

The Villager

The official newsletter of the Plasticville Collectors Association

Volume 5

May 2006

Number 2

Ideal Toys Garage and Autos

By Jim Steed, photo by Gayle Steed

Enclosed is a picture of a garage and two automobiles. They are Plasticville / O gauge size and are from my Lionel O gauge layout. I would like to know more about them as I was so young when mom and dad gave the set to me. I do not remember the year, other info, etc. This is the very first toy or set that I ever remember playing with as a child that I still have.

My Lionel starter set, steamer number 224 and four cars (three tinplate and one plastic), was given to me in 1946 or 1947. The garage and two cars were given to me before that in 1946, I believe when I was three to four years old.

The set was made by the Ideal Toy Co. as their logo and the number 1-1828 is on the bottom of the garage. The garage is white clapboard, green roof, yellow trimmed window sills and a raise up working garage door. There is an entry door on one side that does not open, trimmed in yellow also. I am missing the piece (gable end) over the garage door and would ask if anyone has this piece, please let me know.

The cars appear to be post war 1946 Chevrolets, torpedo body style. One is red, the other green. The green one has the number 1-375 with the number 7 above it, and of course the Ideal logo and Made in U.S.A. under the roof. The red car has the number 1-375 with the number 8 above it, all under the roof.

This is a great looking set, obviously some of the first

plastic toys made. It has a place of honor on the layout beside other Plasticville buildings. It's very sentimental since it was one of my very first toys. If anyone can supply more info on this set and the Ideal Toy Co. I would appreciate it. Jim Steed, 01-55, Blairsville, Ga.



The author would like more information on the Ideal Toy Company and help finding the missing gable end of his childhood toy pictured here.

Per Wickipedia, "The Ideal Novelty and Toy Company was founded in New York in 1907 by Morris and Rose Michtom after they had invented the teddy bear in 1903. The company changed its name to Ideal Toy Company in 1938. The company is now defunct; however certain brands and toys have been continued through other companies." Ed.

5th Anniversary Two Story House Order Form

An order form for the 5th anniversary special color two story house is included with this newsletter if you received this newsletter by mail. If you are an ePCA member you will very shortly receive a copy of the form in the mail.

As these houses are being produced in a very limited quantity there will be a limit of one per member. The price has been set at \$20 which includes Priority Mail shipping. Please return your form with a check or money order for \$20 to the address on the form.

The Villager

Published quarterly by the Plasticville Collectors Association.

President: Joe Kutza

Webmaster: Joe Kutza

Vice President: Doug Gilliatt

http://www.plasticvilleusa.org

Secretary/Treasurer: Christine Niehaus

Newsletter editor: John Niehaus

All content © copyright by The Plasticville Collectors Association. Content may not be reproduced in part or in whole without the express written consent of the Plasticville Collectors Association.

Contact secretary@plasticvilleusa.org for advertising rates or by mail at PCA, 601 SE Second Street, Ankeny, Iowa 50021-3207

GREAT GIFTS! GREAT ACTION! GREAT VALUE!



4-DVD Boxed Set 4 hours.

Value to \$79.95

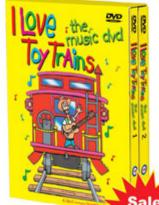
3-DVD Boxed Set 3 hours.

Value to \$59.95



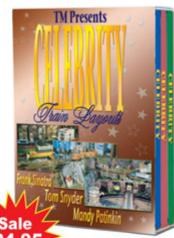


Sale 4-DVD **Boxed Set** 4 hours. Value to \$79.95



2-DVD **Boxed Set** 2 hours.

Value to \$29.95



3-DVD Boxed Set 3 hours.

Value to \$59.95



P.O. Box 279 New Buffalo, MI 49117

800-892-2822 www.tmbv.com • info@tmbv.com Visit our website for contents of each boxed set.

What Members Are Saying

Hello! Back when I was a child, my parents gave me an American Flyer train set, which I still have. A few years after that they gave me a City In A Box, which I also still have.

About 15 years ago, I brought the train out and started operating and collecting American Flyer trains. I have since joined the T.C.A. (95-41109).

Out of the closet came my Plasticville along with the

train set which was set up around our Christmas tree. Over the last six years or so, I have bought various Plasticville pieces.

As I near retirement, I have a dream of setting up a train layout and a city within and around it.

Today, through an eBay seller's site, I've learned of the PCA. Now, I hope to become a member in your group also. Thank you! James Tennessen

Are You the Resource Person We Need?

We are still looking for resource people for the following categories. If you collect any of these categories please consider being our resource person.

Plasticville N Lionel Plasticville These positions require nothing of you but the sharing of your knowledge of the pieces in the category when contacted. Please consider volunteering.

Skyline Storytown

HOBBY HAVEN

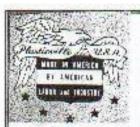
2575 86TH STREET
URBANDALE, IOWA 50322
(515) 276-8785
(515) 252-0112 FAX
(800) 697-1213 Out Of Town
http://www.hobbyhaven.com

PLANKS MODEL TRAIN REPAIR

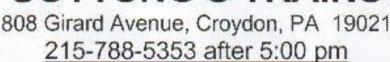


DEALER WEAVER MODELS GARGRAVES TRACK Marlin L Plank 501 Plank Rd Liberty Pa 16930 570-324-6811 trainrepair501@epix.net

PARTS & SERVICE LIONEL - AMERICAN FLYER TCA MEMBER



SOTTUNG'S TRAINS





MODEL RAILROAD SUPPLIES

Lowest Prices On:

Reproduction PLASTICVILLE Parts

For parts list send 8 1/2 X 11 SSAE with 88c postage Complete Buildings Available-Call or Write with Needs

PLASTICVILLE, U.S.A.

The Griginal Plastic Village

From the President's Desk/York Report



I really do enjoy the York meets. You're bound to find something of interest at one of them! In addition to the main TCA Eastern Division meet at the York Fairgrounds, there are four other meets to enjoy during York week. All

five meets, together with the chance to meet new friends, and catch up with old ones, make up the York experience.

I went to the bandit meets on Wednesday of York week. As you may remember from past York Reports, I usually have good things to say about the meet at the Holidome. This time, I do not. The weather was beautiful, but the parking lot was about at half capacity. I was stunned. I never figured out what the reason was; the Carlisle Car Show the same week, the week after Easter, spring break? None seemed to add up to account for the lack of dealers. Oh well, let's see what the Fall brings. I was interested to see if perhaps there was a mass exodus from the Holidome to one of the other meets. However, that was not the case. The Best Western was a little off compared to my past visits, but not too bad; the Billy Budd Holiday Inn was awful, as it has been over the last few years; and the Fire Dept. show seemed to be bustling with activity. Overall, the Plasticville selection at the bandit meets was rather disappointing. That's not to say that there weren't a few bright spots, they were just few and far between compared to recent York weeks.



Over a dozen members attended the Friday, Noon "Show and Share" lunch at Spring York. Pictured are from left to right: Mark Lembersky, Tom Friesner, Glenn Bowman, Ron Dise, Jim Dawes, Joe Kutza, Frank Ross, and John Niehaus. Not pictured are Sheldon Wotring, Emory Hall, Bob Drake, Don Rosa, and Charles Swanson. Thanks goes to Glenn Bowman's wife for this picture.

Then there was the actual York meet at the fairgrounds. I met up with Villager editor John Niehaus around noon on Thursday, and off we went into the halls of York, in search of Plasticville, PCA Members, and PCA Membersto-be. It was a fair crowd, but certainly not the largest I've seen. There were quite a few empty tables, covered tables, and generally unmanned tables. I don't think that K-Line was in the Orange hall at all, and they usually have a large display. The Lionel display was solid, but not impressive. It made for less crowding, so that was OK with me! We averaged about 90 minutes per hall, starting with the member halls first and leaving the dealer halls for later, or for Friday. The first thing to strike us was not a dearth of Plasticville, but an overwhelming feeling that most things were way overpriced. An unboxed vintage Greenhouse for \$55; an unboxed modern Greenhouse for \$25; a Littletown Southern Colonial in a dreadful box for \$48; a green umbrella for the Playground table for \$6; a boxed bank for \$45; a 1956 Fire Station for \$25? Hasn't anyone heard of eBay? I can get any of these items for a heck of a lot less money on-line. John and I each managed to find a few good buys; we just needed to look really hard. I found a couple of the 1980's issue houses that I needed to help complete my collection. They were reasonably priced at \$7 for a yellow 2-story house unsealed, but still wrapped, and \$9 for yellow-green (pea) ranch house with a very good box. I picked up a few piles of 1-C fence here and there for anywhere from a \$1 to \$5 each. But by far my best find was in the bottom of a box of uninspiring Plasticville pieces, in an old box that once held chocolates: a collection of ten bright white CT-6 Christmas trees with about ten bright white pieces of 1-C fence! I managed to buy all that and a medium green pond for \$40. That certainly made the effort to get to York worth it.

