



The Villager

The official newsletter of the Plasticville Collectors Association

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May 2004

Number 2

Breakfast Cereal Billboard Premiums

By John Niehaus



Billboards described as Plasticville billboards are put up for auction on eBay with some regularity. One soon determines that they are not Plasticville upon closer inspection of the illustrations. It had been a mystery to me as to how one style of these non-Plasticville billboards came into being for some time. The mystery is now solved thanks to the Cereal Box collectors Yahoo group.

The billboards are in fact a Kellogg's cereal premium. Each billboard came wrapped in clear cellophane inside a box of Kellogg's Sugar Frosted Flakes.

The billboards were packed in boxes of Frosted Flakes cereal during 1956. From all indications it was a relatively short promotion although at least two different box designs were used.

The advertising on the boxes state, "Free Inside. One of eight different signs", or something similar. It seems as if there were a total of four sets comprising the "eight signs". This theory is based on the fact that the cardstock advertising inserts are printed on both sides.

I have three different sets in my collection. The advertising on these include one set with Juicy Fruit Gum on one side and a Pepsi Cola ad on the other. Another set illustrates Gleem toothpaste on one side and Minute Maid orange juice on the opposite side. The third set shows Lipton Soup and a Look Before You Cross Streets safety admonition.

My knowledge of the fourth billboard is limited to the illustrations on the cereal boxes. One side of this billboard carries an AC Oil



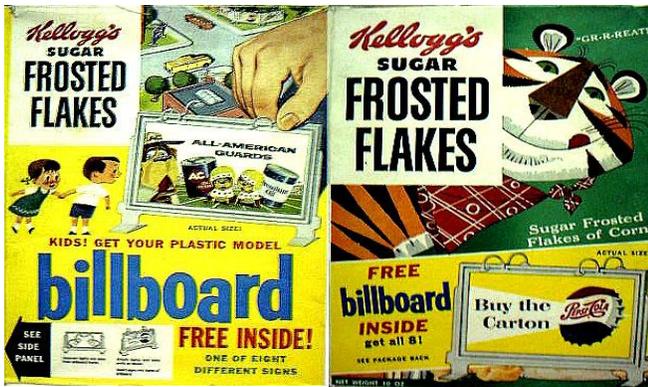
Frosted Flakes billboard premiums as packaged for insertion into the cereal boxes.

Filters advertisement. I have yet to be able to determine what is on the opposite side.

There are some noticeable differences between these billboards and actual Plasticville billboards.

The Frosted Flakes billboards come in a clear cellophane wrapper. Plasticville billboards were never wrapped in cellophane.

Each billboard has two removable feet. Each foot is held in place by two small projections that insert into holes in the foot.



Front views of Frosted Flakes cereal boxes offering a "FREE billboard INSIDE"

Two pieces shaped like number three attach to the top frame of the billboards. They were

designed to simulate the lighting of both sides of the billboard.

The advertising inserts were printed on both sides. True Plasticville inserts are printed only on one side.



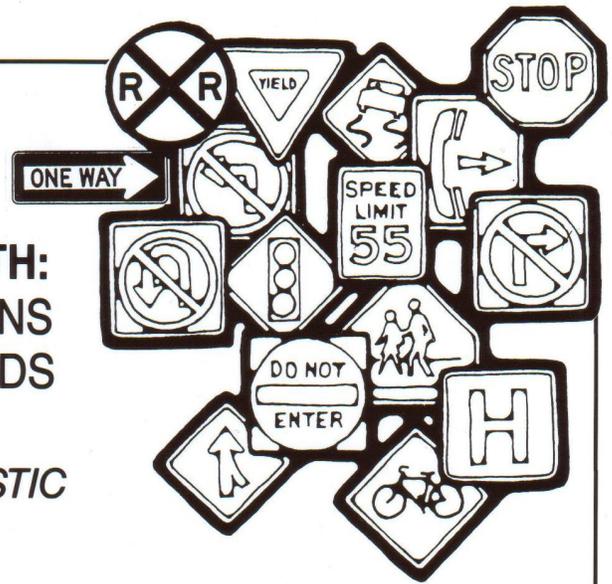
Billboard with feet and simulated lights

The only color the billboards were molded in was white to the best of my knowledge.

The entire billboard, including feet and lights was molded in one piece. The feet and lights were molded on a sprue inside the frame of the billboard. It is an educated guess that some of these pieces, especially the light assemblies were broken when being removed if they were not very carefully separated from the frame.

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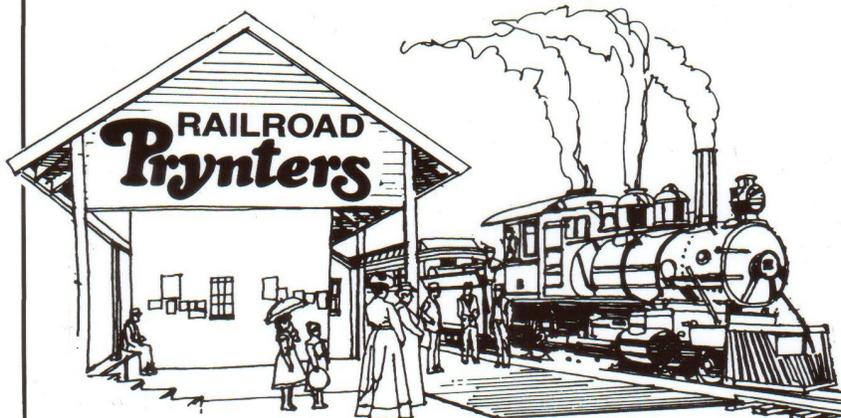
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From the President's Desk



Spring has sprung, and so have the flea markets and yard sales! That means it's time to starting hunting for Plasticville again. eBay, and the internet in general, has changed the way most of find our treasures, but there's still nothing better than a few pieces of Plasticville at the bottom of a box, under a table, at a flea market. Spring also brings the April edition of the TCA's York meet. See the "York Report" later in this issue for a description of what we saw, and who we met.

