



The Villager

The official newsletter of the Plasticville Collectors Association

Volume 1

July 2002

Number 3

Is It Original or Is It Repro?

How do you know if all of the pieces of that premium piece you just purchased is original? That is a question that bedevils all of us. *The Villager* contacted three of the more prominent suppliers of reproduction Plasticville parts and asked them the following questions. Do you mark your reproduction pieces so that they can be identified as reproduction? Where can these markings be found if you do mark your pieces? Their responses are as follows.

George Sottung, Croydon, PA.

George states that he does not mark any of the pieces he makes, as he feels they are too small for marking. Such items as weathervanes and house under construction tools fall into this category. Many of the molds were made before the marking dilemma. His reproduction window inserts need no identification as they are made of a translucent material that makes them easily identified as reproductions. He hides nothing when he sells these parts. They are reproductions and advertised as such. What the buyer does with these parts is up to him.

Bill Nole, Dunmore, PA

The parts I have had made and Bob Persing's parts were both made by the same person. With injection molded parts, they are identical to the original parts as long as you chose the same industrial color. That is why I said on page 8 of my new book that if you insist on

original you should get it mint. That is, still sealed or the parts on the sprue (tree).

I did not mark all of my parts because several were too small to mark. The house under construction parts are a good example: shovel, rake, hoe, bucket, sawhorse are definitely too small to mark. I did want some marked and others not.

Some may think you are trying to deceive them. I tell them the parts are replacement parts. However, the parts Bachmann is making are not from the original machines either. Only the dies were sent to china. Parts are coming from other machines.

Robert (Bob) Persing, Sunbury, PA

Most of my parts are marked with an R. They are injection molded in color, not painted. The parts that are not marked could not be marked in a place that would not take away from the look of the part. You can tell the parts that are not marked are replacements because they are shinier and the color is brighter than most of the originals. The House Under Construction parts on my web page are not mine. I get them from Bill Nole. The window inserts on my web page, I get from Barry King. They are printed, not done on a copy machine.

(The views expressed in this article are those of the individuals mentioned and are not necessarily those of The Plasticville Collectors Association).

Members Only Section on the PCA Website

You may have noticed the new link on the PCA web site entitled "Members Only". If you have dared to click on it, you were greeted by a window asking for your username and password. This is a new section recently added to the site where Members can access the current and past issues of "The Villager", our roster of Members, and other documents meant to be available only to paid PCA Members.

Restricting access to this area gives us greater flexibility in our ability to provide Members with information in different formats, i.e. electronic format in addition to hard copies sent through the post office. New members will be able to access all past issues of "The Villager" on-line. The need for a username and password

allows us to issue these on an "as needed" basis and means that we can delete a user if they should choose not to renew membership or if they fall behind with their dues.

All of the documents in the "Members Only" section will be stored in the portable document file (PDF) format. PDF files are easily opened, read, and saved by several computer platforms, including Mac and Windows, by using the free Acrobat Reader program available from Adobe. Having *The Villager* in PDF format offers us several advantages including: 1) COLOR! Yes, the newsletter will be available in full color when accessed on-line, 2) There will be no restrictions on the size of the newsletter. We currently need to restrict the size in order

to keep the postage and publishing costs to a minimum, 3) Flexibility to access and read articles on-line only, or you have the option of printing them out. If you have access to a color printer, you are really set!

Members who do not have internet access, those with WebTV, or anyone having irresolvable trouble with the Acrobat Reader, will continue to receive our newsletter and other important documents by mail.

The "Members Only" section is the cornerstone of a new initiative that we are calling the "ePCA" project. The goal of the ePCA project is to be able to provide all on-line PCA members with electronic versions only of "The Villager" and other important documents. The driving force behind the initiative is not only efficiency, but also money. The PCA is currently spending more than we are taking in. The largest expense that we have is the publishing and mailing of our newsletter and roster updates. In fact, our modest \$5.00 dues don't even cover that one expense. One solution to the problem is to raise our dues. However, we feel that we should do as much as possible to reduce costs before we can justify an increase in our dues. Even with the ePCA project, we may need to raise our dues, but the increase will be much less due to the savings from providing the newsletter in electronic format. Look for a more complete analysis of PCA finances in an article in the October, 2002 issue of "The Villager".

The ePCA project represents a significant change in how we do business; it's an important change for the better for our fledgling organization. In order to ensure a smooth transition, we have set up a pilot program that has about 25 Members who have volunteered to receive the July and October editions of "The Villager" in electronic format only through the "Members Only" section of the web site. When the pilot program was organized, a questionnaire was sent to each prospective member asking for feedback on the ePCA program and the PCA in general. They provided extremely valuable information for the officers to work with, and expressed an overwhelmingly positive response to the ePCA concept. We hope to obtain valuable information from these pioneers over the next few months so that any bugs or kinks will be worked out before the rest of the on-line Membership is included.

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Plasticville Pocket Price Guide **\$12.95**

Dealer Inquiries Invited

Pinenickel Publications
PO Box 590602
Houston, Texas 77259-0602

The PCA plans to roll out the electronic red carpet to all Members in January 2003. All members who opt for an electronic version will access *The Villager* on-line from that point forward. No hard copies will be sent by mail to on-line members who have chosen the electronic version. The editor of "The Villager" will send e-mail to all members whenever a new issue is posted to the site. But why wait until 2003? If you like the idea of the ePCA, or you just can't wait to try it out, just send me an e-mail and I will set you up with a user name and password right away!

Finally, we want to hear from you. Tell us what you think of the ePCA, or the PCA in general. Your feedback is a valuable way to make sure that we are all moving together towards a better PCA, one that will fulfill its mission and meet the needs of its Members.

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Bill Nole's Classic Guide To Vintage "O" Plasticville



**Over 90 Color photos and 118 pages.
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Special Price thru July 31**

\$27.99 + \$3.50 shipping & handling
(\$30 + \$3.50 shipping & handling after July 31)

The book features complete units plus a listing of parts that are available to complete buildings that are missing antennas, weathervanes, chimneys, lights, canopies, Etc.

