



# The Villager

The official newsletter of the Plasticville Collectors Association

Volume 3

February 2004

Number 1

## Officers for 2003

No members were nominated to run against any of the three seated officers. It was decided by the Executive Committee to spare the club the expense of mailing ballots and to declare the current officers elected due to

the lack of any contending nominations.

The officers of the PCA for 2004 will be Joe Kutza, President, Doug Gilliatt, Vice President, and John Niehaus, Secretary/Treasurer.

## An e-Bay High Seller



Why would this seemingly common set of fence and two trees sell, with a box, for over \$100 on e-Bay? The accompanying story may explain why.

The picture at left is of a lot that was listed on e-Bay in early March of last year. The final bid was well over \$100 for a seemingly common item. What was it that made the bidding reach such a high level?

Here is what Bill Nole said of this item in Issue #8 of the *Plastic Village Gazette*. "The JC-3 Build-A-Fence box is mostly red with a black upper third of the box and white insert for information. The box pictures three people on the cover along with a Cape Cod house, two trees, fence and two birdbaths. The fact is the JC-3 includes only 24 pieces of white picket fence (22 pieces of white fence and two picket fence gates) and two evergreen trees.

Although the box pictures two white evergreen trees, they often came in several variations. I have found the JC-3 with two red evergreen trees, two translucent green evergreen trees, two translucent red evergreen trees, two white evergreen trees, two dark green evergreen trees, and one translucent red evergreen and one translucent green evergreen tree. This is quite an assortment of combinations but the most important element here is the JC-3 box."

If you look at the evergreen trees offered in this kit they are green but have white bases and trunks.

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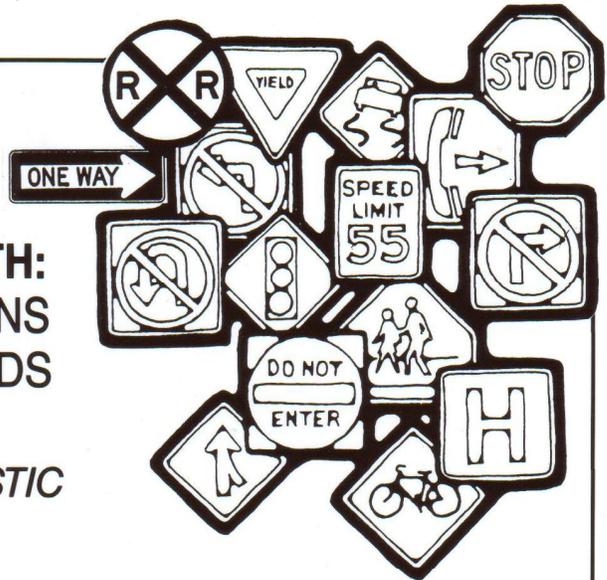
Did you know that you can view a color version of *The Villager* on the PCA website! You may also print it from the website on your color printer. All that you need to see it in color is a user name and a password so that you can get into the Members Only section of the website. You may request a user name and password by contacting the PCA Secretary at [secretary@plasticvilleusa.org](mailto:secretary@plasticvilleusa.org) or mail a

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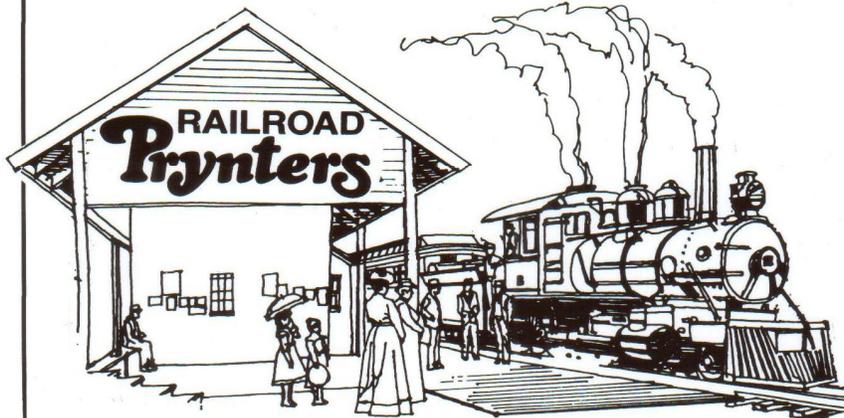


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## From the President's Desk



Hello fellow PCA members. I hope that all of you had a happy holiday season, and will have a Happy New Year! The beginning of a new year is always a busy time for the PCA officers. We plan a strategy for the rest of the year, keep up with member renewals, and work on getting the first issue of *The Villager* to print.

The schedule change for *The Villager* has been very helpful in this regard. Trying to publish an issue in January was quite trying in light of the holidays, renewals, and elections.

Speaking of renewals, we currently stand at an 85% renewal rate. At this point, that's very impressive. Given our experience with last year, I'm sure that most of the 15% who did not renew, will do so within the next month or so. People just forget, and when they realize that they missed an issue of *The Villager*, or can no longer login to the Members Only area of the web site, the last renewals come in! I fully expect to achieve a renewal rate of about 95%.

Regarding elections, the only nominations we received were for the current slate of officers. John, Doug, and I are all honored to have the opportunity to serve the PCA for another year! We look forward to your continued support, and the continued growth of our organization. However, at the same time, we realize that at some point we should shake things up a little. A new officer here and there will help to bring in new ideas and views. Keep that in mind for next year, and in the mean time, we welcome any comments or ideas you may have to improve the PCA.

Let me take a moment here to toot the PCA's own horn! Did you realize that we are starting our third year as an incorporated not-for-profit organization? It's true. While I informally started gathering members in 1996, we didn't become official until 1999. Since 1999 we gathered 250 members! About 200 of those are still active. Our

newsletter *The Villager* has grown considerably from 12 pages, to consistently being published with 24 pages. Although the hardcopy remains black and white, to keep our costs as low as possible, we now have an ALL-COLOR version available to our members with internet access. Contact John Niehaus for a username and password so that you too can read and print *The Villager* in color, from the Members Only section of the PCA web site.

People and business advertising in *The Villager* remains fairly constant. Don't forget that every member receives a free "for sale", "wanted", and "for trade" ad in each issue of *The Villager*, just contact John Niehaus with your ad (forms available on the PCA web site, or by regular mail through John).

The PCA web site continues to grow and to mature. We did a minor overhaul recently to improve ease of navigation around the site. We also continue to add more and more pictures to the site, and have developed pages for several lines besides Plasticville. Stop by and take a look at the site, and be sure to visit the PCA Trader page. We constantly update and add new listings.

