



The Villager

The official newsletter of the Plasticville Collectors Association

Volume 2

November 2003

Number 4

Dues for 2004 to stay at \$8.00!

The dues for a second year are only \$8.00! First and foremost, this was made possible by those who have opted to receive only the electronic version of the newsletters.

It was also possible due by the generosity of members who made tax-deductible donations to the club over the year. Those donations included not only money but also stamps and postal cards for use by the club.

There also was some extensive cost management during this year. That also contributed to being able to hold the annual dues at \$8.00.

Dues for 2004 are now past due. Please send your payment of \$8.00 to: Plasticville Collectors Association, 601 SE Second Street, Ankeny, IA 50021-3207 if you have not already done so. A Check or money order is preferred.

Early payment ensures that you will be listed in the

2004 PCA roster that will be mailed with the February 2004 issue of *The Villager*. Your new membership card will also be mailed with that issue of *The Villager*.

A sheet of 30 return address labels will be included in the February newsletter to all members who renew their membership by December 15, 2003. Members whose dues have been received prior to this newsletter being mailed should find their labels with this newsletter. The labels will be of the same high quality as those currently offered in the PCA Corner Store.

Note: The PCA bylaws state that a new membership is retroactive to the beginning of the current calendar year and that all members are to receive all materials published during the current calendar year, up to the time of their membership, as part of their New Member packet. This ensures that new members enjoy all of the publications of the PCA for that year and also that their membership is concurrent with the other members.

Nominations for 2004 Officers

Nominations for the offices of President, Vice-President and Secretary/Treasurer are now open. All members in good standing may be nominated and self-nomination is acceptable and encouraged. Those nominees who are elected will serve as officers for the year 2004.

Ballots will be mailed to all active members in good standing on or about December 31, 2003. The results will be published in the February issue of *The Villager*.

Please mail your nominations to Secretary, Plasticville Collectors Association, Officer Nomination, 601 SE Second St., Ankeny, Iowa 50021-3207 or email your nominations to secretary@plasticvilleusa.org.

Nominations must be received by December 15, 2003 to be included on the ballot.

Editor's note: *Joe Kutza, Doug Gilliatt, and John Niehaus have each expressed a willingness to serve the PCA for another year in their respective positions.*

What do you mean when you say ePCA?

The term ePCA denotes members who have opted to receive their annual roster and quarterly newsletters through the PCA website instead of by mail.

There are many advantages to becoming an ePCA member. The last four newsletters are readily available in color on the website. Newsletters are easily downloaded for viewing anywhere you can connect to the Internet. They can be printed in color on any color-capable printer.

A current copy of the roster is also available. The roster on the website is a complete listing of all members including information on current probationary members.

The major benefit is in keeping our annual dues at a very low rate. Few other groups can make the claim to having dues of less than \$10 and still receive the benefits of four multiple page newsletters. The annual dues for most national organizations are a minimum of \$25.

From the President's Desk



Hello fellow PCA Members! There are now 226 of us. John is busy with renewals for 2004, and over half of us have already renewed. Don't forget! I'm sure you don't want to miss any of the exciting news and stories that *The Villager* will bring to you next year. When you receive your 2004

membership card, be sure to take a look on the back. We will provide you with a username and password for accessing the Members Only section of the PCA web site. The Members Only section is where you can find current and back issues of *The Villager*, as well as other e-news meant for members only. As you become familiar with the electronic version of *The Villager*, drop us a line to let us know when we can stop sending you the paper version.

About this time last year, we went through an exhaustive analysis of the PCA finances. The costs have stayed about the same for this year. In fact, when we add in our advertising and fundraiser income, along with the few extra dollars several members have included with their dues, we stand at a per member cost of \$8.01 to break even (this assumes 225 members.) As the number of members increase, we actually increase our overall expenses because of a lagging switch to the electronic version of *The Villager*. If we can increase ePCA members, and maintain our current advertising and fundraising income, there should be no need to raise dues next year either.

While we lost a few of our initial advertisers, we've kept a fairly steady pace. Our first fundraiser, the add-a-floor with unreleased shrubs has come to an end. This really worked out well for us. It really got us on our feet after we first started the PCA. Thank you for your support! Our t-shirt sales have been somewhat spotty. The price may make you think twice, but think about this: the price reflects our cost for the shirt, shipping, and a little bit extra for the club. The sale is not designed to provide our members with low-cost apparel; it is designed to

make the PCA a few bucks. So take another look, hopefully you can help us out, and look great in return!

The end of another year is approaching, and according to the PCA by-laws, we need to start thinking about officer elections for the upcoming year. I am happy to announce that John and Doug are willing to serve another year in their respective offices. They have been invaluable in the development of the PCA. I am willing, and would be honored, to accept a nomination for another year as your President. Please send your nominations to John Niehaus by e-mail, or regular mail, as soon as possible so that we can develop an appropriate election plan in line with our by-laws and past experience.

In 2004, we intend to continue to provide a high quality newsletter, and further develop the PCA web site. Our informal HO working group has gone out of their way to provide us with a significant amount of information and photographs. I originally intended to have a good portion of the HO web page up and running by the end of summer, 2003. However, I have been unable to meet that deadline. The HO web page, along with a minor, yet important reorganization of the web site, remains my personal top priorities for the rest of this year. The open call for photos of all plastic village items remains. These can be in either an electronic or standard photograph version. Take a look at the PCA site, maybe you can adopt a small section and offer to provide photos of the items you have. Maybe someone wants to focus on two-story colonials for example, or cars, or whatever. Your help would be greatly appreciated. Lastly, as you will see in this *Villager* we have added a section called the "York Report". Sometimes this report will be part of my ramblings, and sometimes we'll give it its own section. I'll mention a few sightings, happenings, and prices that I run across at the TCA Eastern Division's famous "York Meet".

That's it for this time, well, one more thing.... With the holiday season coming up, I hope you will take the opportunity to take a picture of your holiday layout and send it to us. We would love to see how you use your Plasticville at this special time of year!

Vice Presidential Insights

It has again been a year of growth for our organization with our membership growing to 226 and counting. There are so many great things that have been accomplished by the organization and its members that it is truly remarkable, I salute you all.

The summer heat is still with us in Arizona and the collecting has been slow (Thank goodness for eBay – when my Wife lets me Buy something). Of course with all the events that have happened in the world and continue to happen this year, collecting seems to have taken a back seat for a while.

It was a pleasure to have my Son graduate from college and find employment in Phoenix AZ. This now allows us to go to train meets/garage sales/auctions together and get to know each other again as friends as well as Father/Son.

Next, I want to remind everyone please remember to patronize our advertisers that support the PCA.

And last, I want to say that it was an honor to serve as the Vice President of the PCA the past year during this period of growth and expansion.