Presidential Ponderings



The PCA continues to grow. We now have 137 members! We are also developing together as an organization. You will find an article in this edition of our newsletter about the ePCA initiative; a significant advance in how the PCA will provide Members with information in the future. There is also an article about our newly appointed "Photo Archive Committee" which will help to gather, organize, and upload new pictures for the web site and other projects. Additionally, our list of contacts available to provide information on the several sub-specialties of our group is coming along nicely. Several members have also written or have promised to write articles for "The Villager". I am glad to see so many Members getting involved with the various activities of their PCA.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Bill Nole for all of his help in promoting the PCA.. He has provided the Add-A-Floor fundraiser kits to us at a very reasonable price. He has also included a copy of the PCA membership application in each copy of his new "Classic Guide to Vintage O Plasticville". Look for an article in this edition reviewing his new book.

I also want to thank Members Gary Thomson and Fred Ruby for their efforts in recruiting new members. These guys regularly take PCA membership applications to their local shows. You may want to consider doing this yourself. Whether you have a table at a show or are just looking around, feel free to hand out applications to anyone who may be interested in our organization.

I also want to thank our advertisers for trusting us with their business. Several advertisers have been with us since the first issue, and we continue to add more as time goes on. I also thank our Secretary-Treasurer, John Niehaus, for taking the initiative on the advertising front. John goes out of his way to contact people and businesses

individually, and sees the deal through to completion. He also works with advertisers to make their ads look as professional and as appealing as possible. Be sure to mention to advertisers that you saw their ad in *The Villager*. Our advertising rates are quite modest yet the income has been helpful in reducing our costs.

The last item for this version of the "Ponderings" is the Grading Standards for plastic items, their boxes, and associated catalogs. We have received several comments on the proposed standards and we want to really think them through completely before we publish the final version. Several members have asked to have an additional category added that would be called "near mint". These are items that have never been used, but maybe have just a minor issue that precludes them being "mint" such as evidence of the box being opened. Remember, we take the word "MINT" very seriously. Mint means absolutely, positively, in the condition in which it would have been received from the factory. If it shows any signs of being opened, used, or is missing it's original packaging, it is no longer considered to be mint. At least one member has asked that we cut down on the number of categories. In fact, Bill Nole has used only three or four categories in his new book. My feeling is that the PCA should promote very detailed grading standards that will take away as much of the guesswork involved in determining the condition of an item as possible. We should be the definitive source for plastic village grading standards. So I ask everyone to again review the proposed grading standards and let me know what you think. Although no system will please everyone, and we will be able to edit them later, it's important to do our best with this difficult project. Copies can be found on the web site in PDF format on the "Info and Stories" page, in issue #5 of the Plastic Village Gazette, or write to me for a hard copy version.

Don't Have Access to the PCA Website?

By John Niehaus

It is presumed that some members do not own a computer. This does not mean that they should not have the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of those that do. Most public libraries now have Internet connected computers available for use by their patrons. This allows those who do not have the finances to purchase a computer the opportunity to become "connected". One can enjoy the use of the Internet and even set up an email account through Microsoft's Hotmail email service at no cost. The employees of these libraries are generally more than happy to assist someone who is new to the Internet.

All you need is a computer that is connected to the Internet to get to the PCA website. Take this article to

your local library and ask them to show you how to get to <http://www.plasticvilleusa.org>. It should be a fun experience navigating the website once you are there. The only place you will not be able to get into is the Members Only section. A short email to Joe requesting a User Name and password will get you access to that area also. This is where an email account comes in handy. Microsoft Corporation has a free email service called Hotmail. Mail me a name that you would like to use for an email name plus a six to eight character password. You may use your name, your dog's name or whatever you like for an email name and password. I will use what you send me to set up a Hotmail email account for you.

Microsoft does not currently charge for this service. You can then go to your local library with your email name Visit the PCA website to view all of the items offered.

and password and read and send emails using Hotmail. I am sure that those working at the library will be more than happy to assist you if you explain that you are new to the Internet and email. Send your User Name and password to John Niehaus at the address listed in the roster. I will get back with you by mail or phone after I have set up your Hotmail account.

I will assist you in setting up an email account with Hotmail if you would like. You will then get the proposed member notifications that I send out as new membership applications are received along with other notices such as free classified ad deadline reminders.

You can even request that Joe use your Hotmail User Name and Password for the Members Only section of the website. That way you can use the same User Name and Password for both the Members Only section of the website and your Hotmail email account.

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WI-1	SMALL SUPER MARKET [LIGHT BACKGROUND SET]	_____	\$2.50 EACH
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WI-3	LARGE SUPER MARKET	_____	\$2.50 EACH
WI-4	SMALL GAS STATION [WHITE BACKGROUND]	_____	\$1.50 EACH
WI-5	SMALL GAS STATION [BLACK BACKGROUND]	_____	\$1.50 EACH
WI-6	LARGE GAS STATION	_____	\$1.50 EACH
WI-7	STATION PLATFORM [PRINTED BOTH SIDES]	_____	\$1.50 EACH
WI-8	SUBURBAN STATION [PRINTED ONE SIDE]	_____	\$1.00 EACH
WI-9	LOADING PLATFORM [FOLD IN HALF FOR SIGN]	_____	\$2.00 EACH
WI-10	MOTEL FLOWERS [THREE FLOWER SET]	_____	\$1.50 EACH
WI-11	ARDWARE & PHARMACY [MULTI-COLOR 2PC SET]	_____	\$2.50 EACH
WI-13	5 & 10 [MULTI-COLOR 3PC SET]	_____	\$2.50 EACH
WI-14	POST OFFICE [MULTI-COLOR 2PC SET]	_____	\$2.50 EACH

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Photo Archive Committe

A picture is worth a thousand words!
 How many times have you heard about an item and wondered if it genuine? Did that roof really come with that building? Is that really a new color combo -or- did someone alter a piece?

The PCA is growing by leaps and bounds and so is OUR Website. Pictures really are the definitive

description. We are embarking on a project to include a picture for every item released!

So check out our website. Check out your collection. Don't send photos at this time, as we are preparing standards. But get ready - we will give photo credit!

Alan Pulitano, PCA Photo Archive Chairman

CAPTURE THE LOOK OF AN AMERICAN ICON

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M.T.H. Electric Trains recreates the classic looks of America's most famous hamburger restaurant with two 1/43rd replicas of McDonald's restaurants.