Lastly, and somewhat sadly, we are now the only authoritative source for plastic village information. The untimely demise of the *Plastic Village Gazette* has left *The Villager* as the only regularly published source of plastic village information. Mike Cedro worked very hard to publish the Gazette, and was exceedingly dedicated to the project throughout its life. Although the Gazette will no longer be published, I'm heartened to know that Mike is working on a bound version of all the published Gazettes, and is also planning an updated version of the Pocket Price Guide. Furthermore, Mike also intends to share his knowledge of, and enthusiasm for, plastic village items by regularly contributing articles to *The Villager*. Thanks Mike! We look forward to your insights.

Well, that wraps it up for this time. Thanks for renewing your Membership in the PCA. We will continue to work hard for our Members, and will continue to work to fulfill our Mission. Keep in touch!

## Vice Presidential Insights

I hope everyone had a Wonderful Holiday Season and is having a good New Year.

Our organization continues to grow with membership reaching 250 and counting. However some of those members are no longer active and that is a shame since our organization is now the only authoritative source for information on Plasticville. If you know of someone who was a member and has not paid their dues for this year remind them what a great organization we have and all they are missing out on.

I, as well as our members am looking forward to Spring (Although Winter is not bad here in AZ). I am sure we are also looking forward to the flea markets, garage sales etc., hoping that Grandpa's train set is finally put up for sale along with its Plasticville. So I hope everyone finds something that is unique for their own collections.

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

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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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# A Little History of the Plasticville Central

## A Modular Layout

By Steve and Yolanda Borges

The Plasticville Central got its start in the early 1990's. I went to an auction of a local collector's estate and bought a box of Plasticville that included a large gas station, bank, large supermarket, pharmacy, colonial mansion, boxed chrome frosty bar, and parts of the road racing accessories. The box sat around for a few years until one day I showed them to Yolanda, my wife. I was afraid she would think that I was crazy still playing with trains, since we had just started dating at the time. She fell in love with Plasticville and the collecting began. Before long, we were going to shows and buying every piece there.

The actual Plasticville Central layout began as two corner modules for use with other local club members'



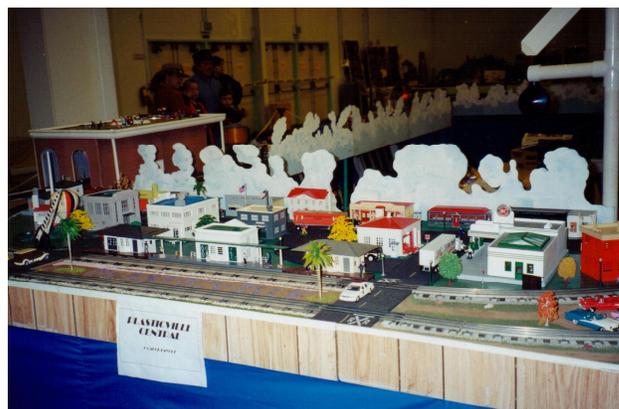
The layout has grown from two corner modules for use with other club members' modules to the current size of 12 x 28 feet.

modules. The modules were designed to showcase our collection of Plasticville (small at the time) and built to Tinplate Trackers standards. We began adding modules for more real estate until we reached the current size of 12 by 28 feet. The layout size can be anywhere from 8 by 12 feet up to full size in 4 foot increments.

We built the Plasticville Central layout to showcase the ever growing collection of Plasticville and other plastic village buildings. The scenery from the inside mainline to the outer edge is hi-rail with ground cover and landscaping. While inside the tracks is plywood painted John Deere Green. This sets the stage for a colorful town to be arranged in any way we may feel like that day. We have about 50 houses and building on the layout and they are switched out every 3 or 4 shows with other colors or buildings.

Most of the buildings are vintage pieces but we do use the new issues of the church, apartment house, hobo jungle, 2 new cape cods, and a Hershey factory.

Accessories are abundant on the Plasticville Central. As you look around you will find several outhouses, ponds, street lights, bird baths, trellis, BBQ's, yard pumps,



The train station has two variations of the grey suburban station in addition to the Union Station

animals, wishing wells, flag poles, farm implements, and most of the rest of the accessories catalogued. Making a call is easy in our town with 12 phone booths.

We enjoy sharing our collection with others and talking about Plasticville with them. It's a great feeling to see kids and adults get that "happy look" while viewing the layout. Whether it is someone reminiscing about their old Plasticville or discovering it for the first time, we are always glad to talk about Plasticville and the PCA. Hopefully we have influenced some people to enter the hobby over the years and if so then it has been well worth the effort.



Plasticville Central's version of tract homes, Cape Cod houses of every color combination except peach with brown roof and trim.



View of Plasticville Central's Main Street. (Right) and the town name, Plasticville, between the railroad tracks.

We have displayed the Plasticville Central across California at over 40 shows including the NMRA-Pacific Coast Region convention in 1997 and the TTOS national convention in 2000 aboard the Queen Mary in Long Beach. The layout in its present form was displayed for the last time in April at the California Antique Farm Equipment Show.

The original two modules have an estimated 3000 hours of operation and countless miles of travel logged, so it is time for a change. The two corner modules (possibly more) will be replaced and the whole layout will receive a facelift. Hopefully, we can be attending shows with the Plasticville Central and promoting the Plasticville Collectors Association by fall.

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## Baby's First Plasticville

By Armand Taddeo

My story begins in 1956 at the ripe old age of 2. While I cannot say I actually remember this, I must start at the beginning. I lived with my parents in a 5 story building in the Bronx. My grandfather was employed at that time with the New York Central Railroad and he decided a train set would be a wonderful Christmas present for his first born grandson.

I remember that set quite well as it stayed with us for the next 23 years until the day it was adopted by a (I assume) collector at my parent's garage sale. Lucky guy but who knew back then? Guess he did, uh? Sorry, I digress.

The set? A 2263W Lionel O gauge set which featured the debut of the engine 'with 2 faces'! That was my earliest impression of Lionel's brand new 2350 EP5. Still one of my favorites and according to my grandfather, he was one of the first in the Bronx to purchase one!

My dad put that set up every Christmas over the next 10-12 years but it was the 3rd year, 1958, that my own recollections start to kick in and the first thing that comes to mind are the Plasticville kits I received that year. That lonely oval, barren layout now had some company. Specifically a C-18 Church, as strict Italian Catholics we HAD TO HAVE A CHURCH, an HP-9 red roof Cape Cod, an FH-4 Firehouse, who didn't have one of these back then, a 1617 Farm Buildings/Animals kit, and last but not least, a Bridge and Pond. Now we were able to

have some real fun with the trains as it was starting to get old fast watching those cars going around in circles on that barren green felt covered piece of wood!