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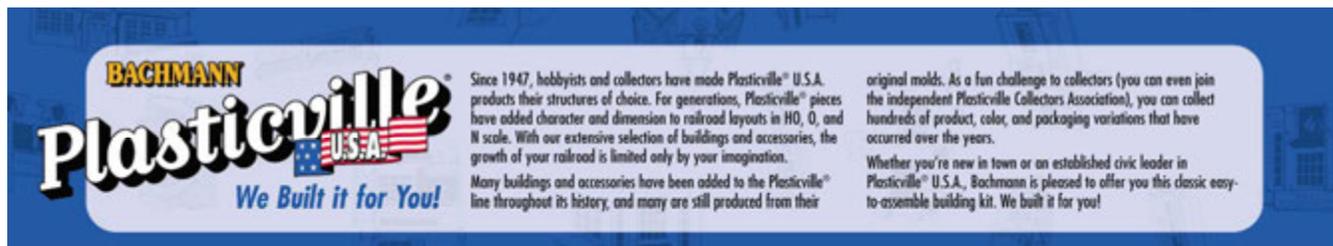
No. 650	INTERLOCKING TOWER KIT	\$ 25.00 Ea.
No. 651	WATER TOWER KIT	25.00 Ea.
No. 652	PASSENGER STATION KIT	35.00 Ea.
No. 653	FREIGHT STATION	45.00 Ea.
No. 658	CITY HOUSE	\$ 25.00 Ea.

PCA Recognized on New Plasticville Boxes

By John Niehaus

In a recent conversation with the Marketing Manager at Bachmann, he informed me that the new Plasticville boxes mentioned the Plasticville Collectors Association. A request was made of him to send me a box so that I could see for myself this fantastic endorsement. He

informed me that the boxes were not yet in production but that he would have Bachmann's advertising department send me a digital picture. The picture below is an illustration of one of the side panels on their new boxes.



Side panel of the recently redesigned Plasticville boxes. The second paragraph reads, *"Many buildings and accessories have been added to the Plasticville line throughout its history, and many are still produced from their original molds. As a fun challenge to collectors (you can even join the independent Plasticville Collectors Association), you can collect product, color, and packaging variations that have occurred over the years."*

Identifying Marx Plastic Buildings

By Glenn Raymond

The following is a list of Marx I.D. locations from Marx plastic buildings. Those buildings that are marked show the typical "MAR" inside a circle with an X through it. All information was obtained by examining my own collection and is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

- ◆ CHURCH: Inside roof and inside front door
- ◆ BARN: No Markings (see note 1 below)
- ◆ CHICKEN COOP: Inside large roof piece
- ◆ R.R. STATION: Inside roof and under walk-around-ramp
- ◆ COLONIAL HOUSE: No Markings
- ◆ RANCH HOUSE: No Markings
- ◆ "L" SHAPED RANCH HOUSE: No Markings
- ◆ SCHOOL: Inside roof
- ◆ POLICE STATION: Inside roof
- ◆ FIRE STATION: No markings (see note 2 below)
- ◆ GENERAL STORE: Inside roof
- ◆ DINER: Inside roof and sign says "Marxville diner"
- ◆ SUPERMARKET: Inside roof
- ◆ SERVICE STATION: Inside roof and sign above front door says "MARX" (see note 3 below)

- ◆ FACTORY: Inside roof and sign above front door says "MARXVILLE TOYS" (see note 4 below)
- ◆ AIRPORT: No Markings
- ◆ ARMY BARRACKS: Inside roof

NOTES

Many early K-Line plastic buildings have been observed with no markings and in similar colors to Marx. Later K-Line buildings should have "K-LINE" under the roof.

Marx people are almost white or "cream" soft plastic. K-Line people are usually "pink".

1. Both Marx and K-Line made white with green trim barns. Marx barns are brighter green and whiter. K-Line barns are darker green and more cream color.
2. Both Marx and K-Line made gray with red trim fire stations. K-Line stations tend to be "paler" in color.
3. K-Line service stations say K-Line on sign above front door.
4. K-Line factories have a blank sign with an adhesive sticker above the front door.

Articles in Future Issues of *The Villager*

**An inventory of the furniture contained in a #1919 Plasticville Hospital
Is this the first Plasticville advertisement in a magazine?**

Connecticut Hobbies Ranch House colors

Breakfast food billboard premiums

Newly discovered Frosty Bar color combination



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A Disturbing Reproduction – Dark Blue Buses

By Josh Erling

Recently, a collector that I know was at a large toy show in Macungie, PA (south of Allentown) and they came across a disturbing find. A dealer was selling 3 PINK Plasticville Buses and 3 DARK BLUE Plasticville Buses. Normally, seeing 3 Dark Blue Buses would be a heart-stopping miracle, but these were all reproduction items.

I asked the collector the following questions and these are his answers:

How were the buses marked so that you knew they were repros? “The extra plastic was not cut off around the edges.”

How close was the color to the original DARK blue? “Close! I didn't have the real one to compare”.

Did they have ambulances or other cars also? “Not that I saw.”

Do you know who made them or who was selling them? “I have no idea.”

Were the buses marked "Plasticville" on the bottom? “YES!!!”

This discovery shocked the collector so much that they didn't talk to the dealer and didn't see his name

anywhere on the stand. One other detail that they remembered was that the plastic was softer than the usual Bachmann formula.

This information supplied by this collector is very credible. I have seen the blue bus owned by the collector. They know what they are talking about.

I thought that I would pass the information along as a warning. As of yet, I have not seen nor heard of any other "rare" plasticville reproduction pieces.

Look for an article in a future edition of *The Villager* explaining what to do, if you find what you think is an unauthorized reproduction piece.

Editor's note: This article was sent to Bachmann's Marketing Manager. His reply is as follows: "Probably the best course of action would be to get the reproduction dealer's name, address, etc. Then we might be able to send a "cease and desist" type letter if appropriate. The PCA membership will be the best eyes and ears we have for these situations."

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Along the HO Line **The HO Motels**

By Dominic St. John

When it comes to the HO line of Plasticville, the identity of the smaller kit usually matches that of its larger counterpart. It may also be a safe bet to say that many of the O&S kits probably came first. However, I believe, the similarities end with the two sizes mirroring them selves. Now if there is a matching kit, in both HO and O&S, you can expect to find the HO piece may have more to give. I have found that, every so often, the HO kit will go a little farther in the details. I would like to use the HO Motels as an example. There are certainly more kits that can be compared but I felt this is a good place to start.



Now I know that the HO line of Plasticville is not looked upon as fondly as the larger kits. Some collectors would probably just disregard the smaller scale. As we learn more about the HO line, and how it compares with the O&S line, I would hope it can begin to stand on its own and not be in the shadow of its bigger brother. It is always good to have a little rivalry. Like we Chevy guys against you Ford guys. Or the American Flyer guys going at the Lionel guys. Well now it is the HO guys making a little noise.

Okay now back to the Motels. The HO line made its debut in 1952 and it isn't until 1962 that the HO Motel appears. It is listed as new in the 1962 catalogue and is one of the largest individual kits for that year. The model is listed as the #2903 HO Motel with Swimming Pool. It is first found in a Litho type box as well as the #3903 blister pack type package. In 1966 the box changes to the Picture Frame type. The Motel is still listed as the #2903 With Pool. It will be found in that box until 1975. In the Bicentennial year, 1976, the box will change again. This time it is the Gold Ringed Box with a red, white and blue banner announcing Plasticville U.S.A. on the cover. It only takes four years before it will be found in another new box. In 1980 the Motel is found in the Orange Banner type box and is cataloged with a new number #2714. It is still found in the same Orange Banner type box today as my latest catalogue, the 2001, has it listed as item number 45214. *Editor's note: The motel is listed in the 2003 catalog as item number 45214.*



Here is where the wealth of details, which I mentioned earlier, can be addressed. This kit is supplied with a multitude of goodies! Let's start with the buildings. There are two supplied. You have the main office with a large sign rising from the roof. Depending on the year of the kit the sign can read one of two ways. The first kits had the letters "MOTEL" embossed onto the sign. The later kits were supplied with stick-on signs reading SIESTA MOTEL. Also with the main office are the vacancy and no vacancy signs.