Select the classic lines of those early "golden arch" structures found throughout the country in the 1960's and 70's. The M.T.H. model is



based on the first arch building used by the McDonald's brothers just outside of Chicago. It still stands today and is used as a museum for McDonald's memorabilia.

Fully assembled and decorated, the structure features a lighted interior that can be powered with a small transformer or a 9 volt battery.

Or, choose the operating modern McDonald's - complete with a die-cast vehicle, sound and lights. With a press of a button, watch the car drive around the building, place an order and pick it up at the pickup window.

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Welcome New Members

The following individuals' names have been added to the Plasticville Collectors Association membership roster as of February 15, 2002. A roster update sheet is included

Gerald L Schuchard, Auburn Hills, MI
Donna M Redler, Sacramento, CA
John J Redler, Sacramento, CA
Paul J Buczkowski, Ypsilanti, MI
Paul D Gurchik, Ebensburg, PA
James Hehn, Greentown, PA
Charles J Carey Jr, Westminster, MD
Art K Tom, Tucson, AZ
Philip R Jones, Milford, NJ
Brent Shingler, Gulf Breeze, FL
David W Heider, Johnstown, PA

with this newsletter. Please attach it to your roster for future reference.

Neal R Rammacher, Brookfield, IL
Ronald G Schlicht, Greenfield, WI
Jack A Maikos, Metuchen, NJ
William F Meyer, Brooklyn, NY
Carl W Gustafson, Elkton, MD
Louis A Leppert, Louisville, KY
Kenneth R Klier, Fort Polk, LA
Terry L Hudon, Pittsburgh, PA
Thomas C Hardesty Cocoa, FL
Robert W Johnson, North Palm Beach, FL

Proposed Members

The following have applied for membership in the Plasticville Collectors Association. The names of all proposed members must be published for the review of the general membership before being accepted as members in accordance with the 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 15, 2002.

Objections must be in writing, signed by the objector, and mailed to Plasticville Collectors Association, Member Admission Committee, 601 SE Second Street, Ankeny, IA 50021-3207 and received before the above noted date.

Richard E Behe, Pittsburgh, PA
Larry A Terling, Cecil, PA
David A Allen, Bear, PA
Chris A Niehaus, Ankeny, IA
Edward H Berg, Las Vegas, NV
Ed Bryant, Winter Park, FL
Joseph B Kmetz, Newport News, VA
Joel D Lazarus, Richlandtown, PA
Kenneth N Radecki, Novi, MI
John R Hicks, West Chester, PA
Dale Lopus, Romeo, MI
Jerry C Burnett, Groves, TX
Pat Pace, Anniston, AL
Leslie K Malm, Lindenhurst, NY
Rob D Kinsey, Lincoln, NE
Joseph J (Bud) Santa, Mars, PA

Lawrence D Deruiter, Cabazon, CO
Greg R Immel, Columbus, OH
Jean M Benfante, East Stroudsburg, PA
David R "Robb" Russo, Port Washington, WI
Anthony J Rudgers, Orlando, FL
Ryland U Bailey, Jr., Richmond, VA
Michael E Theodorakis, Stony Brook, NY
Don Simonini, Winthrop, MA
Alfred T Galli, Stewartsville, NJ
Karen L Schumann, Mundelein, IL
Donald T Lee, Murrells Inlet, SC
Marty (Martha) A Johnson, Boone, NC
Allen L Ruster, Waltham, MA
Albert L Paolozzi, Pahrump, NV
Wiley D Smart, Houston, TX
James J Starosta, Greenfield, WI

Book and Periodical Reviews

The Plastic Village Gazette

Pinenickel Publications recently released Volume 1, Issue 7 of its magazine the Plastic village Gazette. Anyone who collects, or models plastic village buildings should be a subscriber to this magazine. Each full color issue contains not only articles on Plasticville and buildings of other manufacturers but informative articles on how to "manufacture" or kitbash your own creations.

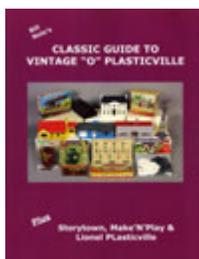
The current issue is no exception. It contains an article on Plasticville trees and an article on K-Line's new line of animated buildings. It also contains an article on how to kitbash some of those old scrap barn pieces you

have lying around into a really neat looking garage to accompany a 2 story house.

An added bonus in this issue is a set of super details that you can either cut out directly or copy to super detail a large Plasticville Gas Station. The details include a complete back wall for the two bays, a roll about toolbox, soft drink displays and a checkout counter.

The subscription rate for this quarterly published magazine is \$20 for 4 issues. Payment should be sent to Pinenickel Publications, PO Box 590602, Houston, TX 77259-0602

(Book and Periodical Reviews, continued)



Bill Nole's Classic Guide to Vintage "O" Plasticville.

Bill Nole's long awaited update to his series of Plasticville Guides is finally available. His last guide was published in 1993. The latest version is an 8 ½ x 11 perfect bound volume of 114 pages. The format of this book is a departure from the previous guides.

As the title implies, the guide covers only Plasticville. It does not list Marx, Littletown, or Skyline as had been the case with previous guide. It does include Storytown, Make 'N' Play and Lionel Plasticville, with Make 'N' Play an addition not found in previous guides.

Both the front and back covers are in full color. The front cover illustrates various rare, hard to find or unique pieces of Plasticville while the back cover illustration is of the various Storytown boxes along with three assembled Storytown pieces.

All illustrations in this edition are in full color. All of the colors in the book are fairly true except when a tan piece is illustrated. The color looks more yellow than tan in those instances. The majority of the pages have one, if not two color illustrations on them. Some of these illustrations show very rare pieces.

The book is laid out in sections similar to the previous guides but with two major differences. The old guides merely listed the units and their color combinations along with a value. This guide goes much

farther. Each unique item, such as the Fire House or Town Hall, is given a somewhat lengthy description. The descriptive text for the various Apartment Houses and Add-A-Floors runs to over a page and a half in length. I have not seen this much information on specific pieces of Plasticville in one place before.

