outdoor Barbecue** was included in the #4004, "Make 'N' Play - House and Garden" set released in 1964.

BENCH

The **Bench** was never cataloged as a separate item, but was included with several Plasticville kits. Two **Benches** first appeared in 1950 with the **Suburban Station** and one with the **Station Platform** in 1955. Three **Benches** were included with the **Outdoor Necessities** released in 1951. One or two **Benches** were usually included with the **Plasticville Citizens** kits, since there were always one or two sitting couples. The **Playground Equipment** release of 1957 included two **Benches**. The **Bench** had disappeared in 1963 only to return in 1975 as part of the **Park Assortment**. This set included eight **Benches**. Several of the Lionel Plasticville sets, produced between 1958 and 1962, also included **Benches**.

BRIDGE AND POND (BL-2, 1300)

When the **Bridge and Pond** was introduced in 1950, it carried the designation BL-2. In 1957, this designation was changed to #1300, but no boxes have been found with this number. Bachmann made the pond so that it would hold a cup of water. There are three green color variations of the pond.

An "H0" version of the **Bridge and Pond** was also made. It is identical in size to the "0-S" scale version, but has the following differences: The pond is not a solid green, but a mottled green, yellow and red; it included a cardboard simulated water insert and the three-piece brown bridge is not at all like the "0-S" version - it is much smaller and thinner.

The pond was used in two of Bachmann's "Storytown, U.S.A." items, introduced in 1957. The "Three Men in a Tub" (#5000) used the pond with a pink **Footbridge** while the "Goosey Goosey Gander's Castle" (#5010) used only the pond. The word "Plasticville," normally found on the underside was machined from the mold prior to the Storytown introduction.

FOOTBRIDGE (PB-5, 1051)

The same year that Bachmann released the Bridge and Pond, 1950, they also released the "Bridge" portion separately in dealer boxes of one dozen labeled PB-5 **Footbridge**. This number was later superseded by #1051. This bridge can be found in solid brown or often with red and/or black specs scattered throughout the predominantly brown color.

A **Footbridge** was also used in the "Three Men in a Tub" (#5000), one of Bachmann's "Storytown, U.S.A." items (available 1957-1959). It was a pink color, similar to that found on the Plasticville **Ranch House**.

SMALL FENCE AND GATE (HF-2, 1075, 1987)

The small white **Fence and Gate** was one of the many items that Bachmann sold to dealers in boxes of one dozen in 1950. The dealer box was designed to go on a retail store's counter. The red, white and green dealer box pictures the **Fence and Gate** along with a **Cape Cod House**, **Wishing Well**, **Birdbath**, **Shrubs** and a **Maple Tree**. As is indicated on the side of the box, the individual boxes contained 11 sections of fence and one gate section. Twelve sections of the **House Fence and Gate** were included with the #1987 **Barn** "Scenic Classic" in 1982. Bachmann also produced a "H0" scale **Platform Fence and Gate** Unit, numbered H0-25, which was the same size as the "0-S" version. The "H0" box contained the same amount of fences, as did the "0-S" box.

CROSSING GATE (WG-2, 1029, 1937, 45937)

This accessory was introduced in 1950. It came in both black and red base color variations. The red base version is less common. At first, the **Crossing Gates** were sold individually in a box, but later they were numbered WG-2 and sold to dealers in a box of one dozen. In 1981, Bachmann sold this **Crossing Gate** in the #1937 kit with six **Crossing Signals**, as well as with kit #45937.

STREET LAMP (LP-9, 1025, 1938, 45938, 45990)

The **Street Lamp**, or Lamp Post, was introduced in 1950 with "glow in the dark" globes as LP-9. The tip of the light would glow in the dark after being exposed to light. "These curb-edge utilities bring a sense of well-planned completion to your village or town. White, straight-set globes glow in the dark."

The **Street Lamps** were issued two to a die cut card for 10¢. Twelve of these cards came in a dealer box that was displayed on the retail counter. Some retailers, such as F. W. Woolworth Co., removed the lights from the card and displayed them in bins along with the many other items that were introduced by Bachmann that year. This has made these cards somewhat scarce and the lights are worth more if they are still mounted on it. This is a normally green piece, but it was issued in a scarcer black color variation. In 1957, the catalog number was changed to #1025. The **Street Lamp** faded from the scene in 1963. In 1981, however, Bachmann issued kit #1938, which contained twelve of these posts along with twelve of the **Boulevard Lights**. Release #45938 and #45990 of 1997 also included **Boulevard Lights**. The "glow in the dark" globes were also used on various buildings: the front of the **Bank**, **Police Department**, **Post Office** and **School House**, the runway side of the **Airport Administration** building and the tip of later-issue **TV Station**.

BOULEVARD LIGHT (SL-1, 1026, 1938, 45938, 45990)

The SL-1 **Boulevard Light** was originally released in 1950 in dealer boxes of twelve and came only in the common green color with "glow in the dark" globes. The **Boulevard Light** was discontinued in 1960. In 1981, Bachmann issued kit #1938, which contained twelve of these lights along with twelve of the **Street Lamps**. Release #45938 and #45990 also includes **Street Lamps**.