Next to the office is the motel itself. It comes with four units available for that sleepy traveler. Between the two buildings you find a trellis type roof that attaches both



structures. For the occupants of each unit and office you will find five comfortable chairs sitting upon the concrete platforms. Looking at the rear of both buildings you will see five through the wall type air conditioner units. For sleeping in total comfort! If that isn't enough, you can always take a dip in the in-ground swimming pool. It comes with a diving board and ladder.

Now I have to wonder if any O&S kit comes close to providing as much detail as this HO kit does? In my earlier articles you can find many small extras that were included with the HO Capes, Ranches and Gas Stations. Why did Bachmann find it needed to dress up the HO line and not show the same attention to the larger scale? Could it be the HO line was the favorite child? Any opinions out there?

In the following images, I have what I think are most of the color combos found in the HO Motels. Almost of them share the same gray color on the roof and platform. I have found one kit that has a white roof and platform. It is a later version kit, as the sign above the office is a sticker that reads SIESTA MOTEL and not the earlier embossed letters spelling MOTEL.

As always, I am happy to share any information I may have related to the HO line with anyone who wishes it. I continue to learn as I go and I hope to keep learning and going!

From the Along the HO line, Dominic St. John

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What Do You Want to See...

By John Niehaus

The Yahoo discussion group has been very active recently with comments from participants as to what they would like to see in the way of new or reproduction pieces of Plasticville. I took the liberty of sending some of those comments to Bachmann's Marketing Manager, requesting that he comment. His reply is as follows:

I really hesitate to comment on Plasticville requests. If we do, it might indicate that new product will be coming out shortly, and at this time, that is something we can't promise. As a general rule, we can say that anything requiring new tooling is not an option for us. It is far more likely we would come out with new color

combinations in currently-offered or historic products. And having said that, I can't say what the timeline might be for changing colors either.

I can also say that we truly appreciate the PCA and the dedication of the membership, that we are trying to promote the PCA by giving you a mention on all new Plasticville packaging, that we have redesigned the Plasticville packaging with appeal to PCA members in mind, that we have created a Plasticville T-shirt for sale at bachmanntrains.com, and that our offer stands to make you a limited edition item for use as a fundraiser for the PCA.

Bachmann Opens an On Line Store

By John Niehaus

Bachmann Industries has followed the lead of many other manufacturers in instituting an on line store. The store "went live" in mid-October. The new on line store can be accessed on Bachmann's website at <http://www.bachmanntrains.com/home-usa>.

An email from the Communications Manager at Bachmann states, "This note is to let you know that the online store at BachmannTrains.com is live. A limited

number of "Property of Plasticville High" T-shirts are available for plastic village fans and collectors, so feel free to spread the word."

Just follow the instructions below the illustrated T-shirt to access the store web page. The only items currently offered are a "Property of Plasticville High" blue text on gray T-shirt and the 2003 catalog. Assurances have been made that additional items will soon be available

:

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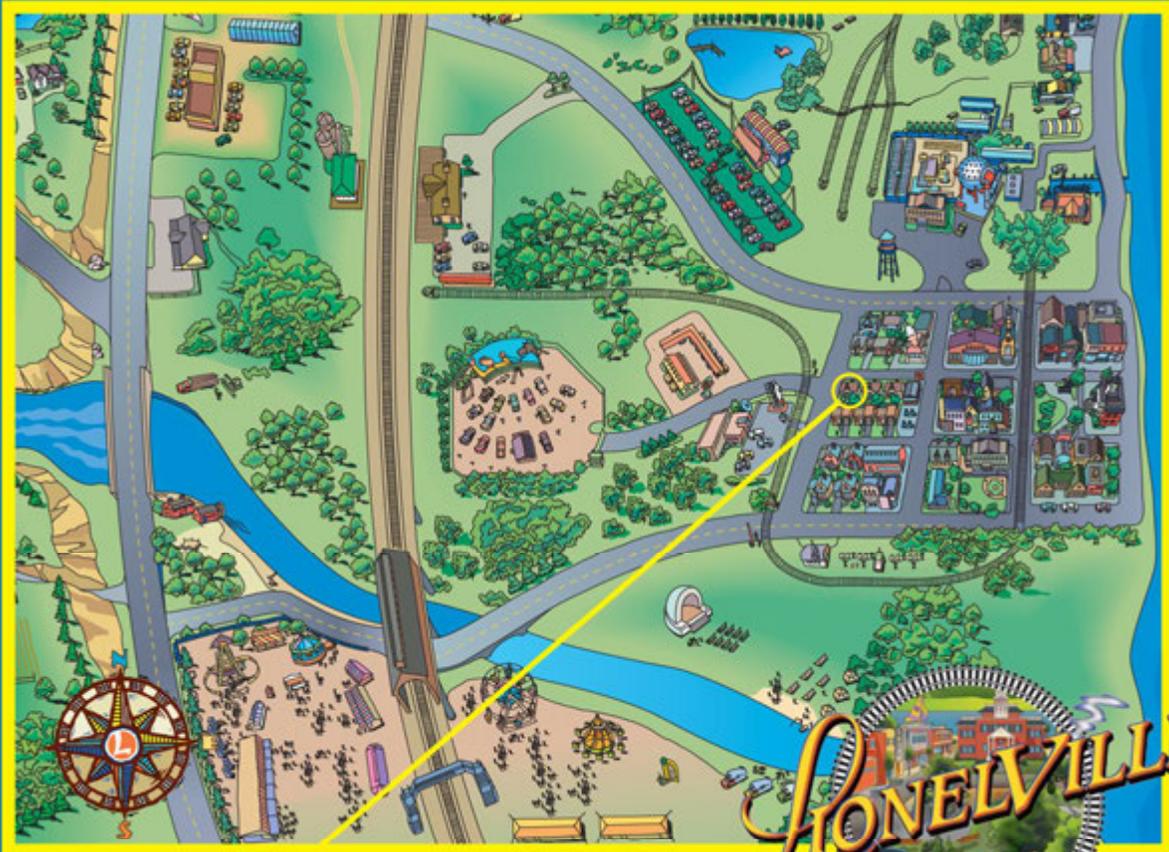
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www.jtrains.net for original Plasticville parts and limited amounts of Littletown and other plastic village parts. Quantities are limited to what we have listed on our website but, our website is constantly being updated. So keep checking the website. We may just have what you have been looking for! We are not a manufacturer of parts. We do buy out stores and other dealers and collections. This is where our source for inventory is.

