



# THE VILLAGER

The Official Newsletter of the Plasticville Collectors Association

Volume 23

December 2024

Number 3

## COMMENT ON OUR ADVERTISERS

JOHN NIEHAUS

One of the reasons I attend York meets is to visit with the organizations and individuals who advertise in our newsletter. I will also discuss our advertising fees and look for additional advertisers. Sometimes, it works. Sometimes, it does not.

I want to welcome a new advertiser, Little Steamers. The new owner is Dale Radloff, his wife and son. Little Steamers may be unfamiliar to you, but you may wish to remember that name if you want Plasticville reproduction parts that you previously purchased from Barry King or Bob Persing. Barry bought all of Bob Persing's Plasticville reproduction parts a few years ago. Dale purchased Barry's inventory from his wife upon Barry's passing away. Not only did Dale purchase the inventory, but he also bought the molds from Bob Persing. Dale is also a big vintage American Flyer dealer.

Sue Shaw is co-owner of The Train Station in Mountain Lakes, New Jersey. She and her husband have been in the Orange Hall for several years. Sue was a perennial participant in our PCA meetings at York. She was conspicuously absent at the October show. As I always wish to speak with our advertisers, I

sought her out and asked about The Train Station advertising in next year's newsletters. She declined and told me why. She said that her husband, David, caught a cold which turned into pneumonia, got sepsis, and passed away. She said she would close the business after all outstanding orders had been filled—my hat off to her for thinking of the customers and not just issuing refunds.



It was nice to pick up one business card advertiser (\$12 for the year) but sad to lose a half-page one (\$48 for the year). Advertising allows us to pay a web developer to put our newsletters on the website. If you know of someone you think might be an advertising candidate, please email me at [secretary@plasticvilleusa.org](mailto:secretary@plasticvilleusa.org), and I will send our advertising rate information. We cannot do it with donations only as they are nowhere adequate to cover the web developer's fees - which are reasonable - but still an expense.

### The Villager

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**President:** Joe Kutza

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**Webmaster:** John L. Niehaus

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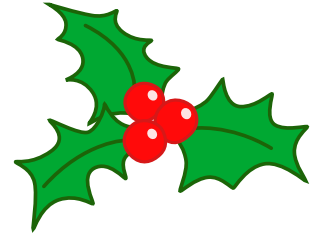
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## EDITOR'S COLUMN

This newsletter is running late! There is always so much to do between Thanksgiving and Christmas that the time just flies by. Hopefully, you are enjoying a well-earned holiday break as you peruse this edition of *The Villager*. This issue marks the ten-year mark for me as serving as the editor. Combined with John Niehaus' prior 13 years as editor, we are now ready to enter our 24<sup>th</sup> year! To keep the Newsletter a success, we need your continued contributions. This year we had a few new regular editors, Andy Zola and Jim Bennett, as well as our usual contributors, Don Huovinen, Ed Berg, John Niehaus, and me. In this issue, we have a column by a former regular contributor, John Gottcent. Please thank everyone who has contributed this year (and prior years) and consider adding your name to the list of regular or semi-regular contributors.

We had less participation in the holiday layout photo collection than I had hoped. Please snap a photo of your layout before you take it down and send it in for inclusion in next year's December issue. Smartphone cameras have come a long way and produce great images; no special camera is needed to take production-quality photos.



Until next time, enjoy!

Matt Harvazinski, *The Villager* Editor  
villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org

## YORK REPORT, OCTOBER 2024

JOHN L. NIEHAUS

The meeting, sponsored by the Plasticville Collectors Association, was held at 11:00 AM on Friday, October 18, in the Orange Hall meeting room. There was a total of 16 attendees, including this writer. Three of the attendees brought unusual or rarely seen items. All who attended were given a pen with the PCA's name on it in some manner. They also got a ticket to be entered in the door prize drawing. More on the door prizes later.

Jim Farace passed around an HO HO-350 boxed set, which included HO theaters in two different colors: gray walls with a white roof and white walls with a salmon roof. He also showed an HO Suburban Station with the roof signs printed with the word "Hershey" instead of "Plasticville." This piece would have been included in a Hershey-named Bachmann train set.

The editor of the Plasticville Collectors Association newsletter presented a piece of light-yellow picket fence. It was noted that this fence was also made in a pastel green. They were made before Bachmann used the name Plasticville for the same fence in white. Both colors were produced and sold in plain brown boxes with either YELLOW or GREEN rubber stamped on one end of the box. Neither color was ever marketed under the Plasticville name.

He also presented three fire trucks in various shades of red. They ranged from an almost translucent red to a very dark, non-translucent red. The color of pieces of the same design, fire trucks, autos, and roofs varied over the years. The only criteria seem to be if two or more pieces, such as a fire truck, were included in an item that the colors had to match. A prime example of varied colors of a single

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item is the School House roof, which is generally a shade of gray but can vary from white to dark gray.

Gary Remally presented a collection of clear pieces that were not marketed as such. The key piece was a fighter jet from the Interceptor Squadron and other airport sets. When viewing the plane as well as a section of tree it was noticed that there was a tiny hint of white in some places in both pieces. The presentation of these items precipitated a short discussion on how the old bead-type ejection molding machines were purged of color by this writer.

An attendee asked if Bachmann had production records from early Plasticville production. I offered to contact Bachmann to determine if the records still exist. I also stated that it would be very fortunate if any records from 50 – 70 years ago still exist.

Door prizes: I brought three and was pleasantly surprised when I was presented with a donation of three sets of Bill Nole's King Plasticville Shrubs to be awarded as well as what I had brought. The three prizes that I bought were the last of the Plasticville Collectors Association T-shirts, medium size. This shirt was one of the very first to be offered with the possessive instead of the collective word Collector's as part of the Association name. There was also a collection of seven *Plastic Village Gazette* magazines, including the first and last editions. These were an attempt by an entrepreneur to establish a plastic village subject magazine like the model railroad magazines. It lasted only twelve issues. The last door prize was a 10th Anniversary PCA Dairy Barn in a heavily damaged box. The contents were still factory-sealed.

