



The Villager

The official newsletter of the Plasticville Collectors Association

Volume 4

May 2005

Number 2

You Just Never Know When or Where

By Armand Taddeo

You just never know where you might encounter your next Plasticville collectible. We have run a service company here in Jersey for the past 23 years. I visit approx. 12-15 homes per week and many of my long time clients are aware of my 'quest' for old Lionel trains.

A couple of weeks ago, a customer had asked me if I still collected trains. My heart began to race as thoughts of an attic find or better went racing through my head. "Sure", I told her. "Why do you ask"?

She informed me that while she didn't have any trains, she DID find several boxes of "scenery" and "the stuff you find on a train layout". Not expecting much, I followed her into the basement where her long since 'EX husband' had stored several items, primarily summer clothes, some old board games, etc. and had never returned for them. Inside were 4 worn boxes containing a

Skyline Church, a Littleton Gas Station, a Littleton Corner store (though missing the sign and insert) and a Plasticville School.

She hadn't any idea why they were there as she never recalled him even mentioning a train set over the years they were married and that since he had been out of the house for nearly 10 years now, she was, well, 'cleaning house'.

I asked her if she wanted to sell them and she said "take them". I wound up discounting her job in exchange for the items and her assurance that the 'ex' wouldn't come back for these!

Who say the days of the attic find are over????? You just never know where and when the next collectible may turn up.

Update Acrobat Reader for Easier Downloads

By John Niehaus

It has been reported that there have been a few ePCA members who had difficulties viewing the February newsletter. The culprit seems to be older versions of Acrobat Reader. It is highly recommended that you update your Acrobat Reader to Version 7.0 or even 7.0.1.

Our webmaster has made it fairly easy to update your reader. Go to the PCA website. Log into the Members Only section and then click on *The Villager* link. Scroll down to the bottom of that page. There you will find a *Get Acrobat Reader* link. Clicking on that link will take you to the Adobe Reader download website.

Be sure to choose the Full Version option. I do not select Download Manager as it has caused me problems in the past. I also do not download the Adobe Yahoo toolbar or the Photoshop Album 2.0 Starter Edition software as I really don't have a need for either. I recommend you do likewise unless you have downloaded them in the past and wish to update them.

The entire update process should take less than fifteen minutes. These few minutes should make your viewing of the ePCA newsletter a more pleasant experience.

Editorial Correction

The date in paragraph two of the *Dimstore Dreams Vehicles Return Under New Name* article contained an erroneous year date of 2204. The correct date is 2004.

The editor apologizes for any difficulties this may have caused the reader.

The Villager

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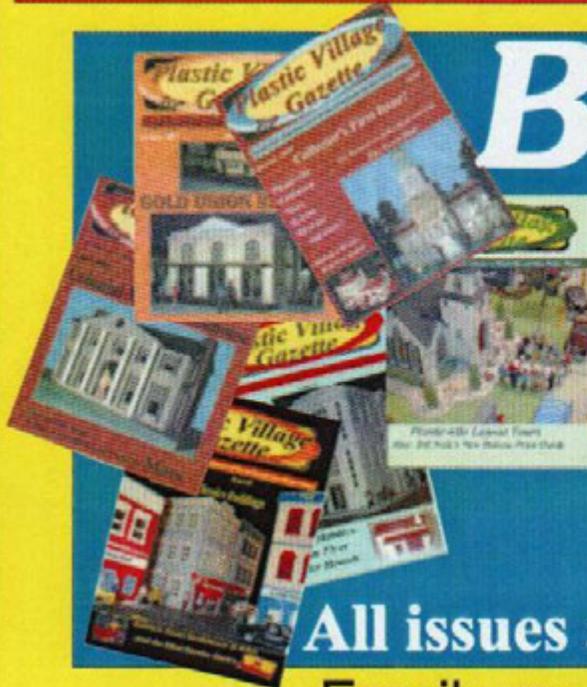
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From the President's Desk



Ahhhhh, the sweet smell of the York Fairgrounds. A perfect mix of fried foods, RV exhaust, old toy trains, and Plasticville! Yes, it's an old, east coast industrial town that has seen better times. But for a few days twice a year, it's the hottest thing around for all things related to toy trains. The April 2005 edition of York did not disappoint. Our newsletter editor, John Niehaus, was able to come in from Iowa for the occasion. John and I hit the bandit meets on Thursday, and the main York meet on Friday. John was also able to go to the main meet again on Saturday. For me, going to York is more than just hunting for plastic villager items, it's a chance to meet and talk with PCA Members; a chance to get feedback on our club. Between the two of us, we talked with well over 20 PCA Members

throughout the three days. About eight of us met for lunch on Friday. We ate at the main cafeteria on the fairgrounds and had a good time discussing a wide variety of topics from our special buys of the day, to interesting things we saw, some Plasticville history, rumors about Bachmann, and even a little support group session for ourselves to better deal with family and friends who are perhaps less interested in our chosen hobby! Many thanks to the lunch crowd: Glenn Bowman, Ron Dise, Jim Dawes, Marlin Plank, Frank Ross, Tom Friesner, and John Niehaus.

Also, thanks to the many other current and potential members with whom we had some great discussions: Gary Mosholder, Charles Swanson, Stan Troski, George Sottung, Anna Manson, Kurt Rabold, Gerry Fuglewicz, Bill Nole, Bob Persing, Louis Niederlander, and Ed McGuigan.



PCA members who were able to get together for lunch on Friday at the York meet were, from left to right: Marlin Plank, Jim Dawes, Ron Dise, Glenn Bowman, Frank Ross, Joe Kutza, and Tom Friesner, and John Niehaus (not pictured).

Vice Presidential Insights

Well another summer is upon us. This means vacations, garage sales flea market etc, all places to go hunt for our next treasure. And of course there was York again (someday I will get there)!

I will be going to the TCA Convention in Seattle in June this year and hope to see some PCA members there. Last year in Pittsburg it was great to meet some of our members and talk "shop".

As a reminder to all of you of I want to repeat what I said in the last Villager and that is: If you meet someone at a train meet, swap meet or wherever and they are checking out some Plasticville or another plastic building be sure to mention the PCA. This person would seem to share an interest in collecting our valued plastic buildings and might become our next member. New membership is essential to the continuation and expansion of our organization.