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Fall York Report

By Joe Kutza

With many PCA members also being train collectors and operators, I'm sure most of you have at least heard of "York". The eastern division of the Train Collector's Association (TCA) hosts a train meet each April and October in York, Pennsylvania. For you train fans, is there anything that rivals York in terms of sheer size and attendance? It would be hard for me to imagine anything larger, or having a greater variety of items. In addition to the official 2-day TCA meet on Friday and Saturday, there are also four so-called "bandit" meets that take place at various times from Monday through Thursday beforehand. You don't need to be a TCA member to attend the bandit meets, but you do need to be a member to attend the TCA meet (TCA members can also bring a guest).

See http://www.tcamembers.org/articles/tca/YORKPRIMER_03/index.html for a nice primer on York from a TCA member.

This October, I decided to head to York on two days: Thursday to hit the bandit meets, and Friday for the real deal. I'll briefly describe the meets, make a few comments, and end up with some prices.

I started Thursday at a Holiday Inn known as "The Holidome". This meet features tables outside in the parking lot, as well as tables inside. Of the four meets I went to on Thursday, this one had, by far, the best attendance by both sellers and buyers. Volume-wise this is also where I saw the most Plasticville. I was able to talk briefly with PCA member Gary Mosholder, who had a nice set-up of trains and Plasticville. I also spoke briefly with PCA member Dave Horner, who also had a nice selection of Plasticville available.

The second stop was the Best Western motel. I heard there were tables inside and outside, however, there were only about two-dozen tables, all outside. Given the size, I wasn't expecting much, but the Plasticville selection was quite reasonable. I picked up about 15 nice empty boxes here for just \$15. Having never been here before, I don't know if this site is on the way down, or picking up. If you're in York, it's worth a stop.

Next was the Reliance Fire Hall, on Market Street. This is pretty close to the fairgrounds, where the main TCA meet is held. As for the size, it featured the least amount of vendors of the bandit meets. However, the food from the kitchen smelled great! I saw a nice selection of Plasticville boxed sets here, at fair to reasonable prices. This is also where Bob Persing sets up from Monday through Thursday. I managed to shoot the breeze with Bob for a while, and he showed me his newest Plasticville part: lights for the police station/bank/school/ etc. The big feature with the new lights is the increased level of

luminescence. After up to 50 years, your original glow in the dark Plasticville lights will certainly lose some of their luster. Check out these news ones, and shed a little more light on the situation!

The last stop for Thursday was at another Holiday Inn, near the intersection of PA Rt. 30 and I-83. I heard that attendance had been falling at this meet over the last few years, but I'd say it wasn't bad. There were tables outside and inside, but I saw very little Plasticville, and the little I did see was at sky-high prices. Well, any given day you might find what you're looking for. If you're in the neighborhood, it's worth a stop, I guess.

That was it for Thursday. Living just less than 90 minutes away from York, I had only driven up for the day, so it was time to go home and rest up for the big day ahead.

I had been to the TCA York meet for the first time last April, so I pretty much knew what to expect. But this time they opened the new "Orange" hall. This is an immense arena, akin to some of the large conference centers in any given city. In fact, they closed the Purple, Black, Yellow, Gold, and Green halls, and were easily able to fit all the "dealers" into the new Orange hall. The blue, silver, white, and red halls remained open, and filled with the tables of non-dealers. My plan was to go from Blue to Silver to White, to Red, and end up in the Orange. Surprisingly, I kept to my plan! It's good that I did, for I hear that the Orange hall was packed in the early part of the day. My first buy was in the first aisle I went down. There was a tin house by Atlas, still in its original box, and never used, for \$20. I don't really collect tin structures, but this was too nice to pass up. The gentleman told me that he had six, and I got the last one! He also had some tin Skyline buildings, but they were also gone. Guess I should have gotten there earlier. I ran into PCA Member Gerry Fuglewicz nearby, after catching up on a few things we had a running discussion up and down some the aisles as we looked for Plasticville bargains. We both found a person selling original Shade Trees, in what looked to be excellent to mint boxes. He had maybe 10 or 12 boxes of them. However, he wanted \$125 each! Now they were really, really, nice, but I wasn't going near them for that price. Gerry agreed.

A little later, as I was making my way through the white and red halls, I noticed that one guy seemed to always be looking at the same things I was looking at. Sometimes he came in right behind me; sometimes I looked at things just as he left. Well, we met up at the same table as we were looking at an unusual hospital, and I finally said "you must be a PCA member" and sure enough it was Charles Swanson, all the way from

Kentucky. We were stumped over this hospital that had all blue lettering except for a red "accidents". Neither of us had ever seen, or heard, of a hospital with blue lettering. We kept looking at it and thinking about it. It had a gray roof, and gray awning. That meant it was a later version, one that came without any color on the lettering. We finally decided that someone had taken a blue marker and colored the letters. It looked decent enough, but there were a few telltale smudges that a factory produced version would not have had. Oh well, another one of kind version debunked! We discussed our various finds of the day. Charles found a motel in a Type 8 (white) box. Big deal right? Well, it had three vehicles inside. Still no big deal. However, one of the three was an orange ambulance. His price for the whole thing? Ten bucks. Not bad. He also found a dark gray house under construction in a decent box, but missing some of the small items, for just \$5. I'd say he had a pretty good day.

The last stop was the Orange hall. In addition to smaller dealers, this is also where folks like Lionel, K-Line, and MTH were located. The hall is impressive, no doubt. It is large, well lit, and comfortable. But the organization left something to be desired. The flow of people just wasn't right. There were a couple of main thoroughfares that had a lot of traffic, but some of the side streets weren't too busy. Part of the issues was that half of the hall had standard tables, and the other half was set up more in booths/cubicles with draping 8-10 feet up. The open part was OK, but the booths seemed to be more hidden and uninviting. In one of these booths, I found the Mayor, Bill Nole. There are at least two things to note if you want to stop by to see Bill. First, be prepared for a wait. There's always a line of people waiting to talk with him, or to buy from him. Second, I'd like to set a chair near his booth, and just sit there all day. Invariably you WILL see something you have never seen before. In April, Joe Endicott stopped by with a tan ambulance and a tan bus. This time, a gentleman stopped by with a fireman's helmet pencil sharpener from a Make n' Play kit that was in WHITE. Very interesting indeed. I talked very briefly with Bill, and I was able to pick up an elusive tan chimney cap for a two-story colonial that I had been looking for. Finally I stopped by a place selling Thomas the Tank Engine items, and picked up a puzzle for my 2-year old son, Joseph. He loves Thomas trains! It was the least I could do after spending so much of his college fund on Plasticville!

OK, here's the part you were waiting for: Prices. Here are the caveats: These represent items I saw at all five meets that I attended. They are in no particular order. I did not have the time to do a thorough grading of each item according to PCA Standards, so I use non-

conventional terms to describe most of them. These are prices as marked; most people give you a little break (\$5-\$10, maybe more). These are just meant to give you an idea of what you can expect. The list does not represent all the Plasticville I saw, just a few items I managed to write in my notes. Some prices are LOW, some are HIGH. That's just how it works.....