OUTHOUSE (SA-9, 1050, 1985, 45306, 45983)

The **Outhouse** was released in 1950 in a dealer box of one dozen. This box was designed to be opened on the retail counter and display the picture as well as the contents. There were originally

six color variations of this double privy: brown, "flesh" color, chocolate brown, red walls with white roof, white walls with red roof and reddish brown marbled. Outhouses with red letters are believed only to have been issued in the **Master Units**. The **Outhouse** disappeared in 1960, but was resurrected in 1980 as part of the #1985 **Log Cabin Retreat**. This "Scenic Classic" set contained a new olive drab color of the **Outhouse**. The Hobo Jungle release #45983 in 1997 and built-up release #45306 in 2005 contained an **Outhouse**.

SHRUB (BS-6, 1030)

This was one of many individual items that Bachmann introduced in 1950. Six green **Shrubs** came in a cellophane bag, with twelve bags in a dealer box, labeled BS-6. The cellophane bag came in both clear and with a green and white design. In 1957, Bachmann changed the number of this **Shrub** to #1030. The cellophane bag is uncommon – its scarcity is directly attributed to the many dealers who discarded the manufacturer's packaging, dumped these pieces into bins and sold them from there. These **Shrubs** can also be found in other Plasticville kits, such as the HY-6 **House & Yard Accessories Unit** in 1952 and the #1406 **Playground Equipment** in 1957.

Bachmann did produce this **Shrub** in different colors (blue, red and yellow), but only with their #5012 "Storytown U.S.A. – Jack and Jill" kit between 1957 and 1959. Dark brown, light buff and medium buff **Shrubs** were produced to go with the King Distributing version of the Apartment House in 1985, but were never released. (Reportedly, 900 of each color shrub was produced.) They were later made available to Plasticville Collectors Association members.

SPRUCE TREE (TR-6, 1001)

This tree was first available in 1950 under the designation TR-6. This tree is formed out of two different sections that slide together. It is an early attempt at a three-dimensional look for the trees. The **Spruce Tree** was sold in dealer boxes of one dozen under this designation until 1956, when the #1001 production number was released. It appeared in many of the **Master Units** beginning with the HU-7 **House Unit** of 1952. The **Spruce Tree** was issued in three different colors. The light green and the dark green varieties are relatively common, but the white tree is quite scarce. It survived as a separate item until 1958.

The **Spruce Tree** was a part of various box assortments as well as the **Yard Accessories Unit**. The #5012, "Storytown U.S.A. – Jack and Jill" set (available 1957-1959) also included a green **Spruce Tree**.

STREET NAME SIGN (SS-5)

The **Street Name Sign** was originally released in 1950 in dealer boxes of one dozen. It was only produced in the common green color that Bachmann used on many of their small items. This piece was also available in many of the **Master Units** beginning with the SU-4 **Shopping Unit** of 1950. Originally, it came with a tag that was mounted at the top of the sign. The buyer could use this tag to write the name of a street on it and then cut it to fit in the sign. **Street Name Signs** disappeared in 1963.

TELEPHONE POLE (TP-5, 1000, 1630, 1931, 1963, 5000, 45931, 45989)

The **Telephone Pole** was introduced in 1950 and was sold initially to dealers in boxes of one dozen as a nickel accessory. It maintained that price through 1964. In 1957, the dealer box number was changed to #1000, but it was otherwise identical to the original TP-5. In 1963, a Pliofilm bag (#5000) of **Telephone Poles** was issued. The #1630 box was introduced in 1975. (This catalog number was previously used on the **Cape Cod House** in 1963.) In 1981, the #1931 was issued with a set of twelve **Telephone Poles** and 24 **Signs**; in 1997, #45989 was released, also with **Signs**. The #1630 box is the most colorful and is the hardest to find. There are four known color variations of the **Telephone Pole**. The brown colored pole is the most common and is easily found. However, other colors of white, red and black, are less common. The early telephone poles came with the angled braces, while the latter poles came unbraced. {"Dave Horner told me about this variation [unbraced]: It was only made in the 1949-1950 timeframe. The cross-braces were added because the un-braced spars were found to be too fragile. Dave showed me the A-1950 catalog, in which only the cross-braced version is shown." *Villager*, November 2012 p. 6}

WISHING WELL (WW-3, 1033)

The **Wishing Well** and the **Yard Pump** have similar histories. Both were introduced in 1950, and both had their initial release numbers changed in 1957. The **Wishing Well** number was changed from WW-3 to #1033. Bachmann sold this item in dealer

boxes of one dozen. The **Wishing Well** is known to have flecks of red and/or black colors mixed in with the main brown color. The **Wishing Well** disappeared in 1959.

The **Wishing Well** was also included in Bachmann's #5012 "Storytown, U.S.A. - Jack and Jill" kit (available 1957-1959). This item came with a yellow **Wishing Well** that has a red bucket, or less common, in red plastic with a yellow bucket.

YARD PUMP (YW-4, 1005)

The **Yard Pump** and the **Wishing Well** have similar histories. Both were introduced in 1950, and both had their initial release numbers changed in 1957. The **Yard Pump** number was changed from YW-4 to #1005. Bachmann sold the pump in dealer boxes of one dozen. This item was brown with occasional red or black mixed in. The post of the **Yard Pump** is from the same mold as the post of the **Picket Fences**. The **Yard Pump** disappeared after 1958.