All of us have been enjoying the great articles and pictures in the Villager and I am sure we appreciate all the hard work of the Editor. If you have a "helpful" hint or if you have something of interest to share with the membership please take the time to write an article for *The Villager* or better yet take picture(s) of the oddity that you have in your collection.

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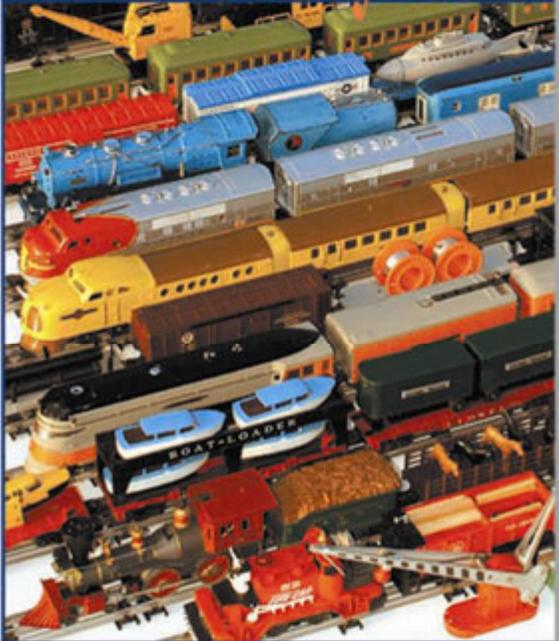
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until we recently
discovered a small supply.

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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It All Started With a Coat Hanger

(The Beginning of Connecticut Hobbies - Part 2)

By Vincent Amato

PILES OF PAPER

The purchasers of desks and file cabinets did not want the paper in the cabinets. Most of it was dumped on the floor then taken to the dump. I happened by a person emptying a cabinet of erector set handbooks. Almost every handbook ever used was there. I rescued them and soon had disposed of them for a few dollars each. As I made my way through the factory that summer I frequently saw truckloads of paper being loaded for the landfill.

The Repair Department itself contained tons of paper. Mostly exploded views and parts lists for supplying Gilbert repair stations around the country. One day I



A header added to sixteen thousand buildings by a schoolteacher and his crew over their summer break.

The words *FROM CONNECTICUT HO* can be clearly seen in the lower left corner of this nearly complete header.

arrived home with my large van almost dragging the ground because it was so full of paper. My wife was quite surprised when I informed her that I had run out of space and planned to store the load in our basement. Over the years, we have assembled thousands of sets of the exploded views from the paper contained in that van.

Many notebooks and ledgers were in the repair shop, as well as many instruction sheets on trains, planes, science sets, etc. These were not looked at until recently when I allowed Bob Tufts, and Julian Spector to study them. Bob Tufts has used much of the information in the various American Flyer articles he has written for magazines. I have considered publishing some of the information such as exact copies of the make up of catalogued and uncatalogued sets. But, I don't believe the expense would be covered by possible sales, so I haven't yet done so.

LOST, FOUND, THEN LOST AGAIN

A great deal of Gilbert racecar track was offered to me for almost nothing. But I did not feel there would ever be a market for it, and I later observed it being loaded on

dump trucks for disposal. It seemed like tens of thousands of pieces of track.

While coming and going in the removal of the Repair Department and the plastic, I had seen a locked enclosure full of race and train sets. When I inquired I was told these were the subject of a law suit between Gilbert and a famous New York department store. They had been shipped back as defective. The majority of the cartons had not even been opened. Eventually, the lawsuit was settled, and I purchased the room full of merchandise. That summer, I hired a vacationing schoolteacher to supervise a crew who removed every item from the sets, tested them and repackaged the sets. Very few things were really defective. I believe those All Aboard sets and the race sets simply sold poorly prompting their return as defective.

I have made a few major mistakes in the use of the plastic. We had thousands of racecar bodies with little demand for them. We assembled them with body, chassis, and wheels, but no motor, for sale as toys. We sold them for fifty cents or a dollar each. Much later, we discovered that one of the cars; the Corvette was used on flat car #24578. These Corvettes now sell for \$100. or more. But,



Mr. Vincent Amato the founder of Connecticut Hobbies.

of course, we don't have any left!

Some time during this period, I received a call from a Baltimore, MD machine shop. A train collector who was a barber had ordered dies and punch presses to make reverse unit contacts for Lionel and Flyer

reverse units. The barber died and the shop wanted to sell the setup. I visited Baltimore and purchased the machines, dies and some finished products. For several years, until others provided these parts, we did manufacture them.

Word that I had purchased so much from Gilbert spread and offers came for various lots remaining in distributors' warehouses. I purchased one such lot from a St. Louis distributor. It contained about five hundred All Aboard panels, and quite a bit of various small locomotives and other items. The locos and accessories went very quickly. But the All Aboard panels did not sell. Five years later, my store in New Britain, Connecticut was destroyed when

the building burned beyond repair. More than 400 All Aboard panels had been stored in the store's cellar. While wet, they had not touched by fire. Because almost none had sold in the five years I stored them there, I did not bother to remove them. They are now buried under what is now a parking lot. I'd like to be there when some future archaeologist tries to figure out what they were used for!

THE COAT HANGER OPENED MANY DOORS

Although I had begun to operate a mail order division of my hobby business in the 50's, HOBBY SURPLUS SALES really took off with the purchase of the A.C. Gilbert inventory. Besides the parts and plastic items, we've used several items purchased from Gilbert to help promote our mail order sales. I bought thirty five thousand switch machines, made in Japan for use on Pike Master Switches. I realized these were exact copies of the Atlas switch machine then used on HO track layouts, except with a more powerful solenoid. For years we advertised these for \$11.99 a dozen. The retail price for the Atlas machines was then \$2.50 each. We attracted many new customers before these were all gone. We did the same thing with double pole double throw slide switches often used for reversing on D.C. power layouts.

People who were exploring renewed production of S gauge trains have approached me several times over the years. I could supply start up quantities of Atlantic or Casey Jones Loco bodies, tenders, and caboose bodies and chassis. So far, no one has actually carried out any

such idea. However, many S clubs have used our original freight car bodies over the years to customize special cars for their annual conventions.



A Connecticut Hobbies ranch house with header. All pieces necessary to complete the building were placed into the bag.