The last issue of "The Plastic Village Gazette" came out recently. We discussed the sad demise of this fine periodical in the October issue of "The Villager", but we are happy to say that as a result of Mike Cedro adding a PCA Membership application in each copy of issue #12, nearly 30 new members have joined the PCA. Thanks Mike! With those thirty or so members, we have now signed up almost 300 total members since the PCA was incorporated. About 240 of those are still active members. Not bad at all.

Thank You! It's rare that I can use that phrase when talking about the ePCA, but there has been a nice increase in PCA Members opting to receive The Villager on-line only. As you probably recall from my financial

discussions, printing and sending hard copies of our newsletter is out single biggest expense. If we can keep adding members to the ePCA project, we will be assured of financial stability and little or no increases in our annual dues. Contact John Niehaus to let him know if are willing to receive The Villager through the PCA web site and forego the paper version. You may contact John at secretary@plasticvilleusa.org

Related to the ePCA, we have implemented a new procedure for members who want to receive back issues of The Villager. Until now, all issues have been available in the member's only section of the PCA web site. However, as the number of newsletters accumulated, we were starting to experience a shortage in storage space. So now we will only have a few recent issues (no less than four) on the web site, and any new members who join will be able to order back issues for a nominal fee. This will save us some space and bring in a few dollars of revenue. It was getting hard for us to justify keeping all issues on-line whereby a new member paying \$8 could have access to all. It just didn't seem fair to our charter and long-time members.

That's it for this time. In the next issue of The Villager, I'll describe some upcoming changes to the PCA Trader web page! As always, please contact us if you have any ideas or comments for making the PCA a better organization.

Vice Presidential Insights

Well another hot summer is beginning to dawn out her in Phoenix. It is time again for Garage Sales/Flea Markets and rearranging the collection and the layout. I hope all of our members had a great spring and that the members that made it to York found some goodies.

It again has been another period of growth for our organization with our membership continuing to grow. It has been a remarkable time and I have been proud to be a part of the growth.

Hopefully, everyone has enjoyed the articles/pictures in/on both the Villager and the PCA Website and would

ask that we all try to contribute an article and/or pictures of interest for either the Villager or the PCA Website. We need to continue to expand our knowledge and our history of Plasticville and the other manufacturers.

I hope to see some of the members at the 50th Anniversary TCA meet in Pittsburgh in June, since I was unable to make it to York. Please contact me and maybe we can get a group of us together.

Last, I want to remind everyone please remember to patronize the advertisers who support the PCA.

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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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Plasticville: The Acme of Evolution?

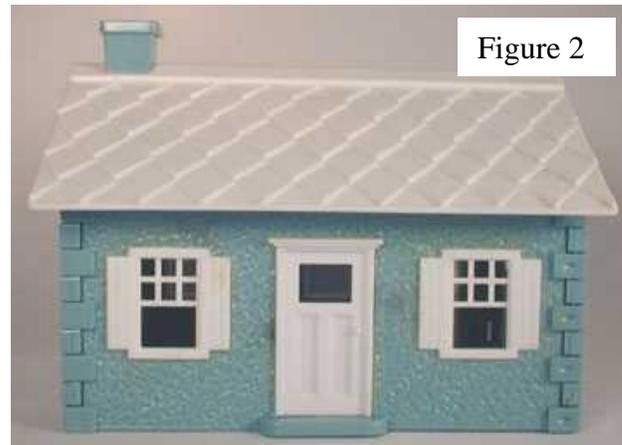
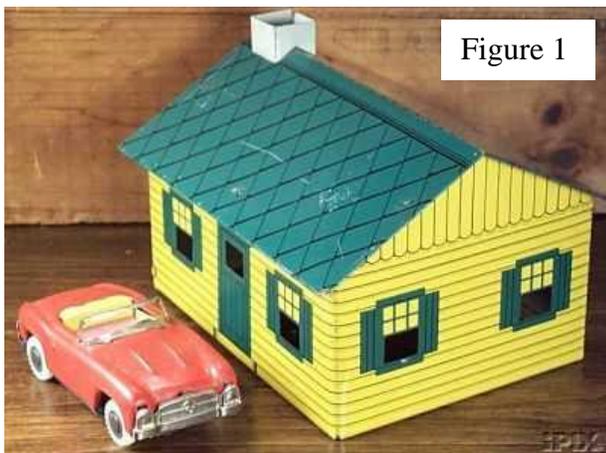
By Joe Kutza

Although a detailed timeline and thought process may never be known, it's evident that buildings for use with toy trains have evolved in the following basic order: paper/cardboard, then tin, then plastic, then ceramic. There is plenty of room for argument on the relative merits of each material. While my bias is toward plastic, I like to have a little of each both in my collection, and on my Christmas layout.

Why paper and cardboard? Well, these buildings appear in the early part of the century, when these materials were cheap and readily available. While the industrial age was in full swing, for many people, tin was still an expensive option, and plastic was yet to be discovered. It's interesting that a small increase in popularity of paper items was evident during World War II when metals were scarce, and plastic was just starting to become available. I've even seen entire paper train sets. Paper/Cardboard items come from several different manufacturers. I am most familiar with the Skyline Buildings in cardboard, paper, and wood. They are most likely from the 1940's and represent actual Philadelphia buildings. Remember, like Bachmann, Skyline was located in Philadelphia. Upon opening the box of a Skyline cardboard building, you are presented with what looks like a thousand pieces waiting to be put together. The detail is quite impressive. In fact, although I've owned several of these buildings over the years (all sold now) I never actually put one together! See the advertisements for Restoration Train Parts in various issues of *The Villager* for more information on Skyline buildings. Other paper/cardboard manufacturers that come to mind include Warren Paper Products, Royal, Town-Craft by Capella Models, Schoenhuts Hollywood Builder, and Milton Bradley. The last two seem to be more prevalent in the 1920's and 1930's. Finally, in the cardboard line, there are the dime store type buildings that were often made in Japan. They were pre-assembled, often had lichen trees, and sometimes sparkles meant to be snow. They were easy to

crush, and the paper and cellophane doors and windows are often punched out. These are great little buildings that were common in Christmas gardens of the late 40's and 50's. Stop by Papa Ted's web site for more information on these buildings (<http://www.papatedsplace.8k.com/>). If you have any of these, or items from other manufacturers in your collection, please send your information to me (manufacturer, item, dates). As time permits, I'd like to increase our collective knowledge of these forbearers to modern plastic buildings.