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K-LINE KRONICLES

#K-4050 Colonial House

ED BERG #02-123



Amongst the venerable old Marxville buildings that K-Line re-introduced is the Church. To their credit, both Marx and K-Line offered the Church in more subdued, serene colors, no gaudy bright reds or yellows in these kits (although Marx did have a version with a bright green roof, however it is offset by the more restrained white walls). Of course this article covers only the initial iteration of K-Line kits and



you'll notice the box which this came in is one of the earliest examples of K-Line packaging. These Churches, like nearly every other repop K-Line was involved with, would see more color changes over the years giving the collector a nice amount of variety and something to look forward to in their quest to have one of each color. The seasoned K-Line collector will notice that in the Church, ranch house, colonial house, and store kits, there is one significant piece missing which was in the original Marx kits – the tree! Maury Klein never got the tooling for the various tree 'flats' (so called because when viewed from the side they had a flat profile). The tooling for the trees went elsewhere, and happy to say repro trees are still available from a number of on-line stores such as Classic Toy Soldiers or The Hobby Bunker, amongst others. Also not included with this particular kit was the Preacher, Bride, and Groom figure trio present in all Marx Churches and they are conspicuously absent on the box cover art.

I've mentioned this in previous articles; in true K-line form the particular kit used for this article was missing a piece. This was a mint-in-box kit with all the bags sealed and it was missing the front door! Poor quality control on the assembly line meant many building kits were either missing parts or had a piece or two too many. Fortunately I had another kit with a door in a nearly identical shade of blue and used it for the photo shoot. However, the one item included in the K-Line kit which has

often gone missing in the old Marx kits was the tiny little cross for the steeple.

The beautiful pastel blue works extremely well with the cream colored walls and is a striking structure reminiscent of Churches across the country. Enjoy!

Figures: 35mm Beige Hard Plastic:

- Woman w/child
- Man in overalls
- Milkman
- Boy skating
- Girl jumping rope

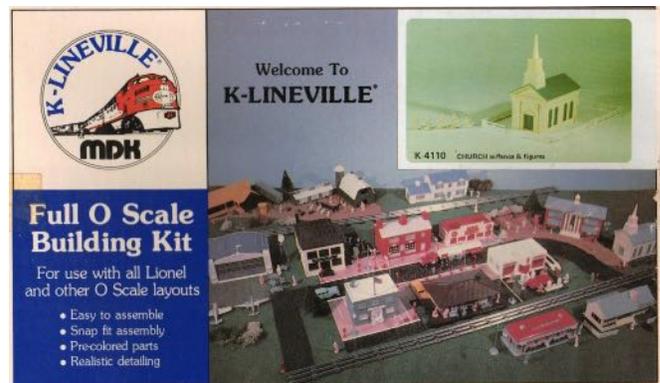


Additional Accessories:

- White soft plastic board fence, 12 pieces

K-Line Logo: None present

Ed ICE Berg, Las Vegas, NV



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PLASTICVILLE IN THE 2018 BACHMANN TRAINS CATALOG

JOHN L. NIEHAUS #00-3

The 2018 Bachmann trains catalog is now available as a PDF download and a print form. You can also read the catalog online at Bachmann's website if you wish.

The pages of the catalog for this year are all oriented in the same direction as was the 2017 edition. My guess is that the dual catalog concept on one binding has gone by the wayside.

As with last year's catalog, there is no longer a separate section for the O scale Plasticville. All Plasticville is now lumped together in the Buildings and Accessories subsection of the Landscape, Building, Figures, and Accessories section.

There are only eight pieces offered in N scale this year. The two and what must be considered as discontinued are the Auto Body Shop and the School House. Footprints for the pieces are included inside the illustrations of all pieces again this year. Prices for all of the listed pieces increased by \$1.

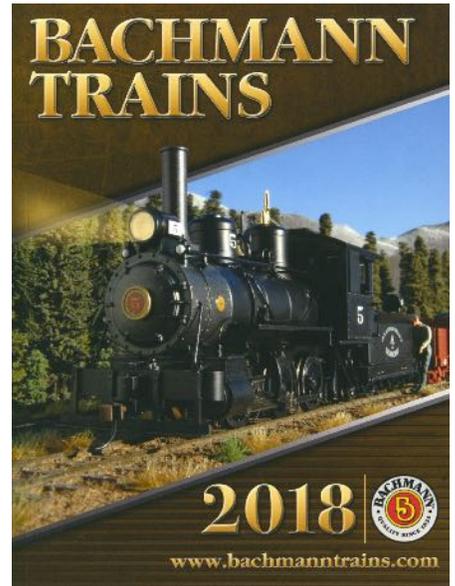
All twenty seven of the HO pieces appearing in last year's catalog are illustrated again this year. Footprints are included as part of the building's illustration. You will have to look pretty hard to see them but they are there. Separately listed footprints are noted for each of the Farm Buildings with Animals except for the dog house. The prices increased on all of the HO pieces by \$1 as compared to last year.

There are twenty eight O Scale pieces listed in the 2018 catalog if the Rustic Fence is included. Conspicuously missing and presumed discontinued is the Town Hall. I checked the O scale Plasticville listing on Bachmann's website to verify if it is discontinued and found it listed as Sold Out. That is a great surprise to me. Footprints for each piece are listed as part of the item information below the illustrations. Multiple footprints are included where there are multiple items for a stock number. As with the N and HO pieces each one had a \$1 price increase .

The 2018 catalog is available on Bachmann's website to view in PDF format. The home page is listed at the end of the article. Clicking on the Catalogs and Brochures link near the top of that page and then on the Bachmann & Williams 2018 Catalog link on the next page will open the catalog in your browser. You may have to scroll down a bit to find the Bachmann & Williams 2018 Catalog link. You can download the catalog to your computer if

you wish through the drop down menu that appears at the top center of the page.