More than thirty years have passed since that fateful day when a coat hanger caused me to get involved with the liquidation of A.C. Gilbert Company. I have made many new friends and customers. We have been able to help many S Gauge and even HO and O Gauge train enthusiasts to continue to use their no longer manufactured trains. Thousands of collectors have found the needed parts to restore their trains. Although figuring out what we had and cataloging it for sale has been more work than I ever imagined back in the summer of 1968, it has also been a lot of fun.

Unknown Building Manufacturer

By John Niehaus

I recently received these pictures from a person asking if I could identify the manufacturer of the building. The sender of the pictures states, "The building is 7-1/4" (L), 5" (W) and 3-1/4" (H). The most distinguishing feature are the curved doors. It is all red with heat stamped "Fire Dept" in white across the top front."

My guess is that it is probably European because of the rounded doors but I am not sure. Can anyone positively identify the piece?

Please send your reply to me by email or mail your answer to me at John Niehaus, 601 SE Second Street, Ankeny, IA 50021-

3207. If someone knows the manufacturer and lets me know I will publish the answer in the next newsletter.



Can anyone identify the manufacturer of this fire house? Email your response to the editor or send it to John Niehaus, 601 SE Second St, Ankeny, IA 50021-3207.

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Spring York Report

By Joe Kutza

I reviewed the various bandit meets in previous York reports, so I won't go into too much detail again. The Holidome continues to be the preeminent bandit meet. Indoors and outdoors, there's a lot to be seen. The Best Western seems to keep getting larger each time I go. The "Billy Budd" Holiday Inn continues to be hit or miss (mostly miss), and I heard a rumor that the Fire Department may no longer be holding bandit meets. We'll see if they can find new organizers, or if the meet will move to another site or be absorbed by the other three bandit meets.

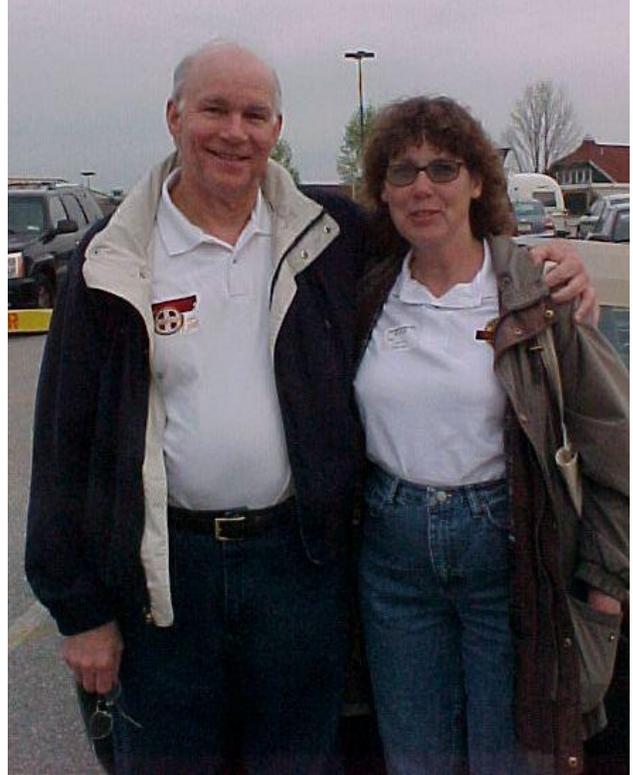


Jim Dawes with some of his Plasticville pieces at the "Billy Budd" Holiday Inn bandit meet. Jim has "improved" the appearance of the trailer behind him since this picture was taken. See the article *Promoting the PCA – BIG TIME* for an explanation.

We unfortunately did not see any of the new Bachmann Plasticville O-scale built-up kits, but there were a couple of things worth mentioning.

I noticed a new line of reproductions from Shiny Brite (www.shinybrite.com). There were several examples of the new versions of the cardboard houses with sparkling snow and lichen that were popular in the 1940's. A quick visit to the Shiny brite web site showed that the modern

master of Christmas ornaments, Christopher Radko, is behind the revitalization of the Shiny Brite name.



PCA member Deb Deming and her husband Ken from Davison, Michigan were at the fairgrounds bright and early Friday morning for the opening of the meet. Deb wrote the article on how she created the *Polymer Theater* that was printed in the August, 2004 edition of *The Villager*.

We also stopped by to see Louis Niederlander of Train America Studios. Louis and his crew are doing wonders with sound boards. Although still in the planning stages, Louis gave us a hint of a project that he's working on specifically for Plasticville. I don't want to let the cat out of the bag just yet, but I think it's going to be a lot of fun for fans of plastic villages!

One last comment, we stopped by the K-Line booth and noticed a few new plastic buildings that were recently released. You may also want to check out their new line of SuperStreets and Railroadsters which make up an interesting operating roadway system for your layout.

Last, but not least, here's a list of some prices that I saw for plastic village items at both the bandits and the main meet. Please keep in mind that I was unable to use the official PCA Grading Standards due to time limitations, and that almost everyone gives a break on the listed prices. As always the more you buy, the cheaper it gets.



"Michiganders" Ed and JoAnne McGuigan were visiting in Philadelphia and were able to get to the meet late Saturday morning. They met and had lunch with John Niehaus and then ventured off on their own to view the offerings in the various halls.

Glued, color mismatched Ranch Houses; \$10 each. K-Line Statue of Liberty, Red Cross version, new in bag; \$6. Ranch House with gray sides and brown roof, like new; \$20. Glued Littletown train station with yellow base, gray walls, red roof and trim; \$3. Lionel 6-24168 Tire Swing, new; \$35. K-Line O scale vehicles in new box, 7 of 10 cars; \$10. Marx telephone poles in very nice box; \$20. Ranch House, brown walls with red roof and trim, no box; \$10. Complete Marx Church with box missing one end; \$35. Bachmann Dogs of the World unit, excellent; \$28. Airport Hangar with orange roof; \$75. Cattle loading pen, complete with nice box; \$50. Gray bus; \$12. Railroad work car in 1625 box, nice; \$80. Basic Pharmacy/Hardware, no box; \$15. Orange bus; \$20. Ranch House in turquoise, 1795 box, excellent; \$45. AU-6 with good box, one corner split, complete with runway; \$125. LCCA Airport Hangar and Administration Building; \$5 each. New version Police Dept; \$5. Skyline cardboard building boxed set "Farm Group #661" very nice box and contents; \$25. Scenic Classic Barn, still sealed; \$10. Citizens, complete in nice 1619 box; \$25. Split Level, complete in very nice 1918 box; \$20. Fire Dept, no box; \$15. New England ranch, white with brown roof, tan trim, no box; \$12. K-Line 42405 operating Colonial House, new in box; \$25. TV Station 45964 in sealed red and white box; \$3. Union Station in sealed 1958 box; \$10. Drug Store in very nice 1853-180 box, missing doors, \$15. Covered bridge in very nice 1805 box; \$55. 5402 Highway Motel in an awful box; \$75. Suburban Station in very nice 1706 box, complete; \$25. Storytown in excellent boxes, complete Jack and Jill; \$85. Gingerbread House; \$95. CC-9 Church with fair box; \$20. 5604 Residential Square in a dreadful box; \$125. That's it for this York report. Look for another version in the November edition of The Villager.