The other thing that made the whole week an overall success was a phenomenal lunch time get together by PCA members on Friday at noon in the central cafeteria. No, it wasn't the food that was outstanding: it was the number of PCA Members who showed, and the fantastic items that they brought to "show and share". I started the process with a few items of interest that I brought from my collection: A Skyline K-5 Musical Church in its original corrugated cardboard box; a BN-1 barn kit that has a flaw in the printing on the box such that the red color for the roof and silo cap do not match up with those parts; a vintage Birds of the World kit (the Robin); some birthday candle holders that Bachmann produced in the 50's and 60's; a Marx painted statue of Hubert Humphrey (whether that was wishful thinking, or made for another purpose is not known); a lighter brown footbridge with a "Made in Hong Kong" marking on the bottom (if anyone knows more about this, please let me know); and the best piece from my personal collection - a mint, still in a sealed bag, version of the Davy Crockett Log Cabin. Tom Friesner showed us some great, truly "mint" items with the small pieces still in their original cellophane bags such



A unique blue Plasticville Airport roof with black lettering in the collection of Glenn Bowman. Information as to its origin is solicited.

as: a 1621-100 Motel, an 1803-149 Colonial Church, a 5011-129 Storytown Old Woman in a Shoe, a 1504-89 Trailer with the windows and doors still on the sprue, and two boxes of 1409-79 Spruce Trees with all parts still on their sprues. John Niehaus showed us a small paint fluid bottle with a cork stopper (always tough to find). Glenn Bowman brought a blue roof from an Airport Hangar that



Sheldon Wotring displaying his collection of the three rifle types for the Davy Crockett cabin. Note that the yellow labels on all three pieces have round corners. They can also be found though less frequently with square corners.

had the lettering in black (black lettering is usually found only on the orange roof to the hangar). It's interesting in that I received an e-mail recently asking for information on this variation. Also, the same variation is mentioned in the "Bits and Pieces" section of the 1993 Illustrated Guide to Plasticville. Any hints on the origin of these would be greatly appreciated. Glenn also showed us some fence that seemed to be in a cream color, rather than the traditional white. Frank Ross showed us a dark blue Ranch House that he had just purchased for a reasonable price. Then we got down to some very unique items, some Plasticville pieces that had all of us ogling them in awe. Sheldon Wotring brought some great items from his personal collection. Some pieces were rare production items, and some were one of a kind prototypes, or mold test shots. First out of the bag were three front pieces to the Davy Crockett Log Cabin. One of them had the yellow rifle over the door; the next had a golden rifle over the door; and the last had a tan rifle over the door. The yellow and gold were production items and the tan rifle was a prototype. Ii is interesting that the "metalized" gold is actually laid over a tan rifle. Next we looked at a black and white marbled wishing well, and a solid white wishing well. Both are presumed to be either test or prototype pieces. We then saw a light gray convexbottomed siren, and a dark gray flat-bottomed siren. This brought up the old discussion on whether these gray variants were used on the Fire Station, which is one theory, or whether they were actually made for the Police Dept. Consensus seems to be that they were made for the



These black and white marbled and solid white wishing wells are presumed to be either test or prototype pieces.

Police Dept and crossed over to the Fire Dept by mistake. One piece of supporting evidence for the latter theory was provided by Sheldon, who said that he bought an early 1950's display unit that featured a Police Dept with the gray siren, and the store owner swore that's how it came from Bachmann. The Police Dept connection is also mentioned in the "Bits and Pieces" section of the 1993 Illustrated Guide to Plasticville. Next out of the bag was a 5&10 with black lettering, gray doors, and a gray roof. The gray doors and roof may be switched from other buildings, though the color is a little different, but there's

no denying the black lettering. The 5&10 is thought to be from production, and not a prototype. We then saw a piece of Canadian Plasticville, a CA-12 Miniature Street Accessories kit from Frank Martin Company, still in its original cellophane bag. The bag contains 2 stop lights, 2 benches, 2 street signs, 2 fire alarm boxes, and 2 fire hydrants. Next up was an interesting series of items: a Switch Tower in all white; a Signal Bridge in all white; a Station Platform base in salmon; a Frosty Bar with turquoise roof and base; a Frosty Bar with dark gray roof and base; Farm Buildings with green sides; and a Union Station with blue windows and trim. All of those items were prototypes or test shots. Sheldon's story is that a gentleman who worked at Bachmann had collected these items over the years. There apparently were four containers of these one-of-a-kind items but Sheldon was only able to get one of them. The gentleman has since passed away, and it's not known what happened to the rest of the material. Oh, to be able to open those other containers!

The group talked Plasticville for quite a while and then it was time for the search to continue. Hopefully the interesting items we saw at lunch will help to get even more members at the PCA lunch during the Fall York meet. And if you can't make it to York, but have an interesting story or plastic village item, please feel free to e-mail or call me at any time.

The last thing for this edition of the York Report is something new that I am adding to the Report. I call it "The Gold Factor". When sellers seem to believe that their plastic village items are worth their weight in gold, instead of the plastic they are really made if, that would lead to a high gold factor. The gold factor will be stated by using a scale with 0-5 units of "gold bars". No gold bars meaning that I personally believe that prices on the plastic village items were generally fair and 5 gold bars meaning that I felt the prices were generally ridiculous. I am going to give the Spring 2006 York Week three Gold Bars.



That's it for this York Report. We want to hear about train meets all around the country, sponsored by anyone. If you want to contribute, please contact me, or the editor of *The Villager*, John Niehaus.

Vice Presidential Insights

Well another summer here in the Valley of the Sun has begun. I hope that all the members have a great summer of collecting and Model Railroading.

It is really great that our organization has now grown to over 300 members and still growing. Remember that you can contact us for information packets that you can pass out or leave on your table at meets to help promote the PCA. It is a great way to get the word out about our organization.

I hope everyone is as excited as I about the 5th anniversary house from Bachmann that will be coming out soon. I for one am looking forward to putting it on my layout. Hopefully everyone will order one and help support the PCA and get a great new structure for their layout.

If you would like to contribute articles, stories or pictures that make *The Villager* the great publication that it is please do so. It is always with great interest that we all await the next issue to see what new things we can learn from fellow members. So everyone continue to support our organization by sending in articles/photos etc. of interest to our members.

As I have said many times before in *The Villager*, it is the hope of all of us that our organization continues to grow and attract new members which will allow us to be as vibrant and interesting as it is today into the future. While new membership is essential to the continuation and expansion of our organization we must all continue to be a source of interest/learning to our existing membership.

And as always, I want to remind everyone please remember to patronize our advertisers that support the PCA

Doug Gilliatt, PCA Vice-President





Lantz's Train Shop www.WholeSaleTrains.com



All Gauges of Model Railroad Equipment

101 S. Main St. Hanover Square

Horseheads NY ,14845 607 795 5038

fax 795 4124

Phone order line toll free 1 888 762 6633







NicksTrains.com

We pay generously for quality pre/postwar collections

www.NicksTrains.com (949) 305-TRAIN (8724)



Railfan Antics

Or How NOT to be a Good Railfan

By Gordon C Kelley

I am a retired railroad locomotive engineer with forty two years of engine service. I have seen my share of stupid and unsafe stunts that were committed by railfans, thus I do not love them at all! We had names for those people – not very complimentary names, I might add. FRNs was the most common. F_n Rail Nuts is what it means. Reptilian Matter was my favorite. This story will explain why.