Finding the Plasticville listings is quite easy as it is now all lumped together as previously mentioned. Use the Search (magnifying glass) function in the menu bar, type Plasticville in the pop up window, and click the magnifying glass icon. Select the Page 281 option and you should now be at the



beginning of the Plasticville listings in the catalog.

A hard copy catalog can be ordered for \$12 plus shipping and handling from their website.

<http://www.bachmanntrains.com/home-usa/index.php>.

The advertisement for Neely's Train Shop has a red background with a blue border. At the top, the shop's name 'NEELY'S TRAIN SHOP' is written in white, bold, sans-serif font. Below the name is the phone number '814-942-2652' in a large, white, bold font. Underneath the phone number is the text 'Lionel Value Added Dealer' and 'Factory Trained Authorized Service Station' in a smaller white font. At the bottom, the email address 'Email: NeelysTrainShop@aol.com' and the address '814 Green Avenue • Altoona, PA 16601' are listed in white text. The Lionel logo is visible in the top corners.

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Use your Classified Ad membership benefit and place a classified ad if you answered YES to any of the above questions. You can download the member classified ad form from the PCA website or send a letter requesting a form to PCA, 601 SE Second Street, Ankeny, Iowa 50021-3207. Classified ads run for four consecutive issues unless a change is made to the ad or notice is given to remove it.

Bill Nole PLASTICVILLE for Sale
570-343-2236 (Bill or Kim)

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0550 King Add A Floor (Brown or Red) \$8	1504 Trailer, \$30
1987 Barn Scenic Classic (sealed) \$20	1624 House Under Construction, Lt grey \$30
1986 New England Rancher Scenic Classic (sealed) \$20	1804 Greenhouse, \$30
1983 Colonial Mansion Scenic Classic (sealed) \$20	1627 Hobo Shacks, \$75
1984 Colonial Church Scenic Classic (sealed) \$25	LCCA Air Admin Building, (sealed) \$20
1985 Log Cabin Scenic Classic (sealed) \$35	1405 Railroad & Street Signs, \$12
1982 School House Scenic Classic (sealed) \$25	45986 LCCA Hangar, \$20 Sealed

No Box Kits, Complete

Railroad Work Car \$10, SUB Station \$8, Barn \$8, Motel \$8, HOBO SHACKS \$15, School \$10,
Fire Department \$12, Diner (red or yellow roof) \$10, Bank \$25, Turnpike green booths \$15,
Col Mansion (red roof) \$15, Colonial Church \$15, Add-A-Floor (red or brown) \$6 ea or 3/\$15,
Mobile Homes (8 different colors) \$12 ea or 6/\$60, Fire Department, Grey Siren, \$25

Accessories

1050 Outhouse (brown) \$4 ea, Pickup Truck \$6, Telephone Booth 3/\$10,
Fire Trucks (red, 1 pumper, 1 ladder truck) \$10 set – New: (yellow, 1 pumper, 1 ladder truck) \$15 set,
Hay Wagon w/8 stakes \$6, BBQs \$2.50 ea, SS-5 6 Street Corner signs with original tag \$8, no tag, \$1 ea
Shrubs (24 total) 3 each of green, blue, red, yellow, buff, flesh, chocolate & WHITE - \$20
Bus (green only) \$5 ea, Ambulance (green & Yellow) \$5 ea, WHITE SHRUBS 10/\$25,
Jeep, Tractor, Plow, Harrow \$4 ea or 4/\$12,
Silver Flagpole with DECAL flag \$2.50 each or 3/\$6

PLASTIC VILLAGE GAZETTE – #1- \$3.00, #'s 5 or 6 - \$2 ea.

PLASTICVILLE PARTS - \$2 ea

WINDSOCK, LOG CABIN CHIMNEY, FIRE DEPARTMENT SIREN, CHIMNEY CAP, POLICE
DEPARTMENT RED LIGHT, CHIMNEY CAP, HOSPITAL SIREN, ST CHAIR, DESK CHAIR,
CATTLE PEN CROSS BARS (with 2 holes or slot), BANK RED LIGHT, LARGE CANOPY, SMALL
CANOPY, SCHOOL WHITE LIGHT, HOUSE UNDER CONSTRUCTION SHOVEL, RAKE, HOE,
BUCKET, SAW HORSE, GINGERBREAD HOUSE BRICK (white, tan, choc), JACK & JILL PAIL,
SHRUB (red, yellow, blue), OAR RED OR YELLOW, CLOTHESLINE (red, yellow, green), CASTLE
FLAG OR CHAIN (red, yellow, blue, white)
POST OFFICE FLAG \$6

LITTLETOWN, BOXED, COMPLETE #303 Street Lights, \$25; #304 fence \$15

KING PLASTICVILLE – Covered Bridge (grey roof) Mint \$20

KING PLASTICVILLE ERTL TRACTOR TRAILER WITH BANK - \$12

Many empty Plasticville boxes available. Please send your want list.

Dealer inquiries welcome for Plasticville Guides and Plasticville parts listed above.

