



# THE VILLAGER

The Official Newsletter of the Plasticville Collectors Association

Volume 19

December 2020

Number 4

## UPDATES FOR 2021

### THE VILLAGER STAFF

The newsletter will be moving to three issues per year starting in 2021. Publication will occur in April, August, and December. The reduced frequency will help lessen the impact of fewer contributing authors. We are still actively seeking new contributors. You may also notice that the classified

section has been eliminated. The number of contributions received was nearly zero. A decision has been made to omit that section going forward. Because we had such few requests the impact should be minimal.

## ADDING LIFE TO A PLASTICVILLE LOADING PLATFORM

ED BERG



Earlier this year I decided to rejuvenate my 40in × 60in micro-layout—the Edge of Town (EoT)—and transition it from tinplate to somewhat of a hi-rail layout. The look and feel of the layout wasn't planned so much as it just evolved, with me just sitting there on the stool and trying to figure out what my next move would be. I was going for a certain "look" which can best be described as shortline/narrow-gauge-ish, and to that end I set my sights on what kind of structures and scenery there would be. So as not to overwhelm the tiny space it was decided early on that the structures would be more-or-less small unless a larger building looked "right".

The EoT has a siding splitting the layout visually into two halves. To the left – or west – of the siding is the actual edge of town area and gateway to the larger world beyond. To right – or east - is the rural area as well as a small freight business. Prior to rejuvenation of the EoT I had a small cardstock warehouse I had made years earlier from a paper kit. The EoT had been populated with cardstock structures made from kits and sourced from a variety of places, but that was all to change. While my first victim, errr, I mean project was to be the Plasticville Loading Platform, new kits can tend to be pricey, not just the kit but shipping cost as it appears as if all Plasticville kits come in the same size *big* box. After a couple of weeks searching fleaBay I came across a nicely used and abused already built up platform

for a decent price. Its footprint was smaller than any of the other freight structures that I had used on the layout up to that point so that alone was worth it.

The platform I received was glued up – except that the glue on the post had already dried and separated, and it was missing the 'Plasticville' roof sign, and chimney



The roof sign wasn't going to be used anyway so the holes were filled in using plastic putty. Scavenging through the parts box, I opted for a repro chimney used on the Marx Wm Crooks passen-

### The Villager

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[www.plasticvilleusa.org](http://www.plasticvilleusa.org)

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ger cars. Next, the dock was scribed and scuffed up to simulate wear and tear, and the roof spray painted a dark gray from Krylon.



Next the freight doors were painted green and weathered, the dock sanded some, and the roof weathered with succeeding lighter shades of gray, then white. Then the whole thing was given several shots of Testor's Dullcote to knock the sheen off the plastic.



The next step brings a little more life to this structure: adding a tool rack. Industrial structures are not neat and tidy on the one hand, on the other they still need to try and get things out of the way and off the deck. I grabbed some strip wood and small diameter wire and cobbled together this rack for hanging shovels, ropes, and whatever.



Again, hitting the parts bin, I found a tool bin without a lid. Perfect for the spot!

Details like a freight handler, pallets, crates, barrels, a coil of rope, posters, pigeons from Artista all help round out the scene and breath a little life in the structure!





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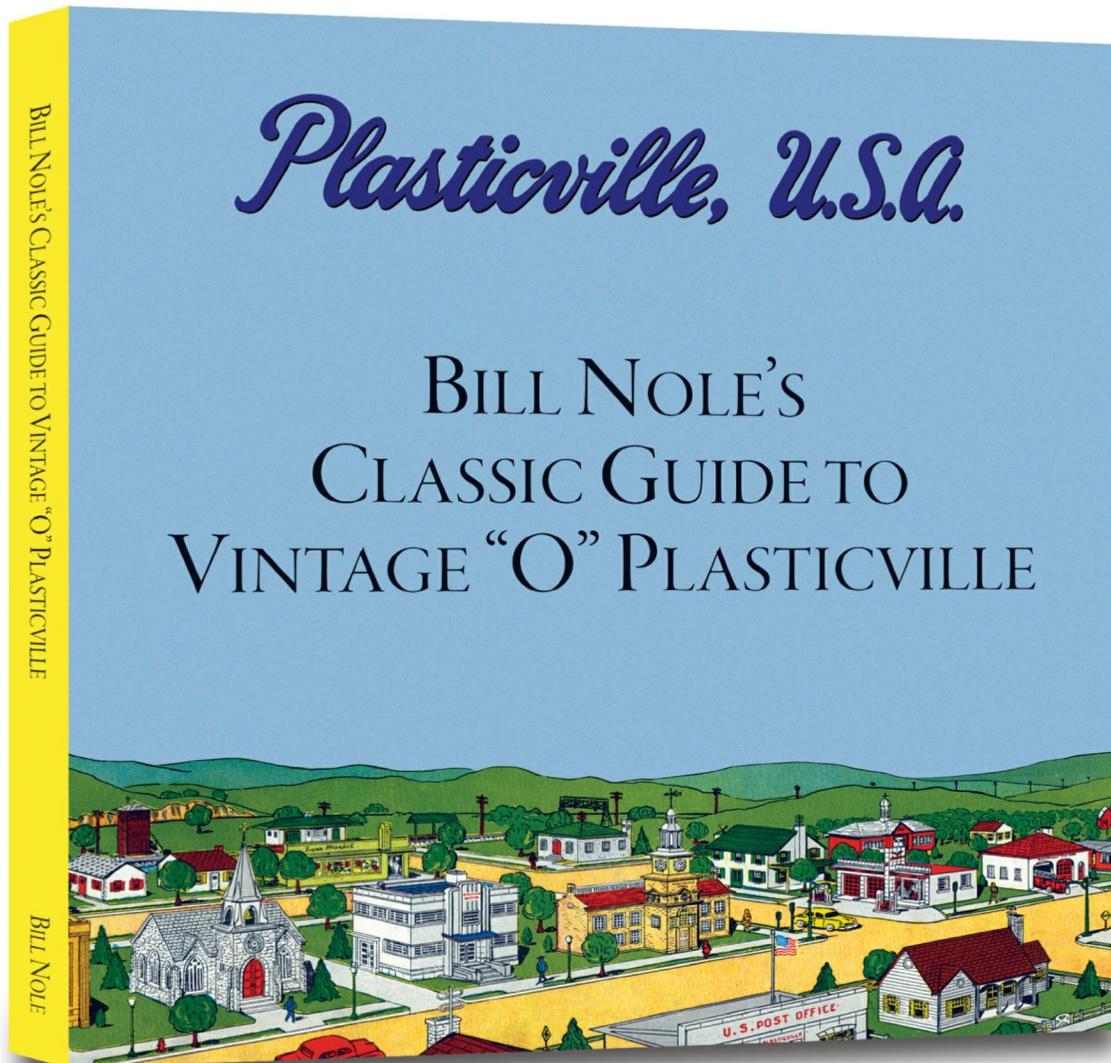
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Bill Nole's Classic Guide to Vintage "O" Plasticville is a must-have for all Plasticville, Lionel, American Flyer and Marx collectors. Long considered the definitive work on this collectible category, Bill's book features an item-by-item look at every Plasticville O gauge item ever created by Bachmann during the postwar period. In addition, the book covers their 50th anniversary releases, King Distributing's Collector Series, Make'N'Play, Lionel Plasticville, and much more. The 2020 edition contains current values plus updates from previous editions. Softcover, 204 pages, color throughout. The book is available now from [PlasticvilleGuide.com](http://PlasticvilleGuide.com) for just \$29.95 plus shipping (and tax where applicable). Thank you for your support!