In the mid 1980s I was working the Manitowoc local, switching in the yard at Manitowoc, Wisconsin. The Fox River Valley Railroad was under contract to use the C&NW Railway grain cars. My conductor had coupled me onto a long cut of C&NW grain cars and, after pumping up the air; he had me slowly slack back to make sure that all cars were still coupled. (Kids like to pull the pins while cars are in the yard.) The plan was to pull the entire drag back fifteen cars, make a cut, back up over the Anheuser Busch lead switch, then shove down the hill to Anheuser Busch's Manitowoc malt plant.

I was pulling the slack back when I saw the body of a male roll out from under the middle of the drag. He rolled out and just laid there. My first thought was that we had cut off an arm or leg – at the least. "Was he dead?" was my second thought.

My conductor and I walked down to where the body lay, expecting to see a gory sight. As we approached, he slowly got up much to our relief. Clutched in his arms, which were crossed across his chest, was a green three ring binder with a C&NW crest pasted on the cover.

We found out from this FRN that he had a complete list of C&NW car numbers. This binder was his book of C&NW grain car numbers. He was under the cars writing down the serial number of each car next to the car's car number!

The serial number is located on the center beam of each car. One must crawl under the car to get to it. "We were not to be moving those cars at that time of day!" was his cry.

The Manitowoc Police hauled this foolish FRN away. His foolishness nearly cost him his life.

New term:

Slack Back – slowly backing up in order to take the free play (slack) out of the drawbars

Editor's note: The February issue of The Villager contained Gordon's first offering which was a listing of various railroad terms. Additional terms will be defined in each of his articles as necessary.

Notes from the Secretary Treasurer

Membership continues to experience growth; with special thanks to all those who distribute PCA Membership Information Packets, it does make a difference. Whether you are able to attend York, or a

local show near home, please don't hesitate to contact me for these packets. They will be shipped to you at no charge; they will be folded, stuffed in envelopes, and addressed to the PCA.



Become an ePCA member and a pen like the one shown will be on its way to you. The pen has the new "soft grip", comes in fine point with black ink and gold-tone accents and three lines of gold engraving. Send a note to secretary@plasticvilleusa.org indicating that you wish to get your newsletters from the PCA website instead of printed copies through the mail. She will send you the pen along with a user name and password for access to the Members Only section of the website as soon she gets your message. (Please note that the light stripe along the blue area is from camera flash. It is not on the actual pen.)

Plasticville on the Board

Details, Details

By John Gottcent

Before we get started with this issue's column on how to use our plastic village pieces to best effect—tips designed largely for newcomers, but hopefully useful to old timers as well—I want to point out two articles that appeared in the January 2006 issue of *Classic Toy Trains* magazine that may be of interest.

One (page 70) described a neat plan for detailing and weathering the PV Switch Tower, and the other (page 86) showed how to make useful scenery details like garbage cans with covers.

Though no longer on newsstand shelves, this issue should still be available from Kalmbach Publishers. And the attentions to detail the articles describe leads nicely into our own topic for this time around—accessories.

A famous architect once observed "God is in the details." A less pious wag countered with "the Devil is in the details."

Whatever your inclinations, the point is clear: details matter. And nowhere is this more important than when using accessories in displaying model villages.

Accessories have been part of the Plasticville line since its beginning. In fact, the very first Plasticville piece marketed by Bachman was an accessory—the Large Picket Fence initially designed to go around train or Christmas tree layouts.



Although scale is not always important if you are working with forced perspective these items are way out of quarter scale! The fence posts are nine scale feet high while the birdbath is seven feet tall. The blue birds are the size of turkeys.

But even when buildings were established, accessories continued to accent the streets and highways of P'ville, and today they can be supplemented by neat details from many other manufacturers, including Life-Like, Walthers, the major train manufacturers, and even the PCA's own

Mike Cedro, whose innovative assortment of items ranging from room air conditioners to picnic tables is often advertised in these pages.

Also, it's possible to add small details of your own with very little trouble. One idea I've hit on is to use the small stickers that come on grocery-store fruit to paste on the sides of a supermarket or on freight barrels or boxes. These stickers are just about the right size for O/S gauge, and when you tire of them they peel off easily without leaving a mark.



A simple way to add character to a building is to stick the labels found on grocery store fruit to the side of a building. They easily peel off when you wish to make a change without leaving residue.

So what does a modeler need to be concerned about? To paraphrase a famous Hollywood line, let's round up the usual suspects.

We'll start with scale. Accessories should be of the right dimensions to fit with your village. Several that are still available today fail this test badly.

The Large Picket Fence mentioned earlier is an example. Assuming an O gauge scale of ¼ inch to the foot, the fence posts are 9 scale feet high—way out of line in most neighborhoods. Another scale offender is the PV

birdbath, which is 7 feet tall. But perhaps that's to accommodate the original Plasticville birds, which are large enough to serve as hefty Thanksgiving turkeys!

Interestingly, however, the Plasticville farm animals are usually pretty much to scale. And so are many other Bachmann accessories still available today, including mailboxes, fire hydrants, fire alarm boxes, street signs, and various lamp posts.

Most details from other manufacturers are also usually to scale, though there are exceptions. (A major one



Labels found on grocery store fruit can be used to dress up plain items such those shown here.

involves traditional Lionel operating accessories like crossing gates or flashing light signals.) So the usual warning applies: let the buyer beware.

Another concern when using plastic village accessories is consistency. Items from one manufacturer or one time period may clash with those from another.

An example involves mailboxes. The original Bachman boxes were small units that sat atop posts and were colored army green. They were modeled on actual postal units of the 1940's and 50's. But as time changed, the USPS tried to keep up with larger and more colorful units—usually a patriotic red, white, and blue. Bachman followed with bright red boxes—a step toward patriotism, perhaps, but hardly realistic. (I've painted all my red mailboxes a more acceptable blue!). Other producers now provide mailboxes in a variety of colors and shapes.

So unless it doesn't matter to you that your mailboxes may come from different decades in the 20th or 21st centuries, you might want to try for some time period consistency.

A third factor to keep in mind is degree of realism. And here I may be treading on some toes—those of our fellow PCA members who are enamored of Plasticville trees and vehicles.

My problem is, those two-dimensional plastic trees simply look too artificial on my layout. And the Plasticville vehicles are small and lack details.

Sometimes this can be an advantage. Flat shrubs may be the only kind that could fit as decorations on the narrow apartment house balconies, for instance. And tiny Bachman cars are the only ones with a chance of fitting into the service bays on the small gas station.

But what Plasticville citizen could fit into one of those cars? And given the wide array of realistic trees and diecast scale vehicles now on the market, doesn't it make sense to populate your village with those, instead of the obvious old-time movie set imitations?

Once again, it comes down to personal taste. If you're most interested in nostalgia or in maintaining a pure vintage Plasticville line, you'll of course want to go with their products. If you lean a bit more toward realism, you'll want to shop around for other units.

Finally, a new factor to bear in mind is amount of action. Lionel and MTH now both make accessories that do more than just sit there. K-Line has done the same, and there's no reason to believe that will change under K-Line's new owners, Lionel.



Using the correct piece for a specific time period can be critical. These mailboxes are modeled on actual 1940's and 50's prototypes.

There are houses with smoking chimneys and moving backyard swings, scale-sized train watchmen who come out of their sheds to greet passing freights, and barber shops whose striped poles and barbers actually move.

These can add life to your layout, as long as you keep in mind the three caveats of size, consistency, and realism.

There is one post script to add to all this. How much detail is enough? As usual, it's a matter of taste. But while it is possible to overdo the accessories, most model villages suffer from too little detail. A vibrant town is full of activity. The more you can show that in your own village, the better. So when in doubt, more is better than less.

Once again, send me feedback on these thoughts, or other ideas you'd like discussed in this column, at jandigott@juno.com. Meanwhile, happy villaging!



"Take the vacant sign out of your windows"

INTERIORS

We design our interiors to fit most major O gauge manufacturers buildings such as: Ameritowne, Plasticville, Cornerstone and MTH. We can custom make them to fit almost any O gauge building.

There are a variety of businesses to choose from to add "life" to the existing buildings on your layout.

The quick easy way to "take the vacant sign out of your windows".