But what about the meet? All I can say is that one needs to be aware of the current prices of items before venturing into the various buildings. I saw exceptionally well-priced items as well as "Are you kidding me?" prices. I bought a clean and undamaged Bungalow in a rock-solid box for \$5. I purchased a Union Station in a box with the red and white box for the same price. There were quite a few reasonably priced boxed sets. One dealer had some smaller boxed sets that included the inside trays for around \$35.

Now for the "are you kidding me?" prices. I saw a very nice-looking Countryside Farm box on one table. I already have two of these sets, but I was curious. The dealer had a price of \$135 on it! I asked him why he had it priced that high, and he informed me that it was "extremely rare." There were other high prices, such as a \$55 Cape Cod and

a \$40 Ranch House with a light blue roof and trim with white sides.

Overall, you could probably find just about any single piece for which you were willing to pay your desired price.

One thing that I did notice was the absence of many of the "heavy hitters" who have had a significant presence at York shows in the past. I was told that Lionel decided to have a presence at Comic-Con in New York City. They were probably the most prominent company absent. Atlas Model Railroad had a tiny booth. Nothing like they would have had a few years ago. They did not even have a layout. Miller Engineering, the makers of the LIGHT WORKS neon signs, was not there. They used to have a large booth in the orange hall with many of their most recent signs actively displayed. If you have been to York in the last few years, you may remember the enormous booth that Woodland Scenics had, which covered back-to-back ends of two aisles. I missed the shaky conductor that greeted visitors to their area. Diecast Direct always had a nice-sized booth showcasing some of their larger products. They were not there either. TW Trainworx has not been there for a while, and neither has Mianne, the benchwork people. It seems that the more prominent companies in our hobby are eschewing the York shows and that the shows are progressing to becoming nothing more than a typical weekend train meet.

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

# HOLIDAY LAYOUT PHOTOS



Jim Bennett



Tom Fritsch



Matt & Larry  
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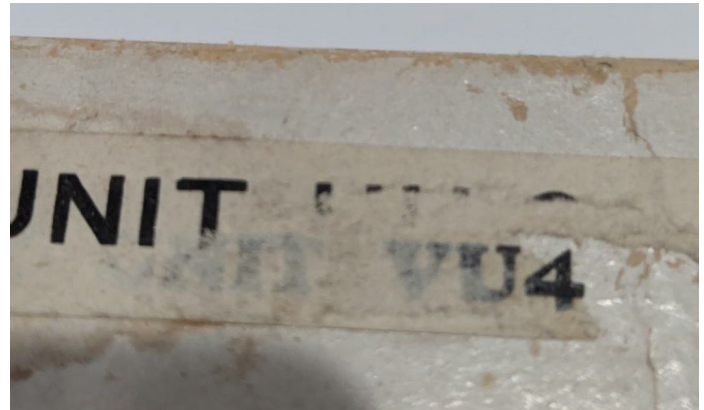
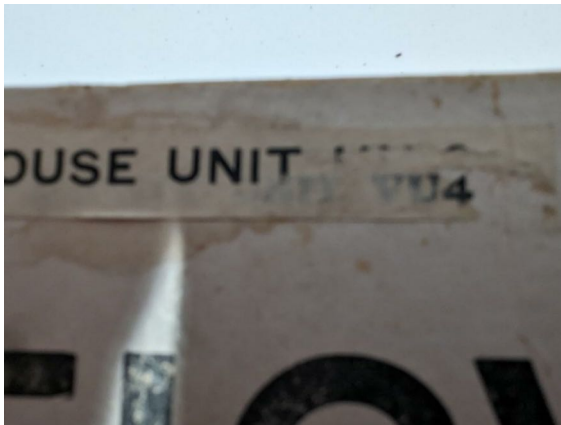
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# COMMUNITY UNIT

ANDY ZOLA

The VU-4 is commonly called the Community Unit since there is no production number on the Plasticville U.S. A. unit. This was produced no later than 1949 and apparently for only one year. It could have been made in 1948, but I am just guessing as I am unaware of any info from 1948 regarding Plasticville items. The box is a dull yellow lift-off box. In my opinion, this is one of only two boxes that Plasticville made that did not have a printed production number on it. Can you guess what the other box was? Answer later in the article.

In checking my Canadian Plasticville boxes, I found a similar-sized box but in a white color. It has a torn paper label on the top of the box that appears to have the VU-4 printed. See the following three pictures. The only other Plasticville box without a printed production number is the Autumn Tree Assortment, which had a sticker with the number printer on it.



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# K-LINE PARK ASSORTMENT

DONALD W. HUOVINEN

The K-Line Park Assortment items were most commonly found as components of K-4186 Park Assortment, Photo 1. However they were also included as components of other accessories. The K-4186 Park Assortment was one of K-Line's initial offerings, appearing in the 1981 catalog. It would last be shown in the 1996 Traditional Catalog.



Photo 1

The Park Assortment is a collection of one of each of three different sets of accessories originally included with Marx Buildings: Police and Fire Station Accessories, Colonial House Accessories, and School House Accessories. K-Line also included these accessories as components of some of their buildings as well.



Photo 2

The Police and Fire Station Street Accessories consist of 10 small accessories (Photo 2). The accessories are:

1. Lamp post. The sign on the post reads "ASH"
2. Street sign. The signs on the post read "ELM" and "OAK".
3. Parking meter
4. Police call box
5. Mail box
6. "FIRE ZONE" sign
7. "STOP" sign
8. Trash can

9. Bench
10. Fire hydrant

When these accessories were included in the Park Assortment, they were overwhelmingly molded in red although they occasionally are found in blue. These accessories were also included as components of three other K-Line items: the K-4182 20 Street Lights and 20 Street Accessories, the K-4041 Police Station, and the K-4091 Firehouse. When included in the K-4182 20 Street Lights and 20 Street Accessories the accessories were normally red but can also be found in silver. As part of the K-4041 Police Station, the accessories were always red. As part of the K-4091 Firehouse included in the JC Penny K-4000-JCP building set shown in the 1990 JC Penny Christmas catalog. In the latter case the accessories were blue.