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# K-LINE BILLBOARDS

## Billboards Included with Freight Cars

DONALD W. HUOVINEN



During its history K-Line produced a large variety of billboards, even outdoing Lionel in different varieties produced. Like other manufacturers K-Line made a number of billboards for separate sale. But what really set K-Line apart was the large number of billboards that were only included in sets, especially licensed and premium sets. Additionally K-Line included billboards as part of accessory sets as well as including billboards with some of their freight cars. This article will cover those billboards included with freight cars.

K-Line produced one car which included a billboard as part of the load. This was K691-5302, Circus Transport Car w/Billboard & Circus Figures. Shown only in the 2000 First Edition catalog, the car included one billboard and eight circus figures. The billboard frame was the smaller size and was red. The billboard implored people to "COME SEE US AT THE CIRCUS". Photo 1 shows the car and the billboard load.

In the 2004 First Edition catalog K-Line introduced what I believe are still the most detailed refrigerator cars produced to date. These were the scale 40-foot wood-sided reefers. All were numbered in the K742-XXXX series. To say these were detailed would be an understatement. A number of the cars included detailed interiors which could only be viewed by removing the roof. Many of the cars also included loads including bananas, pork, beef, and crates. K-Line cataloged a great number of them, some of which included four different road numbers. Unfortunately K-Line only produced very few of the many reefers cataloged. The writer for years has endeavored to find a list of the cars actually produced without success. Internet searches have shown that some cars are readily available however others that were produced were obviously produced in very limited quantities, and consequently command premium prices. For purposes of this article what is even more interesting is that K-Line included a separate billboard with some of the cars. On these cars the front of the box included the wording, "ALSO INCLUDED: BILLBOARD ACCESSORY (SEE BACK)". The packaging of these cars is unique. The car itself is visible through the window in the front of the box. Similarly the included billboard is visible through a small window in the rear of the box. In order to package the billboard with the car, the billboard frame was altered; the feet on the front of the billboard were

removed so that the feet are flush with the front of the billboard frame. The billboard frames are the smaller black frames and "K-LINE ADVERTISING" is included on the lower hatched portion of the frame. Photos 2 and 3 show the front and rear of the box for K742-6405 Miller "1st Shipment to Alaska" Wood Sided Reefer with Billboard.

The writer has confirmed the following cars included separate billboards:

1. K742-1891 Pennsylvania Wood-sided Reefer w/Billboard (Photo 4)
2. K742-5210 Heinz Pure Malt Liquor w/Billboard (Photo 5)
3. K742-6403 Miller "Girl on the Moon" Wood Sided Reefer with Billboard (Photo 6)
4. K742-6404 Miller High Life #93135 Wood Sided Reefer w/Billboard (Photo 7)
5. K742-6405 Miller "1st Shipment to Alaska" Wood Sided Reefer with Billboard (Photo 8)
6. K742-8034 May Blossom Lard, Battleship Ham (Photo 9)
7. K742-80351 Armour Star Ham Wood Sided Reefer #16977 (Photo 10)
8. K742-80363 Blatz Beer Wood Sided Reefer # 24111 (Photo Not Available)

Reader input is especially invited regarding these reefers

Finally K-Line produced 2 cars which were identified as coming "w/Billboard". The billboards were not billboards in the sense of the word used here but were rather signboards which could be attached to the top of the car. The two cars produced this way were: K-677601 Carneros Wine Car w/Billboard and K-4598-2004 Yuengling 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Flat End Observation Car w/Billboard.