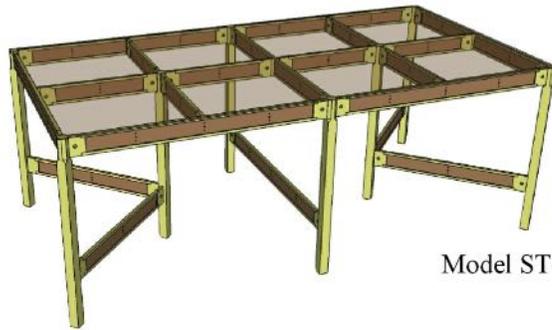
Shipping: \$5 for books, \$6 for kits and ERTL truck, \$3.50 for parts, \$8 for LCCA Set

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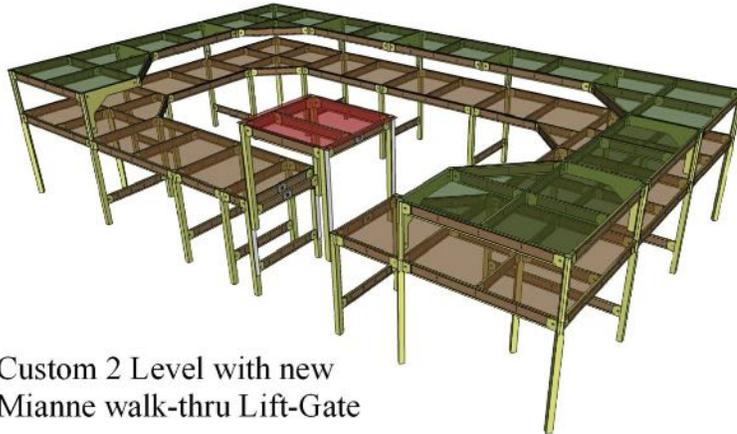
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GUIDANCE TOWN - AN HO LAYOUT OPTION?

JOHN L. NIEHAUS #00-3

Some time ago at a York meet I picked up a #503 Guidancetown playset. I felt that there may be a plastic village use for it. A little research turned up the fact that there were at least four, if not more, additional Guidancetown sets. They include the set I have and sets number 505, 507, 853, and 855. The differences I have been able to determine between these sets are the number of pieces, the number of buildings that can be created, and the size of the included play mat, called a street plan. There is one exception. There are two-piece wall sections that stack on each other to create a tall church wall with typical church windows in one of the sets. These wall sections are contained in the #505 set and possibly others. My set includes parts to create a factory, a church, a hospital, a gas station, and sixteen other buildings.

All of these sets are a product of Child Guidance Toys, Inc. Child Guidance also marketed a Child Guidance Railroad System as well as a Highway System in the early 60's.

Each set comes with various wall sections molded in white plastic. Some sections are strictly simulated block or brick as shown in the lower left corner of the photo. Some have windows molded into them while others have doors and windows. All have a code molded in relief on the back corresponding with the illustrations on the accompanying assembly sheet.

The buildings are assembled through an interference fit of a slot and a tab. The two pieces in the bottom right of the photo show the tab and slot. The only pieces in my kit and others that I have seen that have the tabs are pieces with code S on them. These

pieces are for sides. They are only three inches in length. That limits every building created to only three inches in depth.

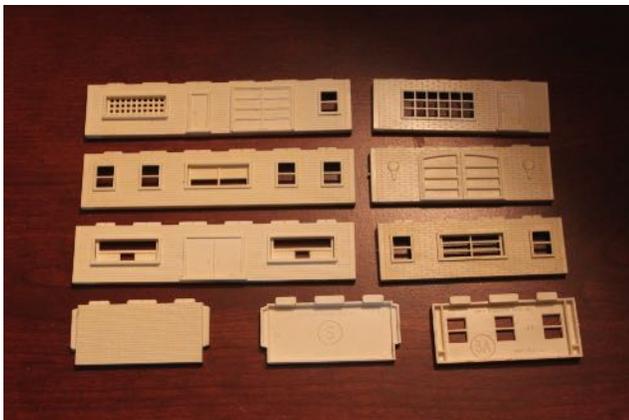
The wall sections are all about 1 ¼ inches tall and are 3, 4, or 6 inches long. That scales out to about 5 feet tall by 12 to 24 feet long in 1:48 scale. The doors are about 3 ½ feet tall by 1 ½ feet wide in 1:48 scale or closer to scale for HO at 7 × 3 feet.

Roof sections in the kit are either 3 or 4 inch lengths in both a flat as well as a peaked roof shape. My set includes green, red, orange, black, and blue colors for these segments. I am presuming the colors in any particular set may have been dependent upon what was available when the set was packaged and not on a predetermined set of packaging specifications.

A sheet of signs that are not adhesive backed are included. Some of these signs are for a Bus Depot, Police Dept, Fire Dept., Bank, Apartments, and R.R. Depot. The windows on some of the pieces are molded with a slot into which a sign can be slid.

Along with the buildings there are also large and small trees, and shrubs. In addition there are various traffic signs and street lights. A pump island is included so that the jeep, school bus, and cars that are included can fill up at the gas station. My set is missing the railroad crossing gate.

The walls and roofs of the buildings pieces in these sets could very easily be in the forefront of an HO layout or used for forced perspective on an O or S scale layout. There is enough detail in them that I feel they could be painted and trimmed very nicely.



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THE PARTS BIN - A PCA MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT

Various parts are available for the buildings listed on this page. They are offered free to members on a first come first served basis. The only cost is for the packaging and postage to mail any available requested pieces to you. Send an email to secretary@plasticvilleusa.org listing the pieces you wish or mail your list to: The Parts Bin, 601 SE Second Street, Ankeny, Iowa 50021-3207. New additions to the list are in **bold**. Parts added to previous listings are underlined.

There are no complete buildings in the listings below - only parts.