This became a Christmas staple for the next decade and soon I had the set up year round in the attic of our New Jersey home until that day the folks decided to sell the house and the trains and Plasticville wound up in the garage sale mix. After all, my interest at that point lay more with cars and girls, not necessarily in that order mind you, then toy trains and only then Plasticville! Sound familiar?

Fast forward to the mid-eighties. My interest in trains was rekindled when we received an LGB Circus set for my newborn son. It didn't take long for the memories to come rushing back and soon after, Post-War Lionel became an obsession for me. In my quest for trains, I would always pass a table or two with Plasticville for sale at shows. I didn't pay much attention to the little plastic structures until I acquired some nice items as a 'throw in' when I purchased an employee's train set. I soon became hooked on Bachman's 'lil treasures. Ahhh-full circle!

When I first started collecting Post-War Lionel, the first items I sought out were the 2350 and the 6 cars that accompanied it in my childhood set. Guess which Plasticville items I picked up first????

Yeah baby, those memories!

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## Along the “HO” Line

### eBay, Rarities, and Uncatalogued Boxed Sets?

By Dominic St. John

eBay, the name that causes angst in some and joy in others. Mostly all train collectors are familiar with the monster of all on line auction sights. Love it or hate it, there is no getting around the fact that eBay has made a major change in the way toy trains and accessories are collected. Those who are familiar with it will tell you it has made finding that special item so much easier. It simply puts anything you wish right at your fingertips. The hard part comes when you try to win it. You may be lucky and spend very little. Or you may spend more than it is worth. In any case you may not be in the position to own what it is your bidding on without the help of eBay. Most of us cannot travel the country looking for the next piece to add to a collection. So, instead, we sit in front of our computer and search the listings for our next conquest. Sometimes that winning auction brings more than you expect.

I have searched eBay listings for a number of years now. I am not ashamed to say that my collection of Gilbert HO trains has benefited greatly from my time on line. So has my collection of Plasticville HO. For my HO train collection there has been but one published guide, in which I trust, to help in my search. This particular book was a compilation of information from a number of Gilbert HO collectors around the country. My trusted train guide lists variations and rare items that have been found and documented. When it comes to the Plasticville HO line I have to rely, solely, on my collection of Plasticville HO catalogues. The Plasticville HO catalogues are very general, in information, at most and certainly were not written for the collector of plastic houses. That is where eBay and the cooperation between the collectors should come into play. The documenting of unusual items should, over time, uncover the scarcest of items that still exist.

Here is where eBay has directly changed the way my collection was built. Many of us will develop theories as it relates to our items of interest. Especially if you acquire a piece that doesn't quite match what has been documented up to that point. In my years on eBay I have come across a number of items that were not listed in any train collectors guide. I have literally found some items that were never known to exist. Yet they have been accepted by the collector as a legitimate piece. There is no doubt that others have found variations, just as I have, which challenged the contemporary view. Although in a smaller way, I believe I may have done the same with my Plasticville HO collecting. It is only with the assistance of eBay that I was able to find some items that fit this idea. Without eBay I may never have found these pieces. Many come from non train collecting people who visit their

local flea markets as well as estate sales. Their purpose is to sell exclusively on eBay.

Now could I have found an uncatalogued boxed set? Could it be a boxed set made, exclusively, for resale by a big name retailer? Did Bachmann have an agreement to supply some boxed sets to others and not just the hobby retailer? I am not the only HO collector who has a boxed set which doesn't match any catalog numbers. Fellow Plasticville collector Bruce Batten reports an HO boxed set #4800 “ALL HO ASSORTMENT” that can't be found in any HO catalog either. If you were to visit the PCA web sight [www.plasticvilleusa.org](http://www.plasticvilleusa.org) you can see the lists of HO catalogues as well as HO boxes that Bruce has supplied. When time permits we may ask if PCA President Joe Kutza would add a new category for uncatalogued boxed sets. For now I will attach a photo of the boxed set, I am referring to, as well as a few other kits of interest. I wonder if others who may have found the same thing with their collections would be willing to pass their findings along to the PCA. How about the O&S line? Do all the boxed sets correspond with catalog item numbers? Maybe I am wrong in my assumption and there is a simple explanation. Without cooperation between the collectors we may never know for sure.

Now in my collection I have recently added an unusual boxed set sold only at Target stores. It is the “Bachmann HO scale Railroad Buildings” identified with “Plasticville Assortment 2025” printed inside a small rectangular box found on the ends of the set box. This item number is not found in any Plasticville HO catalog. Near the upper right corner of the cover is found a white rectangular area where printed is a red bulls eye target and the words “This package sold only at TARGET”. I should think a set like this can be identified no other way than “uncatalogued”. The 2025 TARGET set is similar to another boxed set I have. Bachmann HO scale Railroad Buildings Set 2040 “six kit assortment” is found in the 1978 catalog. The box is the same size and design as the TARGET set box. That may help to date the TARGET set. There are six Plasticville HO items included in the TARGET set. All are very common pieces. Inside you will find a 2602 BARN, 2610 FRIEGHT STATION, 2629 SIGNAL BRIDGE, 2618 RANCH HOUSE, 2619 SWITCH TOWER and a 2807 GAS STATION.

The box cover suggests Bachmann made and supplied this set, exclusively, to the TARGET chain of stores. It could be sold no other place than TARGET just as it says on the box cover. Did Bachmann have the same agreement with any other retailers? What made TARGET so special? It is known that Bachmann supplied its kits to others for resale. This is not unusual. What is unusual is the fact that the retailers name is printed on a Bachmann

set box. Lionel as well as the A.C. Gilbert Co. had agreements with Bachmann for a number of kits to be sold under their respective names. But, both Lionel and Gilbert boxed the Plasticville kits in their own packaging and not boxes supplied by Bachmann.