As always I welcome your additions, corrections or comments. This is a work in progress and if you are interested in K-Line buildings and wish to assist please e-mail me at dhuov@aol.com.

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Photo 1.

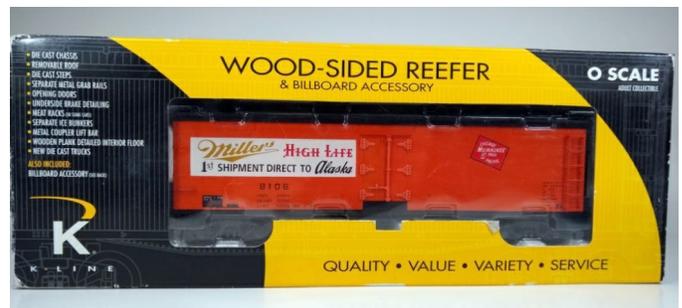


Photo 2.



Photo 3.

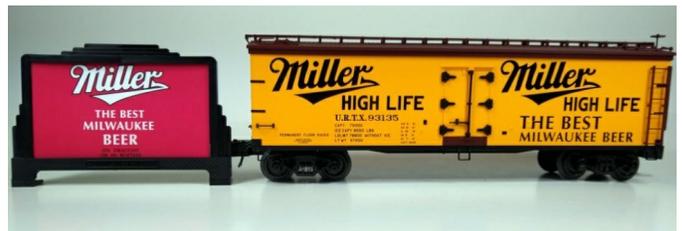


Photo 7.



Photo 4.



Photo 8.



Photo 5.



Photo 9.



Photo 6.



Photo 10.

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## FIRE CHIEF HELMETS (FOLLOW-UP II)

CHARLES SWANSON

Thank you for your excellent information of fire helmet especially on the bugle horn design and meaning of such. Where did you ever find the flyer sheets? I wonder if any boxes containing 12 fire helmets exist out there? Found it interesting, in flyer it says things like "hotter than 4 alarm fire" then shows girl wearing helmet as necklace and says "play up to the attachable craze" Then the price sheet for the shields: it is interesting they are pricing, for lots of 1,000 shields, with price of \$16 per 1,000, which at less than 2 cents/piece. It also said that the customer was "limited to 3 lines". I'm wondering if this meant, a buyer could have what ever they wanted custom printed up to 3 lines, on the regular paper shield. Near end of list, it says allow 10 days for the printer to print the order. This makes me think, Bachmann used an outside printer to make the shields. I find it amazing, that the price list has prices for orders of 1,000 paper shields, and over 5,000 shields. Were they expecting this to be a big promotional item. I question if this ever got off the ground, as I would expect with even a 1,000 order, these fire helmets would show up more often on eBay, in the past 15 yrs, when they haven't. Think you are right, if the Texaco helmet had been a national promotional item, that there would be more of these out there.



*This article is the third in a series of articles about the fire chief helmets. The previous two articles can be found in The Villager Vol 19 No 3 and Vol 19 No 2.*



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## EDITOR'S COLUMN



Another issue of The Villager, and no end in sight with the current pandemic. I am sure most of you are as disappointed as I am to have missed the York train show again, and all of the other local shows in which you might participate in. As we spelled out on the first page, *The Villager* will switch to three issues in 2021. This is necessary because the amount of content in each issue has been shrinking. With one less issue each I think we will be in a better position to deliver a full featured newsletter each time. If contributions pick-up in 2021 we will re-evaluate the number of issues next Fall. **If contributions continue to dwindle we will shut down *The Villager*.** There is no plan to move to less than three issue per year. With that warning in place I am going to repeat my ideas for new content from the last issue.

1. Favorite items - everyone has a favorite item in their collection. It would be interesting to learn why this is your favorite. A picture of the item and a short paragraph is all that is required.
2. Items with a good story - sometimes you come across a great find. A rare item at a garage sale, a complete kit buried in a

junk box, or that missing part you need. Similar to the above you just need to submit a photo and short paragraph.

3. Layout/Display stories - We have typically featured layout photos in the last issue of the year. I would like to expand on this similar to what is featured in other magazines. I envision this as a short story with multiple photos. You would have the opportunity to show off all, or part, of your layout. This would give other members ideas and give you a chance to show off your hard work.

With all of the above I am here to help. We can work together to edit and formulate the text. I am fairly adept at transforming raw ideas into descriptive text. Most of us are smart phone users. The picture quality on most of these devices is sufficient for the newsletter (when saved in high-quality). In the event that you have a good story but no way to provide an image I encourage you to reach out. It may be possible to obtain the image from another source for your story.

Several people contributed to this issue: Thank You!

I hope that everyone has a safe and enjoyable holiday. See you in 2021!

# Back in t he Day

Growing Up in the Fifties:  
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Keep Searchin!  
**Lou Palumbo**

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# GREENBERG'S 2021 LIONEL & AMERICAN FLYER POCKET PRICE GUIDES

JOHN L. NIEHAUS

The Lionel and American Flyer Greenberg's pocket price guides for 2021 are now available from Kalmbach books. It looks as if the publication of an updated Marx guide may be a thing of the past. The last Greenberg's Marx guide was published in 2012.