5603 Farm Unit in fair box, \$100; red barn with chrome trim, decent box, \$30; basic red barn, no box, \$16; Bungalow with excellent box but lots of spray-on snow, \$25; Lionel #192 Accessory set, consists of 4 tin buildings with a great box (1920's or 30's?), \$1900; Marx service station, box missing one end, \$48; TA-2 train accessory unit, looked brand new!, \$75; BA-7 barn and animal unit, decent box, \$45; pink and gray ranch, no box, \$12; 5605 railroad accessories, excellent box, \$100; blue turnpike with ok box, \$35, Littletown 1954 catalog, excellent, \$175; airport runway only, \$95; mint flock of birds in cellophane bag, \$40; older Union Station with excellent box, \$40; new Hobo Jungle, still sealed, \$10; post office, no lights, no box, \$8; apartment building, no box, \$50; railroad work car, no box, \$100; grandstand with nice box, \$165; International Airport, nice box, \$195; TV station, 5&10, super market, all nice but no box, \$39 each!, original autumn trees in very good box, \$375; Countryside Farm, 5606, perfect, \$450; HO TV station with good box, \$55; V-10 vehicle unit with nice box, \$160; HO #4601, nice, \$115; V-10 with nice box, \$200; airport admin building with nice box, \$65, white front drug store with box, \$45; blue turnpike, no box, complete, \$45; Loading Platform 1707 in nice box, \$150; red and brown ranch, no box, \$35, HU-6 house unit with nice box, \$225, Littletown corner store with no box, \$30, another Littletown corner store with no box, \$10, block signals on card, \$40; painted Ideal diner, no box, \$60; boxed Hobo Shacks, 2 sets, one \$250, other \$225; Shade Trees in excellent box, \$125, another Shade Trees in excellent box, \$75; white front drug store with some paint and spray-on snow, \$5. There were a few deals to be had, if you looked hard enough. All the apartment buildings I saw were at least \$50, and often \$75 or even \$100. I don't know who told these folks they were worth so much. I'd also stay away from the Hobo Shacks at those prices. I saw quite a few boxed sets this time, and the prices and quality were fairly reasonable. If I had the money, and could haggle a bit, I think I would have picked up a few.

That's it for this York Report. I hope to meet up with more of you in April. This seems to be a good place to have a regular, but informal PCA meeting. I'll give you more details as the next meet approaches. If you were at York and saw something else of interest, please let us know.

Tell them you saw their ad in *The Villager*

Advertising helps keep the PCA dues low. Remember to mention that you saw their ad in *The Villager* when contacting one of the advertisers in the newsletter. Let them know that their ad in *The Villager* is working for them.

A warehouse find that would make Indiana Jones jealous!



Everyone thought this rare book... with all the old Sears catalog pages reproduced in COLOR... was long out of print until we recently discovered a small supply.

Toy collectors always speak about "The Big Toy Box At Sears" in reverential tones. When this nearly 1" thick book was published back in 1997 it was the first (and only time) that ALL of the boys' toys pages from the the legendary Sears Christmas Wishbooks of the 1950's and 1960's had ever been reprinted in all their original full-color glory. Even the paper stock reproduced the original. But after the initial low-key sales push "The Big Toy Box At Sears" was soon forgotten and the remaining few copies stacked in a warehouse. What a find it was when we unearthed a stash of these incredible books, still sealed in their original shrinkwrap!

A huge 8 1/2" x 11" big and 584 pages thick, this massive volume contains all the toys collectors want to remember... Marx playsets, Lionel trains, Tonka trucks, robots, slot cars, G.I. Joe, cowboy and James Bond toys and pages and pages more. These books are collectibles themselves and are certain to increase in value.



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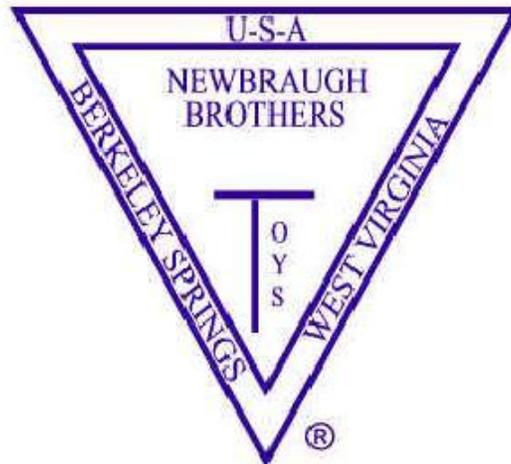
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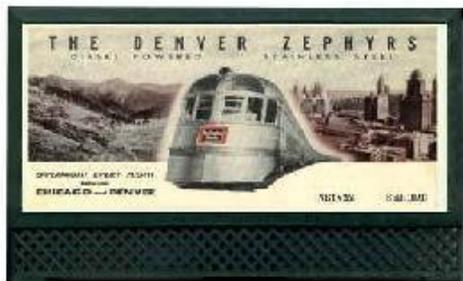
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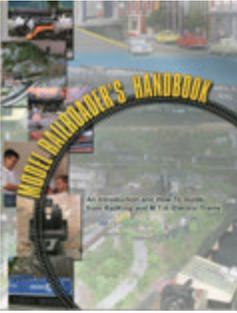
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Literature Review



Model Railroader's Handbook, An Introduction and How-To Guide from RailKing and M.T.H. Trains with RailWare CD. 64 pages, perfect bound.

This is one of the best books I have seen for beginner model railroaders. The entire book is written with a novice model train enthusiast in mind.

Not only do you get the book but also a copy of M.T.H.'s RailWare CD. The CD that accompanied my book was the 2001 edition. It contained a copy of RR Track, the track planning software from R&S Enterprises, including the library for M.T.H.'s RealTrax and libraries for a few buildings, and some general scenery. In addition to the RR Track software there was also a collection tracking program that allows you to create a database of which pieces made by M.T.H are in your collection.

The first section of the book concentrates on sets and how to add just a few pieces through good track planning to expand your layout. It addresses space requirements, what type of action you wish your railroad to have and illustrates three sample layouts ranging from a set with a few extra pieces up to a 16 X 20 basement "empire".

The second section delves into wiring and the pros and cons of both traditional and remote control of your trains. It also addresses the various types of benchwork including a material list and illustrated instructions for building a 4 X 8 plywood table. The advanced techniques of open benchwork and shelf layouts are also touched upon.

Scenery is given quite a bit of emphasis in this section also. It is noted in the text that "Few places in the world are as flat and featureless as a sheet of plywood". The book mentions that variety and detail are what makes the

layout come alive. Both the hardshell and the styrofoam methods of creating the general landscape are given a good deal of attention including a list of what one needs for materials to use either method. The impressive part of this section is the use of illustrations to show how to use both of these methods in creating a section of graded track. A sidebar in this chapter on how to determine the allowable grade for track should prove invaluable to those who want to ensure that they do not make a grade too steep for their engines to climb. There are numerous other tips on how to create trees, detail track roadbed, and create realistic looking automobile roadways. Last, but not least, is a page on how to maintain your engines, rolling stock, and track.

The last section deals with prototype railroading. Included in this section is a chart of all wheel configurations for steam locomotives along with their nicknames, something I have never seen before. It also contains a chart of whistle signals.

The six appendices in this book cover descriptions of the various types of freight cars, passenger cars, frequently asked questions, a "Further Reading" list, and a glossary of railroad terms.