CUSTOM PAINTED BUILDINGS

We can custom paint and finish your O gauge kit or we have a variety of kits available either finished or unfinished.

We can paint and weather to your specifications whether it is one building or an entire block. We will do our part to make your layout special.







Corky and Sharon Dozier

1179 Ridgeside Dr~ Acworth, GA 30102 Phone: 770-426-5920 Cell: 678-642-8325 Website: www.realcustomrailroads.com Email: sales@realcustomrailroads.com

The Newly Discovered Red Cape Cod – Another Theory

By Anthony J Rudgers



PCA member Anthony Rudgers offers another theory on the origination of the red with green roof Cape Cod.

I am sure that, like me, many Plasticville collectors are excited to discover the new color variation of the Cape Cod House that was reported in the November, 2005 issue of The Villager (Vol. 5, No. 1). However, I have a different "take" on this recently discovered Plasticville variant. In my opinion, that this is a "Canadian" version of the Cape Cod House is off the mark. On the contrary, I think the red Cape Cod House with the green roof is "Plasticville, U.S.A.," but a very early Bachmann Bros. production piece that was aimed at the Christmas trade in the late 1940s (likely the 1949 Xmas season, but perhaps as early as Christmas 1948). I base my speculation on items in my Plasticville collection and on what I have observed in the marketplace since I became interested in these wonderful plastic collectibles. To me, the evidence that the red Cape Cod House with the green roof is an early Xmas-oriented Bachmann Bros. production piece is circumstantial, but compelling, and I would like to share my ideas on this matter in what follows.

First, I observe that Bachmann Bros. produced products that we now regard as Plasticville items even before there was a clearly defined "Plasticville, U.S.A." For example, about three years ago at a local antique show, I saw a red plastic Santa Claus figure, which was quite large--about 18 in. tall. On Santa's outstretched palm was fastened a red "Plasticville" Christmas Tree, or Evergreen Tree (the two-part molded item commonly designated CT-6 in the Plasticville line). This Santa figure, which was priced far outside my collector's budget, was obviously an early Bachmann Bros. plastic product, aimed at the Xmas market, that incorporated the plastic tree as a component part. Again for example, in 1994 I bought four similar all-red "Christmas Trees" (or Evergreen Trees) from a vendor

at a flea market. I pulled these red trees from a mixed-up box containing a number of old plastic Christmas ornamental items that the flea-market vendor had likely obtained all in a lot at some estate sale. From what, besides the trees, was contained in this boxed lot, I can easily conclude that the red Plasticville trees I bought that day were originally sold as Christmas decorations.

I would assert that what we now know as the town of Plasticville, U.S.A. probably had its origin in a line of plastic Christmas decorations. Some of these decorations-the red trees and the red-walled green-roofed Cape Cod House--were no doubt intended by Bachmann Bros. to become part of the around-the-tree miniature villages that have become so much a part of the Christmas tradition.

I believe this early effort in Christmas miniatures was soon broadened to create other items for use in the traditional miniature Christmas village panorama - the beginnings of Plasticville, U.S.A. In this connection, I have in my Plasticville collection two early Bachmann Bros. Cape Cod Houses, in original boxes, which I purchased privately from a collector of antique dolls in 1994. Both boxes are identical except for the rubber stamp mark in a ring at the lower right corner of the cover. The houses in both boxes have white walls. The house in the box rubber-stamped "RED" has a red roof and red trim, and, as one might suspect, the house in the box stamped "GREEN" has dark green roof panels and trim. These boxes are lithographed in red and dark blue on white-faced card stock and resemble the container (jacket) of the HP-8 shown at the top of p. 24 of Nole's 2002 book. However, the lithography on my boxes is not the same as that depicted by Nole, and it would be my contention, based upon the box design and printing, that my Cape Cod Houses, even though they are in one-piece boxes, are of an earlier issue than the HP-8 jacket shown by Nole. There is no Bachmann Bros. item number on either of my house boxes. On the bottom of each box, at the center, is a red hourglass-shaped area in which white (the face of the box card stock) print states: "OTHER PRODUCTS/ MANUFACTURED/ PLASTIC BACHMANN BROS., INC./ 1400 E. ERIE AVE./ PHILADELPHIA 24, PA." The four "other plastic products," depicted in dark blue, are "CT-6/ **CHRISTMAS** TREE/ GREEN.WHITE.RED": "GARDEN/ BIRD BATH/ COL RED/ COL BLUE/ COL YELLOW/ CB"; "GT-1 GARDEN/ TRELLIS/ Colors WHITE/ with RED BIRD" (The trellis shown has 5 rungs.); and "1-C PICKET FENCE UNIT/ 15 SECTIONS WHITE FENCE/ 1 WHITE GATE." Particularly interesting is the illustration of this last item. Pictured is a display box with a die-cut cover that is folded back to display the fence sections in the box. The fold-up box cover is cut in the shape of a large Christmas tree, which is pictured with decorations. The cover picture on the fence box shows the assembled picket fence surrounding the base of this Christmas tree. Moreover, on the side of the box pictured as the fence packaging, the lettering, clearly readable, states that the box contains "Christmas Fence and Gate." Also note that the advertised CT-6 is described as a "Christmas Tree."

The four items advertised on the back of my Cape Cod House boxes, along with the Cape Cod House itself, including the newly discovered red-walled variant, very probably constitute the beginning of the Plasticville, U.S.A. village, although it is not yet called Plasticville by Bachmann Bros. (Nor are, as a matter of fact, the houses in question yet named Cape Cods. Each of my two houses is simply called a "Toy House Kit.") Further evidence of the origin of the Cape Cod House in the line of Bachmann Bros. Xmas products is given by the boxed message that appears on the cover of each of my Cape Cod House boxes at its lower left corner, under a small picture of an assembled house. (See the similar HP-8 jacket on p. 24 of Nole's book. The message on Nole's HP-8 jacket appears to be the same as that on my boxes. However, styles of printing on his jacket and on my boxes differ.) This message reads: "FINISHED HOUSE/ For all year 'round play/ and Christmas Gardens too/ EASY TO ASSEMBLE/ Every child can play/ BUILD A HOUSE." This "Christmas Gardens" reference would be yet another indication that early Plasticville items had a strong connection to the Christmas season.

That Plasticville, U.S.A. represented a gradual broadening of the more general Bachmann Bros. line of plastic products, before the miniature village items became the principal products of note for that company, is borne out by examining another item from my Plasticville collection, which I bought at a flea market in 2004. This is probably one of the earliest buildings identified by "Plasticville, U.S.A." on its box. It is a "BARN KIT BN-1." The barn has red walls and dark green roof pieces that perfectly match in color the green roof pieces on my Cape Cod House discussed earlier. The one-piece box here differs substantially in design and graphics from the onepiece BN-1 boxes usually found. This box is laterally diecut near the top of the cover, so that the box cover can be folded back to display the box contents. (Incidentally, the covers of the two boxes of the Cape Cod Houses described earlier were laterally die-cut also--unlike the usual one-piece HP-8 boxes.) The BN-1 box is printed in red and green on white-faced card stock. On its bottom, printed in green, it shows "OTHER PLASTIC PRODUCTS/ manufactured by/ BACHMANN BROS. INC./ PHILADELPHIA 24, U.S.A./ EST. 1833." The four "other products" are "THE STRATOSPHERE/ SUN **GLASSES** WITH/ NATIONAL ADVERTISED/ CERTIFIED SOLAREX/ LENSES", "STYLE SS-43/ U.S. PAT. NO. D-150,639"; "NH-4 ANIMAL/ CANDLE HOLDERS" (4 each--lion, camel, elephant, and donkey);

"SF-4 PLASTIC/ GRAPEFRUIT SPOON"; and "BK-25 IRIS/ KIDDIE SET," of three pieces, comprising a spoon, a fork, and a "pusher." Thus we note from the advertising on this early BN-1 box that Plasticville, U.S.A. was, at this time, just one of many lines of plastic products Bachmann Bros. produced. (Another indication that this BN-1 barn was early Plasticville, U.S.A. production is the small dark green sticker with white printing affixed to the box. This sticker describes the box contents thus: "DRK. GREEN-RED/ PATENT APPLIED FOR".) In spite of the fact that the BN-1 box also proclaims that the product is "MADE TO SCALE FOR/ MINIATURE RAILROADS," it is hard to see toward what consumers the box-bottom advertising is directed—the advertised items are hardly of interest to model railroaders. The point to be made here is that Bachmann Bros. at this time did not appear to have a clear idea of what market their new Plasticville, U.S.A. was going to satisfy as they expanded their line of miniature village products beyond the few items they earlier produced for the Christmas-season trade.