The Colonial House Accessories consist of 6 small accessories (Photo 3). They are:

1. Table with pole and umbrella shade
2. Pool
3. Lawn lounge chair
4. Lawn chair
5. Lawn bench
6. Slide



Photo 3

When these accessories were included in the Park Assortment they are a combination of white and yellow pieces or white and green pieces. Marx had included these accessories as part of their Colonial House however curiously they were not included in K-Line's K-4050 Colonial House. 5 of the 6 accessories were included in K-Line's K-412001 Ranch House w/figures and accessories. The slide was not included. This accessory was part of K-Line's Trackside Collection shown in the 2003 First Edition through the 2005 First Edition, The accessories were painted green.

The School House Accessories consist of 7 accessories (Photo 4). They are:

1. Slide
2. Sled
3. Bike rack
4. Bicycle
5. Swing Set
6. Monkey bars
7. Water fountain



Photo 4

When these accessories were included in the Park Assortment all were molded in the same color which could have been red, black, silver or orange. K-Line did include these accessories as part of K-4061 School and Playground. When included with the School these accessories have been observed in red, silver, cream, and orange. The accessories were also included in K-406101 School w/figures & accessories. This also was part of K-Line's Trackside Collection. All of the accessories were painted a variety of colors.

When first issued the Park Assortment was packaged on a shrink wrapped white card. The items were stacked on top of one another so it was not possible to see what you were actually getting. Photo 5. To correct this the items were then spread out on a larger shrink wrapped card. Photo 6 shows the identical items on the larger card. This card is obviously a much better presentation. It should be noted that it is not at all unusual to find fewer items than expected, especially when packaged on the shrink wrapped cards. Later the items would be packed in the Type 13 box. This box has a large paper sticker on it which correctly illustrates the items included, as shown in Photo 7. Unfortunately the buyer could not know what color combinations were included without opening the box. Finally the Park Assortment was packaged in a Type 1A Header Bag (Photo 8). The header card notes that there are 26 items. To reach this count K-Line must have counted the pole and umbrella shade separate from the table and counted the swings separate from the swing structure.



Photo 5

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](mailto:dhuov@aol.com).

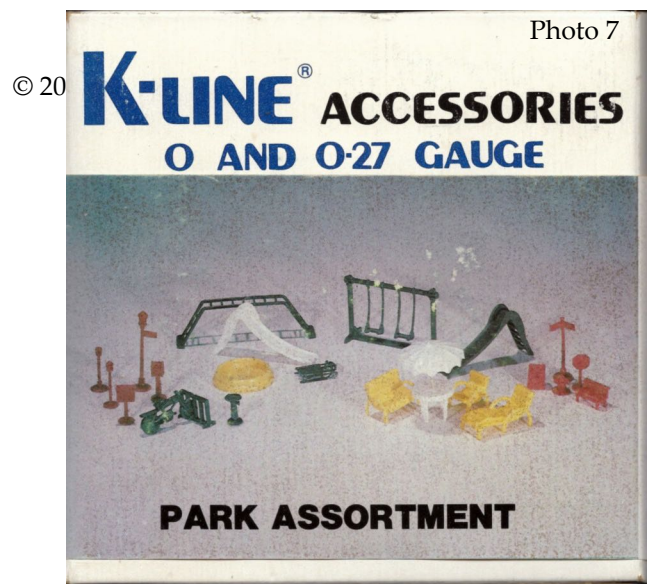


Photo 7



Photo 6



Photo 8

# APARTMENT HOUSE; MY FAVORITE STRUCTURE

JIM BENNETT

There are several structures in the Plasticville O/S lineup that I would describe as impressive. The ones that catch your eye and stand out amongst others. This elite group (in my opinion only, mind you) would include the Cathedral, Airport Administration Building, Town Hall, Union Station, Coaling Station, Hospital with furniture and the Apartment House mated with several Add-A-Floors. Of this group, the Apartment House/Add-A-Floor is my favorite, and it is imposing when several "Add-A-Floors" are stacked up. I love adding floors to my Plasticville Apartment House; the more, the merrier! It looks so majestic, soaring into the sky and towering over the rest of Plasticville like a colossal behemoth standing watch over its brood. It draws the attention of all who view it. (Photo 1)



PHOTO 1

The Apartment House was originally a Littletown concept introduced on page 12 of their (never distributed) 1956/1957 catalog as the LT 390 Two Story Apartment House with Chairs (Photo 2). Also on that page was the LT 116 Single Story Unit (i.e. Add-A-Floor). Littletown never manufactured these entities as this was the time frame in which Bachmann bought them out. They must, however, have produced a prototype because on page 36 of the July 1956 issue of Model Trains magazine, under the heading of "Model Railroad Equipment Review," there was a photograph of the Apartment House and the erroneously identified Suburban Bank (it was the LT 400 Motel Office) by Banner Plastics (Photo 3). The review also mentioned additional floors for the Apartment. If you look closely at photo 3, you will notice that the roof only covers the main front façade of the Apartment, and a separate, smaller roof covers the protruding entryway. In the artist's rendition depicted in the catalog (Photo 2), the roof covers the protruding entryway and provides an overhang for the balconies below it. Once Bachmann got ahold of it, they must have changed the die for the roof by increasing its width

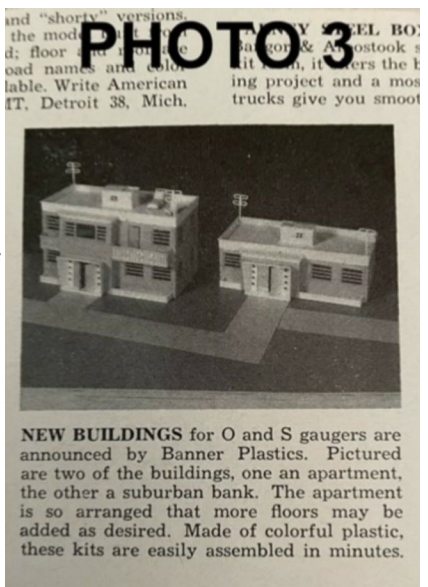


so that it covered the entryway, thus eliminating the smaller roof piece.