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Promoting the PCA – BIG TIME

By John Niehaus



Jim Dawes

As your former Secretary/Treasurer and current newsletter editor I get many PCA related emails. One earlier this year was from a printer asking if I could send him an electronic file of the PCA logo. His email was a bit cryptic so I was not quite sure why he was requesting the logo. Fortunately he included a telephone number in his message. Upon calling the printer I learned

that one of our charter members, Jim Dawes, of Syracuse, New York, wanted to put the PCA logo on a utility trailer. He uses the trailer to take his Plasticville items to train meets.

I called Jim and verified that he indeed intended to emblazon his trailer with our logo. After a few false starts I was finally able to provide the printer with a logo. Jim now has the PCA logo, along with the website URL, proudly displayed on his trailer. Thanks Jim, for promoting the PCA – BIG TIME.



When Jim Dawes decided to declare his affiliation with the PCA, he did it in a big way. The PCA logo and website URL are proudly displayed on all four sides of the trailer he uses for taking his Plasticville to train meets. Now that's promoting the PCA – BIG TIME!!!

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What Members Are Saying

The following are excerpts from email messages and notes sent with membership renewals.

When notified that the February newsletter had been mailed one member replied, "I already got and read it. One of the best issues. I particularly liked the article about the Connecticut hobby/businessman. No long pages about color variations of some building sign. I see more ads -- more people are addressing this market.".....

The first member to request copies of the back issues on CD wrote, "Just got back from vacation and found the CD waiting for me. Very much appreciated. I really enjoy your publication and I think the idea of using color and having it download from the net is a great idea - keep up the great work and all the great articles.".....

"You always find time to keep up on news as to what is going on. I know its lot of time and hard work that goes into it for you and staff, and I would like to thank you personally for this.

I am reading articles of Dominic St. John and Anatol Vasiliev along the HO lines it very interesting.".....

"Enclosed is a check for \$8 for 2005 dues. A true bargain. I would be willing to pay more to keep getting the mailed version...."

"I don't have Internet at home. I'll just stay a regular member again.".....

"Please find enclosed my check to renew my membership in the PCA for 2005.....Alas, I am one of those Neanderthals who really prefers to have a piece of paper to hold in my hand. I love email and surfing the "Net", but tend to be a little bit of a Luddite where my favorite plastic village is concerned.".....

"Looking forward to a new great year but I need to remain in the "paper" world".....

"Here are my dues for another year. I will try the electronic version for 2005 & I can always copy it with my printer.... You and Joe K keep up the good work...."

"Sorry, I don't have a home computer. So I must stay on the "snail Mail" mailing list.".....

"Just to let you know for fun thought, that I managed to get my hands on and purchase an ON-5 sheet in good condition Just in the right show at the right moment. I also got a chance to purchase a vehicle assortment (V-10) with the window in place and box in good shape all contents included which are really hard to find these days.".....

"You can sign me up for the electronic version of the newsletters. I was getting them electronically this past year; I see no reason to change now.".....

"... I got the newsletter and was pleased to see my story. Thanks. Just recently at a train show I had a chance to buy a broken Penn LINE HO station with Horn. It was a PV suburban station with a cherry red roof and yellow sides and matching loading platform. Inside was a horn mechanism. For \$50 it wasn't worth buying for its condition. Also Have you or anyone ever put an article for the newsletter about Plastic part cleaning and restoration? If not, to get some excitement into the newsletter, (which it could use)you should ask members to send in their favorite tips on restoring plastic such as in the case of "snow" ON THE ROOF ETC. I have a few of my own that I could submit. Any thoughts? Anatol " associate editor.".....

Dimstore Dreams Vehicle Production Numbers

By John Niehaus

Through good fortune I have been able to get the amount of each vehicle produced between 2000 and 2002

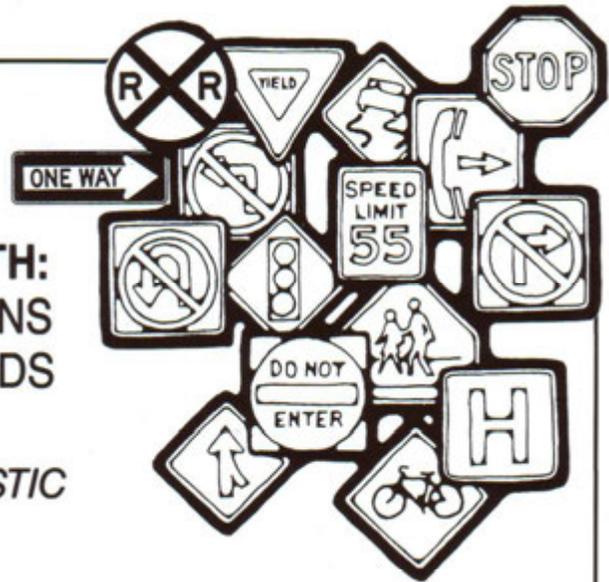
Ambulance - 49,112
Convertible - 31,392
Fire Chief's Car - 46,368
House Trailer - 13,548
Pickup Truck - 13,548
Police Car - 46,464
Sedan - 25,440
Sedan Delivery - 25,536
TV Repair Truck - 13,548
Station Wagon - 31,488
Tow Truck - 13,548
Taxi - 19,200

by Dimstore Dreams. As you can see, some of these pieces were produced in very limited quantities.