To summarize, from what I have observed about early Bachmann Bros. production, it appears that the Plasticville, U.S.A. line started out as a few items, principally molded in red, dark green, and white plastic for the Christmas market. The first building was what would later come to be called the Cape Cod House, with the newly discovered red-walled green-roofed house likely being its very earliest version. This was followed by red-roofed and green-roofed white Cape Cods, Christmas trees, and Christmas fences, as well as the trellis with the red bird and the birdbath (which added blue and yellow birds to the red ones). These items, not yet called "Plasticville," were likely first intended for use in traditional miniature Yuletide villages and scenes. Then, somewhat later, the Cape Cod House was marketed more widely as a toy ("TOY HOUSE KIT"; "BUILD A HOUSE--Its Fun"). Subsequently, more buildings and village accessories were added so as to go beyond the limited Christmas displays Bachmann Bros. started out with. (Note, however, that my early Plasticville, U.S.A. barn retains the green/red color scheme of the Christmas product line--I think this might be more than just a coincidence.) In the early days of Plasticville, U.S.A. production, the Plasticville line was just one among the many products Bachmann Bros., Inc. was marketing, as can be seen from the promotion of other Bachmann Bros. product lines on an early Plasticville, U.S.A. box. Following these somewhat tenuous beginnings, Plasticville, U.S.A. was, soon after, "off-to-the-races," and we enjoy its success to this day.

I believe the newly discovered Cape Cod House once stood near the very head of this long line of Bachmann Bros. miniature village products and was truly Plasticville, U.S.A.--not Plasticville, Canada or Plasticville, Anywhere-Else.



This is one trip to the dimestore you won't want to miss!

Welcome to American Dimestore, your online source for 1:43 scale classic plastic vehicles. If you are a toy car collector, O-Gauge model railroader, or looking for vehicles for your Plasticville Town or Christmas Village you've come to the right place. All of our vehicles are just like the ones you could buy at your favorite dimestore back in the 40s and 50s. Please visit our website to see all eighteen of our current vehicles. Each vehicle is individually packaged in an attractive retro-style window box and you can order them online. If you don't have a computer them please call or send for an order form. If you collect classic plastic vehicles you're going to love the museum section of our website. Over twelve hundred vintage plastic vehicles are shown and their fascinating history is discussed at length. All American Dimestore vehicles are only \$6.00 each!

Bill Hanlon AMERICAN DIMESTORE 3137 Castro Valley Blvd., Suite 210 Castro Valley, CA 94546

www.americandimestore.com

Phone: 510-886-2414

BUYING PLASTICVILLE ON EBAY

By Joseph B Kmetz

When I joined the PCA in 2002, I was active in the collecting part of the hobby for only a short period. Aside from several older Plasticville layout pieces, and some new Bachmann items, I was starting from scratch. The thing I've learned over the years with any sort of collecting, such as HO or S or O Gauge, you have got to get yourself educated. In HO it was easy because I grew into the hobby in the late 1960's and learned from experts how lay track, kitbash, run trains and how HO does not have item appreciation (this may be changing); the American Flyer I had as a kid I continued to operate as a Christmas set for my kids; I also continued to pick up pieces at train shows which appreciated in value, so I picked up the three definitive works on American Flyer by Joe Deger and really educated myself on Flyer. If I was into O Gauge, the sheer amount of available reading material for 3-rail folks would fill several bookcase shelves. From this perspective, collecting Plasticville was a sore point because of the lack of source material on the market. When the PLASTIC VILLAGE GAZETTE POCKET PRICE GUIDE, 2001 by Mike Cedro came out I started my education with this. This led me to wanting more information so I bought Bill Nole's CLASSIC GUIDE TO VINTAGE "O" PLASTICVILLE, 2002 (100% color). I would highly recommend this publication to everyone; don't bid without one. So, when you get on line, pull up PLASTICVILLE, look over the availability and start the process, I would recommend the following:

- 1. Set limits on yourself; pick a fair price as an offer, including shipping & handling factored in, and place that one time bid. The way I figure, if you get a \$10 piece for \$5.00 but pay a \$15 shipping & handling charge, you just paid \$20 twice what it's worth. If you lose the auction don't worry because you have done your research, did your evaluation on condition, and made an honest bid. The other person down the street may think differently and bid a lot higher; this is not your concern.
- 2. Avoid bidding wars. Sometimes a piece really grabs you because of presentation (pictures), condition of the box or whatever, and you look more favorably at an outbid item (someone overbid you). If this happens, then re-evaluate the first bid, come up with a new value, and then re-bid; if you are still short (outbid), then let it go. I've done the opposite, got into a bidding war at the last minute, congratulated myself for getting "THEM" only to be disappointed with the item. Don't do what I did make one initial evaluation and one updated bid.
- Assume the seller knows less than you because in many cases this is a fact. I was in several auctions trying to get information on a piece only to be disappointed in getting

- an HO item (they said it was "O" Scale); chalk it up to experience. At this point in the hobby, perhaps we should include HO Plasticville as part of the whole hobby; I think there is a value added when comparing how Bachmann developed both lines and it may be the time to include everything in one book (are you listening Bill Nole?).
- 4. Bid at one level below what the seller says an item is. I don't know how many times this small corrective action has saved tons of avoided heartache. I have scratched pieces show up in the mail that I bought at reasonable prices but still lower than book value. Since I bid in that price range, I have no complaints; try to avoid sending anything back because it usually cost you money in postage/insurance, etc. Many times an inexpensive item is better off being acceptable for the moment—you can always upgrade later. For higher priced items, you need to be satisfied with your bid; ask the seller as many questions as necessary to make you happy— I've prevented over-bidding many times using this simple technique.
- 5. Fuzzy, out of focus pictures are placed for sale for only one purpose. The seller is hiding something; avoid this item (and site) and move on "let the buyer beware" applies in this situation.
- 6. Summer vs. winter purchases for small lots has some truth to it; I've found summer auctions in general cheaper than Fall ones when everyone is buying small fill-in lots to have a Holiday setup "just right." Doing this in the summer season may be cheaper.
- 7. Paper standards (this applies to the entire Society). With the new TCA standards (I am a member), the entire subject of paper quality has been reviewed, found lacking in model train collecting, and standardized; the new standards are much higher than previous and they cover printing, repairs, and stained boxes. I see this all the time in the Plasticville area of collecting and I think that as a Society, we need to address this subject. This is big and needs discussion (e.g., how do you rate a perfect Like New piece with a stained/repaired box). This is an open item for group discussion but our response is required if the collecting world is to take us seriously.

In conclusion, I hope my experiences with E Bay buying will help members make intelligent purchases; nobody's perfect and for those occasions when we get "nailed" at least it will not be costly.



The best resource for your hobby!

No other magazine covers toy trains like Classic Toy Trains magazine! Every issue is packed with:

- The latest news! Learn about the newest trains and products made by Lionel, MTH, K-Line, and others.
- Expert tips! Learn step-by-step track planning, wiring, layout construction everything you need to get your trains running smoothly.
- Inspiration! See some of the most amazing photography of the greatest toy trains and layouts ever built.
- Collecting coverage! Learn how to identify and repair old Lionel and American Flyer trains.
- And much more!



Subscribe Now and Save!

Act now to subscribe to Classic Toy Trains! You'll get 9 big issues for just \$39.95. That's a savings of 19% off the newsstand rate.

- classictoytrains.com
 FOR FASTER SERVICE, ORDER ONLINE
- 800-533-6644

Monday–Friday, 8:30am–5:00pm Central Time. Outside the U.S. and Canada, call 262-796-8776. Please have your credit card ready.