The value portion of each section lists item numbers, a brief description of the item and its value. Values are listed for Mint, Like New, No Box and Glued although some items do not have a value listed for all four conditions. Some of the values listed seem a bit high for certain items as is noted in the Forward to the guide, they are "not the last word".

The book is well with the price of \$30 for the information contained in it whether one agrees with the listed values or not. Anyone who collects Plasticville should have this guide on his or her bookshelf.

You may purchase the guide directly from the author by sending payment to Bill Nole, 319 Oak Street, Dunmore, PA 18412. The special introductory price for the guide is \$27.99 + \$3.50 Shipping and Handling through July 31. The price will be \$30 + \$3.50 Shipping and Handling after that date.

Review copies solicited. The Plasticville Collectors Association solicits review copies of any books relating to the collecting of Plasticville or related plastic village products. Send review copies to: The Villager book reviewer, 601 SE Second Street, Ankeny, IA 50021-3207.

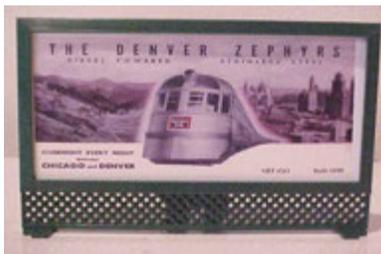
Customized Blinking Billboards by NBToyCo

I'm not sure how I came across NBToyCo's website. But I am glad I did. It is the only place on the web that I know of where one can buy an O scale blinking billboard for a mere \$10. Not only that, but they have over 100 different billboard inserts from which to choose. They will even create custom billboards if you don't see anything you like.

The billboard frames are 3-1/2 high X 5-3/4 wide X 1 deep. They use one T258 bulb for illumination at 12 – 14 volts DC. The bulb is easily replaced by removing the back of the billboard from the frame.

The inserts are printed on Kodak photo quality paper. This reduces the possibility of a "bright spot" when the billboard is illuminated. All billboards come with a clear bulb for white light illumination except one. The Three Mile Island billboard comes with a blinking red light!

Newbrough Brothers started producing the billboards in 1991 although the company was founded in 1974. Early editions of the billboard frames have the name Mountaineer Hobbies on the frame below the insert rather than Newbrough Brothers Toys. The frames with



Mountaineer Hobbies are now considered a collectible item.

The company has created custom billboards for major companies in the United States as well as collector organizations. They once supplied 1,000 custom decorated cars to an Ohio group who, using 50 locomotives and the 1,000 cars, were able to enter the Guinness Book of World Records for the world's longest miniature train.

I feel that the billboard is of very good quality for the price. One or two on a board should add life to the layout. My only suggestion is that Newbrough Brothers should consider selling their inserts separately after you purchase one of the complete units. That would allow all of us to vary the picture on the billboard without the need to buy a complete unit just for the insert.

You can contact Newbrough Brothers Toys at 228 Morgan Lane, Berkley Springs, WV 25411. You can give them a call at 304 258-3656. They are on the web at NBToyCo.com or email them at either nbtoys@box100.com or nbtoys@intrepid.net.

Markings on Bob Persing's Reproduction Parts

Bob Persing sent us the list of reproduction pieces he sells with the notation as to where these markings can be found on each piece. It is hoped that the text and illustrations below will assist you in determining reproduction parts from the original. Thanks to Bob also for supplying samples of his parts for the photos.

- Barn ventilators** – on the inside bottom in one corner.
- Cape Cod and Suburban Station chimney** – Centered on the bottom.
- Colonial mansion chimney half** – centered at the top on the back side.
- Frosty bar stool** – on the round part of the end that fits into the base.
- Frosty Bar sign** – on the back below the R in bar.
- Hayrack stake** – on one side that goes into the wagon slot.
- Loading platform chimney** – on the round end that inserts into the roof.
- New England rancher chimney side** – centered at the bottom on the back.

- Police Station antenna base** – on the inside in one corner.
- Ranch house chimney** – on the bottom left side of the flange that sits on the roof and on the longer of the two sides.
- Switch tower chimney** – on the round on the end that inserts into the roof and just below the chimney cap.
- 2 story Colonial porch post** – on one end on one of the flat sides that fit into the porch floor.
- 2 story Colonial chimney half** – centered at the bottom on the back.
- Turnpike traffic cone** – Hole is off-center in the bottom. The hole in an original cone is centered.
- Turnpike light holder** – centered at the top on the back between the holes for the lenses.
- Watchman's shanty light** – on the small diameter just above the shade.
- Watchman's shanty chimney** – on the round of the end that fits into the hole in the rear wall.



Advertising by manufacturers in *The Villager* helps keep your membership dues down.

Contact the editor at thevillagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org if you know of a company that may be interested in placing a full page, half page, quarter page or a business card sized ad in *The Villager*.

Restoration Train Parts

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"O" GAUGE

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No. 623	PLATFORM WAITING ROOM	35.00 Ea.

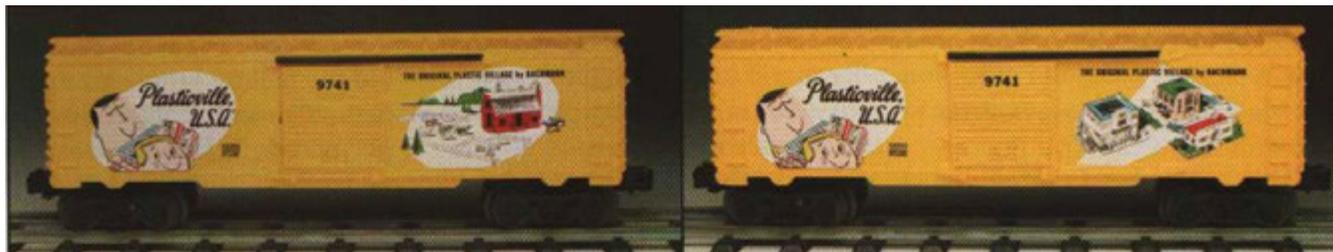
HO GAUGE

No. 650	INTERLOCKING TOWER KIT	\$ 25.00 Ea.
No. 651	WATER TOWER KIT	25.00 Ea.
No. 652	PASSENGER STATION KIT	35.00 Ea.
No. 653	FREIGHT STATION	45.00 Ea.
No. 658	CITY HOUSE	25.00 Ea.