First appearing in the Plasticville lineup by Bachmann in 1958 as the #1907 Apartment House and the #1503 Apartment House Add-A-Floor, the Apartment House came in a type 5B box and the Add-A-Floor in a type

5A box. The Apartment House had tan walls with maroon balconies and doors. The flower beds, portico, roof, antennas, roof bulkhead, chaise lounge, and chair were all white. The Add-A-Floor had tan walls with maroon balconies and doors. (Photo 4)

King Manufacturing introduced its version of the Apartment House (#0500) and the Add-A-Floor (#0550) in 1985. They distributed 3,500 Apartment Houses in red with buff trim



NEW BUILDINGS for O and S gaugers are announced by Banner Plastics. Pictured are two of the buildings, one an apartment, the other a suburban bank. The apartment is so arranged that more floors may be added as desired. Made of colorful plastic, these kits are easily assembled in minutes.

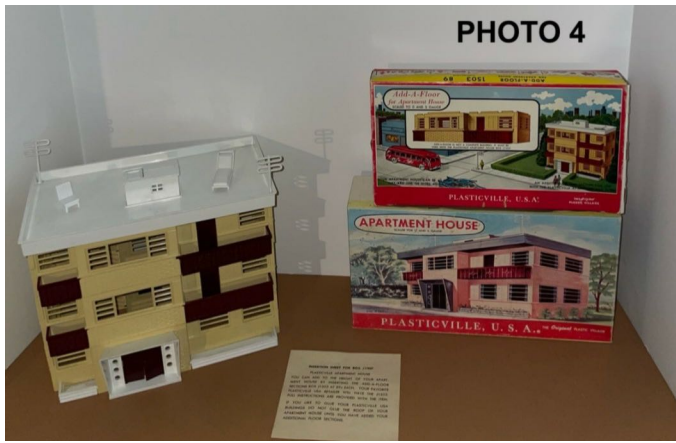


PHOTO 4

and 1,500 in brown with buff trim. Thankfully, Kings also manufactured 6,000 Add-A-Floors; 4,200 in red and 1,800 in brown. These were the last run of Add-A-Floors to be manufactured, as Bachmann has not reissued them to date (2024). Both items were packaged in Kings' thick, sturdy, corrugated boxes that have proved very durable over the years. These type 10 boxes featured a photograph of only the brown Apartment House or brown Add-A-Floor. To differentiate the brown and red structures inside the box, the color was rubber-stamped on the side of the box. (Photo 5)



PHOTO 6

coloring on this structure is very aesthetic with burgundy walls; gray roof, portico, balconies, and flower beds; silver doors, windows, and antennas; the roof bulkhead is two-tone with brown sides and a gray roof; yellow chaise lounge and chair. The antennas, chair, and chaise lounge are not glued on. (Photo 7)

Bachmann item #45980 was first released in 1997 in a type 12A box and is still in the Bachmann Plasticville O-Scale lineup as of their 2024 catalog. The box for this structure comes in two different styles: predominantly blue (type 12A box) or predominantly green (type 12B box). The one I removed brand new from my type 12A blue box was brown with a shade of dark tan trim (on a color chart, a color called "Chamoisee" was the closest match I could find), and the one I removed from the type 12B green box was brown with cream trim (Photo 8). If anyone reading



PHOTO 5

FRONT VIEW

BACK VIEW

Capitalizing on the popularity of the King reissues, Bachmann reissued the Apartment House as #65-1963 in 1987 in the flimsy type 11A box with a photograph of the Apartment House on the box top. The colors were red with a buff roof and trim, just like the King version. Interestingly, the top of the box touted "for use with all HO scale layouts," and directly under that declaration, it stated, "O Scale." In 1992, the item number was changed to 45963 with a type 11B box. (Photo 6)

A built-up version of the Apartment House (#45315) was released in 2006 in a see-through, vacuum-formed plastic case surrounded by a framed cardboard exterior. The



PHOTO 7

Doug Wolff  
Owner

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PHOTO 8



PHOTO 9

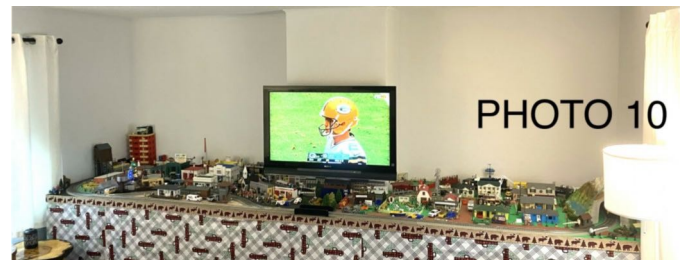


45315 BUILT-UP GRAY NOT SHOWN

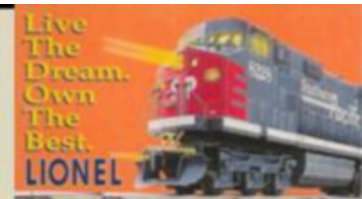
this also has the dark tan trim (or any other color), please e-mail the Editor, as this is the first I have heard of this color variant. (see Photo 9 for color comparison)

So, if you want to add something impressive and eye-catching to your Plasticville Empire (Photo 10), you can still buy the brand-new brown Apartment House from Bachmann or obtain the tan, red, or brown versions, which frequently appear on eBay. If you want the Add-A-Floor, they also intermittently appear on eBay.

PHOTO 10



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# SELLING VIGNETTES

JOHN GOTTCENT

As we age, a word that appears more and more often in our vocabularies is “downsize.” For us hobbyists, that often means having to sell off items we’ve spent years collecting and working on.

This process is made even more painful by two factors: the declining monetary values of classic Plasticville items, and the declining interest in those items on the part of younger hobbyists who are more intrigued by larger, more realistic, often operational accessories like those marketed by Menards.

There’s not much we can do about the former, but what about the latter? How can we dress up our tables at the next train show to attract and engage more customers?



Photo 1

I started by asking myself “what is it that most attracts visitors who look at my layout?” The answer seemed clear: not the trains, not the buildings, not the landscaping, but the vignettes: little scenes from daily life with which I’d tried to pepper my plastic village. Perhaps it was a simple scene of a man mowing his lawn while his dog followed him around. Or a groups of kids enjoying themselves at a local playground. Or some tykes looking on in anticipation as the ice cream truck pulls up on a hot summer day.