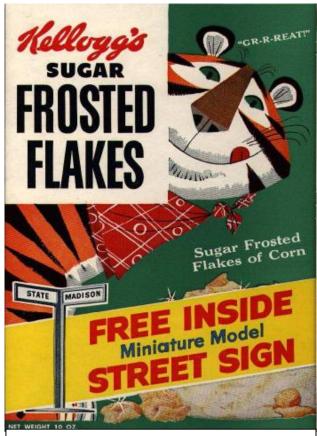
04X1003

Meet Me at Broadway and 42nd

Breakfast Cereal Street Sign Premiums

By John Niehaus

Photos by Kellogg North America, Dan Goodsell, Glenn Bowman, and the author



Miniature street signs were included as premiums in Sugar Frosted Flakes and in Pep Wheat Flakes in 1956.

Photo courtesy Kellogg's customer service.

Member Gary Mosholder sent me a picture of a package of street signs after we visited at Spring York last year. He wanted to know if I had any information on who offered them and when. I am pleased to say that I can now give Gary his answer. They are Kellogg's breakfast cereal premiums.

The signs were included in both Sugar Frosted Flakes and Pep Flakes in 1956. The street names were printed on the backs of the boxes. Sugar Frosted Flakes seems to have had only the street names: Hollywood, Vine, State, and Madison on the back while Pep Wheat Flakes had only the street names: Main, Capitol, Broadway, and 42nd Street. This meant that if you wanted all of the street names you would have to purchase a box of Sugar Frosted

Flakes and a box of Pep Wheat Flakes even if you didn't like the cereal.

It is interesting to note that the signs on the boxes were in what seems to be city specific pairs. Hollywood and Vine for Los Angeles, California. State and Madison, presumably for Chicago, Illinois. Broadway and 42nd Street for New York City. Main and Capitol I presume for Washington, DC. I will await someone who is more familiar with those two names for verification.

My first contact for information was Dan Goodsell one of the foremost cereal box collectors in the United States. He was kind enough to send me a photo of the back of a Sugar Frosted Flakes box. Three days later he sent me a picture of the front of a Sugar Frosted Flakes box. Based upon the logo on the box, he also felt that the year was probably 1956 or 1957. Dan also surmised that the signs may have also been inside Sugar Smacks boxes.



Although the plastic pieces were packed in a cellophane package and inserted inside the boxes you had to cut the street names out of the back of the boxes.

Definitive information came from a very logical but at the same time unlikely source. Armed with the information from Dan, I sent an email to Kellogg's through their customer service website asking if they might have any historical information on the signs. Much to my surprise I not only received a nice reply but pictures of the cereal boxes in which the signs were packed. There was an additional black and white picture of what I presume to be pre-production mockups to be added to the boxes or possibly coupon mockups.



A set of signs along with a complete set of street names. Photo courtesy of Glenn Bowmann



The street names Hollywood, Vine, State, and Madison were only available on the back of a Sugar Frosted Flakes box. Photo courtesy Dan Goodsell



If you wanted the street names Main, Capitol, Broadway, and 42nd Street you had to purchase a box of Pep Wheat Flakes as those street names were only available on that box. Photo courtesy Kellogg's customer service.



This is part of a larger sheet that contained four copies of each illustration in a vertical format. The author would like any information on it's use.

Photo courtesy Kellogg's customer service.

Creative Uses of Damaged Parts

By Edward J Johnson

I recently received the below message from Ed Johnson along with a few pictures of some of his creative uses for damaged plastic village parts and thought I would share them with the members. Ed

Hello: I'm glad I found a group of fellow travelers into



A pawn shop from a Littletown corner store. I used the original inserts for the jewelry store after covering the windows with clear plastic. The top floor is made with cardstock material covered with brick paper on the front and side. The other two sides are covered with wood planking by Paper Creek. What I'm modeling is somewhat common here in Brooklyn, New York. An older building will have the "business side" covered with a brick face siding while the rest of the building would show the old -original- wood planking. Large windows are from Grandt line, small windows are from Bowser. Window treatments are from Evans Designs and the signs are images from the internet (Google search -pawn shop- images)

Lionel

Plasticville

American Flyer

www.GarysTrains.com

GARY'S TRAINS

BUY - SELL - REPAIR



GARY MOSHOLDER gtrains@floodcity.net BOSWELL, PA 15531-2421 (814) 629-9277 Plasticville. I'm not really a serious collector of mint Plasticville. I prefer the cracked, broken, painted or glued pieces as I use them for my scratch building projects. I've sent along a few photos of these projects. I'm starting another project with Plasticville factory parts and need the clear front door and garage type door. Can anyone help?



A cottage from a less than perfect Plasticville Cape. The roof is plastic roofing material. For variety I added a dormer with a Grandt line window. The man in the window is from a magazine. The shades are cigarette rolling paper. The umbrella table is from a tov play set.

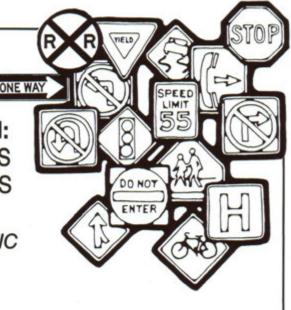


Welcome to Rapscallion Bank. The building is two Plasticville banks joined together. One building was cut off above the front window, the other below. When I was much younger our local bank had a magnificent high ceiling. I tried to capture that look on a smaller scale. The building is lighted and has interior detail. All seams were filled with Squadron Shop putty some of it flaked off after painting, the effect is unintentional -but it adds "aging" to the building.

SIGNS

DRESS UP YOUR LAYOUT WITH:
RR YARD SIGNS • STORE SIGNS
HIGHWAY SIGNS • BILLBOARDS
BURMA SHAVE SIGNS
SELF-ADHESIVE, CARD, or PLASTIC

O, S, HO, and N GAUGES

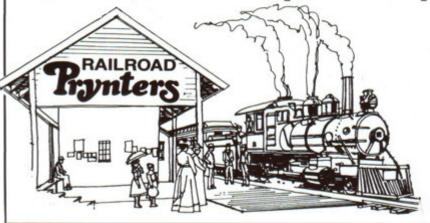


Design your own buildings using our

LARGE VARIETY OF BUILDING PAPER

5 KINDS OF BRICKS • 4 KINDS OF BLOCKS ROCKS • BOARDS • ROOFING SHINGLES PAPER AND CARD WEIGHT O, S, HO AND N GAUGES

Send \$2 for samples and price list to:



Prailroad Rynters

DEPT. PCA P. O. BOX 13113 SAN LUIS OBISPO CALIFORNIA 93406

Pen Tips

A tip of the hat and a PCA pen goes to Richard Woelkers and George Caravas for their Pen Tips printed below. Both address the problem of how to hold together loose buildings.

In your article in Volume 4 Aug 2005 #3 on to glue or not to glue Plasticville buildings together I have found that using "All Stick" reusable adhesive which can be found at Office Depot to hold buildings together works pretty good.

Putting a small amount on the corners of the building (on the inside!) will hold the walls together. This can also be used to hold small pieces in place on your layout. The product is intended for fixing papers and pictures to walls, etc. without creating holes as would the use of conventional methods. Richard Woelkers

Your basic low temp hot melt glue gun has always worked for me for keeping the loose buildings parts together. The glue flows easily, holds securely and peels off easily. The glue will not burn fingers or projects. It sets up quickly making it ideal for multiple pieces. George Caravas



The PCA Corner Store Items for sale by the PCA

Visit the PCA website to view all of the items offered.

Send payment and the description of item desired to Plasticville Collectors Association, Christine A Niehaus, 601 SE Second Street, Ankeny, IA 50021-3207 unless noted otherwise noted.

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. \$1.00 per sheet plus 50 Cents P&H regardless of the number of sheets ordered.

PCA T-shirt

Navy blue 100% cotton, short sleeve shirt T-shirt with the PCA logo printed on the front in white. Sizes available are Small, Medium, Large, X-Large, XX-Large, and XXX-Large. 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. An order form is available on the PCA website, or request a form from the Secretary at the address listed above.

Back Issues of The Villager on CD

Each CD contains all four newsletters for the specified year. The newsletters on the CD are in PDF format. The cost for each year is \$12, postpaid. A link and instructions on how to download Acrobat Reader is also included on each CD

Additional items with the PCA logo

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

We are currently looking at a cloisonné pin, baseball caps, and embroidered patches.