A Boxcar Named Desire

by Joe Kutza

As soon as I uploaded the first version of my Plasticville Homepage, I started receiving e-mails from people interested in Plasticville. I receive messages on all sorts of topics such as requests for parts, advice on selling items, and general questions on the history and manufacture of plastic villages.



In January of 2001 I received one e-mail in particular that caught my eye and sounded interesting. The message was from a gentleman in California who owns a train store. He wanted to know if I might have some Plasticville literature in which he could find some Plasticville graphics. He mentioned a project that would commemorate Plasticville. I replied, stating that I had several Plasticville catalogs that would likely provide what he was looking for, and asked him for more details on the project. His reply was that he was currently “not at liberty to discuss” the project. So here I was with a request to borrow my precious catalogs from a person I didn’t know, from a store I had never heard of. I visited his web site and couldn’t find any Plasticville or anything to indicate an interest in plastic villages. Still, I was intrigued with this secret project and decided that I would send him about six of my catalogs.

A few months went by without any word about the mystery project, or my catalogs! Then one day while I was having a teleconference with Bachmann about the PCA licensing agreement, they mentioned a recent licensing agreement that they had worked on for a business that was planning to produce a Plasticville boxcar. Later I put two and two together and e-mailed my

California contact, a Mr. Allen Drucker from Allied Model Trains. Allen admitted that he was indeed working on the Plasticville boxcar and asked that I keep a lid on the information until he finished the project. Once he had sent my catalogs back, he gave me brief description of the final product and how things were progressing. He

mentioned that the boxcar would have several graphics and feature different graphics on each side, something that is a little unusual.

The boxcar was advertised in issue number 5 of the Plastic Village Gazette and the cat was out of the bag. I have since received my boxcar and think that it was very well done. The boxcar was manufactured by Lionel and given the number “9741.” The main graphic on each side is the “father and son” from the 1961 catalog cover. The other graphics were pulled from various sources and include a barn scene on one side and a hospital, bank, post office combination on the other side. The “early buy” price was just \$49.95 each but I’m sure you will find that the price has increased quite a bit. As the boxcars sell, the price goes up, making this primarily a collectors item. Allen Drucker recently told me that he expects these to sell out soon. Seeing as there were 500 made, I think the Plasticville community has responded pretty well.

I’m glad that I took a chance with my catalogs, for now we have a great new way to show our interest in Plasticville. Ordering information can be found at www.alliedmodeltrains.com or call them at (310) 313-9353.

Are you using your PCA membership to its fullest?

It takes very little to send in a free classified ad. Classified ad forms are available on the website or mail a request to the club Secretary. You are allowed three ads per issue. One each in the For Sale, Wanted, and For Trade sections. The ads are FREE if they are of 50 words or less. Your name and mailing address are not figured into the word count. What have you got to lose? Send a classified ad to *The Villager* for the October issue.

Missing Links in Littletown Sets/Buildings

by Doug Gilliatt

Every so often I pull out the Littletown catalogs and dream about stumbling across one of their rare sets. The big problem is; did Banner ever manage to manufacture and distribute any of these before Bachmann bought them? I thought I would share with you pictures of the back and front covers of the Littletown/Banner Plastics 56/57 catalog.

There is a comment in the 1993 publication "Plasticville An Illustrated Price Guide" by Iron Horse Productions Inc. that states in 1956 there were ads in the Model Trains magazine on the Bank and Apartment house. But, nothing was mentioned about the "Motel Office and two Motels set # LT400" (see picture of back cover to the 56/57 catalog). Please also note that Littletown by Banner also advertised in their catalog a "Playground Unit with figures #LT115" (see picture of back cover of 56/57 catalog).

None of these items appeared in the 55 catalog so they had a very short lifespan as Littletown products if at all. Has any of our members ever seen or even heard about someone having these Sets? I am sure that the members would love to hear about it.

Addendum to Doug Gilliatt's Littletown Article

by Joe Kutza

I had never seen the 1956/1957 Littletown catalog before Doug sent me this photo a few weeks ago. For me it was like the planets aligned and everything came together when I saw this picture. While it's obvious that the motel and apartment house were Littletown designs, I never knew about the history of the playground unit. I had heard the anecdotes of the 1956 advertisement of the suburban bank but never gave it much thought. However, once I actually saw the design of the bank, it struck me that multitasking was alive and well in Littletown.

I always thought the Plasticville Motel was kind of dull and almost useless as sold because there was no office with it like the HO version. But now I see it was designed to go with basically a one level apartment house as an office. It all makes so much more sense to me now! Why didn't Bachmann release the Motel Office? We will likely never know.

It's interesting that the windows for the apartment house appear to be different than those in the bank or motel office. This version should be easy enough to spot, if it was ever actually made. Also, check out the



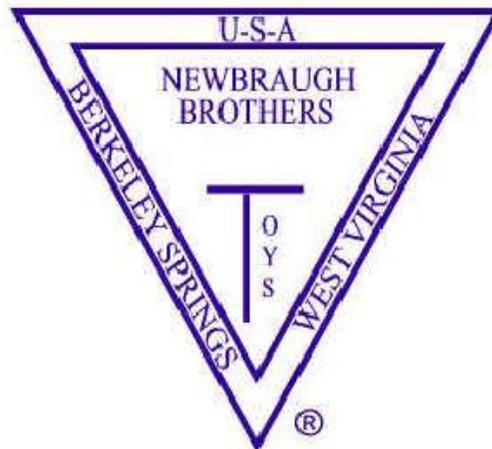
Back cover of the 1956/57 Littletown catalog

chair on the roof of the apartment. It's a nice Adirondack style "deck chair" rather than the plain straight back version that came with the Plasticville version. I see that the playground also came with the "deck chair" and even included "7 figures in action positions". I'm sure Bachmann still has the molds for those somewhere. Wouldn't it be great to see some of those produced? It would be nice to see the slide, the see-saw, and the chaise lounge actually get some use! I will be posting a color version of this picture and many more from the 1955 and 1956/57 Littletown catalogs on the Littletown web site soon.