Next in our Darwinian analogy are Tin/Steel/Metal buildings. For ease, I'll refer to these collectively as "tin". Here's where the fun really begins. Tin is a sturdy construction material and buildings can be easily moved with no worry of significant damage. Perfect for the rough and tumble world of kids. While they can be scratched fairly easily, and there are occasional sharp edges to contend with they are much easier to deal with than paper. Of course tin items are not limited to buildings, it was a popular material for many toys in the 1930's, 40's, and 50's. The lithography on some of these items is just incredible. Many manufacturers entered into the tin building market, with big guys like Lionel and Marx leading the way. Marx took it all a step further with items like their Fort Apache and Cape Canaveral Playsets. Yet, several smaller companies like Skyline, H&H, and Jayline also provided us with many tin structures ideal for use with toy trains. A detailed discussion of tin buildings is not only beyond the scope of this article, but also beyond the scope of my knowledge! I do, however, want to take a moment to talk about an example of what I think is a tin structure that clearly evolved into a plastic building the Cape Cod-like buildings by H&H Sales and Manufacturing of Pittsburgh, PA. This tin Cape Cod (Figure 1) is so strikingly similar to the Plasticville Cape Cod (Figure 2) that I find it very hard to believe that Albert George McNeil and his colleagues at Bachman didn't use this as a starting point. Sure, Cape Cod houses



were common at that time, particularly in the Northeast, they could have drawn from what they saw everyday, but look at my reasons both for and against a direct lineage:

Similarities:

1. Roof Design. The roof patterns are almost identical in terms of shingle design, the smooth section along the ridge, and the placement of the chimney.

2. Window placement. Two windows on either side of the front door. Two windows to the right of the back door. Two windows on one side wall and 1 window next to one door on the other side wall.

3. Window design. Same windows on both. Six panes on the upper half, open on the lower half. Same window sill. Same three panel shutters on both.

4. Door placement. Front door in the middle, back door to the left of two windows, one side door next to one side window.

5. Door design. The doors are identical in design. One window at the top, two panels below. The same molding at the top. And the same doorstep.

Differences:

1. Siding material. The Plasticville Cape Cod has stucco-like material on the sides, while the tin building is clearly supposed to simulate wood siding. Additionally, the eave of the tin building has a vertical design of siding while the Plasticville version does not.

2. Chimney placement. Although the chimney on the tin building approximates the Plasticville version, the Plasticville chimney appears on the right of the front door, while the tin chimney appears to the left of the front door.

3. Chimney design. The tin version has a simple attached design that is always white, while the Plasticville Cape Cod has a lip around the top, is removable, and the color matches the walls.

Based on this analysis, what do YOU think? Are the H&H house and the Plasticville Cape Cod related, or is it just a coincidence? If you're on-line, head over to the Yahoo Plasticville Group and check out all of the tin building pictures uploaded by Bob Persing into the Photo section. Bob was nice enough to upload pictures from several manufacturers. Also, does anyone have other H&H buildings that are seemingly similar to Plasticville items? I'd like to see if I can make a stronger connection between the two lines. If you are not on-line, please drop me a note, or give me a call. I'd love to hear from you.

The inevitable grasp of evolution next brings us to: Plastic. There's not much need for me to talk about the early competitors to Bachmann, and their ultimate fate. That's a topic for another day. But why did plastic overtake tin? Well, the first thing that comes to mind is price. Plastic buildings could be mass produced much more cheaply, and much more quickly. They are lighter, and thus less expensive to ship. Next to price is

versatility. Once the mold is made, it can be used for many, many years (at least 50!). By injecting different colors of plastic into the mold, you have instant variety. Finally, plastic was "in" and tin was "out". Let's not forget the visionary role that Bachmann management of that era displayed. They went out on a limb by commissioning so many molds. They took the initiative by buying out other companies. They did the mass advertising. They brought plastic to us; and we bought it.

Today, Bachmann still has a role in plastic buildings, but more as the old standard rather than as an innovator. Today, I see innovation at K-Line. Have you seen their new line? While, yes, they used their standard (Marx) molds, they kicked it up a notch by adding motion and realistic details such as smoke coming from the chimney. I see innovation at MTH. How about their line of high end models? For instance, the Sinclair gas station and the McDonalds restaurant. It takes guts to put out something that nice, and that expensive, when they were probably unsure of how well they would sell. I even see innovation at Lionel. Their new Ferris Wheel was a long time coming for those of us interested in carnivals and fairs. Things like the Hobo Camp, and even the simpler army barracks fill a void. There are other high end plastic building manufacturers out there too who provide a nice selection of very detailed buildings and accessories. All help to bring us a greater selection for our layouts and collections.

The next evolutionary step, at least chronologically, is ceramic: Dept.56, Dickens Village, and other knock-offs. However, I'm personally not sure if ceramics are a step forward, or backward, in the evolutionary process. Nonetheless they are certainly part of the family tree. The cost of producing high-end ceramic items means they will be more like tin in that fewer variations will be available. Therefore, you're stuck with what they give you. Kitbashing is not really an option. However, the realism can be astonishing, even for the cheaper lines. As the details and accessories keep expanding, I can easily see why a new operator may think about going with ceramic. It's a good thing we all know plastic is better, and more fun!