There are some major changes in both guides this year. You will need a much wider pocket in which to carry either of these guides. They both measure approximately  $5\frac{1}{8} \times 8\frac{1}{8}$  inches. The Lionel 2020 edition and all previous editions measured approximately  $4 \times 8\frac{3}{4}$ . Surprisingly the Lionel book is only about  $\frac{1}{8}$  thinner and the Flyer book about  $\frac{1}{16}$  thinner than their previous editions. Page count in both new editions nearly match that of their previous editions. Both contain the same seven sections as their predecessors.

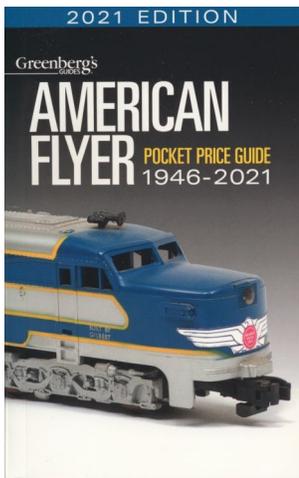
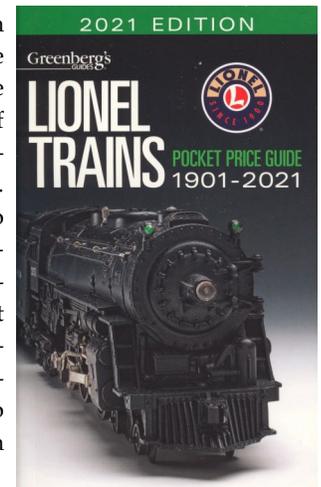
The other major change in format is in the listings. Every other line has a light gray background. With the wider format this should make it easier to follow across from their number of the piece to the description and condition values. I feel that adding the alternate line shading is a big plus.

Comparing the American Flyer values in the 2021 book against the 2019 book was easy. None of the values of the five pieces that I track changed. The values listed are the same in the 2021 book as they were in the 2019 book.

The Lionel values did not do much better. The values for the three modern pieces remained the same as last year. The same was true of the postwar pieces with the exception of the two GG-1's that I track. The Tuscan unit advanced to \$1326 from \$1252 in excellent condition. It lost \$33 in good condition. The value for the green unit increased by \$33 in excellent condition but lost \$36 in Good condition. The values for the two pre-war pieces that I track both lost, in one instance \$84.

Would it be correct for me to say the market is stagnant? It seems to be that way when looking at the Flyer values. It is a tossup when it comes to Lionel but, again, it seems to be stagnant for modern and a bit depressed for prewar and postwar pieces. Hopefully we will receive better news in the next editions of the guides.

The guides are available from Kalmbach Books, 21027 Crossroads Circle, Waukesha, WI, 53186. They are listed on their website: <http://www.kalmbachhobbystore.com>. The American Flyer guide is listed at \$15.99. The Lionel guide is listed at \$22.99. Their U.S. toll free number is 800-533-6644 Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Central Time. The phone number if you are calling from Canada or outside the U.S. is 262-796-8776 Ext. 421. The Lionel guide is listed on Amazon at its publication price. The American Flyer is listed at \$14.07. It seems that Barnes & Noble is not carrying either book.



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(brown or dark grey), Railroad work car: original walls & roof, House Under Construction: shovel, rake,  
hoe, bucket, Hospital: desk chair, straight chair, 2 Story House: porch post, Fire Dept: red chimney cap,  
Police Dept: green chimney cap, Cattle Pen: crossbar, Turnpike: white lens holder, 2 lenses(Red or  
Green), Turnpike: white cone 4/\$3, green sign \$3, Post Office: flag \$5, Frosty Bar: stool \$1, Sign \$5

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England Ranch: half chimney, ANTENNA: 2 story colonial, New England ranch, Police station, Police  
Station: antenna base WEATHERVANE: Barn, School, Independence Hall, Hospital: siren, Fire  
Department: siren, Barn caps, Church cross, Split Level downspouts, Watchman Shanty light, Bank:  
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Plastic Village Gazette RARE Issue #1, \$2 each, Issues 5 or 6, \$1 each

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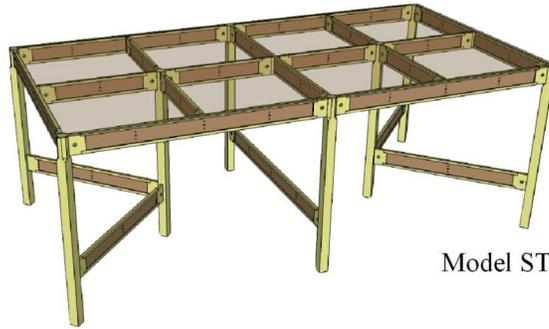
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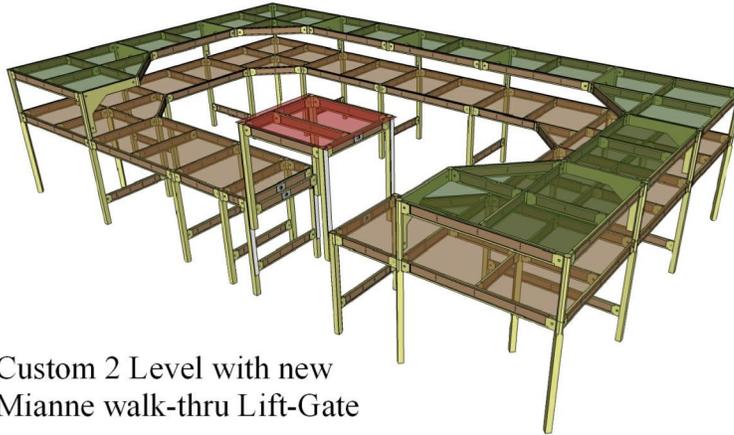
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# MY PLASTICVILLE STORY

SCOTT DAVIS

I didn't grow up looking through the window at the trains in the store and I don't have a bunch of fond memories of growing up that some of you might have. My story is a little more personal. I have seen pictures of my first train board but I honestly don't remember it, I was too young. Maybe my Dad wanted to do something nice for his son or maybe he just loved trains and used me as an excuse to build a train board but I am told that I had one when I was around two or three years old.