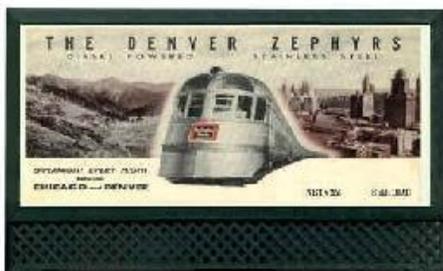
Please! Send us your thoughts on Littletown, Plasticville versions of Littletown items, "lost" Littletown items like the bank and motel office, Unlimited Plastics versus Banner Plastics, and any related items. The goal of the PCA is to enhance the collecting experience, you can help by sending any information and thoughts, every little bit helps.

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Resource Persons Found

The following have graciously volunteered to be the resource person for the manufacturer or scale next to their name. A big "Thank You" to all of them. Please add these names to the first page of your roster.

Plasticville O Jonathan Morse/Joe Kutza
Canadian Plasticville Joe Kutza

Ideal
King Plasticville
Kleeware
Littletown
MarX
American Flyer/CT Hobbies

Mike Cedro
Bill Nole
Sheldon Wotring
Doug Gilliatt
Glenn Raymond
Joe Endicott

Resource Persons Still Needed

We would like volunteers for the following non-elected PCA positions.

Those who volunteer would be the persons to whom the Officers of the PCA would contact with questions specific to the areas listed. Please let the Secretary know if you would like to be the resource person for any of the listed areas.

Please let us know if there is another manufacturer

with which you are familiar that is not listed.

Plasticville HO
Plasticville N
Littletown
Skyline
Storytown
K-Line

The Villager Mailbox

I have learned more in the past year about Plasticville than I had known in my entire life through my involvement in the PCA. I have discovered items that I never knew were Plasticville and I have met people who I never otherwise would have known.

One such event just happened this past spring. I am a graduate student at Penn State University and another undergraduate here at PSU noticed my email address in my "Wanted" Ad. He emailed me and we met at the HUB (Penn State Student Union) for an afternoon of coffee and Plasticville. We talked about our collections and collecting. He also brought a few of his rare items for me to check out. We kept his pieces out on the table while we were talking to see if anyone would recognize them and come into our conversation too.

Unfortunately, nobody did...oh well, it was still a great time and now we have even more P-Ville stories to share with everyone that we meet.

Congratulations on a great start and Good Luck in the future.

Josh Erling (02-89)

I would like to thank you for the nice newsletter that you sent me. I also have questions to ask the Plasticville Collectors Association as well as ask what ideas would help us. One place to write is classic toy Trains.

Maybe one of the club members could help on information on HO Plasticville. Did the company make

any early large or small catalogs? What year did they start and finish (original only)? And last where or who has parts for these kits (HO and O gauge)?

Robert W Johnson (02-117)

Is there any rhyme or reason as to which kits contained the clear plastic/white curtains that were applied to the back sides of windows. I've seen them in some 2 story colonials, N.E. Ranchers and Split Level houses.

Glenn Raymond (01-6)

I would like to thank you for everything you have done over the last two years, I never, after years of collecting Plasticville thought we would have the Plastic Villager Gazette, The Villager, Pocket Price Guide, and just yesterday Bill Nole's Guide. It has opened a whole new town of Plasticville to me.

Thanks,
Bill Salyer (01-14)

Thanks for all your work involving the PCA. It has been a great addition to the hobby of collecting and showing Plasticville. I grew up with Plasticville and in the past few years have discovered it again.
Best regards;

Bob Bowman (01-52)

The Smaller Size of Things HO and N Scale Buildings

A person, using the byline Annie Mouse (anonymous) has volunteered to write an article on HO buildings. Look for that article here in the October issue.

Who wants to write an article on N scale buildings? Articles in this section need not be strictly Plasticville.

Articles on any manufacturer's HO or N scale items will be welcomed and rewarded with a sheet of personalized PCA return address labels. Yes, even you can use the Annie Mouse byline if you prefer to remain anonymous.

Roster Corrections

Please make the following email address corrections to your current roster.

Keith Boden is boden@accessus.net.

Joe Endicott is joeendicott@comcast.net

Jonathan Morse is ashemorse@attbi.com

Bob Persing is bobville@chilitech.net

Notes from the Secretary Treasurer

Incorrect Email addresses

Would the following people please send me their current email address. I send out memos to online members and the addresses listed fail.

Robert T Rumpfelt - 'bobcatr@attglobal.net'

Jerry Vega - vega4@npwt.net

r.martinek@home.com

ekbarry@home.com

goodmanw@home.com

Lou Conway - lconway@jadecorp.com

Prospective Member Notifications

You may have noticed that the weekly emails informing you of prospective members have ceased. There were some that wished to not receive these weekly notices. It also seemed unfair to make a new member wait an extra week before they were mailed their new member packet. All new prospective members will now be sent their new member packet upon receipt of their membership application and dues. They will be listed as prospective in the next newsletter. This will allow them to start enjoying their membership and at the same time satisfy the Association bylaws.

Joe wrote that we now have over 134 members. I think this is phenomenal. The PCA will celebrate its first year as a corporation on August 30. This growth can only be attributed to the outreach activities of the members. A special Thank You to Bill Nole (01-79) for including a PCA application in every copy of his new book that he sells. Thanks also to Bob Johnson (02- 117) for handing out applications at shows he attends in Florida.

New Members

I am curious as to who is doing the recruiting of new members. Unfortunately, there is no place on the membership applications to record that information.

Please put your name in the upper left corner of any applications that you hand out.

Stamps On Mail From The PCA

Thanks to Josh Erling (02-89) for the return of the stamps I used on recent packages to him. They will be sent to one or more volunteers who conduct stamp collecting programs for youngsters.

As some of you are aware, I am a stamp collector. Why else would your newsletters and new member packets come with the odd assortment of postage that some of you have seen? Those stamps are free postage for us. They were given to me to use in a youth stamp collecting program of which I was a former member. I used them to send newsletters to the youngsters involved in that program. The program no longer exists but I still have a supply of unused, older postage stamps.

There are other programs outside of my area that are still partially supported through my sending them accumulations of used postage when possible.

I contacted the party who initially gave the stamps to me and was given the OK to use them on PCA mailings with the hope that a portion of them would be returned to me for use in these other youth stamp collecting programs.