That's where things stand at the moment. Sometimes it's good to sit back and see where we came from, and where we are headed. Is plastic the peak of train village evolution? Is there a new space-age material out there that will be used next? In 10, 20, or 50 years will plastic still be an option for new manufacturers? As always, we're in this together. Please provide us with any comments you have on the subject. Many thanks to Richard Herman for giving us permission to use his pictures of the H&H house, to Bob Persing for posting many pictures of tin items to the Yahoo! Plasticville Group photos section at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Plasticville>, and to Josh Erling for giving me a heads up on the H&H tin house he found on eBay.

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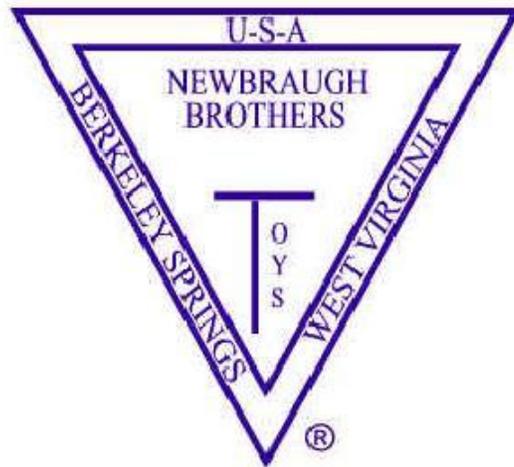
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Along the “HO” Line 1952” It was a very good year!

By Dominic St. John



What does a 1952 Chevy Belair hardtop have to do with HO Plasticville? Read the accompanying article for the answer.

Spring is finally here. The train shows are done till the fall. Here in Connecticut the weather is beginning to warm up. There's not a lot to talk about when it comes to the HO line of Plasticville. You see I have something else to occupy me at this time of year. It is my 1952 Chevy Belair HardTop. Ironically it shares the same year of birth as does my HO Plasticville. They both share a warm spot in my heart.

This will be a short article this month. I think we can take a little break from the Plastic Houses and touch on something else that many train fanciers also enjoy. That would be the old car hobby. It is not unusual to find that many train hobbyists who are also car enthusiasts. During the summer months, I find myself putting the train hobby aside and hopping into the Chevy for some old time car fun. I bet there are lots of special interest autos in the garages around Plasticville! Can it be the longing for simpler times gone by? Or is it the appreciation of old American made things? It isn't hard to understand why both toy trains and old cars can tickle our fancy. Look on any road. In any city or town especially on a Sunday and you will see them. They will be just like me, my wife, my daughters and our car. Taking it just a little slower and making it nice and simple, at least for a little while. Enjoy the summer. We'll get back to the trains soon enough.

Till then, Dominic



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Spring York Report

By Joe Kutza, photos by John Niehaus

Let me start by saying “I love the York meet!” It’s just a lot of fun walking around aisle after aisle, building after building of trains, toys, and Plasticville. I had a special treat this time around when PCA secretary-treasurer John Niehaus told me that he was going to fly in from Iowa for the meet. John and I have been exchanging e-mails and phone calls for years, first as Plasticville nuts and later as PCA Officers.



President Joe Kutza starting a busy day at Spring York in front of the common entrance to the silver and blue halls.

Due to time restrictions and work-related issues, I was unfortunately not able to attend the bandit meets before the main York meet. I was looking forward to seeing where the Plasticville was, and whether or not the best location last time was still the best this time. I hope to get to the bandit meets again this fall. Well, absence makes the heart grow fonder, and by Friday morning I was all ready to go! I got my cup of coffee at the Starbucks in Germantown, MD and headed for York, PA. I was hoping to meet up with John by 8:30 or so. You can’t purchase anything at York before 9:00am anyway, so I thought that would work out. Traffic wasn’t too bad, but between the caffeine, and the anticipation, it seemed like I managed to get behind every slowpoke on Route 30. Once I got into York, traffic was really backed up. Eventually I made it to the fairgrounds and met John in front of the Silver Hall. After some pleasantries, we got down to business: hunting for Plasticville. Even though we were by the Silver Hall, we decided to start in the Red Hall. I don’t know, I thought maybe we would be the first ones there or something. Wrong. Even at 9:15, the Red Hall was already packed. So away we went, up one aisle and down the next, looking high and low for any signs of plastic or tin villages. I’m pretty much focused on plastic village items, and can move pretty quickly. John and his wife

also have an interest in trains, so he was a bit behind. That wasn’t a problem until John figured out I was getting all the good Plasticville finds first! After that I did my best to slow down a little (when I could). After the Red Hall, we went next door to the White Hall. I once again passed over the excellent tombstones that one of the dealers had. I swear I’ll buy some next time. Then we came across a guy with a lot of shrubs at 4/\$1. As you may recall, I’m a tree-hugger, so I picked up 40 shrubs to help green up my layout. We next visited the Black Hall, which was closed after the Orange Hall opened last year, but was re-opened for an over flow of dealers. John was in good form and had already passed out several newsletters and applications to anyone who showed an interest in Plasticville. He modified his PCA t-shirt so that on the



Gary Mosholder, member #01-77 is one of many who sell items at the Holidome, one of the local bandit meets.

back it said “Ask Me About the PCA”. The consummate salesman, he knew how to work the crowd but also knew when to back off (I always tend to be on the quiet side). The TCA isn’t too happy about folks passing out flyers and the like, but hey, if someone was interested, the least we could do was give them a little information.