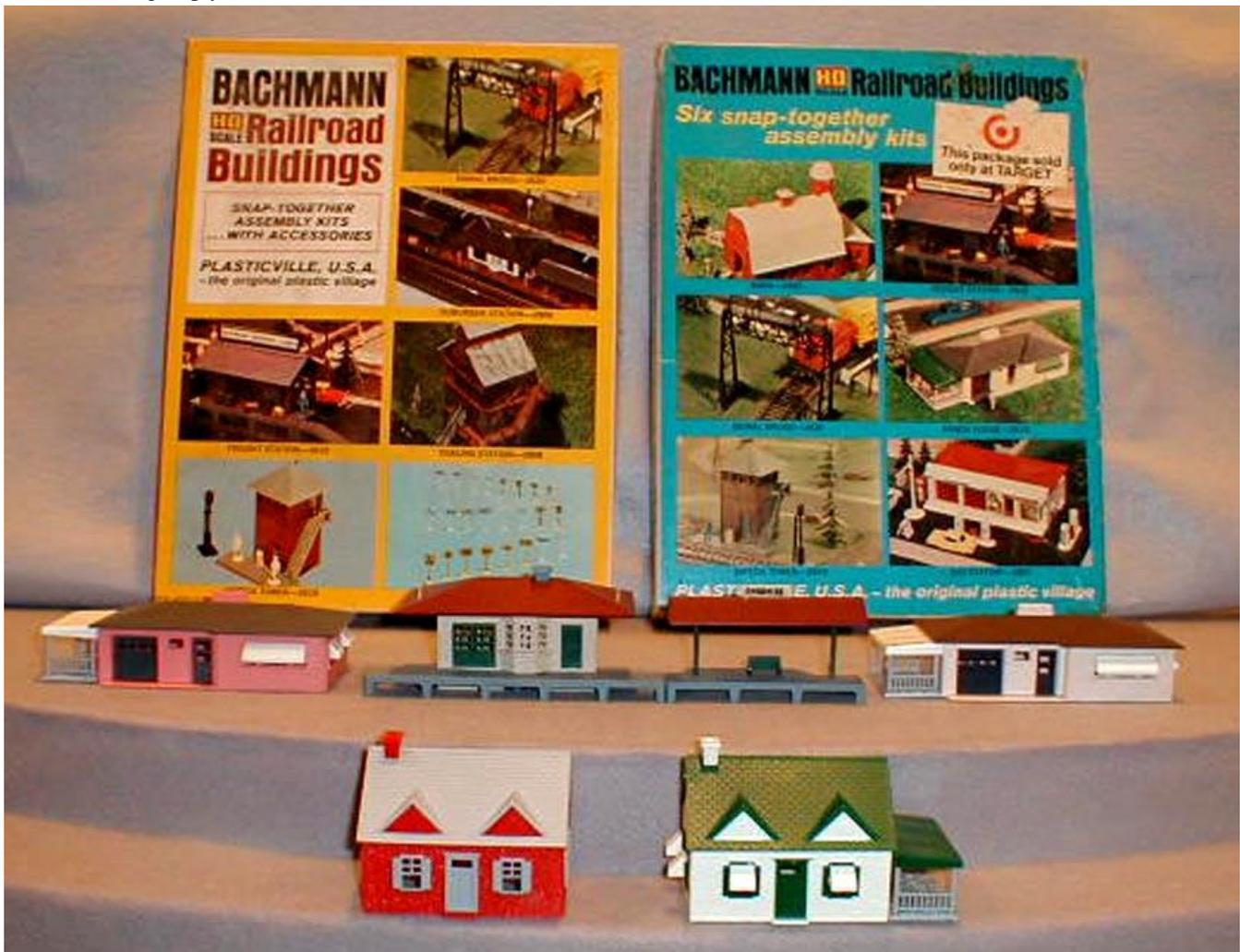
Could there be any other boxed sets or exclusive agreements with Bachmann at present? I would love to know more about this set. I would also like to know if anyone has found anything similar. Any and all information could be passed along to the members of the PCA so they could all share it. The Plasticville groups' @yahoo is a very informative sight to visit. It would be the perfect place to offer fellow PCA members something new to talk about.

In the photo that follows you can see the two boxed sets as well as some other HO items I have found on eBay. The limited number of times these pieces appeared has led me to believe they are possibly the scarcest of the HO line. Possibly due to the fact that only a few survived over the years? Or maybe their production numbers were among the lowest of the HO items. In any case they are an interesting group of kits in an eye catching array of colors. In the group you will see one HO House trailer. It

may be part of a future article for *The Villager*. Included is a Red Walled HO Cape Cod House. It has been reportedly found in an HO Farm Set and not in any other type box. These capes may well be limited in numbers. Another Cape shown is the White Wall with an almost Emerald Green trim. I have never seen this one before. It is new to my collection. Only time will tell if it is a scarce combination. Right now I tend to think it is. There are two Ranches in this group. One is a Salmon color and the other is a Pastel Pink shade. These two houses are not common either. I believe these to be low in number as well.

Included also is my very favorite HO Suburban Station. It brings together the two collections that I hold dear to me. It is the kit supplied by Bachmann to the A.C. Gilbert Co. for its HO scale Cheshire Passenger and Wayside Station accessory. Here is an exclusive color molded strictly for Gilbert. Never have I seen, nor have I found, another HO suburban Station with a maroon roof in the Plasticville HO line.

Happy hunting and looking forward to Spring.  
Till the next time, Dominic St. John



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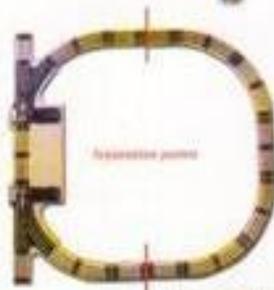
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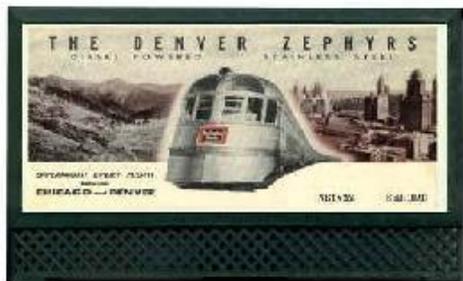
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# Playtown Buildings and their History

Doug Gilliatt

I discovered on eBay some really interesting Plastic buildings in O/O27 scale built by the British firm Playcraft and thought I would share what information I found on them. Here is the little bit of information I found on the Internet at the following site <http://www.playcrafttrains.com/Company%20Histories.htm>



During the last two years I have managed to collect all but the single car garage listed in the catalog. If you check out the inside cover of the catalog you will see they were announcing new buildings. As of now I have only seen the ones listed in the catalog. I wonder if they ever produced others (Church, School, or Depot)?

Also, I have sent along the pictures of all the buildings I have in my collection as well as pictures of each page of the catalog. In most cases only the boxes are shown as the contents is still sealed in their original plastic bags. My favorite building is the Police Station, with its really great large lamps beside the doors.

I would be interested in hearing from anyone else that collects these great buildings.