What if, I asked myself, I brought some of those scenes to my train show tables and offered them for sale at a reasonable price? Would that draw people in, as it does at my home layout? Would some of those people not only purchase the vignettes, but also hang around to look at, and perhaps buy, other things from my inventory?

I started simply, with 2 tennis players volleying over a net I put together from 2 plastic posts and a piece of mesh. I added a few “tennis balls” from carefully wadded up pieces of white paper (Photo 1). I attached these pieces to

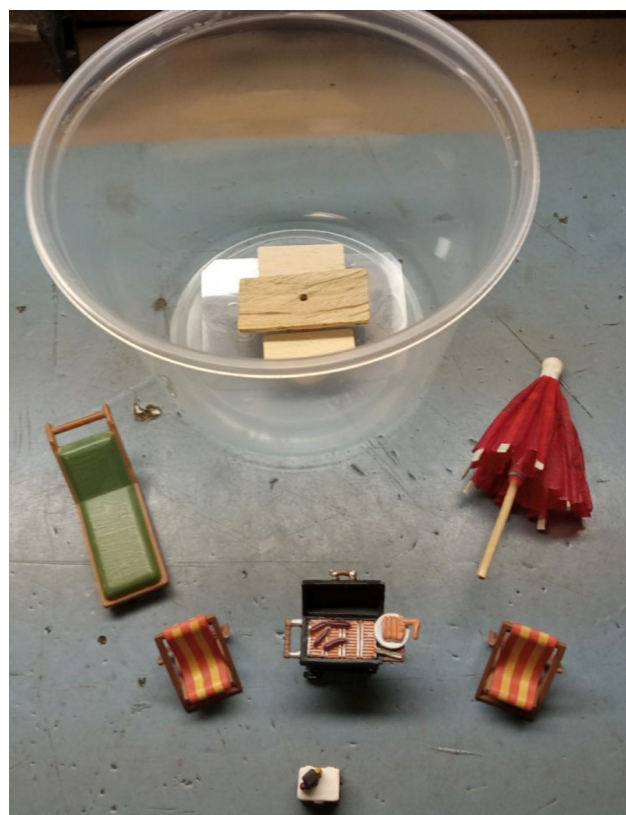


Photo 2

a plastic container with rubber cement, so they would stay in place during the show but be easily removable for a customer who wanted to rearrange them into his or her home layout.

Then I put together some summer furnishings, this time presenting them in a clear plastic container for easy viewing (Photo 2).

Next I decided to get a little more elaborate, adding some greenery and even a trash can to a scene of a woman hanging out her laundry. The clotheslines are made from plastic posts inserted into rubber washers, with the lines themselves fashioned out of flower wire (Photo 3). Again, everything was fastened down with easily removable rubber cement, combining temporary stability with the chance for customers to rearrange things quickly at home.

Finally, I built another sports scene showing 2 budding NBA players practicing their skills at a nearby park (or driveway) while a third, younger, player looks on longingly for his chance to shoot. A bench and a dumpster helped fill out the scene (Photo 4), I built the hoop itself out of everyday odds and ends.

As you can see, these vignettes involve finding appropriate human figures (nothing draws attention like a realistic



Photo 3



Photo 4

person engaging in some activity) supplemented by simple items you probably have in your spare parts drawer or just lying about the house. I chose not to combine them with complete buildings to emphasize their versatility, but most could easily be connected to one or more plastic structures. (The laundry woman might be packaged with a cape cod house, for instance, or the basketball players with a school building yard.) For transportation to and from shows, I placed the vignettes in plastic containers such as those that came with your last order of Chinese take-out. I found that white containers work best to show off your items. Many of them come with clear snap-on tops for added security.

So far I've brought these vignettes to one flea market and immediately sold one of them. (I'll let you guess which one went first!) But the others also attracted attention and may well have led to a few other purchases. I'm planning to bring more to my next train show.

If you're looking for ways to increase sales as you downsize your collection, try using what attracts visitors to your layout to attract customers to your sales tables.



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Factory(#1988): original walls, brown platform, Union Station: original walls, roofs, canopies,  
platforms, steps, Hobo Shacks: original walls & roof (brown or dark grey), original rear canopy \$5  
(brown or dark grey), original Roll Up \$5, original Steps \$5, 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  
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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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# THE HUNT FOR VARIATIONS IX: SCENIC CLASSIC FARM IMPLEMENTS

MATTHEW HARVAZINSKI

The farm implement set was first introduced in 1956 as item number 1302. It contained a jeep, a hay wagon with stakes, a tractor with a driver, a plow, a pickup truck, and a harrow. There was a total of three colors used, yellow, red, and green. Most pieces had two colors so there are a total of six sets to make. The Scenic Classic version, catalog number 1981, included the implements and the contents of set 1617 (farm buildings and animals). The same colors were used for farm implements: yellow, red, and green, but the colors are darker than their 1302 counterparts. What makes the Scenic Classic version very difficult to collect is that a random assortment of colors of the implements is included in each box. So, it will likely take more than 6 sets to make the 6 complete sets of implements!

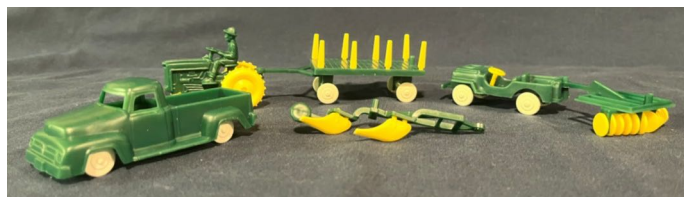
The photo below shows the six tractor combinations available to collect.