By now it was lunchtime. We had a time and place set for any PCA members who wanted to join us. We knew that anyone with a table would probably not be able to make it, but we had to try. We managed to meet up with Shirley Hunter and Marty Johnson and her husband and had a nice (if expensive) lunch at the cafeteria. It was a good opportunity to relax and to hear what the others had found. Shirley had been looking for a Cathedral with a light gray roof for some time and was still on the hunt. Although she had seen one or two, the prices were exorbitant, so she declined. After lunch, we were back on the trail, this time to the Silver Hall.



Another member set up at the Holidome was Victor Koenig, #03-216 who along with his daughter Kaitie proudly displays a 3318E Baby State set engine.

I think the Silver and Blue Halls are my favorites. Here is where you find the rank and file TCA members. Few or no dealers, just folks selling from their collections. Invariably, this is where I find a few good deals. It's also where I regularly run into Jerry Fuglewicz and a table that is supposedly run by Kurt Rabold, but Kurt always seems to be out looking for Plasticville, leaving Jerry to man the tables. This time we finally got to meet Kurt. One of his finds was a box only for a Storytown boxed set. It wasn't in the best condition, but they are very rare and it was interesting to see. After talking with Kurt and Jerry for a while, we saw Shirley walking down the aisle with a big grin. She had found her Cathedral with the light gray roof and apparently got it for a great price. Congratulations! After going through the Blue Hall, John and I decided to head to the Orange Hall. Without too much effort we found Bob Persing's table and started discussing the days finds. Bob had a box of 130+ spruce trees waiting for me, and we managed to strike a deal. Now I have a whole lot of trees to hug, and I look forward to setting up a forest on the layout next Christmas. It was getting late, so we stopped by to see Bill Nole and then briefly stopped by

the booths for Lionel, and K-Line before wrapping things up at George Sottung's table.

John and I were tired and hungry. We next found out that it's near impossible to find a restaurant in York that isn't packed. Next time we will plan better! We ended up with a couple of subs and sodas. The final stop for the day was an evening meeting at the Holidome where we sat poolside with Bob Horner, Bill Nole, and Louis Lauer to talk about all things Plasticville. The topics were wide ranging, but seemed to focus on the lack of younger people interested in plastic villages and trains in general. Who's going to take over the collecting when the old guard retires? The question remains unanswered and is sure to be a topic of interest for the TCA as well. What do you think? Is there a bright future for the next generation of train and Plasticville collectors? Do toy trains have the allure and pull today that they did 20, 30, or 40 years ago? Trains just aren't a part of today's world like they used to be. Freight trains are fewer, and passenger trains are almost non-existent outside of major cities. I wonder what the collecting landscape will be 20 years from now.....

OK, now for the last section of the York Report: prices. Remember, these represent just a few items that I saw. I did not have the time to grade them according to the accepted PCA standards. These are just meant to give you an idea of what you can expect to see at York. Remember, almost all dealers will "deal" with you and knock off



Joe may have gotten to some bargains ahead of John but it looks as if John didn't go home empty-handed.

anywhere from \$2-\$10 or more. FYI, the items marked with a * means I bought it for myself. 1409 Poplar Trees, virtually mint: \$95. GO-3 gas station with yellow auto in ex. box: \$35. Bridge and Pond* in ex+ box, \$10. 4601 HO boxed set, nice, \$115, Littletown Schoolhouse, no box, complete, \$25, Greenhouse in nice box, complete, \$60, HO Road Racing Gas Station, complete with ex box, \$25, 5402 Highway Motel, fair to good box, \$100, Tuscan Dairy Barn* in ex box, \$10, Lionelville Deluxe Fieldstone



Greg Nicholas, one of our long-standing advertisers (Nick's Trains), from Alisa Viejo, California. Pictured with Greg is his father Jim, and Barb Rudnicki of S-Gauge.com

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 or mail your suggestions to him at the address noted above.

House, new in box, \$27, 1962 Plasticville catalog, very good, \$17, Storytown Gingerbread House with dark sides, ex with ex box, \$160, three men in a tub, ex \$125, Block Signals on fair card, \$40, RS-8 complete with fair box, \$8, Airport Hangar with orange roof, in VG box, \$85, V-10 vehicle unit, never out of box, \$150, Skyline cardboard set box \$410, VG, \$45, Motel with flowers and 3 cars, VG, \$25, chrome BN-1 with fair box, \$14, BN-1 with red sides, green roof in VG box, \$30, Marx Police Station in fair box, \$125, Mark blue/yellow gas station, no box, \$75, SM-6 in a poor box, \$35, Apartment House in a good box, \$85, SM-6 in a VG box, \$20, orange bus, \$30, green street lamps on VG red card \$10, styrofoam Plasticville display as seen in 1967 catalog, good to VG condition, \$150, turnpike, complete in VG-Ex box, 1620 Loading Platform, ex box, \$40. K-Lineville Fire Dept*, L-shaped ranch*, barn and chicken coop*, all NIB, \$5 each, 1919 Hospital* with all furniture, black lettering, in Ex box missing "siren" \$18, PF-4 Citizens, not complete, with empty paint fluid bottle, fair box, \$5.

That's it for this time. Look for the next York Report in the November, 2004 issue of your "Villager".

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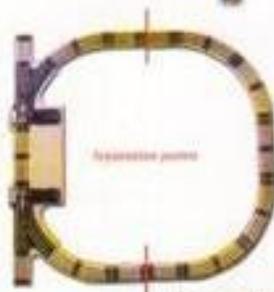
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2-Story Cycle Shop & Tattoo Parlor

By Mike Cedro



The Villager is pleased to announce the addition of Mike Cedro as a contributing editor. Many of us are aware of Mike's abilities to create new buildings from damaged pieces and of making details from scratch. I am sure his articles in The Villager will add a missing dimension to the publication. Editor

This is really a structure with some real personality. Jake's Cycle Repair Shop, Midnight Video, and the upstairs "Tattoo" parlor has some real appeal to everyone.