Convertible with Speedboat and Trailer - 15,360
Station Wagon with Speedboat and Trailer - 15,264
Station Wagon with camper and Canoe - 26,304
Motorcycle - 11,136
Motorcycle with Sidecar - 11,136
Service Motorcycle - 11,136
Spaceship X-100 - 6,048
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U.S.ARMY Wrecker - 5,100

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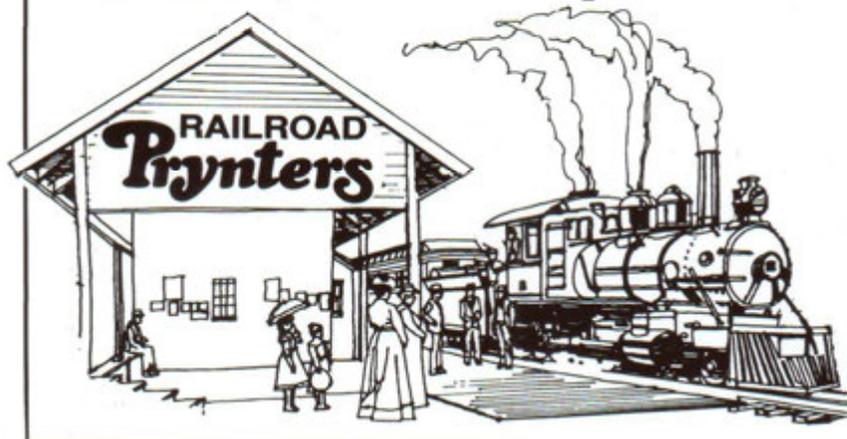
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Add a Sun Room

By Mike Cedro

If you have much of an excess box of Plasticville, you surely have a lot of old Switch Tower walls, many with melt spots or chips. Here's a great way to use them.

Cut the top half off of several of them for the nice windows. Cut the bevel off of the sides of the bottom edge to splice them together and make a nice sun room or "sun porch" addition to any Plasticville or K-Line house. Three of them will make a nice little sun room, or use more to make a big one.



The addition of a sunroom to a Cape Cod greatly changes its' overall appearance and appeal.

Putting "glass" and curtains in the windows gives it a nice look, or leave them open and detail the interior. Furniture, potted plants and people make it come to life.

The easiest roof is a flat roof, but if you have the time, you may want to add a gable roof from other scraps.



Damaged walls from Plasticville Switch Towers have been used to create a sun porch that replaces a damaged garage on this two story house.



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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.

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Do you have an idea for an item? Contact Chris Niehaus at secretary@plasticvilleusa.org or mail your suggestions to her at the address noted above.

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Pen Tip

Cleaning Soiled Plasticville Pieces

By Marty Lukatch

One easy way to clean Plasticville buildings is using baby wipes. This will remove minor dirt and dust, and it's also great for cleaning up messes and hands.

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What would happen if...



Thousands of fine people lost their lifetime hobbies in the recent hurricane season. Collectibles ranging from all kinds of plastic collectibles to basement model railroad layouts and paper ephemera were sadly destroyed. Did insurance help many of these victims? In too many cases, the answer was, "NO."

I've been a collector all of my life—even before I became the owner of a firm that specializes in providing insurance for thousands of collectibles. I know what it's like to lose the treasures of a lifetime hobby. Here's a lesson I learned that I'd like to pass along to you: Homeowners insurance is rarely, if ever, adequate for your cut glass collectibles. Take a minute now and call, write or e-mail us for brochures that can help your peace of mind.

Dan Walker

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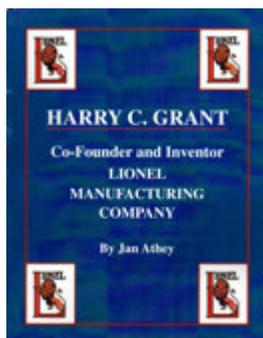
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Product Reviews



Harry C. Grant, Co-Founder and Inventor, Lionel Manufacturing Company by Jan Athey, published by the Train Collectors Association.

The 8-3/8 X 10-3/4 inch perfect bound book is 134 pages in length. It is broken into six main chapters, a bibliography, and a four section appendix. There is also a dedication, acknowledgements,

and an introduction.

The first chapter lists the few publications in which Harry Grant is given any mention while the second chapter delves more deeply into the life of Harry Grant from his birth, through his marriage, his tenure with the Lionel Manufacturing Company, and culminates with his death 1965.

Chapter three is a very brief history of Lionel from 1900 through 1910. Mention is made of Harry and Joshua Cohen – he changed his name to Cowen later in life - being listed as co-partners in the Lionel Manufacturing Company. Interspersed through these three chapters are various documents pertaining to Mr. Grant and the Lionel Manufacturing Company including a Certificate of Incorporation and Harry and Grace Adam's marriage certificate.

I was very intrigued while reading chapter four. I had falsely presumed that the majority of the early innovations of Lionel were the work of Mr. Cowen. This chapter discusses various patents granted to Harry. These include the wheel and axel systems for the #6 and #7 locomotives and the three-rail track design. There are numerous patent drawings and photos included in this chapter. One photo shows two grown men standing on a piece of standard gauge track.

The final two chapters discuss Mr. Grant's leaving Lionel. It surmises as to the reasons behind his leaving, chronicles his work and patents after leaving Lionel and credits him with being a vital force in the early formative years of the Lionel Manufacturing Company.

The remainder of the book is the four section appendix. The first section is a chronology of Harry's life along with color pictures of two of his Bayonne, New Jersey homes, his gravestone, a map denoting his various residences, and photos of products he patented after leaving Lionel. Appendix B contains various personal documents including marriage and death certificates. Appendix C contains various Lionel documents.

I was quite interested in Appendix D as it illustrates the drawings of patents granted to Harry Grant. Reviewing this section should give any reader a greater insight into just how much forethought went into the design of the tubular railroad track.

This book was very easy to read and gave me a new perspective on the formative years of the Lionel Manufacturing Company and its early players. I would recommend it to anyone interested in a more in depth perspective on the early years of the Lionel Manufacturing Company.