My parents divorced in 1974 when I was six and by then I was past trains and wanted to be Evel Knievel or an Astronaut. I was into Matchbox cars, Six Million Dollar Man, and riding my first bike down the street. I got to see my Dad every couple of weeks.



One day when my Dad came to visit me he brought with him a large green wooden board that had streets painted on it. It also had a train track on it! We wrestled it down into the basement of my house and he and I began to put it together. In retrospect, it was fairly small but at the age six, it was huge. He had wired it so that every building or house had a light under it. On the front edge of my board was a row of switches that allowed me to turn on or off, every light on the board. I could also turn the power off with a master switch that required a key. Having that key and the power to control my board was a great feeling. It made me feel like it was all mine and I could control who could or couldn't play with it. (The key was on a nail on the back side of the switch board, I was six, and if he hadn't put it there I would have lost it in an hour!)

He also brought a bunch of boxes and inside each one was a different building or house for my train board. There was a factory, a radio station, a train station, a church, a school house, a gas station, a couple of houses and a switch tower. Everything to make a small town and it was all Plasticville! It even had two switches so I could run the train on a different track. I remember that the switches were manual and my dad made a long rod so I could reach across the board to switch the track at the far side of the board that was closest to the wall.

Like I said, my parents were divorced and I lived in a new town with only a friend or two so I relied heavily on my imagination and my train board. I sat down there in my basement for hours

playing with my Lionel "Allegheny" with the "Mighty Sound of Steam"! Every day I would make up a new story in my head. The man is late for the train, the train is late coming in from someplace far away, etc. It was the same board but it was a different story every time I turned it on.

Sadly, when my Mom met someone and remarried, the train board was taken apart and over the years everything was lost or broken. I joined the Army, got married, started a career and forgot about my train board and Plasticville.

About 6 years ago I was digging through a box and found an old photo album with pictures of my first train board. (The one that I don't remember.) I started thinking about my old train board and the time I spent in the basement. I went online and started looking around. Suddenly the urge to put my old board back together again came into my head. I talked to my wife and told her what I wanted to do and she thought it was a great idea. This is when I discovered my love for Plasticville. I only knew of the things that were on my board, I never knew about all of the other things that had been available. With this discovery, I modified my plan a bit. I started buying all kinds of stuff and started planning a bigger board.



Well, here I am, 52 years old and sill playing with trains! Time has gotten in the way a few times over the years and it is a work in progress but I keep tinkering at it. My board isn't anything special but the plans that I have for it are. As you can see it is small and a work in progress but the great thing about all this is that I rediscovered that feeling I would get when I was a kid and played with my train board. My wife rolls her eyes sometimes when she asks me questions about the board. "Why did you put the switch tower on the other side of the track?" She asked once. My reply, "So if the guy working in the switch tower wants to run to the diner for a bite, he doesn't have to walk across the tracks". "It's just safer that way". She doesn't get it but I think all of you will understand!

Plasticville is a small town that I lived in when I was a kid. I remember good times and being happy when I was there. When the days are long and things aren't going the way that I had hoped, it is nice to go back to Plasticville for a visit. There is nothing better than a great cup of coffee and watching and listening to the train come in from off the mountain.

# BLUE BUS FIND

TOM FRITSCH

Here is my good story: I was browsing at a local train show last January. A dealer had several small plastic bags with various items in them. One caught my eye, an item that was dark blue. It was a dark blue bus, a Plasticville dark blue bus! Included in the bag was a grey bus and a yellow short-wheel base car. Since it was toward the end of the day, he had marked down the price from \$15 to \$10! So, I bought it. The bus was in perfect shape. I figure each item was then \$3.33. I have seen the Plasticville dark blue bus go anywhere from around \$150 to close to \$300. I got one for just over \$3.



# CHRISTMAS VILLAGE

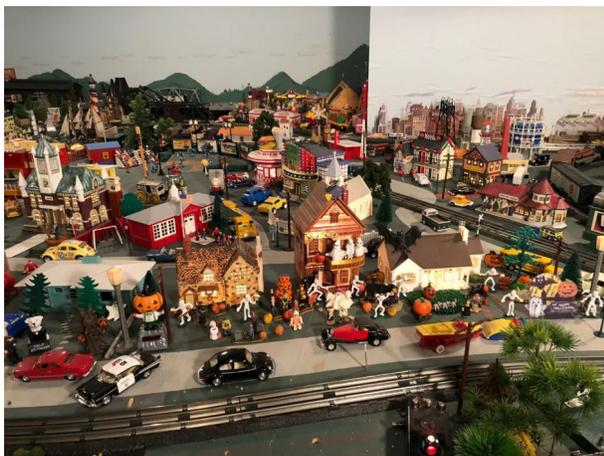
JIM STEED

There is no Plasticville here, but it does make for a good show. The homes and gazebo in the back are plastic extruded and the station, factory and church are Kleenex boxes. The Christmas tree in the back is a Christmas chocolate candy box. The layout is 40" x 6 ft.