Examples of requests that will be processed:

Switch Tower - roof - brown w/o slots

Motel - rear wall - white

Coaling Tower - Part C



Examples of requests that cannot be processed:

Bungalow - Yes

Littletown General Store - I'll take it all

Ranch House - Whatever you have

Miscellaneous Window Inserts	Large Super Market	HO Cape Cod House
Misc doors & windows	Loading Platform	HO Cathedral
12-A Railroad & Street Signs	Log Cabin	HO Cattle Pen
Airport Administration Building	Mobile Home	HO Coaling Station
Airport Hangar	Motel	HO Contemporary House
Apartment House	New England Rancher	HO Factory
Auburn Log Cabin	Picket Fence	HO Fire House
Bank	Platform Fence	HO Gas Station
BN-1 Barn	Playground Equipment	HO Hardware Pharmacy
Bridge & Pond	Police Station	HO Hobby Shop
Bungalow	Post Office	HO House Under Construction
Cape Cod	Railroad Work Car	HO Motel
Cathedral	Ranch House	HO New Car Showroom
Cattle Pen	Roadside Stand	HO Police Station
CC7 & 8 Church	Rustic Fence	HO Post Office
CC-9 Church	Rustic Gate	HO Railroad Work Car
Chain Store (5&10)	School House	HO Ranch House
Coaling Tower	Signal Bridge	HO School House
Colonial Church	Small Gas Station	HO Signal Bridge
Colonial Mansion	Small Super Market	HO Split Level
Corner Store	Split Level	HO Suburban Station
Covered Bridge	ST-1 Street Accessories	HO Super Market
Crossing Gate	Station Platform	HO Switch Tower
Dairy Barn	Suburban Station	HO TV Station
Diner	Switch Tower	HO Union Station
Drug Store	Telephone Poles	
Factory	Town Hall	K-Line Chicken Coop
Farm Buildings	Trestle Bridge	K-Line Church
Fire House	Turnpike Interchange	K-Line L-Shaped Ranch
Footbridge	TV Station	K-Line Ranch House
Frosted Flakes Billboard	Two Story House	K-Line Two Story House
Frosty Bar	Union Station	
Greenhouse	Watchman's Shanty	Littletown Barn
Hardware & Pharmacy	Water Tank	Littletown Cape Cod
Hobo Shacks	Windmill	Littletown Church
Hospital	Wishing Well	Littletown Corner Store
House Fence		Littletown Gas Station
House Under Construction	HO Bank	Littletown General Store
Large Gas Station	HO Barn	Littletown Loading Platform

Donations to The Parts Bin are a Win-Win proposition!

Donors receive a tax receipt from the PCA for the parts they donate. Members have the opportunity to acquire needed parts.

Last Call Parts

Parts in these photos are currently in The Parts Bin and are available to all members on first request/first served basis. Please note both the item and the photo number in which it appears when making a request. Also be aware that the items shown may have already been spoken for and are no longer available.

If you made a request based on the February newsletter, your request is still active and there is no need to resubmit it.



Available parts continued from the previous page.

Littletown Ranch - glued
 Littletown RR Station
 Littletown School House
 Littletown Southern Colonial House
 Littletown Super Market
 Littletown Telephone Poles

Marx 3-rail fence
 Marx Accessories
 Marx Barn

Marx Church
 Marx Colonial House
 Marx Factory
 Marx Firehouse
 Marx General Store
 Marx L Ranch House
 Marx Railroad Station
 Marx Ranch House
 Marx RR & Street signs
 Marx Rustic Fence

Marx School House
 Marx Supermarket
 Marx Telephone Poles

Skyline Church
 Skyline Ranch

Lionel RR & Street Signs
 MISC street & rr signs



THE PCA CORNER STORE



ITEMS FOR SALE BY THE PCA

Send a description of item you wish to purchase and a check or money order, payable to Plasticville Collectors Association for the total amount to Plasticville Collectors Association, 601 SE Second Street, Ankeny, IA 50021-3207.

Personalized address labels

A sheet of 30, personalized, high-quality color labels are available from the PCA. The labels include the PCA logo in color and up to four lines of address. Each label is a generous 1 x 2 5/8 inches. The price is \$3.00 per sheet plus \$1.50 P&H for up to three sheets. Please add 20 cents per additional sheet over three.

PCA T-shirt

Navy blue 100% cotton, short sleeve shirt T-shirt with the PCA logo printed on the front in white. The prices are \$18 for small through X-Large, \$19 for XX-Large and \$20 for XXX-Large, shipping included, for each shirt. Please order the next larger size if you are concerned with fit. *** Only Small and 3X are currently in stock ***

PCA ballpoint pen

PCA silver barrel with blue soft grip, black ink ballpoint pen with silver accents. The pen is imprinted *Plasticville Collectors Assn, www.plasticvilleusa.org* in two lines in blue lettering. \$4.00, postpaid.

**** SOLD OUT ** Coffee Mug with PCA logo ** SOLD OUT ****

White ceramic 11 oz. ceramic mug. PCA blue or black logo. \$9.95 or two for \$15.95, postpaid. Please specify your color choice when ordering. Only 24 pieces of black logo mugs were produced. 1 black remaining.