In all of the years that I have been collecting and playing with toy trains was I ever aware that there was another person who was part of the founding of the Lionel Manufacturing Company. Jan Athey's book has opened my eyes to a piece of Lionel history that is rarely, if ever, mentioned

Harry C. Grant, Co-Founder and Inventor, Lionel Manufacturing Company is available from the Train Collectors Association. Address your orders to TCA Library, PO Box 248, Strasburg, PA 17579. The cover price of the book is \$25 but has been reduced to \$15 plus \$2 postage and handling for PCA members. You can't go wrong at that price.



Mini-Techlite with magnifying lenses by Q-Lighting, Lexington, KY. There are times when I am working on detailing a small item and wish that I had something other than my lighted desk

mounted magnifier to use for the highly detailed work. Other times I have wished that I had a third hand to hold the flashlight when both hands are needed to perform a task such as wiring under a layout. The Mini-Techlite fits both these needs quite well.

The high candlepower LED light is headband mounted. It is powered by three AAA batteries mounted behind the light. The Velcro closure headband is large enough to fit just about any size head. I found the light to be quite comfortable with and without the magnifier attached.

The instructions that came with the light stated that there was a small Phillips head screw behind the on-off switch that needed to be removed before opening the battery case. The screw was missing on my evaluation copy. The lack of the screw did not seem to hamper the operation of the light as the batteries loaded easily and the case stayed tightly closed without the screw.

I tested using the light only by simulating working under a layout. The high intensity of the light was far and

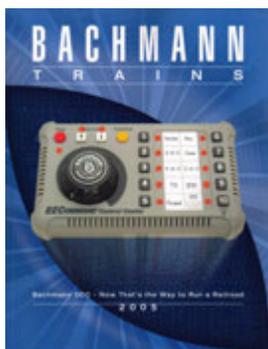
above any light I have gotten from a standard two D cell flashlight. Once the light was positioned using the dual pivots I was ready to go to work with both hands free.

Also available for the light are clip on magnifiers in 1.5, 1.75, and 1.25 power. The magnifiers clip on quite easily to the front of the light and also have dual pivots. I simulated detail painting a small figure while wearing the light and the magnifier included with my evaluation copy. Once again, after getting both the light and magnifier aligned I had both hands free. My only complaint with the lens was that there was no marking on it as to its magnification level. That would be a nice addition especially if I decided to purchase all three lenses.

The Mini-Teclite sells for \$39.95. With a 1.75X

magnifier it sells for \$49.95. The additional magnifiers sell for \$9.95 each. It can be purchased from Q-Lighting's website at www.q-lighting.com or contact them at Q-Lighting Inc., 750 Enterprise Drive, Lexington, KY. Contact them by phone at 602 315-5882.

Neil Besougloff the editor of *Classic Toy Trains* magazine recently bemoaned the worsening of his eyesight brought on by aging. He continued to comment that he uses reading glasses when working on his layout and stated, "and forget about trying to connect those tiny 22 gauge wires to the Z stuff switch machines...". The Mini-Teclite may be just the thing to aid his aging eyesight and again give him the ability to solder those 22 gauge wires.



Bachmann Trains 2005, full line catalog. The Bachmann Trains 2005 full line catalog is now available. The catalog contains a complete listing of all train-related items Bachmann offers. The last one third of the catalog is devoted to their Spectrum line of trains.

There is no change in the HO buildings available from

this year to last. There are two significant differences in the listings this year. All of the traditional pieces have had an across the board price increase of 50 cents while the built ups have increased anywhere from seven to eleven dollars per piece. Included this year are illustrations of the built ups as opposed to the word NEW! in a red ribbon over a yellow circle in last year's catalog.

As with the HO buildings, the traditional O scale buildings have increased anywhere from twenty five to fifty cents with the exception of the School House and Trailer Park which remained unchanged. All the items offered last year are still in the O scale line this year.

The yet to be seen O scale built up buildings have increased from the ten of last year to thirteen pieces this year. The new additions to the built up line include a Bank, Hospital with Furniture, and Cape Cod houses. The illustration for the Country Church is actually the traditional Cathedral in what I would consider butterscotch walls with a light grey roof. The 2005 catalog prices for these pieces are anywhere from seven to nineteen dollars higher than the prices listed in the 2004 catalog for the same pieces. It is my understanding that these will be on dealers' shelves very soon. (*Look for a review of the HO House Under Construction and the O Town Hall in the August issue of The Villager. Editor*)

Known Connecticut Hobbies Buildings

By Joe Endicott

Former member Joe Endicott collected Connecticut Hobbies buildings for a few years and has assembled a listing of known buildings and their color combinations. Our thanks to Joe for this listing.

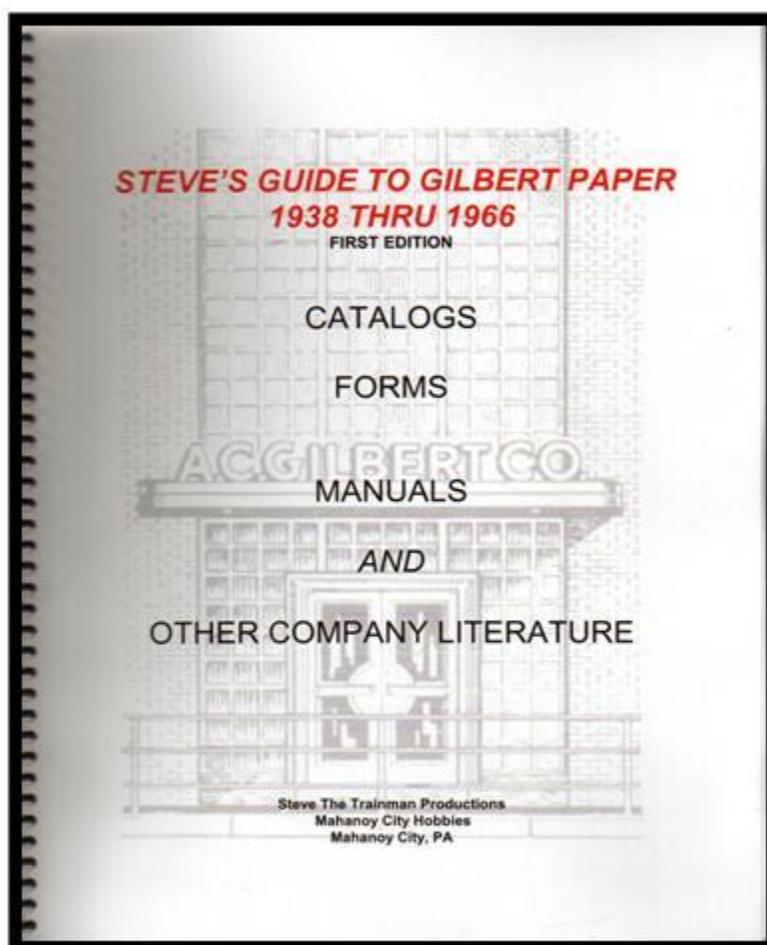
Joe notes, "some are mint in sealed bags with labels some are from all aboard sets also I'm sure there are probably more variations out there."