To start out with, a K-Line Bakery kit is used without the window awnings and roof. After

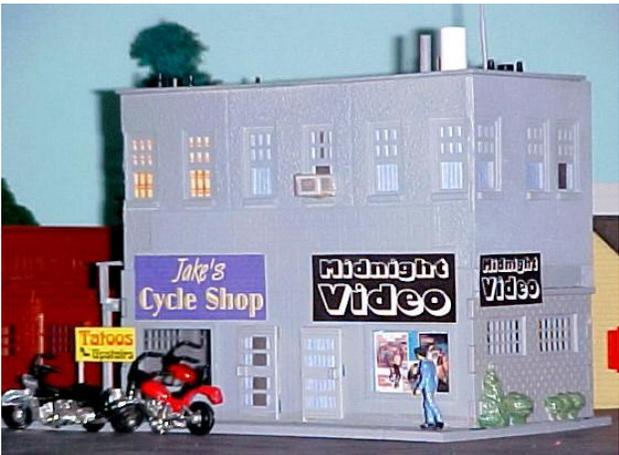
gluing the walls together, you can begin adding the second floor by cutting and splicing back and side walls from the Plasticville Suburban Station to the same dimensions as the K-Line store. Before you can mount the second floor to the first, you will have to add a layer of stripwood to the top of the first floor walls, so that the second floor window sills will clear the top of the storefront facade.

With the first and second floors glued together, you can begin work on the outside staircase that adds so much personality to the structure. I used stairs from old Plasticville

Switch Towers and strip styrene to make the landings and railings. Once the stairs is complete and glued to the side of the building, you can then spray paint the entire structure a



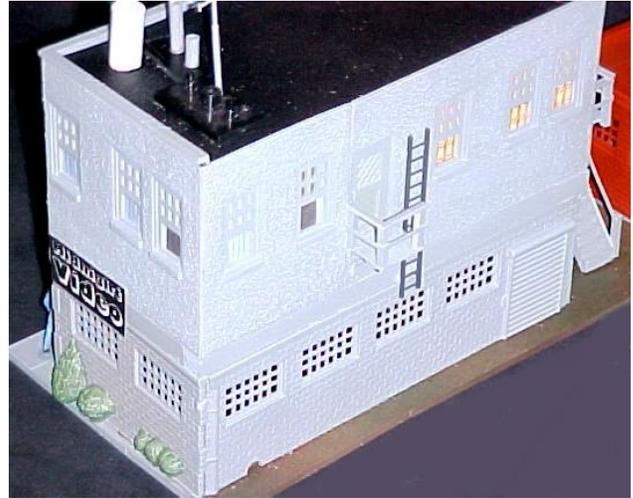
nice flat gray. When the paint is dry, you can add window glass, curtains, window air conditioners, and signs to the building. The



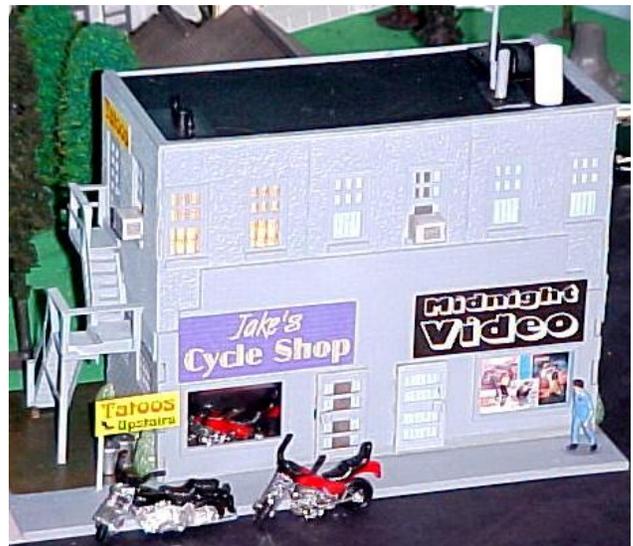
more details the better.

I used the roof from the K-Line Bakery, but I cut out the skylight boxes and made a flat roof with several pipes and vents sticking through. Again, the more details you add the better the results.

Finally, I felt that this structure needed a base to protect the fragile staircase, and I was so pleased with the results, that I have since began



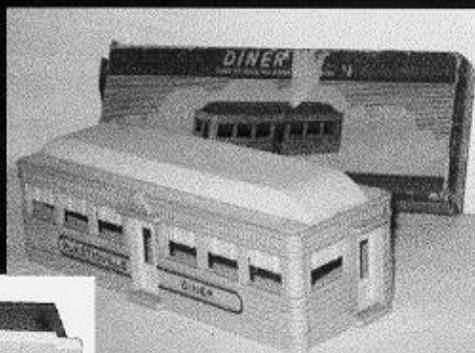
making bases for many of my buildings. I used a base from an International Hobbies Victorian Storefront Home, that has nice square sidewalk sections, but you could just as well use a 1/8" tempered masonite base. Spray the side lot area a speckled blend of dark brown, tuscan, and dark green, and maybe lightly sprinkle some artificial grass onto the wet paint. (Not too much, though. The effect is "rustic") After painting the sidewalks flat gray, you can mount the building to the base and add motorcycles, trash cans, and more and more details.