# HALLOWEEN IN THE VILLAGE

PHOTOS BY JIM STEED

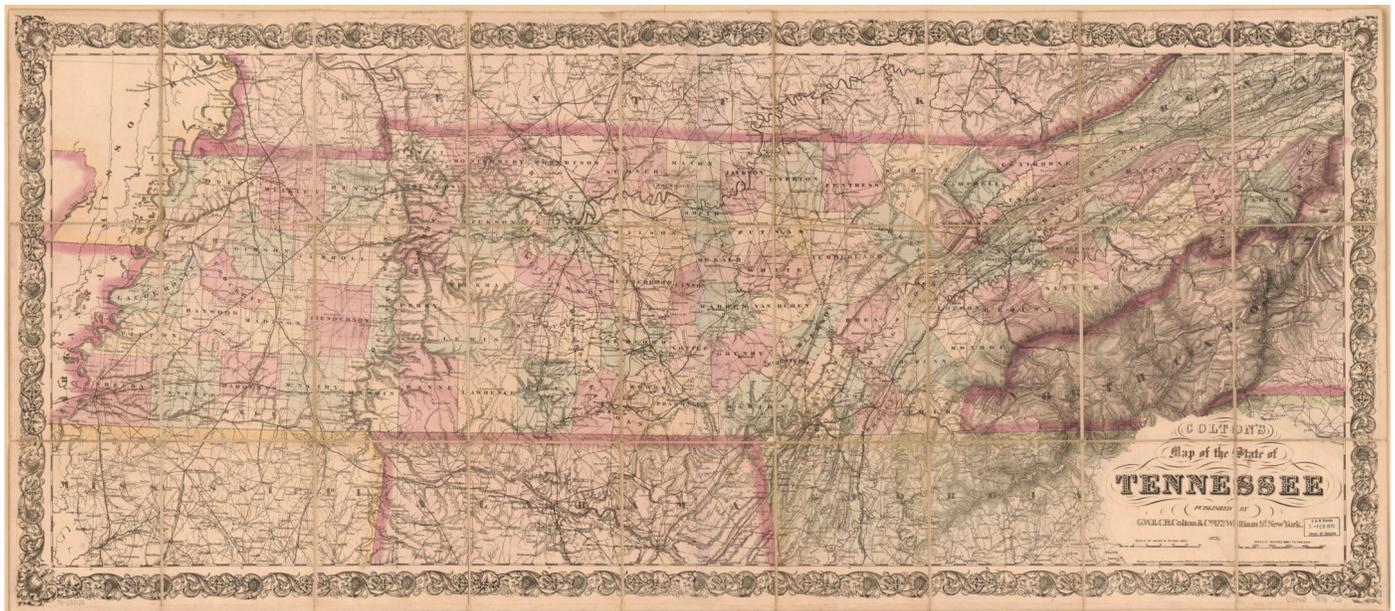
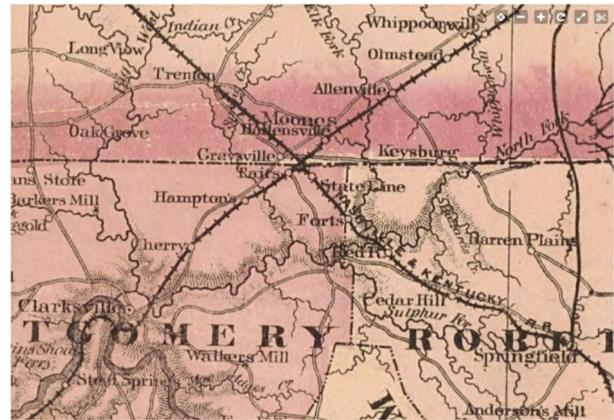


# MC&L RR - STATE LINE, TENNESSEE

ERIC MALGREN

The Memphis, Clarksville & Louisville Railroad is probably not the usual topic of *The Villager*, but the review of a book on its history in the September 2020 issue piqued my interest when the writer mentioned being unable to find its eastern terminus on contemporary maps. For anyone who might be curious (but not interested in investing in the book), it took me just a few moments to locate a map of Tennessee dated 1876 that included the MC&L railroad. I had no difficulty locating the community of State Line in the Northeast corner of Montgomery County where the MC&L appears to have met up with the Nashville and Kentucky Railroad. The online version of the map is very high quality and I have included a close up screenshot location of State Line along with the web address. I have also included a jpeg of the full map to help provide context of that screen shot.

<https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3960.ct010511/?r=0.303,0.054,0.139,0.092,0>



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# PLASTICVILLE BUILDINGS AND PARTS

Bill Weaver

PO Box 1061

Grand Rapids, MI 49501

Phone: 616 454-6037

The following parts are \$1.00 each plus shipping

Frosty Bar: pink back wall, L or R side wall, yellow back wall, L or R side wall, white counter, white roof, Chrome counter

Gas Station: front wall, back wall, L side wall, roof

School House: front wall, back wall, L or R side wall, roof

Fire House: back wall, L or R side wall

Police Station: dark grey rear wall, L or R side wall; light grey L or R side wall

Switch Tower: grey L or R side wall, rear wall; brown rear wall or R side wall

Bank: light grey front wall, L or R side wall

Loading Platform: green roof

Ranch House: pink front wall, L or R side wall; yellow L or R side wall; light blue R side wall;

white front wall, L or R side wall; dark brown front wall, L or R side wall

Motel: white front wall, rear wall, roof, end wall; pink front wall, rear wall, R or L side wall, roof, walkway