The following information is from the website listed above.

## **METTOY**

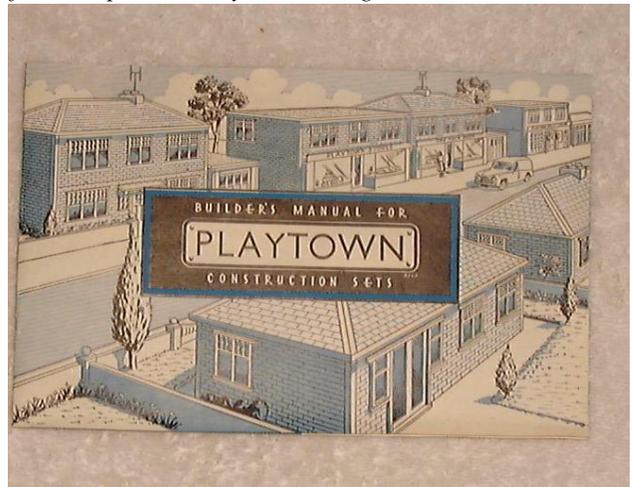
Phillip Ullman came from Nazi Germany to England to set up his Mettoy business in Northampton, with the help of Bassett-Lowke. Ullman left his German factory, Tipp & Co, to avoid the Nazi anti-Jewish activities, and to produce very similar tinsplate toys in the UK. Mettoy (Metal Toys) became popular and sold well enough before and after the 1939 war and included a large range of tinsplate railway items in the 1950's, mostly 'O' gauge.

In the end, Mettoy was to quit the tinsplate market and successfully enter the diecast metal business under the now very familiar trade name of 'Corgi'!

The factory in Northampton was known as Wintringhams Precision Models and was used by Mettoy, Trix Twin and Bassett-Lowke.

Although their headquarters was in Northampton, they also operated a factory near Swansea. In addition, Mettoy had secured the exclusive UK distribution rights for Canadian designed Aurora plastic construction kits. In the late 1950s they began to market the Playtown range of building construction kits for model railways. These seem to have been licensed from American manufacturers, such as LittleTown and Kleeware (which was an English Firm licensed to produce their own version of Littletown). They were packed in red and black boxes and featured an oval Playtown logo; both characteristics would re-emerge with the Playcraft Railways range.

*Author's comment: I disagree with the author above about using a license from Kleeware/Littletown, obviously from the pictures they are nothing like these.*



## **PLAYCRAFT TOYS LIMITED**

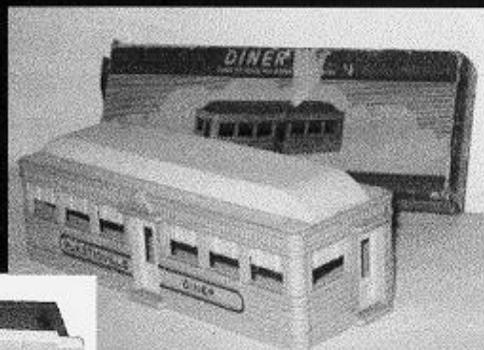
I have been unable so far to find out very much about Playcraft Toys Ltd. other than they were a sister company to Mettoy. In the mid-1950's they were involved at the birth of Corgi Toys, the popular diecast toys, which they launched on 9th July 1956. The name came from the Welsh breed of dog as both Mettoy and Playcraft were based in Forest Fach, near Swansea at the time.

The address on the back of the 2nd edition catalogue of 1962 was 14 Harlestone Road, Northampton and the products advertised included Corgi Toys, Electric Highways Model Motoring, Mettoy Playthings, Wembley Playballs, Sunshine Vinyl Toys, Child Guidance Toys and Aurora Playcraft Hobby Kits.

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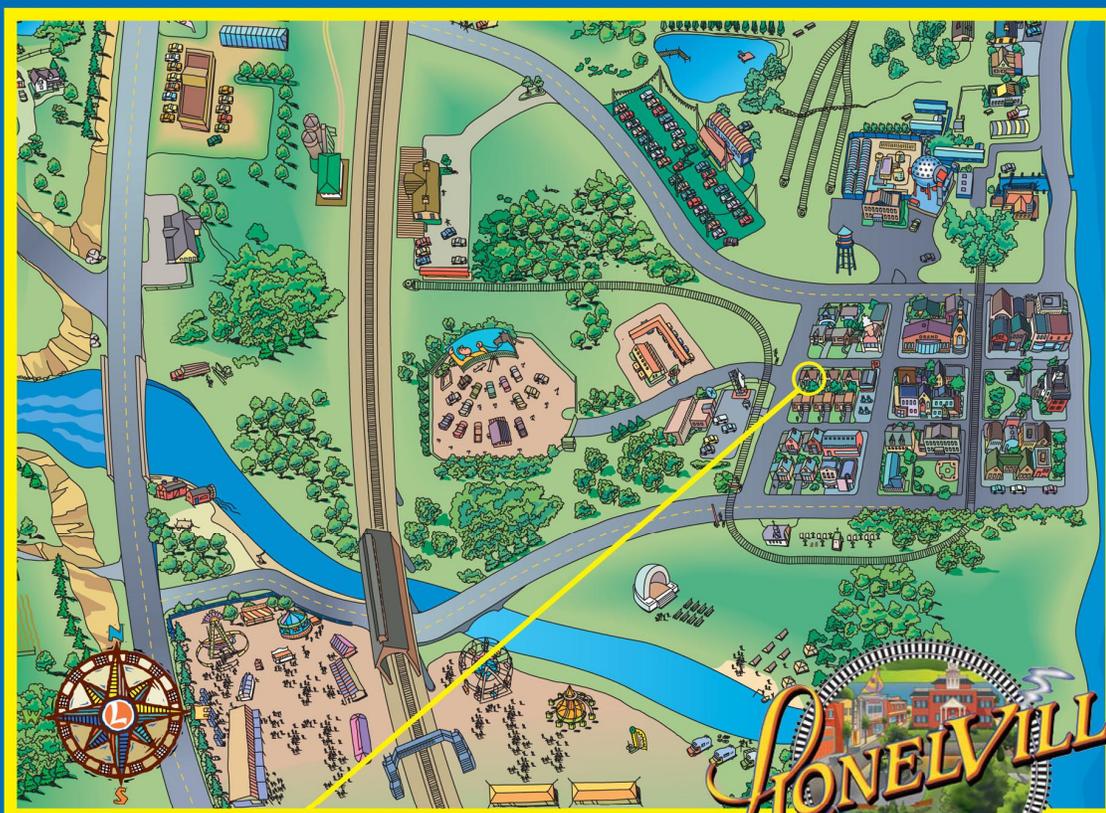


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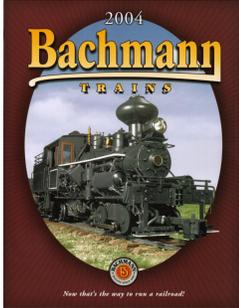
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## Literature Review



**Bachmann Trains 2004, full line catalog.** The Bachmann Trains 2004 full line catalog is now available. The catalog contains a complete listing of all train-related items Bachmann offers. Nearly half of the catalog is devoted to their Spectrum line of trains.