So here's my request. Would you please save any – and all – postage stamps that come your way whether they are on PCA mail or other mail? I can use even the common flag stamps. Please don't peel the stamps off the envelopes. Cut around them, leaving about a quarter margin. Wait until you have a bunch of them and send them to me at the PCA address. I know that those who work with the youngsters will appreciate your support.



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BL2	2-STORY COLONIAL ANTENNA	RED___ WHITE___ TAN___
BL3	2-STORY COLONIAL WEATHERVANE ROOSTER	RED___ WHITE___ TAN___
BL4	2-STORY COLONIAL CHIMNEY HALF	RED___ WHITE___ TAN___
BL5	WATCHMAN SHANTY LITE	LT.BRN___ DK.BRN___ LT.GREY___ DK.GREY___
BL6	WATCHMAN SHANTY CHIMNEY	LT.BRN___ DK.BRN___ LT.GREY___ DK.GREY___
BL7	LOADING PLATFORM CHIMNEY	LT.BRN___ DK.BRN___ LT.GREY___ DK.GREY___
BL8	SWITCH TOWER CHIMNEY	LT.BRN___ DK.BRN___ LT.GREY___ DK.GREY___
BL10	NEW ENGLAND RANCHER ANTENNA	WHITE___ TAN___
BL11	NEW ENGLAND RANCHER CHIMNEY HALF	WHITE___ TAN___
BL15	COLONIAL MANSION CHIMNEY HALF	WHITE___
BL16	POLICE ANTENNA	RED___
BL17	POLICE ANTENNA BASE	RED___
BL20	SCHOOL HOUSE WEATHER VANE	WHITE___
BL21	TOWN HALL WEATHER VANE	WHITE___
BL22	FROSTY BAR STOOL	WHITE___ YELLOW___ SALMON___
BL23	FROSTY BAR SIGN (\$3.50 EACH)	WHITE___ YELLOW___ SALMON___
BL24	SMALL BARN WEATHER VANE HORSE	RED___ WHITE___ LIGHT GREEN___ DK GREEN___
BL25	SMALL BARN VENT CAP W/HOLE	RED___ WHITE___
BL26	SMALL BARN VENT CAP W/O HOLE	RED___ WHITE___
BL28	COLONIAL CHURCH CROSS	WHITE___
BL31	PARISH CHURCH CROSS	WHITE___
BL32	SMALL COUNTRY CHURCH CROSS	WHITE___
BL33	SPLIT LEVEL RAIN SPOUT SHORT	WHITE___
BL34	SPLIT LEVEL RAIN SPOUT LONG	WHITE___
BL39	TURNPIKE LIGHT HOLDER	WHITE___
BL40	TURNPIKE CONE (4 PCS/\$2.00)	WHITE___
BL42	FACTORY STAIR RAILING	TAN___
BL49	HAYWAGON STAKE (8 PCS/\$4.00)	RED___ LIGHT GREEN___ YELLOW___
BL55	SUBURAN STATION & CAPE COD CHIMNEY	WHITE___
BL56	CAPE COD CHIMNEY	YELLOW___ PEACH___ TURQUOISE___
BL57	RANCH HOUSE CHIMNEY	WHITE___ YELLOW___ PINK___ LIGHT BLUE___ BROWN___ DARK GREEN___ SALMON___ TURQUOISE___ REDISH SALMON___

Prices are for any one item in any color.

I pay shipping 48 states Outside US you pay shipping

MONEY ORDERS OR BANK CHECKS ONLY - UNLESS I KNOW YOU!

ALL PARTS ARE \$2.00 EACH UNLESS NOTED ABOVE

MEMBER TCA 90-32321 NASG-99R0095E

The Villager Classified Ads

For Sale

Lionel tall oil tank with Linex Gasoline logo. This is new in its original box. Decal is present but not applied. Asking \$9.00 plus \$3.75 for shipping. Also willing to trade for Plasticville trees. See my For Trade listing. Contact Joe Kutza at kutza@erols.com or (301) 528-6679. (03-03)

Plasticville collection for sale. Email for list at transam976@aol.com. Bill Reiken (03-01)

NOMA station repair parts: Turntable casting wheels \$25 ea., motors \$45 ea. (not the same as originals), window sets \$4.50 per window, motor belts (small) \$6.50 ea., motor to turntable belts (large) \$8.50 ea., plastic corner posts \$10.00 ea., tower clock decals \$4.50 ea. Other parts available. Listing \$1.00. Shipping parts 10%. Chris Rossbach, C/O Restoration Train Parts 135 Richmond Dr., Gloversville, NY 12078. (03-01)

#1607 Fire House with a gray siren. This is a very rare version. Item is complete. No glue and in very good condition original box also in very good condition. Will provide pictures if interested. \$225 See Bits and Pieces

For Trade

Will trade New Lionel tall oil tank with original box and unapplied decal for Plasticville trees. I prefer the 2-piece TR-6 spruce trees or shrubs but will consider all offers. Must be in good or better condition, no box is necessary. Contact Joe Kutza at kutza@erols.com or (301) 528-6679. (03-03)

Wanted

I'm looking for a couple of Plasticville HO Center Square kits. They were made as scenic classics but I'm most interested in the monuments that went in the center. I'm also looking for an HO scenic classic called the vegetable garden. Boxes or complete sets NOT required. Contact Joe Kutza at kutza@erols.com or (301) 528-6679. (03-03)

Wanted: Littletown/Kleeware, MarX plastic buildings. Boxed with no missing parts preferred. However also looking for parts. trainsfan@aol.com Douglas Gilliatt, 956 W Sherri Dr, Gilbert, AZ, 85223 (02-04)

Wanted: Good condition BOX for #1804 greenhouse. johnln@netins.net John Niehaus, 601 SE Second St., Ankeny, IA 50021-3207 (02-04)

on page VII in the Plasticville Illustrated Price Guide of 1993. lconway@jadecorp.com Lou Conway, 6984 Ely Rd, New Hope, PA 18938 (02-04)

Huge collection of Plasticville, MarX, and Littletown for sale by the single piece or entire collection. LSASE for list or email at transam976@aol.com. Bill Rieken, 58 Quails Crossing, Marion, MA, 02738. (02-04)