CC7/8 Church: brown door/windows front or side wall; grey door/windows side wall, rear wall

TV Station: red front wall, R wall, roof, WPLA sign, antenna base; white roof, L or R side wall, rear wall, antenna base

The following parts are \$2.00 each plus shipping

Dairy Barn: Tuscan red front, rear, L or R side wall, L or R roof, sliding door, L or R silo halves; red sliding door

Covered Bridge: Tuscan end, side wall, grey and white swirled roof

Diner: grey walls yellow trim, front wall, L or R side; grey walls red trim, front wall, L wall;

chrome front yellow trim, front wall; chrome front red trim, front, L or R side wall

Loading Dock: light or dark grey roof, building side, or platform

Coaling Station: brown L or R side wall, front wall, floor, rear wall, back brace; grey roof, brown coal chute,

## PLASTICVILLE BUILDINGS- NO BOXES – PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE SHIPPING

### \$5.00 buildings:

Cape Cod: white walls / red trim, white walls / brown trim, white walls / green trim

CC7/8 Church: white / brown trim, white / grey trim

Fire Station: white / red trim – no vehicles

Police Station: light grey, dark grey

### \$8 buildings:

BN-1 Barn: white walls / red roof, red walls / white roof

### \$10 buildings:

Ranch Houses: first color denotes wall color, second color denotes roof color

brown/red, blue/white, white/blue, green/white, pink/grey, turquoise/white, pea green/white

Colonial Mansion: white / blue roof, white / red roof

Watchman's Shanty: brown / grey trim

Loading Platform: grey shack / brown platform & roof

Frosty Bar: pink white trim, chrome counter; pink, white trim, pink counter; yellow, white trim, chrome counter;

yellow, white trim, yellow counter

Diner: grey walls, yellow trim

Small Supermarket: white / red roof

### \$20 buildings:

Rural Station: brown / dark grey roof & trim (sealed bag)

### \$25 buildings:

Covered Bridge: Tuscan red / grey trim

### OTHER STUFF

Automobiles, \$5 – hood ornament or no, my choice: red, yellow, green, pastel blue

K-Line Coca Cola Pizza Parlor, no box, \$25 – sealed bag

K-Line Coca Cola Pop's Diner, no box \$25 – sealed bag

# CHRISTMAS QUESTION

MATTHEW HARVAZINSKI

There are two items cataloged in 1950, CU-6 and CU-10. These are both titled "Christmas Platform Unit". A photo of the CU-6 is shown. Both included a base which is painted green with a white path. There are small words on the platform telling you where to place each item. The CU-6 includes two structures, Cape Cod House and a Log Cabin. It includes several accessories. More CU units were produced in subsequent years. The question is what was this product marketed for, and what did it have to do with Christmas. Please write in if you have information, ideas, or theories.



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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 will 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 \$1.00 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 szie M is 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. 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](mailto:secretary@plasticvilleusa.org) or mail your suggestions to him at the address noted above.*



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

## 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.



# PRODUCT REVIEWS

JOHN L. NIEHAUS

**H**aunted Rails, Tales of Ghost Trains, Phantom Conductors, and other Railroad Spirits, Matthew L. Swayne, 199 pages, softcover, 5 × 8 format, \$16.99. Published by Llewellyn Books. A few black & white photos throughout.

I believe that this is the first book that I have read related to railroad ghosts. The author notes that the stories may be tall tales, folklore, or ghostlore. Ghostlore being similar to general folklore in that it is probably folklore related to non-existent ghosts. The author does give equal attention to both the ghostlore side as well as the paranormal side of a particular subject if it has been treated to paranormal investigation.

The book contains fifty stories in its seven chapters. The chapters of the book cover respectively: ghost trains and haunted engines; haunted cabooses; haunted railroad museums; haunted stations; haunted tunnels; haunted tracks and accident sites; and haunted railroad people: engineers, conductors, brakemen, workers, and accident victims. One of the accident site stories, the Chatsworth, IL train wreck of 1887, has relevance to me as Chatsworth is close to my home town of Peoria. The majority of the stories are United States related with a very few from Canada, England and Scotland.

**S**moke Over Steamtown, photos by Dennis A Livesay, 120 pages, hardcover, 12 × 9 1/4 format, \$34.99. Published by Schiffer Publishing Ltd. Captioned color and black & white photos throughout.

Steamtown's actual name is Steamtown National Historic Site. It is the only federally operated steam railroad museum in the country. It is run by the National Park service although the majority of the workers are volunteers.

The book has a single page acknowledgement and a three page introduction. There are no chapters in this book as it is primarily a photo essay of Steamtown. Instead of chapters it is segmented into three Parts: Smoke in Color, Smoke Crew, and Smoke in Black & White.

The color photos in Part I are primarily of Canadian National #3254, 2-8-2 as it seems that was the primary locomotive in operating order during the author's photo session. There are also pictures of various trainmen/women going about their duties. Somehow a winter photo of a former Reading RS-3 switcher is included. Also included are close up photos of the cab interior of 3254. There are photos taken in a snowstorm.

It took me a few minutes to understand the format of Part II, Smoke Crew. This section contains comments by six different engineers or firemen. A short biography prefaces their comments. It was interesting to note that the individuals ranged from former steam locomotive engineers to some whose first experience with steam was at Steamtown.