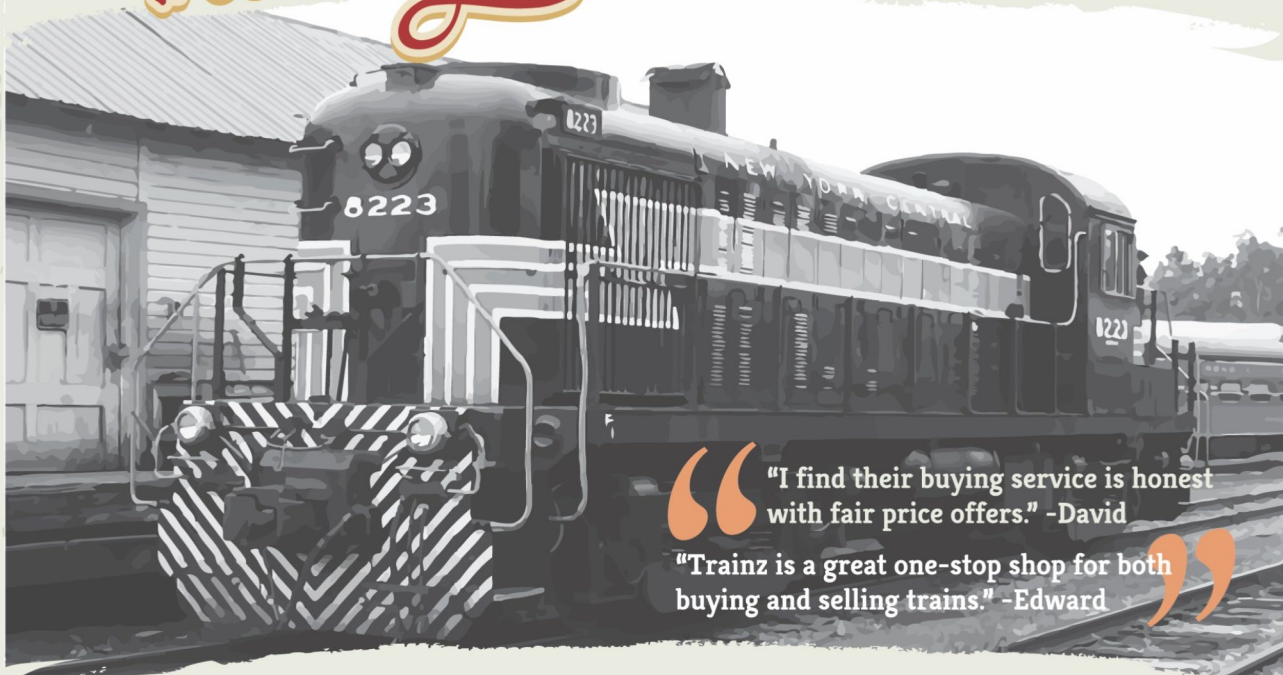
The next photo shows the complete set of yellow vehicles with green accessories. The jeep in this photo should have a green steering wheel. Notice that the pick-up truck is the only item that should have a single color (excluding the wheels which were always white).



The last photo shows a set of green vehicles with yellow accessories. This jeep has the correct yellow steering wheel.



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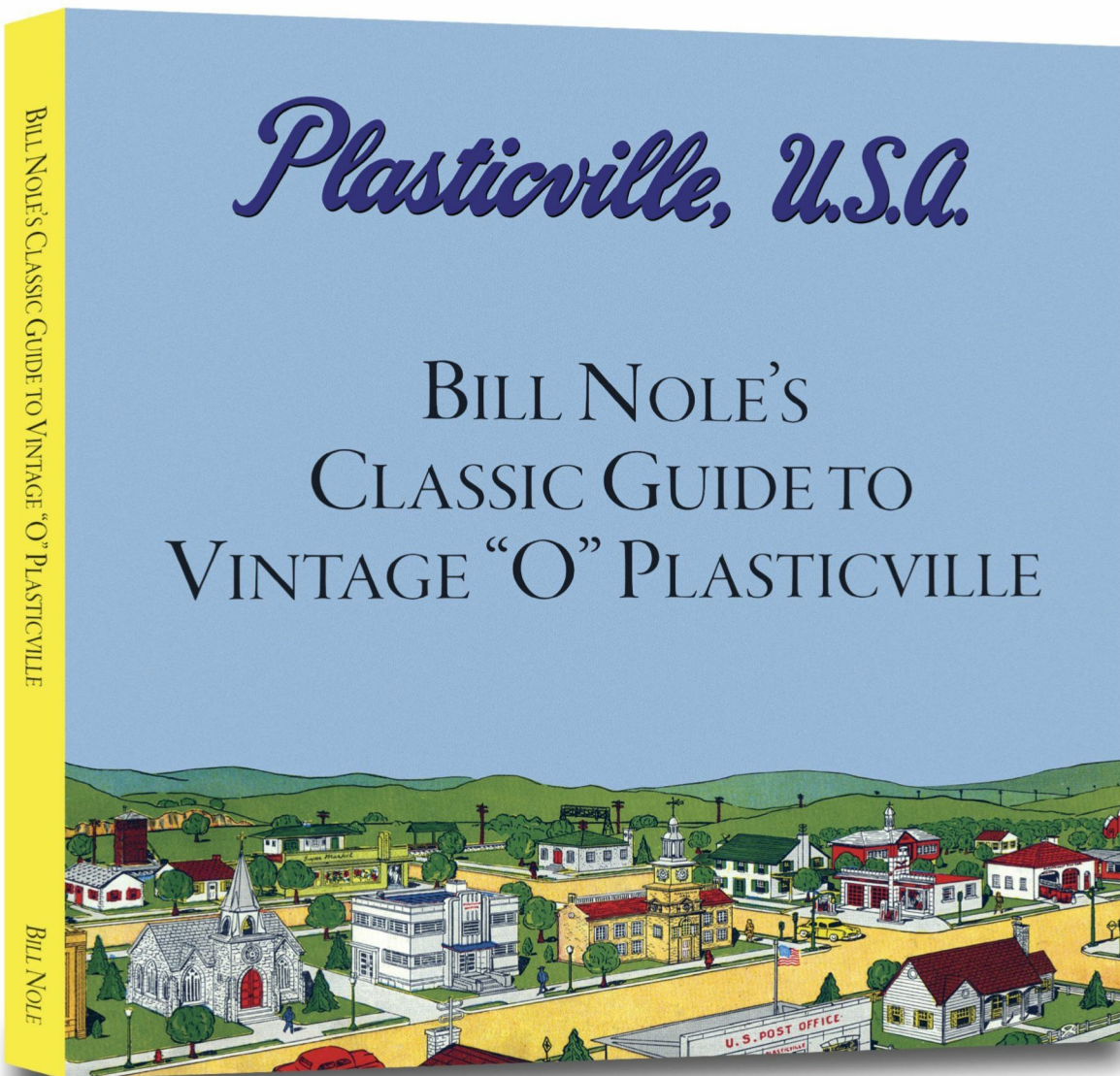
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# BACK IN THE BOX / A CONTINUING SERIES ON REPACKING PLASTICVILLE