Where is **your** free For Sale, For Trade, or Wanted classified ad?

Why not take advantage of more of your membership privileges? All members are allowed one free classified ad in each of the three classified ad categories per issue. The ad is free for up to 50 words. Your email address, membership number, name and address are not counted in the free 50 words either! Only the body of the ad is counted.

Download the ad form from the PCA website or contact the PCA Secretary for a copy if you don't have Internet access.

What would happen if...



Thousands of fine people lost their lifetime hobbies in the recent hurricane season. Collectibles ranging from all kinds of plastic collectibles to basement model railroad layouts and paper ephemera were sadly destroyed. Did insurance help many of these victims? In too many cases, the answer was, "NO."

I've been a collector all of my life-even before I became the owner of a firm that specializes in

providing insurance for thousands of collectibles. I know what it's like to lose the treasures of a lifetime hobby. Here's a lesson I learned that I'd like to pass along to you: Homeowners insurance is rarely, if ever, adequate for your cut glass collectibles. Take a minute now and call, write or e-mail us for brochures that can help your peace of mind.

Dan Walker

We INSURE Plasticville USA at Attractive Rates.

We've provided economical, dependable collectibles insurance since 1966.



- Sample collector rates: \$3,000 for \$12, \$10,000 for \$40, \$25,000 for \$106, \$50,000 for \$216, \$100,000 for \$316, \$200,000 for \$476. Above \$200,000, rate is \$1.60 per \$1,000.
 - Our insurance carrier is AM Best's rated A+ (Superior).
- We insure Plasticville USA and over 100 other kinds of collectibles in numerous categories. "One-stop" service for practically everything you collect.
- Replacement value. We use expert/professional help valuing collectible losses. Consumer friendly service: Our office handles your loss—you won't deal with a big insurer who doesn't know collectibles.
- Detailed inventory and/or professional appraisal not required. Collectors list items over \$5,000, dealers no listing required.

See the online application and rate quote forms on our website!

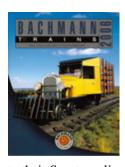
Collectibles Insurance Agency

P.O. Box 1200-PL • Westminster MD 21158 E-Mail: info@insurecollectibles.com

Call Toll Free:1-888-837-9537 • Fax: (410) 876-9233

More Info? Need A Rate Quote? Visit: www.collectinsure.com

Product Reviews



Bachmann Trains 2006, full line catalog. The Bachmann Trains 2006 full line catalog is now available. The catalog is a whopping 216 pages in an 8 1/2 X 11 inch perfect bound format. All train-related items Bachmann offers are included in this one volume. The last section of approximately 80 pages is devoted

to their Spectrum line of trains.

The traditional O scale buildings have not increased in price in the 2006 catalog. Conspicuously absent from this year's catalog is the House Under Construction. That piece and the Street and Boulevard Lights set seem to have been dropped from the line this year.

All of the O scale built-up pieces are back for this year. They show no price increase over the past year. Although not illustrated there are NEW balloons for five additional pieces. This brings the O scale built-up count to thirteen. The new pieces include the Roadside Stand, Apartment Building, House Under Construction, Covered Bridge, and the Union Station. It is unfortunate that the catalog shows only NEW balloons and not color illustrations.

There is no change in the number of HO kit buildings available from this year to last. Each item has an increase in price of \$1.00 though. A total of five new built-ups are listed. They include a gas station, school house, covered bridge, cathedral and a pair of railroad work sheds. The work sheds look very much like HO versions of the O scale railroad work car. The listed price on the items carried over from last year remains the same in this year's catalog.

I have not mentioned N scale buildings in the past. I feel that with the advent of built-up buildings in O and HO scale it only appropriate that I now include N scale. The seventeen buildings available in 2005 seemed to have survived into the 2006 catalog. All of the pieces have had the distinction of going up in price by fifty cents over last year. The diesel horn oil tank along with the steam whistle freight station increased by a dollar fifty. The blinking oil tank increased in price by a dollar.

Although the Bachmann catalogs are generally geared towards dealers it may be possible to acquire your own copy. Bachmann Industries may be contacted at 1400 East Erie Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19124. The customer service phone number is: 215-533-1600.



Lionel, America's Favorite Toy Trains Lionel America's Favorite Toy Trains, by Gerry and Janet Souter, published by MBI Publishing Company, Osceola, WI. \$19.95 (U.S.), \$26.99 (Can.), £12.99 (U.K.). 156 pages, 10 X 10 format,

perfect bound.

There seems to be a plethora of Lionel subject books both in print, out of print, and probably pending print. So when I received a review copy of this book it was met with the question I have asked myself on many occasions, "How many more books can be written about Lionel?". I am please to report that his book is one of the more informative of those I have read.

The thing that really caught and kept my attention in this book was references to other manufacturers. This book very nicely details the rivalries of companies such as A. C. Gilbert and Marx. It also goes into how the European toy train market affected the U.S. market at different times during the last century.

Chapter 1, of course has to be a discussion of Joshua's inventing the flashlight, a failed electric fan, and then the electrified cheese box window display that ultimately led to his success. The title of this chapter is *An Electric*

Cheese Box with a subtitle of Lionel's Primordial Years: 1900-1919. The additional six chapters have titles and subtitles that very succinctly denote the era covered. I especially liked chapter four, The Fox in the Poultry Car, An Empire Derails: 1957-1969.

I did find a few typographical errors. One in particular was quite hilarious if one was not paying attention to detail. The caption accompanying an illustration of a cattle car and ramp states, "It was pricey for \$1,947 but sold well". I never knew that the cattle car was that expensive! If one reads the statement again they discover that the author meant to say, "It was pricey for 1947 but sold well".

Being a Lionel collector in addition to a Plasticville collector I have amassed a "fair" amount of books with Lionel as the subject over the years. Because of this it takes a unique perspective in a book for me to be greatly impressed with it. This book did just that. I would recommend this book based upon its combination of Lionel history and the interrelations between Lionel and the various manufacturers with which it competed.

Lionel America's Favorite Toy Trains can be purchased from MBI on line at motorbooks.com or by phone at 800 826-6600. Their mailing address is MBI Publishing Company, 729 Prospect Avenue, Osceola, WI 54020.

Welcome New Members

The following individuals' names have been added to the Plasticville Collectors Association membership roster

Charles T Nadraus, Mastic Beach, NY

Ben Lanari, Nazareth, PA

Edward Johnson, Brooklyn, NY

Henry DeJong, Holland, MI

David Angeli, Halifax, PA

Robert S Drake, Alexandria, VA

Garth P Monaghan, E Fallowfield, PA

Willima S Rogers, Grand Haven, MI

Ralph R Richards, Glouster, NJ

Michael T Daley, Zelienople, PA

Timothy J Price, Canton, OH

Katherine J Hodgins, Austin, TX

as of April 1, 2006. Their names are now listed in the on line roster.

Donald J Heck, Ronks, PA

Patrick, A Celani, Sterling Heights, MI

Gary Waeltz, North Hills, PA

George E Edwards, Birmingham, AL

David L Lukatch, Hazelton, PA

Dan L Longenette, Orient, OH

Lesley H Samsel Sr, Nescopek, PA

Dennis J Bartley, Brigantine, NJ

Jim Smoldt, Oakland, CA

James D Tennessen, Port Washington, WI

Lee A Johnson, Sheboygan, WI

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

William F Gough, Baltimore, MD Michael A Lech, Johnstown, PA

Linda Mazzoni, Vineland, NJ

David R Smukowski, West Bend, WI

Carol V Dawes, Syracuse, NY

Richard P Wade, Kenosha, WI

Fred R Faist, Woodstock, GA

Robert R Crampton Jr, Baltimore, MD

members in accordance with the bylaws of the PCA. All names listed below will be added to the Plasticville Collectors Association rolls if no objection to such action is received prior to July 1, 2006.

Robert Heine, Washington, DC R.B. (Rocky) Naff, Tulsa, OK

Joseph Orobello, Bayshore, NY

Gary Neuhardt, Arlington Heights, IL

Wayne R Rothsching, Philadelphia, PA

Richard J Meiser Sr, Louisville, KY

George J Schmid, Arlington Heights, Il

Kenneth Landry, Walton, NY

The Villager Classified Ads

Note:

Member information such as name, address, email address, and member number should not be considered part of the word count. Telephone numbers will be included in the ad only if they are part of the submitted ad

Classified ads run for four consecutive issues unless a change is made to the ad or notice is given to remove it.