Farm Implement set, yellow with green trim, complete, no box, \$35. AD-4 Airport Administration Building, complete with original box \$55. Many other Plasticville items in stock. See list at www.garystrains.com. Gary D Mosholder, 186 Pine Springs Camp Rd., Boswell, PA 1553 (02-04)

I have many used walls for sale in excellent condition except for the ranch house, hobo shacks and railroad-work car. Prices are very reasonable plus shipping. Email me at gfglewicz@aol.com or send a SASE to Jerry Fuglewicz 11262 Sunrise Lane East Aurora, New York 14052. (03-03)

One #1900 Turnpike Interchange Kit. Original box. Complete with all small parts. All letters intact on signs. Also #1701 New England Ranch House, white walls, turquoise trim, gray roof. Tip missing on patio otherwise in good very good condition. Advise what you may have to trade for. lconway@jadecorp.com Lou Conway, 6984 Ely Rd, New Hope, PA 18938 (02-04)

Wanted: Upper Walkway for # 1975 Coaling Station. Contact Steve Brown at peggyconroy@aol.com. Steven A Brown, 1704 2nd St., Rensselaer, NY 12114 (02-04)

Wanted: Skyline K-5 church in all white, K-10 Westchester house in blue and K-10 Westchester house in maroon. Do not need boxes just complete buildings. cfrey57@aol.com Chris Frey, 243 Memorial Blvd., Newmanstown, PA 17073 (02-04)

NEED Gold Cross for C-18 Cathedral. Need gold bell for C-18 Cathedral. Gold bell with steeple section also OK. lin372@msn.com Michael "Kit" Walshoch, 4776 Terry Rd, Jackson, MS 39212-5622 (02-04)

UNBROKEN PARTS WANTED: Airport Administration Building, blue front canopy; Cathedral, silver cross; dog house, white roof; Loading Platform, grey-black chimney, roof support; Trailer, turquoise base, awning; yellow Playground swing frame; Suburban Station, green roof; TV Station, all tower parts; Two Story Colonial, red, tan, & white porch floors; grey cupola roof. fritsto@ci.akron.oh.us Thomas Fritsch, 630Wyandot Ave, Akron, OH 44305-1832. (02-04)

Wanted marbled railroad work car, blue bus, blue ambulance, red roof post office. remgm@aol.com Gary Remaley, 5747 Terrace Dr, PO Box 62, Neffs, PA 18065 (02-04)

Wanted: SKYLINE BUILDINGS, built up or still in kit form without missing parts. Box can be missing or tape marks, mildew, etc. WE NEED SAMPLES FOR REPRODUCTION PURPOSES. Send us what you have available (listing), and asking price. SEE OUR AD IN *THE VILLAGER* OF THOSE BUILDINGS WE ALREADY HAVE. Chris Rossbach, C/O Restoration Train Parts 135 Richmond Dr., Gloversville, NY 12078. (03-01)

#1609 Street Accessories unit. The item is the blister pack style. Would like to have unopened but will consider opened if all packaging materials are there. Also wanted #1701 New England Ranch House with red roof, must not have any glue. Also want Fire Helmet pencil sharpener w/paper shield. lconway@jadecorp.com Lou Conway, 6984 Ely Rd, New Hope, PA 18938 (02-04)

Wanted: ANY Plasticville, Littletown and Skyline Churches, (only with original boxes and accessories please), Contact jge107@psu.edu Josh Erling, 119 N Patterson St Apt #1, State College, PA 16801 (03-01)

Wanted #1985 Scenic Classic Log Cabin like new boxed or mint. #1503 Add-A-Floor box EX+, #1504 Mobile Home awning white also any Storytown parts, people, boxes, or poems. Rsipes@webtv.net Richard Sipes, 839 First St, Nescopeck, PA 18635. (03-03)

Lionel Plasticville American Flyer

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New Item in the PCA Corner Store

Now you can wear the PCA! A navy blue T-shirt with the PCA logo in white is now available for order. The shirts come in Small, Medium, Large, X-Large, XX-Large, and XXX-Large. They are a high quality, 100% cotton, short sleeve shirt. The prices are \$14 for small through X-Large, \$15 for XX-Large and \$16 for XXX-Large plus \$4 shipping for each shirt. Please order the next larger size if you are concerned with fit.

Orders must be received by July 31 to be included in the first shipment. If you place your order by July 31 you should receive your shirt in mid September. An order form is available on the website. Please be sure to send an order form with your payment to ensure you get the size of shirt ordered.

Checks should be made payable to Plasticville Collectors Association and mailed to 601 SE Second Street, Ankeny, Iowa 50021.



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, John L Niehaus, 601 SE Second Street, Ankeny, IA 50021-3207 unless noted otherwise noted.

Special color shrubs and Add-A-Floor

One new King Distributing Add-A-Floor in red or brown AND six shrubs in never before released colors (2 each of brown, light buff, and medium buff), \$35 plus \$5 P&H. Please specify the color of the Add-A-Floor desired. Send payment to Joe Kutza, 13301 Pepper Ct, Germantown, MD 20874

Personalized address labels

A sheet of 30, personalized, high-quality color labels similar to the one shown here in actual size 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.

Ongoing PCA Projects

Plasticville Cathedral Census.

See the April 2002 issue of *The Villager* for details and a census form. We need to have greater participation in this project to make it viable.

Win a Trip to Disneyland jingle contest

Send in your idea of an ending line to the jingle as printed on page 8 of the April 2002 issue of *The Villager*. Information on how to submit your entry is also on that page. Winners will be announced in the October issue.

ARE WE THERE YET?



MOTEL ITEM NO. 45618

Capture the adventurous spirit of the highway traveler by adding the O scale Motel to your Plasticville USA® collection. Recalling the days of the good old-fashioned family road trip, this snap-fit building is sure to evoke images of carefree summer days on the open road and the flashing neon signs that beckoned weary travelers at night. Your local hobby retailer has dozens of Plasticville buildings and accessories in HO, N, and O scale. For more than 50 years, Bachmann's Plasticville has been the leading brand of hobby kits among collectors and railroaders.



PLASTICVILLE
U.S.A.

Bachmann Industries, Inc. Philadelphia, PA www.bachmanntrains.com