I would highly recommend this book to any person who is new to model railroading or anyone who is always on the lookout for new ideas in detailing. The book alone is worth the asking price of \$14.95 but the bonus of the RR Track software on the RailWare CD makes it a real bargain for anyone who models using M.T.H. RealTrax on their layout.

You may purchase this book at your favorite hobby store or directly from M.T.H. Electric Trains, 7020 Columbia Gateway Drive, Columbia, MD 21046-1532. The phone number is 410-381-2580. Shipping is \$4.95 if you order from M.T.H.'s website or directly by phone from M.T.H.



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Product Review



Modeller's Toolkit, software for windows by Evan Designs.

The Modeller's Toolkit contains three different programs, Graphics Depot, Transfer Station, and American Advertising Collection along with an assortment of stained glass graphics and a selection of paper. It also comes with a selection of stained window graphics that can be used with the program. It also contains a selection of papers available from Evan Designs for use with the programs.

Graphics Depot, allows one to create custom window treatments. The suggested method is to print these on either translucent vellum or transparent plastic and then attach them to the inside of the building. Evan Designs even offers pre-gummed transparent sheets.

The program comes with built-in templates for some Ameri-Towne, and Design Preservation buildings in O scale. There are also some templates for HO and N scale buildings as well. There are no templates for Plasticville buildings as of yet.

A welcome letter included with the software states that Evan Designs will create a template for any building if you send a photocopy of the building sides to them. They will email you a template file that can be used in the Graphics Depot program. There are also approximately 25 additional templates on their website that can be downloaded for free.

The program contains a large number of window treatments including curtains, venetian blinds, and shades. It is possible to set the Venetian blinds and shades at full open, and partially or fully closed. Colors of the various treatments can be changed to suit your needs but the color options are a bit limited. There are also various graphics to add to the windows such as professional symbols, animals, and human profiles in both color and black and white. It is also possible to import your own .BMP or .WMF graphics into the program. Lastly there is an option to add True Type font text. Options are also available for changing the font color.

Printing was very simple and the colors closely matched those displayed on the screen.

This program would be a very easy way to add detail to any building's windows.

Transfer Station, version 1.6 is designed to allow one to print out road signs, billboards, and an assortment of bricks and stones.

There are over 100 common road signs already drawn and ready for selection and printing, including a kangaroo

crossing sign!. There is also a "construction zone" that allows one to create a sign that is not already available.

The billboard and posters option contains approximately 20 billboards and posters. Some are in color while the others are in black and white. The posters and billboards can be printed on water slip decal paper for attachment to the wall of a building or the supplied adhesive backed paper.

A total of 15 different stone and brick patterns are also available. The patterns range from a cobblestone and random brick that could be used for roadways to conventional brick patterns in varying colors and sizes. This section of the program also allows one to create a brick wall and then add windows and doors as desired.

American Advertising Collection, version 1 is a collection of 50's advertising. This program is for those who want to add advertising to small signs or to the sides of their buildings on their layout. The program contains over 150 different advertising pieces although some are mere color variations of another ad. The ads include motel, tire, appliance, and farm equipment signs that would be ideal as marquees on the front of a building.

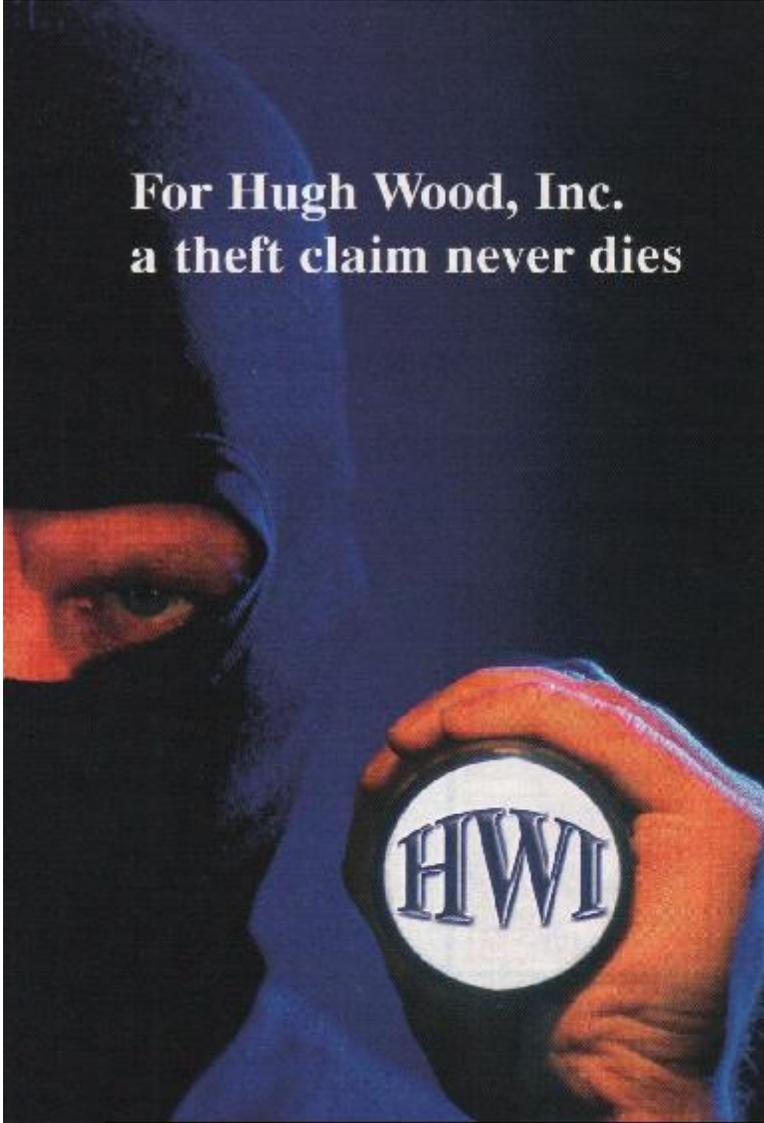
The fun part of this program is the collection of "Burma Shave" signs. Approximately 25 different sets of signs are included.

A feature of this program that is not found in the other programs is the ability to somewhat adjust the overall color of an ad. This is done through a pop up window that allows you to adjust the red, green, and blue of the ad. It does not allow you to adjust a single element of the ad, though.

The stained glass graphics that come in the kit can be used in any of the three programs. The most logical of the programs being the Transfer Station program. All three programs also allow you to import your own graphics as long as they are in BMP or WMF format. A big enhancement would be if it also allowed the importation of TIF and JPG files.

The papers that came in the kit are all specifically designed for inkjet printers. The papers included 3 sheets each of adhesive backed paper, clear photo-grade adhesive backed polyester sheet, vellum sheets, and 3 transparency sheets.

The Transfer Station program can be purchased separately for \$45. The Graphics Depot and the Advertising Collection list for \$40. The stained glass add-on is \$15 or free if you order two or more programs. The entire package of three programs along with the stained glass window images and the paper selection list for \$120. You can contact Evan Designs at PO Box 176 Suffield, CT 06078 or on line at www.modelgraphics.com



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Welcome New Members

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

John K O'Hara, Washington, PA
Armand R Taddeo, Toms River, NJ
Channing H Morse, JR, Wareham, MA
Skip Maglio, Kingsford Heights, IN
John E Sigler, North Canton, OH

as of July 31, 2003. Their names are now listed in the on line roster.