The most notable inclusion in the 2004 catalog as far as the

PCA membership should be concerned is a reference to the Plasticville Collectors Association. The Plasticville Collectors Association is mentioned on the leading pages of both the O and HO scale buildings and reads in part, "... (you can even join the independent Plasticville Collectors Association at [Plasticvilleusa.org](http://Plasticvilleusa.org).)

The biggest difference in the items offered this year is the inclusion of ten O scale and seven HO scale built-up buildings. The built-up buildings seem identical to the unassembled pieces of the same name except that they are

preassembled. (Look for a review of these built-up pieces in a future issue of *The Villager*.)

The O scale built-up buildings include the Coaling Station, Split-Level House, Town Hall, School House w/playground equipment, Two-Story House, Hobo Jungle, Loading Platform & Crossing Shanty, Country Church, Signal Bridge, and Trailer Park. Prices for the built-up pieces range from \$20 to \$28.

The HO scale built-up buildings include the Coaling Station, Pedestrian Bridge, House Under construction, Split-Level House, and Freight Platform with Platform Station, Dairy Barn, and the Water Tower. The prices for these pieces range from \$15 to \$20.

All of the unassembled (vintage style) O scale pieces listed in the 2003 catalog are still in the 2004 catalog with two exceptions. The green shade trees and autumn shade trees are no longer listed. The list prices have not changed from 2003.

All items for HO scale from 2003 are still in the new catalog. The prices listed in the catalog for these items are the same as the prices listed in the 2003 catalog.

### 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.

#### **Personalized address labels**

A sheet of 30, personalized, high-quality color labels are available from the PCA. The labels will include the PCA logo in color and up to four lines of address. Each label is a generous 1 x 2 5/8 inches. \$1.00 per sheet plus 50 Cents P&H regardless of the number of sheets ordered.

#### **PCA T-shirt**

Navy blue 100% cotton, short sleeve shirt T-shirt with the PCA logo printed on the front in white. Sizes available are Small, Medium, Large, X-Large, XX-Large, and XXX-Large. The prices are \$18 for small through X-Large, \$19 for XX-Large and \$20 for XXX-Large, shipping included, for each shirt. Please order the next larger size if you are concerned with fit. An order form is available on the PCA website or request a form from the Secretary at the address listed above.

#### **Additional items with the PCA logo**

Do you have an idea for an item? Contact John Niehaus at [secretary@plasticvilleusa.org](mailto:secretary@plasticvilleusa.org) or mail your suggestions to him at the address noted above.

## Hospital Furniture Inventory

A heavy cardstock second floor and furniture was added to the Hospital in 1954. The total amount of these pieces is 22.

Although difficult to positively identify some of the pieces as to their function or use, the following list is what most collectors believe to be accurate names. The number in parenthesis after the name denotes the quantity of that item.

Bed (7)	Straight Back Chairs (4)
Chest of Drawers (2)	Operating Table (1)
Anesthesia Cart (1)	Instrument Table (1)
4-space Bassinet (1)	Changing Table (1)
Sink (1)	Double Toilet (1)
Desk (1)	Office Chair (1)

## **NicksTrains.com**

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## Product Review



**Laserkit, laser cut assembly kits** by American Model Builders, Inc.

Laserkit manufactures laser cut kits of an assortment of buildings and rolling stock in various scales. Buildings are offered in O, S, HO, and N scale. There are 18 kits in O scale, 17 in S scale, nearly 100 in HO scale, and 34 in N scale. Prices range from \$99.95 for the very impressive O scale Martinsburg Coal Mine illustrated below to \$10.95 for the HO scale Company House.



The Company House is one of nine referred to as Xpress kits. These kits are designed to be priced affordable enough to allow a modeler to put many of them on their

layout. They are also designed for the first time modeler.

My review piece was the HO scale Company House Xpress kit. The kit arrived in two section poly bag with a header. The larger section contained all of the structure except for the cast metal chimney. It was in the second section by itself.

The kit not only contained the basic walls and roof pieces but additional detail pieces that really added detail to the structure. The details really make the model stand out when the piece is completed. The walls and roof pieces were of wood while the additional detail pieces were on heavy adhesive backed cardstock.

The walls have all openings for the doors and windows laser cut. The walls for this particular piece also have grooves laser cut into the exterior walls to simulate siding. Other buildings come with preprinted adhesive backed siding and roofing. The Company House comes with adhesive backed roofing material that with preprinted lines that simulate a tin roof.

Windows consist of a frame with a fixed upper sash. The lower sash is a separate piece that can be placed to simulate a partially closed, or fully closed appearance. "Glass" for windows is clear acrylic sheet stock with a paper backing. The backing may be removed or left on to simulate shades. The windows are placed in their respective opening and then held in place with another rectangle of material that simulates exterior trim. All of this creates an extremely fine three dimensional effect.

The doors are built up similarly. The upper part of the door has glass for it while the lower panel is simulated wood.

Included with this kit were adhesive backed pieces of roof edge trim and trim for the exterior corners of the

building. These pieces add additional detail to the piece while hiding the raw edges of the wooden roof and building corners.

The illustrated step by step instructions were very clear. It was suggested to paint both sides of any parts receiving paint to prevent warping. I used a dilute acrylic paint on the illustrated model and found it necessary to paint both sides of one piece before proceeding to the next piece. The pieces start to warp almost as soon as they receive paint. Though not mentioned in the instructions, I also placed the semi-dry pieces between waxed paper and under a heavy book overnight.

I was very impressed with the quality of this model. All of the pieces fit with no need for trimming. The wall



Photo of model built by the reviewer.

and roof pieces are cut so that one cannot assemble them incorrectly. The only cleanup I did was to sand the edges of the roof sections to remove the slight burrs left when they were separated from their laser cut frame.

I don't remember the last time I had such enjoyment building a model. This model may just prod me into trying my hand at more of these kits.