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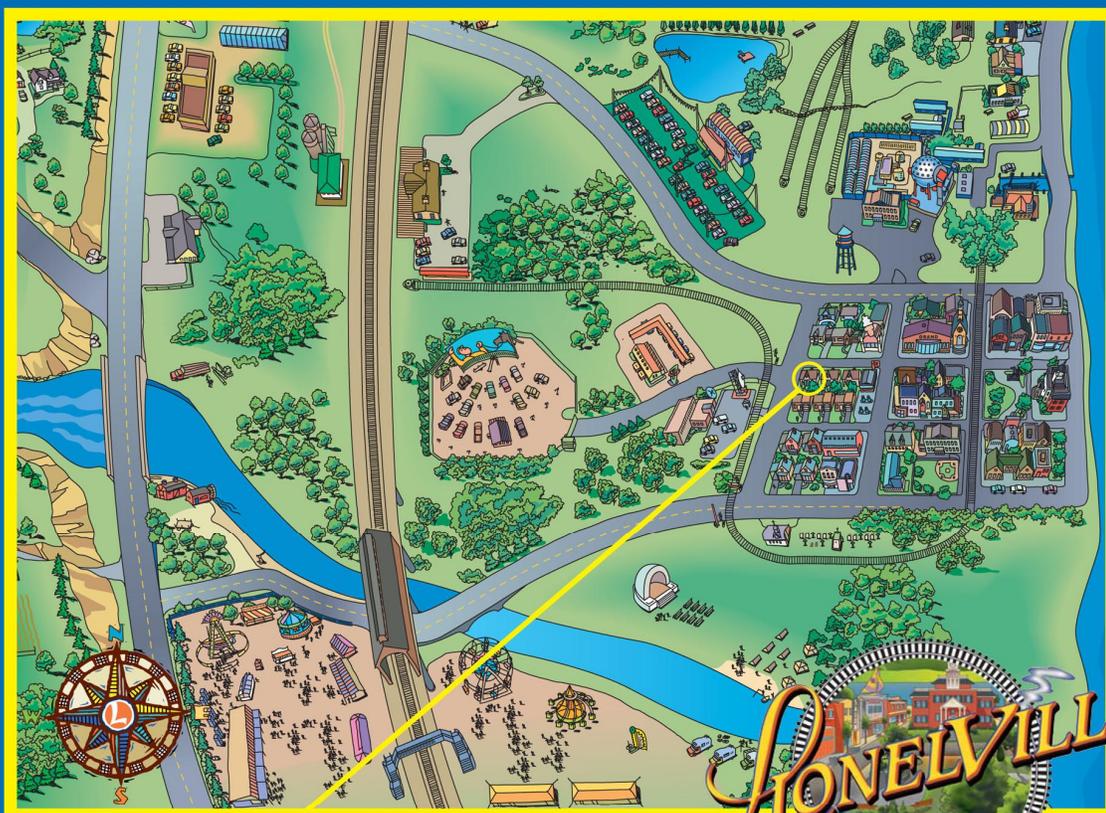


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Product Review



3rd PlanIt for Windows track planning software by El Dorado Software. 3rd PlanIt for Windows is a computer aided drafting program that enables one to design a model

railroading layout.

The tutorial that is included with the package leads one through creating two layouts. The first uses HO using sectional track. The second layout is an oval one using flex track. The tutorial also shows one how to add elevations, both positive and negative to simulate valleys and hills or mountains.

Fractal trees are a breeze to add through their inclusion in a palette-style toolkit. Over 100 additional trees are available for download from El Dorado's website. These include trees of all types and seasons.

Various buildings are also included. Some of these are line drawings showing only the basic height, length and width while others are actual 3D renderings of a building. The building libraries include selections from Campbell, LakseKit, Walthers, and others. A drawing program is also included for those who wish to create their own buildings.

This program is designed to appeal to designers of layouts regardless of track gauge. Track libraries are available for G, HO, N, NMRA, O, OO, S, and Z gauge. Six different types of track from four different manufacturers are listed for O scale track while a whopping sixteen different track libraries are listed for

HO.

This program offers you more than just a view a plan view of your layout. You may also view the layout in 3D and with a couple of keystrokes rotate the layout to suit your viewing pleasure.

3rd PlanIt even has something for those of us who do not have the space to build our dream layout. A library of railroad engines and rolling stock is included in the program. You choose the engine and rolling stock you want from the rolling stock library and then operate it on your layout.

If all that the software offers isn't enough, there is a 3rd PlanIt resource site. This site contains additional buildings and such items as vehicles, people, and animal libraries to use with 3rd PlanIt.

There is also a 3rd PlanIt Yahoo group. It looks to be a fairly active group with a total of 27 posts over a recent three-day period.

3rd PlanIt is what I would consider a high-end program. I have worked with it for quite some time and have yet to learn some of the finer points of the program.

3rd PlanIt for Windows can be obtained from El Dorado Software, 2222 Francisco #510, PMB 196 El Dorado Hills, CA USA 95762. Telephone 1-916-939-3452.

The price for the program CD and user manual is \$99.95. There is also a \$5 Priority Mail shipping and handling fee. The price includes a full year of free downloads of program enhancements and object library updates for one year from the date of purchase.



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Welcome New Members

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

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

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

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

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

Steve D D'Ambrosia, Clakamas, Or
Jeffrey L Feldmeier, Allen Park, MI
Dan McDaniel, LaGrange, IL
Jerome J Williams, Cadillac, MI
John J Wicklund, West Allis, WI
Robert Flanagan, Beverly MA
Ronald B Rosen, West Long Branch, NJ
Joseph P Kearney, Ytica, NY
Stan Tallmadge, Norwalk, CT
Robert M Shaw, Warminster, PA
George J Caravas, Calistoga, CA
Philip J Rentz, Ottawa, IL
Ralph O Abildnes, Swan Lake, NY
John E Kohr, Tremont, PA
Walter J Roberts, Manahawkin, NJ
Emory M Hall, North Canton, OH
Larry Porco, Bronx, NY
Joe M Zeller, Wheaton, IL
Thomas A Radcliffe, ChicaGO, il
Myron W Opferman, Martinez, GA
Philip C McKnight, Lawrence, KS
Julian D Heislup, Free Union, VA

members in accordance with the bylaws of the PCA. All names listed below will be added to the Plasticville Collectors Association rolls if no objection to such action is received prior to July 1, 2004.