Gregory J Malm, Warwick, RI
James J Bolton, Manakin-Sabot, VA
James J Toth, Millrift, PA
Ken D Frost Jr., Wake Forest, NC
Patrick J Murphy, Clayton, NC

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

Robert B Diefenderfer, Walnutport, PA
Gina L Ashton, Richardson, TX
Joseph J Grilly, Johnstown, PA
Michael M Dutton, Newport, RI
Gary M Chase, Henniker, NH

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 December 1, 2003.

Cyril J Wasko, Trafford, NH
Judy A Smith-Atwood, Colfax, IA
Albert V Klivickis, Oconto, WI
Paul S Bruemmer, Watertown, PA
Donald J Clayton, Wexford, PA

Notes from the Secretary Treasurer

Thank you for cards and flowers

Thanks to all of you who sent me wishes for a speedy recovery following recent triple bypass surgery. One doesn't know the depth of their friends until something

Stamp Thank You

It is evident that some of you are saving stamps for me to use in various stamp collecting outreach programs. Saving all of the stamps I sent you over the year and sending them back with your next years membership dues

Ongoing Communication with Bachmann

It may seem that Bachmann is not listening to us, the PCA members. As an officer of the club, I feel it is necessary to keep open channels of communication with Bachmann. That is the only way, other than sales figures to really know what we, the collectors would like them to do. I am in communication with both Bachmann's

Incorrect Email addresses

Please send me your current email address if you did not get a notice that this newsletter was in the mail. Your

like my surgery happens to them. Your get well soon wishes and flowers were greatly appreciated.

seemed to be the method of choice of many of you. I thank you for your efforts as do the youngsters who will benefit from your efforts.

Marketing Manager and their Communications Manager. Both of these gentlemen are made aware of what we would like from them on a continuing basis. An example of their willingness to work with us is their offer to work with us on a 5th anniversary piece for the PCA. They can't grant us all of our wishes but they are listening.

lack of notification probably indicates that I have an incorrect email address.

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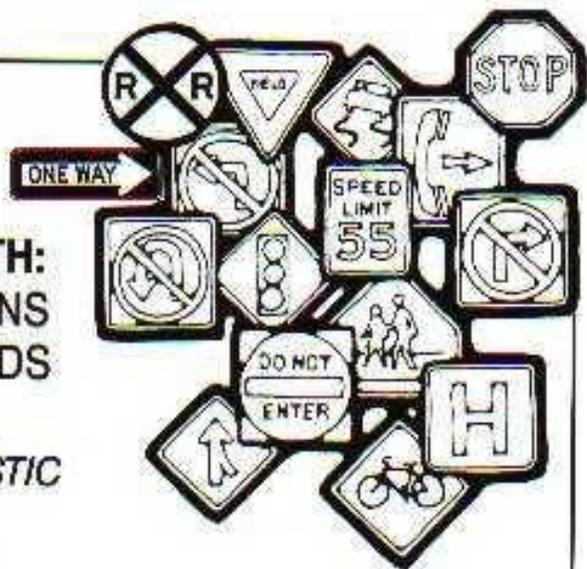
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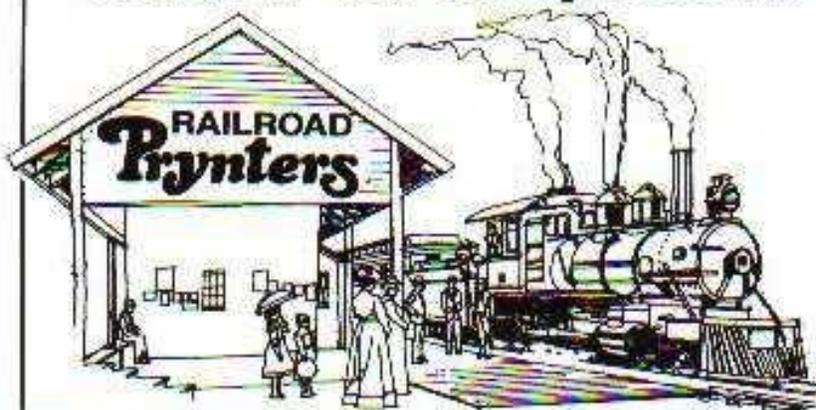


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Note:

Member information such as name, address, email address, and member number should not be considered part of the word count.

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.

For Sale

45979 Coaling station. Complete in box. Best Offer. mfrankfsa@yahoo.com, #02-189, Michael Frank, 100 Arden St., (5B), New York, NY 10040 (Aug 04)

Reasonable Priced Plasticville for sale - I have parts, buildings glued, unglued, or Boxed. Call, email or write to Bill Hunter for items wanted. dbhunter@fuse.net. #01-25, Bill Hunter 1333 Ashford Drive, Florence, KY. 41042 Phone: 859-525-7183 (Oct 03)

#0700 Banks Dist. by King, both color combos available, NIB \$30 ea or \$50 for both. DE-7 Diner complete OB red \$25. 1801 Bank, 1607 Firehouse, 1614 Police Station, all complete VG condition, \$125/lot. CC-9 Church, complete, all tabs present OB w/insert \$20. 1900 Turnpike, complete, excellent condition, OB \$75. lconway@jadecorp.com. #01-26, Lou Conway, 6984 Ely Rd, New Hope, PA 18938 (Jul 03)

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 gfuglewicz@aol.com or send a SASE to #02-93, Jerry Fuglewicz 11262 Sunrise Lane East Aurora, New York 14052. (Feb 04)

20% discount to those who are both PCA members and Plastic Village Gazette subscribers. Mostly 1950's vintage o-gauge Plasticville, many with OB. Example: PO-1 Post Office (gray roof), excellent, \$45 less discount

For Trade

Littletown #315 Spruce Trees, 3 boxes plus master carton. 12 trees per box. Tape on end flap of each box. 1905 Town Hall, complete, OB, VG condition. 1900 Turnpike, complete, VG condition, OB cellophane bag opened with small parts. ON-5 Outdoor necessities on card, VG condition. JC-3 Fence Tree unit, rare. lconway@jadecorp.com #01-26, Lou Conway, 6984 Ely Rd, New Hope, PA 18938 (Jul 03)

Have 36 shoeboxes with some large and small parts. Will trade for boxed buildings or what do you have? All clean,

The names of pieces offered in the classified ads should 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 under 50 words if payment for the excess words is not included with the ad.