1629 Bungalow

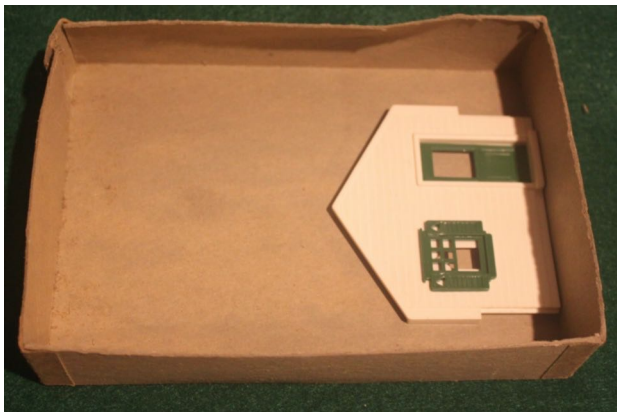
JOHN L. NIEHAUS

What is usually broken on a bungalow? The lights or the front arbor fence. Use the method below to hopefully prevent either of these two pieces from being broken. If the lights are installed I caution you to not attempt to remove them. Sadly, they are inserted into a blind hole. One cannot see them on the back side of the wall. Attempting to pull them out may very well result on their breakage.

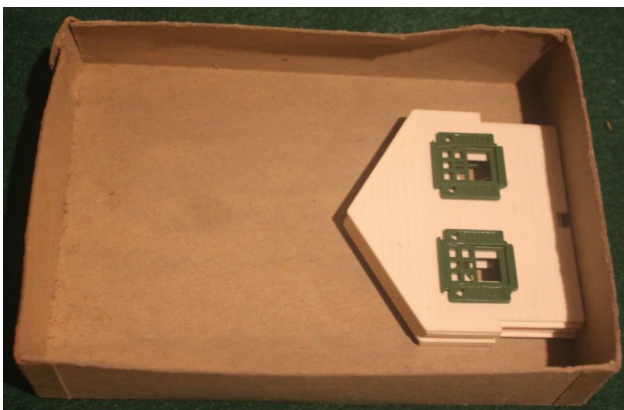
While I am at it: PUSH don't PULL. By that I mean that if you can see a piece such as a light on the back of a school house, bank, or any other piece slowly and carefully push the piece out from the back. Odds are not in your favor if you attempt to pull them out from the front.

Now let's get back to getting the Bungalow "Back In The Box". The method below was developed for when the lights are installed but it will work with the lights uninstalled just as well.

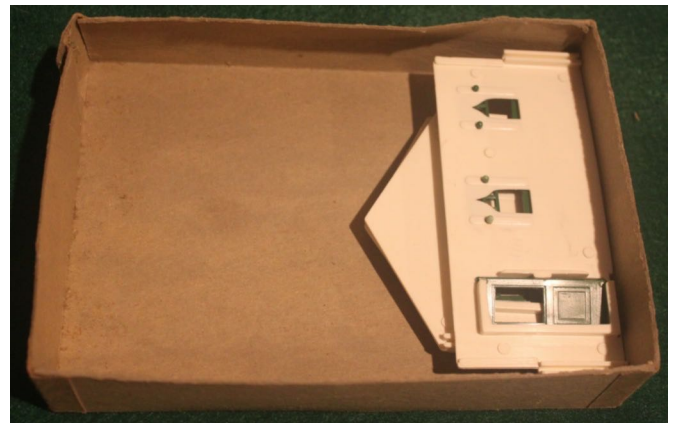
Center the side wall with the door face up on the right hand side of the box with its bottom touching the side of the box as shown in. Be careful to ensure that the door is closed.



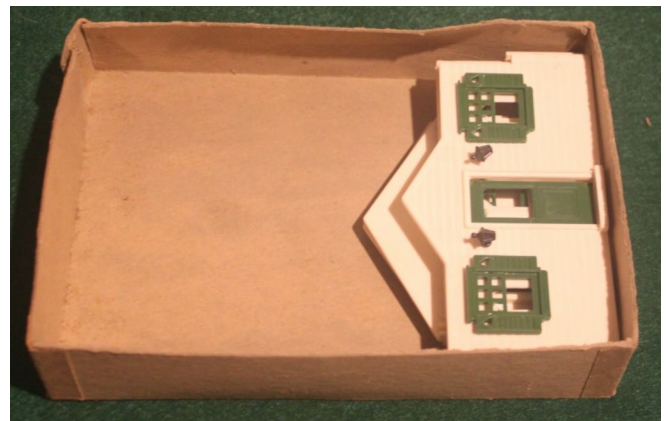
Place the remaining side wall face up directly on top of the already placed side wall as shown in photo 2.



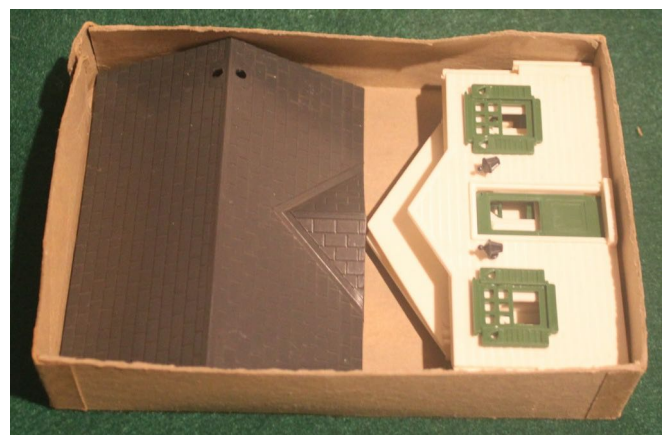
Place the back wall face down over the side walls with its bottom touching the side of the box as shown in photo 3. Be careful to ensure that the door is closed.