- Barn - red roof, white walls
- Colonial - brown roof, tan walls
- Colonial - blue roof, tan walls
- Colonial - bright blue trim, tan walls
- Colonial - brown roof yellow walls
- Colonial - mint green or light blue roof, tan walls
- Colonial - turquoise roof, blue trim, tan walls
- Ranch - green roof, green trim
- Ranch - red roof, red trim
- Ranch - red roof, turquoise trim
- Ranch - turquoise roof, red trim

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Welcome New Members

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

William R Samsell, Falling Waters, WV
Fil Fillion, Troy, NY
William A Mazzoni, Vineland, NJ
Mark A McKibben, Hutchinson, KS
Geraldine E Scott, Englewood, FL
Debra K Deming, Davison, MI
Richard Ravella, Lutz, FL
Ray W Jackson, Winston-Salem, NC
Richard A Woelkers, Bristol, VA
Dennis J Palazzolo, St Louis, MO
Norbert A Steinhardt, Indianapolis, IN

as of April 1, 2005. Their names are now listed in the on line roster.

Dennis F Call, Portland, OR
Jim Rodemaker, Carbondale, IL
David I Moshier, Burke, VA
Ronald W Dise, Glen Rock, PA
Thaddeus C Kosick, Parsonsburg, MD
Brock L Robertson, Yorktown, VA
Joseph P Scilla Jr, Marlboro, NY
Allen D Harn, Omaha, NE
Reginald F Henry, Belfair, WA
Greg Nicholas (Nick's Trains), Aliso Viejo, CA
Timothy J Debelak, Chula Vista, CA

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

Philip Caolo, Springfield, MA
Fred W.J. Young, Moorestown, NJ
Frank G Buono, Philadelphia, PA
Jim P Farace, Glenville, PA
Keith E Jones, Abbotsford, WI
John A Fossa, Lakewood, NJ
Robert A Passero, Glastonbury, CT

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, 2005.

John L Shaffer, Upper Marlboro, MD
Michael N Murphy, Toledo, OH
Peter Pucak, Jr, Clarence, NY
Raymond J Phillips, Sudbury, MA
Stephen A Lattanzio, Philadelphia, PA
Gordon C Kelley, Lyons, WI
Donald E Smith Jr, Glen Arm, MD

Notes from the Secretary Treasurer

Incorrect Email addresses

Please send me your current email address if you did have not been receiving email messages from me or the PCA secretary. Your lack of notification probably
Charles Carey Jr, #02-103, metro75@erols.com
Phillip Coduti, #04-287, plcodu@inland.com
Charles A Lowe, charles.a.lowe/na/invista@invista.com

indicates that I have an incorrect email address. The email address listed after your name is the one currently in our records. Please help me keep our records accurate.
Jim Rodemaker, #04-329, jim.rodemaker@ii.net
Mark Barkowski, #01-35, mjbd@nauticom.net
Charles Bryner, #02-88, bryner@attbi.com



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- BL-4 2-STORY COLONIAL CHIMNEY HALF
- 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

- RED ___ WHITE ___ TAN ___
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- LT.BRN ___ DK.BRN ___ LT.GREY ___ DK.GREY ___
- LT.BRN ___ DK.BRN ___ LT.GREY ___ DK.GREY ___
- LT.BRN ___ DK.BRN ___ LT.GREY ___ DK.GREY ___
- WHITE ___ TAN ___
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- RED ___ WHITE ___
- RED ___ WHITE ___
- TAN ___
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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 Rail Road". 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. (May 05)

Varney HO parts catalog listing original and reproduction parts. \$15.00 postpaid. #01-81, Chris Rossbach, 135 Richwood Dr., Gloversville, NY 12078 518-725-4446 11 AM to 3 PM. No night calls, please. (May 05)

Election Special! Don't know who might win? Don't trust either one? Beef up your own homeland security with a Jr. Chief, 198, for \$325. Get your own Interceptor Squadron, 5607, for \$425. Direct it all with colored citizens (whose vote you can take for granted) centrally – with your own public buildings, PB-8, for \$400 and grandstand from, 1890, Racing Accessories \$750. #02-154, Robert Spivey, Box 33484, Decatur, GA 30033. (404) 633-6777 (Aug 05)

For Trade

My green walled Storytown Humpty Dumpty for your yellow walled version. #02-183, Charles Swanson, PO Box 33042, Knoxville, TN 37930. 865-693-5740 (May 05)

Have green door for brown marble shanty light fixture, police chimney cap and corner for the red lights, motel

Wanted

Red Roof New England Rancher. Boxes: 1707, 1611, 1607 & 1614. Misc. "N" play sets or parts. Storytown shoe complete or parts. Littletown ranch, red walls, maroon roof. Marbled Plasticville work car. #02-183, Charles Swanson, PO Box 33042, Knoxville, TN 37930. 865-693-5740 (May 05)

Megow, Ideal, Skyline cardstock structure buildings in HO scale. Ideal kits as follows: B5 Water Tower, B27

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 to fewer than 50 words if payment for the excess words is not included with the ad.