The last part is, as could be expected from its title black and white photos. These, again, are not just photos of steam engines

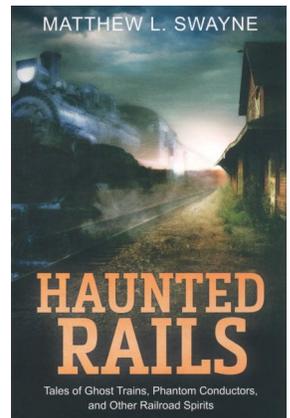
There is a Notes and Sources section at the end of the book where one would normally find an index. The sources are listed under each chapter and linked to the relevant story.

The stories in this volume are quite interesting whether you believe in ghosts or paranormal activity or otherwise. I enjoyed reading it and hope that you will also.

**Haunted Rails** is available directly from Llewellyn Books. The direct link to the book is:

<https://llewellyn.com/product.php?ean=9780738761336>

I found the book available on Amazon's website at the publisher's price as well as in Kindle format. Barnes & Noble's website lists it at the publisher's price and in NOOK format. Hamilton Books (<https://www.hamiltonbook.com>) offers it on their website for \$12.95.



but other subjects as well. There are various right of way photos including one of a "diamond" that must be crossed every operating day. Because it is part of a national rail network it cannot be crossed without permission.

This is a great book to view if you have an interest in Steamtown. The photos are all of excellent quality with a few even begging to be framed and hung on the wall in a train room. The captions are well written and with a human interest where the photo includes individuals. I thoroughly enjoyed the book and it will become a permanent addition to my book collection.

**Smoke Over Steamtown**, is available on Schiffer Publishing's website at <https://www.schifferbooks.com>. Enter STEAMTOWN in the search field to be taken directly to the book's listing. It is listed on Barnes & Noble's website at the publisher's price if \$34.99. Amazon has new issues listed as low as \$30.99. Hamilton Books at <https://www.hamiltonbook.com> has it listed at \$24.95.



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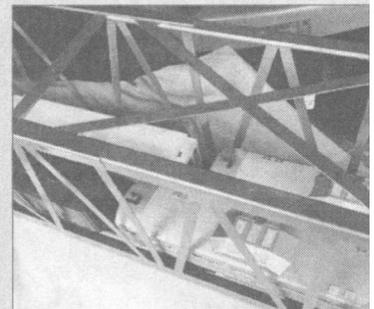
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# PLASTICVILLE EXAM

MATTHEW HARVAZINSKI

**T**est your knowledge of Plasticville by taking this exam. Solutions can be found on page 10. If you have an idea for trivia questions or similar puzzles submit your ideas to: [villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org](mailto:villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org)

- This Plasticville Residential structure has the most color variations:
  - Cape Cod House
  - Bermuda Ranch House
  - Split Level House
  - House Under Construction
- This structure has only one known variation.
  - Outhouse
  - Bridge and Pond
  - Telephone Booth
  - Maple Tree
- Inside a dealer box marked PB-5 what might you find?
  - Bridge and Pond
  - Bird Bath
  - Footbridge
  - Flock of Birds
- This Plasticville kit contains the most pieces
  - Autumn tree assortment
  - Hospital with Furniture
  - Airport Administration Building
  - Farm Buildings and Animals
- Which building did the PCA not reissue in a new color scheme?
  - Frosty Bar
  - Two-story Colonial House
  - Apartment Building
  - Dairy Barn
- Which marbled building was not originally sold as an O/S item?
  - Watchman's Shanty
  - Switch Tower
  - Hobo Shacks
  - Water Tower
- This church can be found with a "small door" variation
  - Country Church
  - Cathedral
  - Colonial Church
  - Scenic Classic Church
- Telephone poles cannot be found in which color?
  - Black
  - Brown
  - White
  - Dark Green
- Which catalog number was reused for two different unrelated items?
  - 1804
  - 1975
  - 1608
  - 1090
- Which structure owes its lineage to Littletown?
  - Large Supermarket
  - Barn
  - Loading Platform
  - Hospital

Bonus. Which two kits included stickers?

- Television Station
- Corner Store
- Hospital
- Hobo Shacks
- Factory
- Airport Hanger



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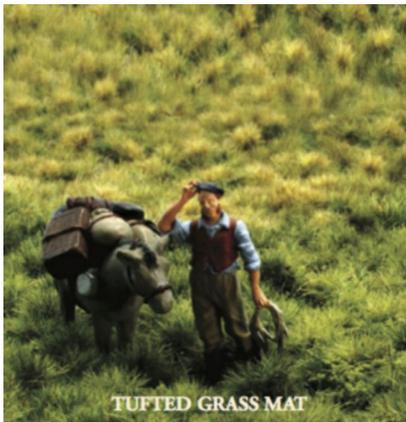
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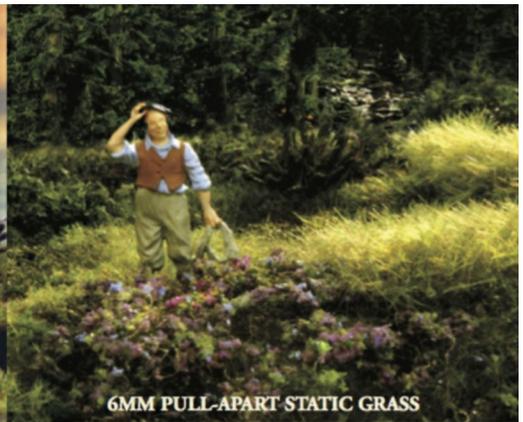
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(dark green with subtle gold highlights)  
Item No. 31002



**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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