Philip F Dullinger, St Cloud, MN
Darryl R White, Palm Springs, CA
Toby E Thoresen, Galveston, TX
Glenn T Dailey, Scranton, PA
Torby W Barker, Tonawanda, NY
James E Quinn Jr, Shillington, PA
Leon W Schwab, Buffalo, NY
Jim Heider, Wilmette, IL
Roger L Miller, Sinking Springs, PA
Frank B Ross, Centennial, CO
Daniel A Gills, Hinsdale, IL
Phillip L Coduti, Munster, IN
Robert A Conner, Jacksonville, FL
Richard B Pontello, Cary, NC
George Donahue, Willow Grove, PA
Richard L Worden, Luray, VA
George W Hendricks, Danville, PA
Kurt M Rabold, Tonawanda, NY
Joseph L Mania, Freehold, NJ
Lester T Froelich, Coatesville, PA
L Stephen Keough, Hampton, VA
Wilfred L Kus II, Lakewood, OH

Notes from the Secretary Treasurer

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
William Westwood Jr., #03-218 westwood@gte.net
Carl Gustafson, #02-112, tpagus@iximd.com

Thank You Mike Cedro

I would like to express my thanks to Mike Cedro for his taking the time to insert a PCA membership application in with the final mailing of *The Plastic Village Gazette*. I

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

Thomas Friesner, 02-170, tfriesner@pa.net
Robert Rumpfelt, #01-57, bobcatr@attglobal.net
Pat Pace, #02-131, patpace@mindspring.com
William E LAvelle, #02-176, vickielyn@peoplepc.com

have processed over 30 membership applications that I can trace directly to his mailing. Thanks for your help in growing the membership, Mike.



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- BL-5 WATCHMAN SHANTY LITE
- BL-6 WATCHMAN SHANTY CHIMNEY
- BL-7 LOADING PLATFORM CHIMNEY
- 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

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Use this ad as your order form. Simply enter the quantity of each color of an item you want on the line to the right of the color.

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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

Plasticville parts for sale: Please visit my eBay store, "North Pole Railroad". Good used parts: walls, roofs, windows, and doors. Many priced at 99¢. More added every week. Thank You. beaglema@myshorelink.com #04-248, Robert Y Anderson, 119 Dundee Ave, Chester, MD 21619. (Feb 05)

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)

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. factlf@juno.com #02-87 Lawrence Fachler, 6 Bosko Drive, East Brunswick, NJ 08816-4542 (Aug 04)

This Property is Condemned: If you're good with some paint and an Exacto saw, these buildings are for you. 4 semi-glued or unglued railroad structures \$10, and four town buildings for \$10. I have a fairly nice Indy Hall and three other public buildings for \$40 and a two-piece set – airport – for \$40. The AD-4 has a box.

For Trade

My NR Rancher window, blue for a yellow door. My Indy round window for a barn weathervane. My Union station doors for a brown water tower ladder. Original double-sided paper signboard for original suburban station "heavy" cardstock. Any of my church parts for a

Wanted

Your discarded, miscellaneous Plasticville walls, roofs, parts, pieces, glued or unglues, large or small, HO or "O" for scratchbuilding an "O" and HO layout. #02-158, Michael Kingston, 3345 Fox Wood CT, West Bloomfield, MI 48324 (248) 363-3167 (Feb 05)

GO-2 Gas Station. Must be complete with excellent or better box, and reasonably priced. I'm also looking for a

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.

r_spyv@hotmail.com. #02-154, Robert Spivey, PO Box 33484, Decatur, GA 30033-4842. 404-633-6777 afternoons and evenings. (May 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. grains@floodcity.net #01-77, Gary Mosholder, 186 Pine springs Camp Rd, Boswell, PA 15531 (Nov 04)

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 #02-113, Louis Leppert, 8904 Adams Run Ct, Louisville, KY 40228 (Nov 04)

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 04)

parish cross (cathedral bell not included in offer). My cathedral bell for an Indy weathervane. r_spyv@hotmail.com. #02-154, Robert Spivey, PO Box 33484, Decatur, GA 30033-4842. 404-633-6777 afternoons and evenings (May 04)

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 or (301) 528-6679. (May 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)

Wanted: Members who will respond to my trades. If I can help you, maybe you could help me. "Don't worry" I'll pay shipping both ways on trades that I start. And by the way for years – and years before that – I've sold with a money back guarantee. Want red 2 story house porches, roofs, roosters, antennas, posts, and Maple trees. r_spyv@hotmail.com. #02-154, Robert Spivey, PO Box 33484, Decatur, GA 30033-4842. 404-633-6777 afternoons and evenings (May 04)

Wanted: Porch roof and porch floor for red w/dark grey roof LH4 2-story Colonial house. 2 yellow farm implement wagon stakes. Figures and accessories for K-Lineville buildings. johnln@netins.net #00-3, John Niehaus, 601 SE Second St., Ankeny, IA 50021-3207 (Feb 05)

#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)

Need boxes: Fire, Police, Town Hall, Diner, Post Office, Gas Station, Barn, Pond (2), School, and Airport. Parts: Police Station – chimney half, & cap, lights (2), antenna. Diner - red window blinds (3). 2 story house – white middle window, front door. Town hall – half tan roof railing, white back door. mundel@bellatlantic.net. #02-223, John O'Hara, 555 Bower Ave, Washington, PA 15301 (Nov 04)

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.

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

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DE-7 Diner \$18.

BK-1 Bank \$25.
FH-4 Fire Dept. \$15.
FB-1 Frosty Bar \$15.
SM-6 Supermarket (small) \$18.
Misc Windmill (Silver/Brown) \$15.
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0500 KING Apartment House in Red \$25; 5 Story \$60.
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0650 KING Covered Bridge (Grey Roof) \$40. MINT

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5000 3 Men In A Tub (Red or Yellow) \$250.
5001 Humpty Dumpty (Red, Green or Yellow) \$300.
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.

PLASTICVILLE PARTS

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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