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 (Nov 05)

6 REALISTIC HO scale model kits. All kits are unassembled, never used and are in their original boxes. Boxes are in excellent condition. Kits are #338---Small Town church, #391---2-Story House, #392---Cottage, #395 Ranch House, #557---L-Shaped Ranch House, #558---Bungalow. I am not familiar with this manufacturer and can offer no further information outside of color combos if needed. \$75.00 for all. Contact Shirley Hunter at email Yoginugen@yahoo.com. (Nov 05)

door for the corn crib floor, WPLA antenna base for windmill generator housing, BBQ for shade tree, cathedral bell for town hall weathervane, split level drain pipe for light fixture. #02-154, Robert Spivey, Box 33484, Decatur, GA 30033. (404) 633-6777 (Feb 06)

Barn and Outbuildings, B8 Factory, B37 Meat Packing Plant, B43 Paoer Mill, B1 Combination Station, B7 Roundhouse, B38 Two Stall Engine House, B31 Railroad Terminal, B41 Icing Plant, B42 Hedge. #01-81, Chris Rossbach, 135 Richwood Dr., Gloversville, NY 12078 518-725-4446 11 AM to 3 PM. No night calls, please. (May 05)

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

Any marbled walls, etc, for the switch tower, workman's shanty, and the water tower, etc. #02-93, Gerry Fuglewicz, 11262 Sunrise Dr, East Aurora, NY, 14052, GFuglewicz@aol.com 716-655-0223 (Nov 05)

I am looking for figures from the animal sets: cats and standing ducks. I will buy or trade. (I have some pieces of the dairy barn and ranch house.) E-mail me at pjb@mich.com #02-100, Paul Buczkowski, 422 N Huron, #2, Ypsilanti, MI, 734-485-0134 (Nov 05)

Your discarded, miscellaneous Plasticville walls, roofs, parts, pieces. Glued or unglued. 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. PH.248-363-3167 (Nov 05)

Union Station roof, red rooster for 2 story, barn weathervanes, N.E. porch. 2 story porch and awning, water tower ladder, white mansion chimney, general store

(Littletown) insert, white light fixtures, swing seats, water tower spout, shanty light fixture, signboards, schoolhouse weathervane, stakes, fire nozzle for truck. Will pay by trade. #02-154, Robert Spivey, Box 33484, Decatur, GA 30033. (404) 633-6777 (Feb 06)

Switch Tower in Ex 1631 box and/or 1951 box. Watchman's Shanty in Ex 1633 box and/or 1816 Ex box. Ranch House in Ex 1705 and/or 1812 box. #99-01, Contact Joe Kutza at jkutza@comcast.net or 301-528-6679 (Feb 06)

Wanted – your unwanted or extra Plasticville Kits, complete or partials, in excellent or better condition. I kit or a truck load, doesn't matter. I will also buy nice clean boxes. glennb@tricity.net, #03-219, Glenn Bowman, 301 Buffalo Creek Rd, Newport, PA, 17074.

Wanted: Black Plasticville telephone poles. State price, condition, and number available. #02-150, James Starosta, 4957 South 81st Street, Greenfield, WI 53220-4215 or phone after 6:00 PM 1-414-282-7692.

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.

Download the ad form from the PCA website or contact the PCA Secretary for a copy if you don't have Internet access.



Become an ePCA member and a pen like the one shown will be on its way to you. The pen has the new "soft grip", comes in fine point with black ink and gold-tone accents and three lines of gold engraving. Send a note to secretary@plasticvilleusa.org indicating that you wish to get your newsletters from the PCA website instead of printed copies through the mail. She will send you the pen along with a user name and password for access to the Members Only section of the website as soon she gets your message. (Please note that the light stripe along the blue area is from camera flash. It is not on the actual pen.)

BILL NOLE

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

Bill Nole's CLASSIC GUIDE TO VINTAGE "O" PLASTICVILLE, THE FIRST FULL COLOR GUIDE FOR "O" PLASTICVILLE COLLECTORS. The most complete and accurate book published. This great guide covers not only "O" Plasticville but also thoroughly covers STORYTOWN, LIONEL PLASTICVILLE, KING PLASTICVILLE, CATALOGS, MAKE N PLAY and BOX VARIATIONS. There are 116 pages and 95 full-color photos. \$30.00 each.

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1004 BBQ: \$3 each or 4/\$10.
SS-5 Street Signs (no tag) \$1 each or 12/\$10.
1050 Outhouse (brown) \$4
1029 BS-6 Shrub (green) 12/\$5.
PB-5 Footbridge \$4 each
Misc Black Auto \$8 each; 2/\$15.
Misc Traffic Light \$3 each
Misc Fire Trucks in red: \$5 each (Ladder or Pumper)
RG-3 Rustic Fence Gate \$2 each
BB-9 Billboard and Frame \$3 each; 4/\$10.

1623 Cattle Pen \$75.
1302 Farm Implements \$95.
1923 Roadside Stand - Sealed - \$85.
DE-7 Diner (Red or Yellow) \$30.
1800 Gas Station \$45.
FB-1 Frosty Bar \$30.
1877 Sitting People \$275. MINT
SA-9 Outhouse, Dealer Box of 12 - \$175.
ON-5 Outdoor Necessities \$250.
5002 Picket Fence, Blister Pack \$150.
HF-2 House Fence, Dealer Box of 12 Packs - \$250.

PLASTICVILLE NO BOX - COMPLETE

CC-9 Church \$8.
BN-1 Barn \$10.
1620 Loading Platform \$10.
1616 Suburban Station \$12.
1303 Log Cabin \$10.
1703 Colonial Mansion (Red Roof) \$25.
0550 KING Add-A-Floor (Red) \$10. ea. or 3/\$25. MINT
0550 KING Add-A-Floor Brown \$15. ea 3/\$39. MINT
SC-4 School \$15.
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.
MOBILE HOME Assortment - No Box - \$20. ea 6/\$99.
(Cream/Teal, Cream/Pink, Cream/Blue, Teal/Cream, Pink/Cream, Pink/Blue, Blue/Cream, Blue/Pink, Blue/Silver) Make your own MOBILE HOME PARK.

KING PLASTICVILLE

0400 KING Mobile Home (Blue sides or Buff sides) \$30 ea 2/\$50. MINT
0550 KING Add-A-Floor in Red \$15. each; 2/\$25. MINT
0550 KING Add-A-floor in Brown \$25 each; 2/\$40. MINT
0700 KING Bank (Buff or Green Sides) \$30. each; 2/\$50. MINT

0500 KING Apartment House in Red \$25; 5 Story \$60.
0500 KING Apartment House in Brown \$45; 5 Story \$90.
0650 KING Covered Bridge (Grey Roof) \$40. MINT

STORYTOWN

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.
Old Lady In A Shoe: Clothes line (red, yellow or green) \$15. ea.

SHIPPING INFORMATION: \$4.00 FOR THE BOOK ONLY. \$5.00 IF ORDERING BUILDINGS, PARTS, AND TRUCK

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