PCA Ball Caps

Dark Blue, Velcro-back ball cap with white PCA logo embroidered on the front. \$13.00 postpaid. 10 remaining

Billboard Inserts

Printed on white cardstock. \$5.00 postpaid or emailed as a PDF for free. Two versions available:

1. "Welcome to Plasticville" billboard inserts Six identical inserts, sized to fit Plasticville billboard frames depicting a 50's vintage auto passing a billboard on its way into town with the same greeting.
2. Seven different subjects plus one "Welcome To Plasticville" inserts including Friskies dog food, Motorola, Mercury and Lincoln autos, Sunoco and Gulf motor oil, and Eberhard Faber pink erasers. All are mid-fifties vintage.

Do you have an idea for an item? Contact John Niehaus at secretary@plasticvilleusa.org or mail your suggestions to him at the address noted above.

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PRODUCT REVIEWS

JOHN L. NIEHAUS #00-3

North Carolina Transportation Museum, Alan Coleman, 96 pages, softcover, 6 ½ × 9 ¼, \$22.99. Published by Arcadia Publishing. As the title notes, the subject of this book is a transportation museum and not only a railroad museum. There are the usual acknowledgements and introduction. These are followed by five chapters as well as a bibliography. The book is a photo essay in that there is no body text but only heavily captioned photos throughout.

The museum is located on part of the grounds of the Southern Railway's Spencer Shops, one of Sothorn's repair facilities. The first chapter provides many views of former buildings and stationary equipment and how the museum has restored many of them. Skipping a chapter, the third chapter contains photos of the railroad collection. This chapter notes that the museum has over 20 locomotives and over 90 pieces of rolling stock. The earliest locomotive is a reproduction of an 1836 0-4-0. The collection of locomotives include steam, diesel, and electric. Two photos that caught my eye were a 63 ton box cab electric and a 1926 segregated motor rail car. This is the largest chapter in the book, by the way.

Backing up to the second chapter you are presented on the first page with a photo of a DC3 aircraft on pieces. It is the ambitious

STEAMED, *Everything you ever wanted to know about a steam locomotive but never asked*, DVD; \$9.95, BluRay; \$14.95, 57 minutes. Published by OGR Publishing. Six chapters.

The first chapter is a cab ride in NKP 765 with the narrator Rich Melvin at the throttle. Steam engines can be very noisy and I am pleased that even though I could understand most of what Rich and his fireman were saying that their comments were closed captioned. Part of the way through the ride Rich explains some of the signals that engineers encounter trackside.

Do you know the functions of the throttle bar, reverse lever, injector pump, feed water pump and heater, cylinder cock, or the brake stand? Chapter two will fill you in on all of these in great detail.

Chapter three is a description, using a cutaway/training aid of how the Baker valve gear operates. This is, by far, the best explanation I have ever seen as to how the steam gets into and out of a cylinder on a steam engine.

Do you know how much time it generally takes to fire up a steam engine?

How about the preferred type of coal to be burned in a steam

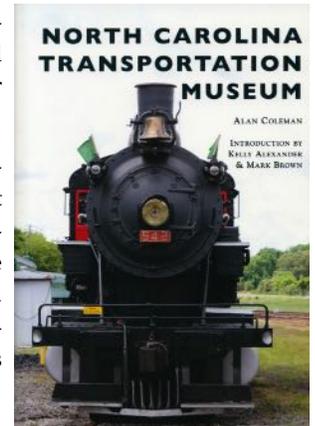
intent of the museum to fully restore it. A few other planes as well as a Curtis-Wright flight duplicator are included.

Chapter three is the vehicle collection. The photos run the gamut from buggies, to Conestoga wagons, to former North Carolina State police cars. Numerous early Fords, a 1955 Nash, and a Whizzer motorized bicycle also populate this chapter.

The last chapter highlights some of the special events that have taken place or are annual events at the museum. Rounding out the book is a short bibliography.

I enjoyed the book and if I am ever in the vicinity of Spencer, North Carolina I will do my best to plan a visit.

North Carolina Transportation Museum is available from Arcadia Publishing's website at <https://www.arcadiapublishing.com>. I found the book available on Amazon's website at \$16.25.



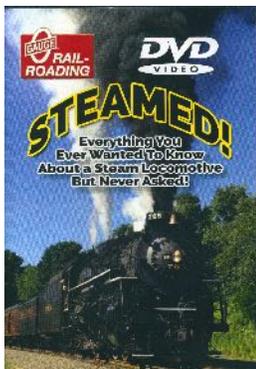
engine? Answers to both of those questions can be found in chapter 4, Steam Loco Servicing.

Chapter five, Inside a Steam Boiler, starts off with a description of an accident at the Gettysburg Railroad related to a crown sheet failure. The Rich explains how the accident occurred as well as what steps need to be taken to ensure such an accident does not occur. Again, quite informative with graphics to give a person a greater understanding of the process.

The last chapter discussed the difference in horsepower between a diesel and steam engine. It includes a narrative on how a double headed steam and diesel proved that "steam is better" when it comes to horsepower, although horsepower is not actually noted.

I thoroughly enjoyed this video. The material in all of the chapters explained their subjects in a very simple, yet highly informative manner. If you have ever wondered about some of the workings of a steam locomotive but did not know where to go for that information I highly recommend this video.

STEAMED, is available from OGR Publishing on their website at <https://ogaugerr.com/web-store>. Enter STEAMED in the search box to be taken directly to the video.



THE VILLAGER CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE

Ending May 2018

NOS School House lights, \$10 pair postpaid. NOS School House weathervane, \$5 postpaid. Combination lights, weathervane, 4 assorted figures in factory sealed bag, \$12, postpaid. #00-03 John Niehaus, 601 SE Second St, Ankeny, IA 50021 Ph. 515-771-6888 johnln@netins.net.