These kits should appeal to anyone who considers himself a high-railer. Any of Laserkits buildings should add realism to a layout.

Laserkit buildings can be purchased from various hobby shops around the country. A listing of shops carrying these kits is available at Laserkit's website [www.laserkit.com/laserkit.htm](http://www.laserkit.com/laserkit.htm).

The header on the poly bag offered an HO catalog or \$2 and an N, S, or O scale catalog for \$1. Laserkit can be contacted through American Model Builders, 1420 Hanley Industrial Court, St. Louis, MO 63144-1916 Telephone 314 968-3076.

## Product Review



**Personal Collection Organizer PCO2001**, version 1.5.7, by MCM Software. My first impression of this software is that it was originally designed as a

baseball card database with additional categories added on. I say this as many of the drop-down menus retain baseball card specific selections.

All of the items entered into PCO2001 are stored in one database. The choices you make as you enter the item determines under which category it will be stored. This is convenient if you have more than one collectible you may wish to catalog. Pre-installed categories include Comics, Models, Stamps, Cards, Coins, Diecast, and Trains. All other items are stored under the Generic category.

The software loaded quickly and easily on my computer from the supplied CD ROM. The total installation time was less than one minute. I found the program fairly easy to use with little or no difficulty in navigating between the various screens.

The main feature of this program, besides the ability to catalog your collection, is the option to include up to eight images of each item. The images must be in BMP, GIF,

or JPG format. Links (directory path and file names) to the images are stored in the program, not the actual images. This makes it very important to not move the files to a new location on your hard drive after they are associated with the program. A tip in the documentation suggests storing all pictures associated with the items in a separate directory. I would also suggest storing those pictures in an additional directory or on removable media to ensure you always have the data backed up.

Additional features of the program include the ability to sort by category. It is also possible to perform a search using from one to five criteria. The software also enables one to print reports based on your searches.

At an advertised price of \$9.99 this program should fill the need of any collector who may want an inexpensive method of linking pictures of his collection to entries in a database. My only problem with the software is that it is very obvious that the software was designed for cataloging baseball cards with additional categories added without removing the baseball card centric notations when working with these additional categories.

A free full working 30 day copy of PCO2001 can be downloaded from MCM Software's website. You may order a full working copy of PCO2001 on CD by contacting MCM Software at PO Box 1114, Monroe NY 10950-5207. The full working copy is \$9.99. There is also a \$3 shipping and handling fee.

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## Welcome New Members

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

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

as of December 1, 2004. Their names are now listed in the on line roster.

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

## 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 Dunn, Northbrook, IL  
James R John, Blue Springs, MO  
Casey Pfitzenmeyer, Montgomery, PA  
Denise M Samson, Stacy, MN  
Joel E Gorski, Moorpark, CA

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 April 1, 2004.

Robert Y Anderson, Chester, MD  
Allison M Minichiello, Bradford, MA  
John J Archer, San Joes, CA  
Ryan P Cornog, Parkside, PA  
Carol R Yaster, Blue Bell, PA

## Notes from the Secretary Treasurer

### **Roster format change**

Suggestions were made that the phone numbers of the PCA members be included in the next roster.

Both the 2004 printed roster and the on line version now include the phone numbers of members wishing that information to be available.

### **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 lack of notification probably indicates that I have an

**Chet Grodek**, #02-155, chet\_grodek@ars.aon.com  
**Alan Murray**, #02-84, alan-murray@mail.dnr.state.ga.us  
**James Toth**, #03-230, acvt@mercurylink.net  
**Grant Bowers**, #02-90, grantbowerscan@netscape.net  
**Gregory Malm**, #03-228, jmalm78225@aol.com

### **Thank you for the continued return of postage stamps**

My thanks to all of you who have saved up stamps over the year and sent them in with your membership renewal. I guarantee that the youngsters who receive them

### **Condolences**

Our condolences to Bill Nole on the recent loss of his father.

Your suggestions and comments are always welcome. They enable the editorial staff of *The Villager* to produce a continuously improving newsletter and roster. Thank you for your input.

incorrect email address. The email address listed after your name is the one currently in our records.

**Carol Yaster**, #02-252, hufflines@aol.com  
**William Westwood Jr.**, #03-218 westwood@gte.net  
**Carl Gustafson**, #02-112, tpagus@iximd.com  
**Thomas Friesner**, 02-170, tfriesner@pa.net  
**Robert Rumfelt**, #01-57, bobcatr@attglobal.net

appreciate your kindness. I always receive a thank you note from the people to whom I send the stamps.

## Suggest an Advertiser

Do you know of a business that may wish to advertise in *The Villager*? Contact the PCA Secretary at 515 964-0562, email at secretary@plasticvilleusa.org, or mail to PCA Secretary, 601 SE Second Street, Ankeny, Iowa 50021-3207. The Secretary will ensure that any suggested advertisers are contacted soon after receiving their name.



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- BL-8 SWITCH TOWER CHIMNEY
- BL-10 NEW ENGLAND RANCHER ANTENNA
- BL-11 NEW ENGLAND RANCHER CHIMNEY HALF
- BL-15 COLONIAL MANSION CHIMNEY HALF
- BL-16 POLICE ANTENNA
- BL-17 POLICE ANTENNA BASE
- BL-18 POLICE LITE BASE AND GLOBE
- BL-19 BANK,SCHOOL,POST OFFICE LITE BASE &GLOBE
- BL-20 SCHOOL HOUSE WEATHERVANE
- BL-21 TOWN HALL WEATHERVANE
- BL-22 FROSTY BAR STOOL
- BL-23 FROSTY BAR SIGN (\$3.50 each)
- BL-24 SMALL BARN WEATHERVANE (horse)
- BL-25 SMALL BARN VENT CAP W/HOLE
- BL-26 SMALL BARN VENT CAP W/O HOLE
- BL-28 COLONIAL CHURCH CROSS
- BL-31 PARISH CHURCH CROSS
- BL-32 SMALL COUNTRY CHURCH CROSS
- BL-33 SPLIT LEVEL RAIN SPOUT (short)
- BL-34 SPLIT LEVEL RAIN SPOUT (long)
- BL-39 TURNPIKE LITE HOLDER
- BL-40 TURNPIKE CONE (4 pcs set \$2.00)
- BL-42 FACTORY STAIR RAILING
- BL-49 HAYWAGON STAKE (8 pcs set \$2.00)
- BL-55 SUBURAN STATION & CAPE COD CHIMNEY
- BL-56 CAPE COD CHIMNEY
- BL-57 RANCH HOUSE CHIMNEY

