



The Villager

The official newsletter of the Plasticville Collectors Association

Volume 6

August 2007

Number 3

PCA Member Revises Membership Form

How things do change! The May issue of *The Villager* had as the last two pages a current membership application. This issue has a new version of the application courtesy of long standing PCA member Tom Fritsch.

Tom suggested that the application could be “jazzed up” a little more”. I suggested to Tom that he put his thoughts to paper. What you see as the last two pages of this newsletter is the result of his efforts. His revision of the membership form/information sheet has been reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee.

Please use this form when you are recruiting members. It contains the current dues structure. If you have any of the forms with a single dues listing of \$8 per year please toss them as they are no longer correct and cause

additional work for the secretary and treasurer. Tom’s version of the application is also available on the PCA website.

Once you have entered the website then click on the PCA Basics link. Then click on the “How do I join the PCA?” link.

The top link on this page is a link that will download a current version of the membership application which you can then print.

As an alternative, you can always contact the PCA Secretary at secretary@plasticvilleusa.org and request new member information packets. There is no charge for these packets. The packets contain not only a membership application but also information about the club.

Davy Crockett Cabin Without a Sticker

by Glenn Bowman

Here is one of the plasticville top ten rare pieces. It is the Davy Crockett cabin with the rifle over the door. We have added two pictures to show the original, as found condition in the as issued box. There is no evidence that this kit ever had a sticker on the door. Some people swear that this kit was never boxed and that Bachmann would never continue to issue the Crockett logo after the Disney contract ended. Finding this kit in its badly damaged original box, suggests that Bachmann may have used up existing walls in the regular

LC2 boxes but did not add the Crockett sticker on the



It is relatively rare that one finds a Davy Crockett log cabin missing the yellow animal skin sticker and in a box.

door, thus not doing free advertising for Disney. Who knows?? *Editor’s note: A 1993 Plasticville guide states, “Rifle over door cabin, may contain a paper animal skin w/Davy Crockett written on it. Usually covered in a poly-bag, not a box.” In my opinion this rifle over the door variety is*

probably much rarer than the one with the sticker.

The Villager

Published quarterly by the Plasticville Collectors Association.

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<http://www.plasticvilleusa.org>

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From the President's Desk



My third time as a columnist, my third article as your president. Very little feedback comes my way, mostly the odd note about finding an old collection of Plasticville buildings in the basement / garage / at a swap meet and the author asks “to whom

should I sell it?” or “what’s it worth?”

I’d very much like your feedback on how the club is treating you. Are my musings and ramblings worthy of the time you take to read them?

Is Joe doing a good job as Webmaster? What can he do better?

How about Doug and his column?

Anything to tell John about the quality of *The Villager*? My instinct tells me that any opinions received will be praise, but I’d like to know the honest truth.

In my previous two columns, I asked you to write in on almost any aspect of PV. Here’s mine, a short essay on PV collecting.

I started my PV collecting at age 12, instinctively developing an appreciation for the graphics on the boxes and the assembly / disassembly and storage of the pieces.

The assembly made for a 3-dimensional jigsaw puzzle; not too difficult to complete (in most cases), but often a brain teaser to put away so the box closed without stressing or tearing. A few times of this and you learn to REMEMBER what came out of the box, and how. A second level puzzle included for your amusement and frustration

Over the next few years of my young life, I added a few items to the basic Suburban Station and Waiting Platforms most of us had. A Marx Water Tower. Some Cape Cods and Ranch Houses to make a small town for my Flyer once-a-year layout. Watchman’s Shanty, Signal

Bridge, Block Signals, Crossing Gates, a Lionel Farm Set with Barn and Livestock and all the small farm buildings.

Somehow the esthetics of the PV stayed and grew. In some ways, a sharper interest than in the Flyer. Some years later, as a young adult, the Flyer layout (by now an ever changing 5’ by 9’) was an outer loop just to offset the PV display. In some years, the PV was used as a minimal counter-point to Flyer accessories and complicated – automated track plans with multiple trains circumnavigating that same beloved 5 by 9.

Okay, now it’s your turn. Send your creative best and I will gather them up for a future article, just let me know if you want your name used or prefer to be anonymous or even use a pseudonym.

In this issue of *The Villager*, we have our Plasticville On Board article featuring lighting your buildings; an article on the various shades of PV shrubbery, another Railfan Antics (I like those stories, don’t you?); and how Plasticville is being used in non-traditional ways.

I won’t spoil your fun by giving out the referred website here; you’ll have to read the article and then click on the link (or type it into a browser page on a PC or Mac). John gave me the website address early so that I could have a preview. WOW! And that’s an understatement.

My last blurb is a special thank you to a member of our community who has put in a grand effort to revamp the Membership Application Form. Tom Fritsch took some good work and converted it into GREAT work. He is to be thanked by one and all.