= \$36. See my list on the PCA Trader page for more. Also see parts list. jandjgott@juno.com #01-24, John Gottcent, 3912 W Oregon St, Evansville, IN 47720 (Jul 03)

0400 Mobile home, cream/blue, mint \$60 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. factf@juno.com #02-87 Lawrence Fachler, 6 Bosko Drive, East Brunswick, NJ 08816-4542 (Aug 04)

1922 Two Story House, sealed box \$32. 1624 House Under Construction, light gray, boxed \$80. 1606 Barnyard Animals, boxed, \$25. 1608 School w/flag, hard box, \$30. PO-1 Post Office, boxed, \$25. 1621 Motel W/3 cars boxed, \$32, SM-6 Small Supermarket, boxed, \$25. 1952 Loading Platform and Shanty, sealed box, \$25. #02-101 Paul Gurchik, 203 Horseshoe Dr, Ebensburg, PA 15931(Aug 04)

Distressed Property Liquidation! Plasticvillian is foreclosing on the widders. Have homes, farms, businesses, railroad property and public buildings. Asking 7 parcels for \$30. First come, first pick. Nothing held back. Is your Plasticville power grid adequate? Avoid those major blackouts. Add 30 phone poles for \$10. r_spyv@hotmail.com. #02-154, Robert Spivey, PO Box 33484, Decatur, GA 30033-4842. 404-633-6777 afternoons and evenings. (Aug 04)

no glued parts. Send me your list of parts you are looking for. SASE, please. #02-101 Paul Gurchik, 203 Horseshoe Dr, Ebensburg, PA 15931 (Aug 04)

What are you looking for? If you have Plasticville O-S grandstands, I'll trade for them. Tell me what you're in search of. All I need is (4) sets of grandstands. I'll take built, no boxes, just grandstands. Doing a Rose Bowl parade in Plasticville but need original stands. Artktom@yahoo.com. #02-104, Art K Tom, 6866 N DeChelly Loop, Tucson, AZ 85741 (Nov 03)

My dairy door or vent = your barn weathervane. My New England windows = your small roof section. My motel door = your New England door. My two story parapet = your rooster or antenna (red). My Split level chimney = your mansion chimney. My apartment antenna = your

Wanted

Ideal Tiny Town Buildings, HO scale, manufactured by Ideal Models, New York. Kits must be in original boxes, unbuilt. Looking for B12, oil storage depot, B21, Gas Station, B22 Wayside Diner, B8, factory, B15 block of stores, B32 mine building. Also: B35, B37, B11, B9, B7, B31, B28, B30, B33, B5, B20, B27, B34, B11, B4, B2 and B17. #01-81, Chris Rossbach, 135 Richwood Dr., Gloversville, NY 12078 (Aug 04)

Ranch houses, complete in box. Split Level houses, complete in box. F&F toy cars to go with Plasticville Village. #02-101 Paul Gurchik, 203 Horseshoe Dr, Ebensburg, PA 15931 (Aug 04)

GO-2 Gas Station. Must be complete with excellent or better box, and reasonably priced. I'm also looking for a couple of Plasticville HO Center Square kits and HO vegetable garden sets. Boxes or complete sets not required for the HO items. Contact, Joe Kutza, #99-1, at kutza@erols.com or (301) 528-6679. (May 04)

Wanted O-S Plasticville grandstands, need 4, no boxes OK, built or unbuilt OK. I'll even take parts if that's all you have. Artktom@yahoo.com. #02-104, Art K Tom, 6866 N DeChelly Loop, Tucson, AZ 85741 (Nov 03)

Wanted: Work car – brown/black sides, gray/black roof and trim. Plow – red w/yellow trim. #02-157, John Torgerson, 2712 Del Ray Ave, LaCrosse, WI 54603 Ph. (608) 783-3785 (Nov 03)

Wanted: Porch roof and porch floor for red w/dark grey roof LH4 2-story Colonial house. johnln@netins.net #00-3, John Niehaus, 601 SE Second St., Ankeny, IA 50021-3207 (Nov 03)

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 #01-4, Thomas Fritsch, 630 Wyandot Ave, Akron, OH 44305-1832. (Nov 03)

Want switch tower or crossing shanty signboards, stovepipe. Will pay by sending any major marble switch

switch tower marble signboard. r_spyv@hotmail.com. #02-154, Robert Spivey, PO Box 33484, Decatur, GA 30033-4842. 404-633-6777 afternoons and evenings (Aug 04)

tower parts. Want colored people. Will pay by sending you road racing people. Want airport antenna array. Will pay by sending you a union station clock or a church cross. Want a sawhorse for a sandpile. r_spyv@hotmail.com. #02-154, Robert Spivey, PO Box 33484, Decatur, GA 30033-4842. 404-633-6777 afternoons and evenings (Aug 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. #01-81, Chris Rossbach, C/O Restoration Train Parts 135 Richmond Dr., Gloversville, NY 12078. (Apr 03)

1701 New England Ranch House with red roof. 1609 Street Accessories blister pack. Fire Helmet pencil sharpener for Jr. Fire Chief make 'N Play. Paper shield only if available. Plasticville people molded in various colors. SP-8 Master Unit box to be in good condition. SL-1 dealer box Boulevard Lights lconway@jadecorp.com #01-26, Lou Conway, 6984 Ely Rd, New Hope, PA 18938 (Jul 03)

Wanted: ANY Plasticville, Littleton and Skyline Churches, (only with original boxes and accessories please), Contact jge107@psu.edu #01-39, Josh Erling, 821 Southgate Rd, Apt B-11, State College, PA 16801 (Apr 03)

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 #01-39, Richard Sipes, 839 First St, Nescopeck, PA 18635. (Jul 03)

Upper walkway for the coaling station, cape cod front wall in salmon with white trim. #01-44, Steven A Brown, 1704 2nd St., Rensselaer, NY 12144 (Oct 03)

I am looking for any small marbled parts to the Hobo Shacks & RR Work Car. A brown marbled light and base for the Watchman's Shanty, brown marbled spout for the Water Tank, gray marbled smokestack and sign for the Switch Tower. All O scale. Blushing@hotmail.com #02-106, Brent Shingler, 1629 Kauai Ct, Gulf Breeze, FL 32563 (Jul 03)

CS-5 Dime Store roof (red). 1615 Water Tank ladder (brown). BN-1 Barn roof vent (white). BN-1 Barn horse weathervane (red). PD-1 Police Station chimney cap (green). 1629 Bungalow arbor fence (white). PH-1 Town Hall weathervane. SC-4 School House weathervane (red). 1960 Bank large canopy (green). 1407 Watchman's Shanty light (gray). jandjgott@juno.com #01-24, John Gottcent, 3912 W Oregon St, Evansville IN 47720 (Jul 03)

1808 Charcoal roof 2-story house. 1701 Red Roof New England Ranch, 1852 Dark Blue Ranch, 1852 Aqua blue Ranch, LCCA Barn w/ "See Rock City", 1707 Loading Platform Box, 1611 Hardware Box, 1705 Ranch house box, 1812 Ranch house box, 1614 Police Dept Box chuckaboom@juno.com #02-183, Charles Swanson P.O. Box 33042 Knoxville, TN 37930 865.693.5740 (Nov 03)

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SC-4 School \$15.
DE-7 Diner \$18.

BK-1 Bank \$25.
FH-4 Fire Dept. \$15.
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5013 Gingerbread House \$300.
5011 Old Lady In A Shoe (Red, Yellow or Green) \$600.

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Antenna Set (2 pieces) \$5.
House Under Construction: Shovel, Hoe, Bucket, Rake, Saw Horse \$3. ea.
Air Administration Building: Ladder \$15.; Canopy \$12.; Handrail Set \$12.
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Air Hanger: Windsock \$3. ea.
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Log Cabin: Chimney \$3. ea.
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Gingerbread House: Brick (white, tan or chocolate) \$6. ea.
3 Men In A Tub: Oar (red or yellow) \$5. ea.
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