Ending August 2018

MINT SEALED O/B Independence Hall #2921, asking \$100.00, shipping \$5.00. I have a second clock tower for Independence Hall, \$10.00, free shipping. #09-586 Sylvester Jordan Jr. 1120 Hwy 107, Quitman, AR 72131-8932 Ph. 870-656-3931.

WANTED

Ending May 2018

1409-79 Poplar Trees - 1 top piece. 1628-100 Shade Trees - 2 pieces each third and fourth sections from bottom, I can provide a photo if that helps. 1404-79 Pine Trees - 1 middle sized trunk and 2 green tree tops. #00-03 John Niehaus, 601 SE Second St, Ankeny, IA 50021 Ph. 515-771-6888 johnln@netins.net.

Ending August 2018

Make 'N' Play, complete boxed sets. Fire Rescue, Jungle Attack, & Farm. #11-682 Matt Harvazinski, 4115 W. Ave. J7, Lancaster CA, 93536. Ph. 518-421-1130 villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org

Ending in November 2019

Aqua ranch house in excellent or like new condition. Contact e-mail pfravesi@pacbell.net or Phone 961-698-5142. #06-424 Phil Fravesi, 5520 Whitfield Way Carmichael, CA 95608.

FOR TRADE

Ending May 2018

I Need: motel-2 side walls salmon, front door white. Dairy barn - one red and one white vent-round. Split level - 2 chimney tops. Fruit stand - cupola and roof. Have Hospital, police, station, signal bridge, greenhouse, roof and flowers, diner, water tank, log cabin, others to trade. All evenings. #13-799 Fred Hachmeyer, 330 Concord Drive Mayood, NJ 07607 Ph. 201-587-1754. E-mail Fred.Hachmeyer@falconjet.com.

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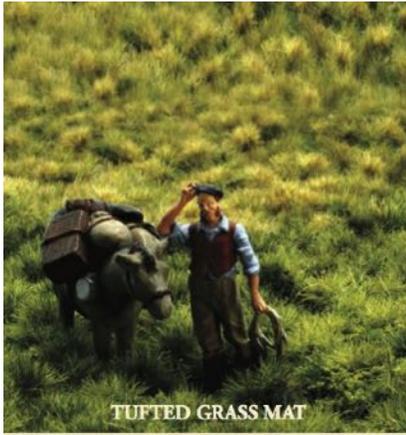


Unusual Find: Plasticville Make 'N' Play house and garden, complete with the play mat, dark blue citizens, and red BBQ. Brown hospital furniture is not pictured.

Did You Know?

Recently I received a question about which issue a specific article appeared in. While I am happy to help, there is also a self-help option. On the PCA website hover over the 'Newsletter' tab then pick 'Article Index'. You can search this document by author or title. Use 'Ctrl + F' on Windows or '⌘ + F' on a Mac.

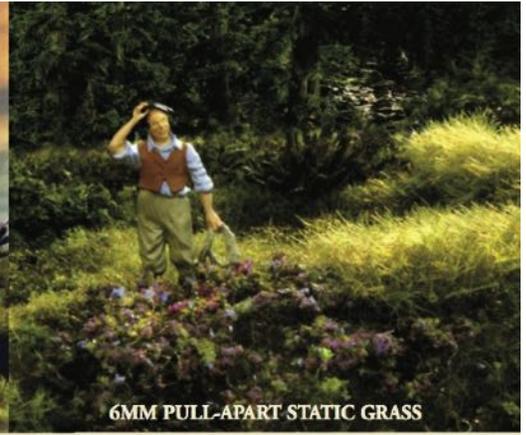




TUFTED GRASS MAT



2MM PULL-APART STATIC GRASS



6MM PULL-APART STATIC GRASS

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REALISTIC-LOOKING SCENERY HAS NEVER BEEN EASIER!

Bachmann's latest *ScenesCAPES*® landscaping products let you quickly add distinctive details and natural-looking textures to any scale layout. Professional, realistic-looking scenery has never been easier!



TUFTED GRASS MAT (one 11.75" x 7.5" sheet)
MSRP \$28.95 each



LIGHT GREEN
Item No. 32921



MEDIUM GREEN
Item No. 32922



WESTERN RANGE
Item No. 32924



DRY GRASS
Item No. 32925



2MM PULL-APART STATIC GRASS (one 11" x 5.5" expandable sheet)
MSRP \$16.95 each



LIGHT GREEN
Item No. 31011



MEDIUM GREEN
Item No. 31012



DRY GRASS
Item No. 31014



GOLD
Item No. 31015



6MM PULL-APART STATIC GRASS (one 11" x 5.5" expandable sheet)
MSRP \$16.95 each



WILD GRASS
(medium green with gold highlights)
Item No. 31001



DARK GREEN
(dark green with subtle gold highlights)
Item No. 31002



ALPINE GREEN
(dark green with subtle gold highlights and blown leaves)
Item No. 31003



6MM TUFTS (100 pieces)
MSRP \$10.95 each



MEDIUM GREEN
Item No. 31031



DARK GREEN
Item No. 31032



TAN
Item No. 31033



YELLOW and RED
Item No. 31034



WHITE and BURGUNDY
Item No. 31035



10MM TUFTS (50 pieces)
MSRP \$12.95 each



LIGHT GREEN
Item No. 31041



MEDIUM GREEN
Item No. 31042



TAN
Item No. 31044



YELLOW and RED
Item No. 31045



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