The month and year at the end of each ad notes the last

issue in which that particular ad will appear.

It is suggested that the names of pieces being offered in the classified ads follow the names found in reference material such as price guides or catalogs.

Ads may be edited to conform to both the suggested naming convention and to bring them to fewer than 50 words if payment for the excess words is not included with the ad.

For Sale

1804 Greenhouse LN Box VG, \$110.00 or best offer, 1900 Turnpike LN Box VG TO EX, \$120.00 or best offer,1624 House under construction, LN Box VG \$165.00 or best offer, LH-4 2 Story Colonial LN Box VG \$40.00 or best offer. clfil@nycap.rr.com #04-318, Fil Fillion, 20 Westcott Rd, Troy, NY 12182-4408, (518) 235-3774 (May 06)

1627 Hobo Shacks, OB, \$90.00; Gingerbread house, chocolate, rhyme, OB \$200.00 OBO;3 Men in Tub, rhyme, OB, \$150.00 OBO; Gingerbread house, no rhyme,

no figures, OB, \$60.00 OBO. chuckaboom@juno.com, #02-183, Charles Swanson, PO Box 33042, Knoxville, TN, 37930, (865) 693-5740 (Aug 06)

New England Rancher, scenic type, sealed, \$25.00 plus shipping; White maple trees, glued, \$15.00 each plus shipping. #02-93, Gerry Fuglewicz, 11262 Sunrise Dr, East Aurora, NY, 14052, GFuglewicz@aol.com 716-655-0223 (Aug 06)

Reasonable priced Plasticville for sale. Currently selling lots of 100 clean parts for \$40.00 plus shipping. I also have many complete buildings boxed and not boxed for sale. Call, e-mail, or write for list of boxed items for sale. plastic1@fuse.net, #01-25, Bill Hunter, 1333 Ashford Dr., Florence, KY, 41042, (859 525-7183 (Feb 07)

0400 Mobile home, cream/blue mint \$25. HS-6 Hospital, complete, missing one tab on steps, tattered box, \$30. AD-4 Air Administration building, incomplete, good for parts, \$10. Above prices plus shipping. facltf@juno.com

For Trade

Have Storytown Old Woman and Yellow Shoe w/repaired chimney need Red shoe. Have Green walled Humpty Dumpty w/broken piece on body back, need Yellow walled Humpty. Have Storytown Old Woman, pogo stick, girl, little boy, boy w/baseball glove (see wants). chuckaboom@juno.com, #02-183, Charles Swanson, PO Box 33042, Knoxville, TN, 37930, (865) 693-5740 (Aug 06)

Wanted

Switch Tower in Ex 1631 box and/or 1951 box. Watchman's Shanty in Ex 1633 box and/or 1816 Ex box. Ranch House in Ex 1812 box. Cape Cod in Ex 1630 box. Station Platform in Ex 1200 box. Signal Bridge in Ex 1632 box. Contact Joe Kutza at jkutza@comcast.net or 301-528-6679 (May 06)

Seeking WHITE farm animals from #1617 'Farm Building and Animals' set. Interested in purchasing individual pieces or entire set. #05-349, Raymond Phillips, 40 Whispering Pine Road, Sudbury, MA 01776 Please contact Ray at rayphill@comcast.net. (May 06)

Well, I am in need of a white corn crib base for one of my sets that I bought at the TCA convention. Does any member out there have a spare? trainsfan@aol.com #00-02 Doug Gilliatt, 956 W Sherri Ct, Gilbert, AZ 85233, (480) 633-2731 (May 06)

1701 box, 1614 Police Station box, 2 1/2 story house w/charcoal roof, Make 'N Play items or pieces, Firehouse w/red side/white roof. Storytown figures for Old Woman in the Shoe; girl spilling warer, girl w/doll, boy on rope. chuckaboom@juno.com, #02-183, Charles Swanson, PO Box 33042, Knoxville, TN, 37930, (865) 693-5740 (Aug 06)

Wanted – your unwanted or extra Plasticville Kits, complete or partials, in excellent or better condition. One kit or a truck load, doesn't matter. I will also buy nice clean boxes. glennb@tricounty.net, #03-219, Glenn

#02-87, Lawrence Fachler, 6 Bosko Drive, East Brunswick, NJ 08816-4542 (Feb 07)

Qualify for the Indianapolis 500 with your 1890 Road Racing boxed set: \$650. Stay at your 5402 Highway Motel boxed set: \$100. Take the Plasticville Turnpike 5601 Boxed Set: \$160, and take a driving break at the 5200 Roadside Rest boxed set: \$80. 5604 Residential Square: \$125. #02-154, Robert Spivey, Box 33484, Decatur, GA 30033. (404) 633-6777 (Feb 07)

My: WPLA sign for your Switch Tower steps or stovepipe, Water Tower spout for your ladder, Hospital siren or evaporator for your NE Ranch antenna or porch, Fire Truck spotlight or ladder swivel for nozzle, 16 Citizens for 8 fat people. Many Spruce trees for one Maple, Red pickup for yellow. #02-154, Robert Spivey, Box 33484, Decatur, GA 30033. (404) 633-6777 (Feb 07)

Bowman, 301 Buffalo Creek Rd, Newport, PA, 17074. (Aug 06)

I'm looking for a Littletown #405 business unit. It contains 2 corner stores, general store, supermarket, gas station, and street accessories, in a decent shape box. Suemark689@msn.com, #05-373, Mark Martini, 14 Beech St, Stanhope, NJ, 07874, (973) 691-6419 (Aug 06)

Spirit of 76 (Commemorative Series) State of Virginia boxcar (Must be new or of limited use). Arnold.douglas@us.army.mil, #02-86, Arnold Douglas, 3 Violante Ct, Eatontown, NJ, 07724, (732) 935-9574 (Aug 06)

Porch roof and porch floor for red w/dark grey roof LH4 2-story Colonial house. 2 yellow farm implement wagon stakes. K-Line catalogs. Figures and accessories for K-Lineville buildings. Loading dock roof for K-Line factory. Assembly instructions for signal bridge or any other pieces. johnln@netins.net #00-3, John Niehaus, 601 SE Second St., Ankeny, IA 50021-3207 (Nov 06) SC-4 School, weather vane, light, flagpole. FH-4 Fire House, chimney cap, convex siren. LM-3 Station, , dark gray roof and trim, brown platform, 2 roof signs. 1618 TV Station, front doors, red antenna base, white tower. LH-4 2-story Colonial House, red porch supports, TV

antenna, red weather vane, white door. #06-396, Lesley

Samsell Sr., 511B Helterville Rd, Nescopeck, PA 18635



Plasticville

e Built It For You!

Since 1947, hobbyists and collectors have made Plasticville®

U.S.A. products their structures of choice. Now, in addition to our traditional, easy-to-assemble kits, Bachmann is pleased to offer select pre-assembled Plasticville® U.S.A. buildings.

For modelers, Plasticville® pieces add character to your O scale layouts. For collectors, this exciting incarnation of the Plasticville® U.S.A. line adds a new dimension to the hundreds of product, color, and packaging variations that have occurred over the years. Visit your local hobby retailer to see how we've built Plasticville® U.S.A. for you.

City growth is limited only by your imagination!

Cooling Station Item No. 45301 \$39.00

Split-Level House fem No. 45302 \$35.00

Town Hall Item No. 45303 \$42.00

School House with Playground Equipment Item No. 45304 \$35.00

> **Two-Story House** Hem No. 45305 \$35.00

Hobo Jungle m No. 45306 \$35.00 Loading Platform & Crossing Shanty Item No. 45307 \$35.00

> **Country Church** \$39.00

Signal Bridge \$39.00

Trailer Park with Two Trailers & Flog Pole with Flog S39.00

> Bank Item No. 45311 535.00

Hospital with Furniture ttem No. 45312 \$39.00

Cape Cod Houses (2 per box) item No. 45313



Plasticuille

HO Scale Built Ups Also Available