- RED\_\_ WHITE\_\_ TAN\_\_
- RED\_\_ WHITE\_\_ TAN\_\_
- RED\_\_ WHITE\_\_ TAN\_\_
- RED\_\_ WHITE\_\_ TAN\_\_
- LT.BRN\_\_ DK.BRN\_\_ LT.GREY\_\_ DK.GREY\_\_
- WHITE\_\_ TAN\_\_
- WHITE\_\_ TAN\_\_
- WHITE\_\_
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- WHITE\_\_
- WHITE\_\_ YELLOW\_\_ SALMON\_\_
- WHITE\_\_ YELLOW\_\_ SALMON\_\_
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- RED\_\_ WHITE\_\_
- RED\_\_ WHITE\_\_
- TAN\_\_
- RED\_\_ LT. GREEN\_\_ YELLOW\_\_
- WHITE\_\_
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## The Villager Classified Ads

### **Note:**

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

Classified ads run for four consecutive issues unless a change is made to the ad or notice is given to remove it. The month and year at the end of each ad notes the last issue in which that particular ad will appear.

### **For Sale**

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

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

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. [facltf@juno.com](mailto:facltf@juno.com) #02-87 Lawrence Fachler, 6 Bosko Drive, East Brunswick, NJ 08816-4542 (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

### **For Trade**

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**

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@comcast.net](mailto:kutza@comcast.net) or (301) 528-6679. (May 04)

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

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

\$10. [r\\_spyv@hotmail.com](mailto:r_spyv@hotmail.com). #02-154, Robert Spivey, PO Box 33484, Decatur, GA 30033-4842. 404-633-6777 afternoons and evenings. (Aug 04)

AD-4 Airport administration building, original box, Complete, \$49. FH-4 Fire House with hollow siren, original box, complete, \$25. 1603 Ranch House, Turquoise sides, white roof, original box, complete, \$20. See complete list of Plasticville at [www.garystrains.com](http://www.garystrains.com). [gtrains@floodcity.net](mailto:gtrains@floodcity.net) #01-77, Gary Mosholder, 186 Pine springs Camp Rd, Boswell, PA 15531 (Nov 05)

Large box (power mower came in it) of miscellaneous Plasticville buildings, mostly glued, most missing parts large and small. Good for scratchbuilding, etc. \$25 plus postage. [leppertfam@aol.com](mailto:leppertfam@aol.com) #02-113, Louis Leppert, 8904 Adams Run Ct, Louisville, KY 40228 (Nov 05)

Plasticville Grandstand #1876 NIB (box shows some fading), complete, \$195 each. I pay all shipping and insurance. Full money back guarantee if not 100% satisfied. #02-152 Ralph Ciarlo, 515 Broad Ave, Leonia, NJ 07605-1538 (Nov 05)

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

Ideal structure kits. Kits must be in original boxes, unbuilt. Looking for B14 Brick House, B29 Cape Cod Bungalow, B27 Barn and Outbuildings, B39 Hotel, B8 Factory, B36 Firehouse, B37 Paper Mill, B11 Freight Station, B1 Combination Station, B38 Two Stall Engine House, B40 Passenger Platform, B7 Roundhouse, B31 Railroad Terminal, B41 Icing plant #01-81, Chris

Rossbach, 135 Richwood Dr., Gloversville, NY 12078  
(Aug 04)

Want switch tower or crossing shanty signboards, stovepipe. Will pay by sending any major marble switch 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: 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 04)

#1504 Mobile Home awning, white. Storytown parts, people, boxes, or poems. rsipes@webtv.net #01-39, Richard Sipes, 839 First St, Nescopeck, PA 18635 (Nov 04)

Complete, unglued, Skyline K-5 all white church, box not important. Littletown #102 Cape Cod houses, any color combination but must be complete and unglued. Cfrey57@aol.com #01-15, Chris frey, 234 Memorial Blvd, Newmanstown, PA 17073 (610) 589-2573 (Nov 04)

Motel 1 'R' Salmon end wall, 2 white roofs, 1 white walkway. Independence Hall, 1 clock wall side w/4 posts white w/black clock lettering, 1 clock wall front w/8 posts, black clock lettering. Turnpike Interchange, 1 blue door. #03-206, Robert F Rzasa, 379 Tully Rd, Orange, MA 01364 (Nov 04)

Cardboard Houses. Town Hall – white back door & cream railing. Yellow two-story house – front white door and middle white window. mundel@bellatlantic.net. #02-223, John O'Hara, 555 Bower Ave, Washington, PA 15301 (Nov 04)

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

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

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Bill Nole, 10073 E. Bryonwood Lane, Tucson, AZ 85730 - Telephone: 520-722-3835

Kim Nole, 319 Oak St., Dunmore, PA 18512 - Telephone: 570-343-2236

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PB-5 Footbridge \$4 each  
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Misc Traffic Light \$3 each  
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BN-1 Barn \$10.  
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SC-4 School \$15.  
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BK-1 Bank \$25.  
FH-4 Fire Dept. \$15.  
FB-1 Frosty Bar \$15.  
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5010 Castle (Yellow, White or Blue) \$250.

5012 Jack & Jill (Yellow or Red Well) \$250.  
5013 Gingerbread House \$300.  
5011 Old Lady In A Shoe (Red, Yellow or Green) \$600.

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Hobo Shack: Chimney \$5. ea; Curtain Rollup \$8. ea.  
Hospital: Siren \$3. ea; Straight Chair or Desk Chair \$2. ea.  
Bank: Red Light \$2. ea; Front Canopy \$3. ea; Side Canopy \$4. ea.  
Fire Department: Siren \$3. ea; Chimney Corner \$3. ea; Chimney Cap \$3 ea.  
Police Dept: Red Light \$2. ea; Chimney Cap \$3. ea; Chimney Corner \$3 ea;  
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.  
Jack & Jill: Pail (white) \$5. ea; Shrub (red, yellow or blue) \$5. ea; 1 of ea \$12.

School: White Light \$2. ea; Weathervane \$2. ea.  
Air Hanger: Windsock \$3. ea.  
Windmill: Ladder \$15; Wheel \$8.  
Log Cabin: Chimney \$3. ea.  
Cattle Pen: Cross Bars (2 holes or slot) \$5. ea; Set of 3 - \$12.  
Gingerbread House: Brick (white, tan or chocolate) \$6. ea.  
3 Men In A Tub: Oar (red or yellow) \$5. ea.  
Castle: Flag or Chain (red, yellow, blue or white) \$5. ea.  
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