Place the front wall face up on top of the back wall with its bottom touching the side of the box as shown in photo 4.

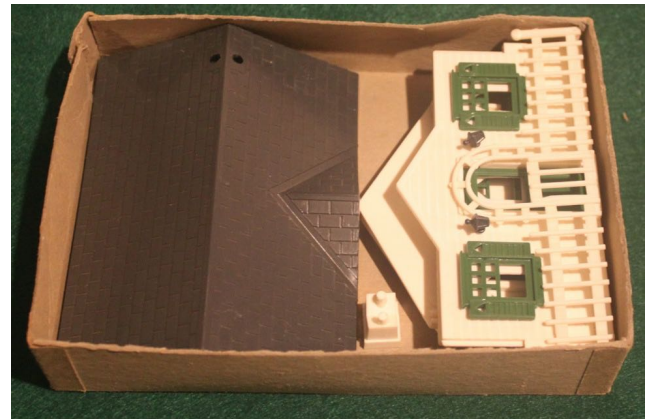
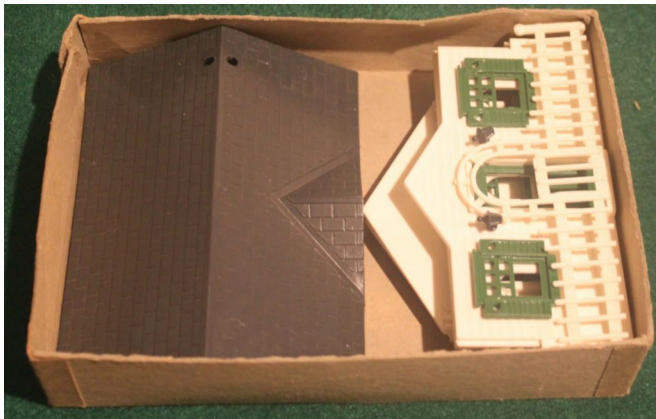


Place the roof face up with its straight side touching the left side of the box as shown in photo 5. There may be a bit of it touching the gable ends of the side walls but that will not be an issue.



Place the arbor fence face up on top of the front wall with its bottom touching the side of the box as shown in photo 6. Take care that it does not rest on one of the lights.

Place the chimney in the box as shown in photo 7. Place the lights into the box at this time if they have not been installed.



### 45622 PCA House - RARE

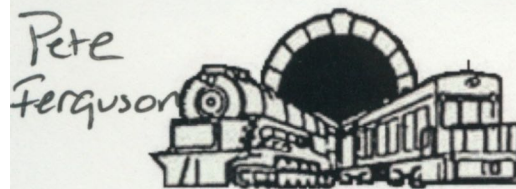


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# PRODUCT REVIEW

JOHN L. NIEHAUS

**The Richmond Locomotive & Machine Works, Engine of the Old Dominion**, Nathan Vernon Madison, 192 pages, softcover, 999 x 999 format, \$23.99. Published by: The History Press/Arcadia Publishing. Black & white photos, maps, and advertisements throughout. Although this is a History Press/Arcadia Publishing book, it mainly contains text rather than other books I have reviewed in their "Images" series.

This book contains the usual acknowledgments, introduction, notes, and index sections. It also contains a single paragraph about the author. There are seven major chapters.

The first chapter gives background history regarding the Works, including a significant amount of information regarding Tredegar Iron Works, which was the predecessor of the Locomotive Works.

Chapter two continues the path towards the creation of the Works with an in-depth history of the Tanner and Delaney company. Tanner and Delaney had many trials and tribulations, including at least one very destructive fire. This chapter also discusses, with photos and advertisements, what was known as pole roads and their unique locomotives. Pole roads were unknown to me until I read this book. A Google search brought up a few videos of pole roads in action.

In the third chapter, we see the Works become an entity. It was interesting to note that, as with other entities, there was quite a bit of ousting and reorganizing before the company's name changed from Tanner & Delaney to Richmond Locomotive Works. During this time, the Works also contracted to build engines for the U.S. Navy.

Now, we get to a chapter that surprised me. I was very aware that the name ALCO was associated with locomotives. What I did not realize was that ALCO was mostly an aggregation of various locomotive works spread over the Eastern US and Canada. Chapter four discusses the changes made when the Works was acquired by ALCO in 1901 and how the physical plant was restructured to manufacture munitions during WWI.

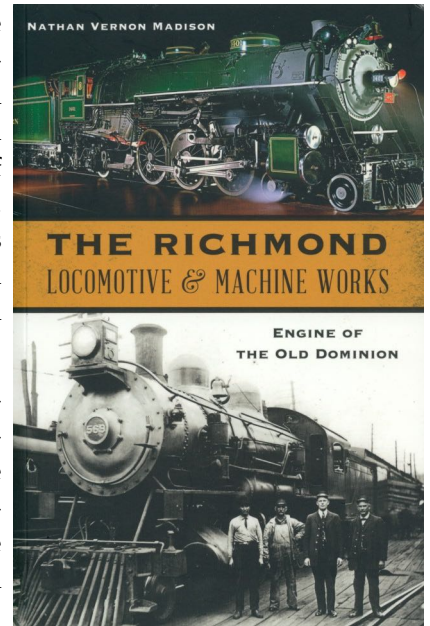
The remainder of the chapters notes how the Works started to decline after the end of the war. Photos in these chapters show how some of the buildings were repurposed, including one that became a truck terminal and then a multiplex cinema.

This book was quite interesting, with all of the little tidbits of history found throughout. I was totally unaware of the

pole roads and the history related to ALCO in this book. Even the Introduction has a tidbit of history of which I was unaware. The first iron works in North America were in Virginia in the early 1600s.

This was a very interesting book, and I recommend it if you are interested in the history of steam engine manufacturing in Richmond, VA.

**The Richmond Locomotive & Machine Works**, is available from Arcadia Publishing at <https://arcadiapublishing.com>. Click on the magnifying glass near the top of the home page, type in the book name, and click on the magnifying glass again to be directed to the book. It was listed on Barnes and Noble's website at the publisher's list price but as an online purchase-only item. Amazon lists the book for as little as \$17.98 in new condition.



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*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.*

### *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



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