Tom, as President, it is decreed that your efforts shall not go unnoticed.

Hear! Hear! Well done and Thank you!

Any questions, comments or clean jokes, please write to: president@plasticvilleusa.org

Until next issue, happy hunting and low prices to all!

Vice Presidential Insights

Another summer is here in the Valley of the Sun and we thought going to the TCA Annual convention in Denver would be a cool relief. How wrong we were when it was 100 degrees when we stepped off the plane.

I was disappointed that I did not see any PCA members in the trading hall at the TCA convention; I think I was the only one wearing the PCA t-shirt so I was hard to miss.

I was also disappointed with the real slim and expensive selection of Plasticville that was for sale this year. I do not believe I saw a single Marx or Littleton building either. I was hoping that there would be some great Plasticville/Marx etc. to pick up or at least look at, but it was not to be this trip.

It seems to me that eBay (or other online auctions) are becoming one of the major ways to add to a collection as, at least in AZ, there is not much if any model railroad

items to be found at sales or at antique stores or anywhere else.

As I continue to say, please continue to contribute articles, stories or pictures that make *The Villager* the great publication it is. We are always looking for material. If you have not done so then please consider submitting an article or tip that would be of interest to our members. It is always with great interest that we all await the next issue to see what new things we can learn from fellow members. So everyone continue to support our organization by sending in articles/photos etc. of interest to our members.

I hope that all the members are safe and are looking forward to a great summer of collecting and Model Railroading.

PCA Vice-President, Doug Gilliatt

Editor's Notes

It is with sadness that I announce the passing of PCA member Robert Schmidt of S Milwaukee, WI on March 28. Shortly after Bob joined the PCA I received a letter from him in answer to my classified ads for K-Line figures. I agreed to purchase some figures along with a set of farm animals from him. When the package arrived there were additional pieces in it that I had not ordered. Upon contacting him he told me that he did not need them and preferred sending them to someone who would appreciate them rather than them just sitting gathering dust in his storage area. I have personally extended condolences on behalf of the PCA to his wife, Bernadette.

Do you have an email address? Are you receiving emails from the PCA? There are occasions when I send out emails to all active members. Without fail, I will get

“undeliverable” return messages in my inbox every time I send out a broadcast message. If you have an active email account and did not receive an email message stating that this newsletter was available on the PCA website then there is one of two problems. Either the email address in the PCA database is no longer valid, or we do not have an email address listed for you. Please send an email to villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org. If you would put in the subject line something like “email address change” that is all you have to do to ensure you do not miss out on future emails.

If your mailing address or phone number or any other member information has changed please let me know that also. This will ensure that you are kept informed of all PCA activities.

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Bring us..... a SHRUBBERY!

by Joe Kutza

Bear with me for a second. If you're a fan of Monty Python, you'll love this, if not, you'll be lost.... Let's say that, in my bizarre world, some knights from one of the Marx playsets escaped and set up shop in a patch of CT-6 and TR-6 trees, and the good folks of medieval Plasticville who need to pass through those woods are forced to give the knights some shrubbery! They are the "Knight's Who Say 'Ni'" or "The Knight's Who until Recently Said 'Ni'" depending on how far we want to go with this Monty Python analogy, and they demand shrubbery from all those who wish to pass. Well, what kind of shrubbery could our Citizens provide to these deranged Knights?

I wrote a fairly lengthy analysis of the trees found in Plasticville and surrounding communities in issue #7 of the Plastic Village Gazette (article titled "Arbor Day in Plasticville"). Although technically not trees, I included the shrubs in that review and provided three potential real world equivalents, with arborvitae being the most likely, and a "shapely yew" or "very small Leland cypress" as other possibilities. The Knights Who Say Ni did not specify the type of shrubbery to provide, so we are probably safe. Nor did they specify color, which is where the Plasticville shrubs really stand out.

Everyone has probably seen the basic green shrub. It's easy to see that there are at least two variations of green shrub, a darker green, and a lighter green. We can argue on further shades of green, but it's easy to spot at least those two. After the greens, the colors become much scarcer. The blue, red, and yellow shrubs came with the Storytown items. It's not particularly difficult to find Storytown items, it's just difficult to find them at a price that a sane person would pay. Occasionally you can find the blue, red or yellow shrubs on their own, or mixed in with a pile of green ones. Next on the list are three shades of brown shrubs: dark brown, medium buff and light buff. Dictionary.com has the "buff" color defined as: "A pale,

light, or moderate yellowish pink to yellow, including moderate orange-yellow to light yellowish brown." For the shrubs, that's not quite right, though the light yellowish brown comes sort of close. I prefer to think of the "light buff" as tan and the "medium buff" as a darker tan or light brown. Whatever works for you is fine! These brown variations have an interesting history in that they were meant to be included with the apartment house sold by King Distributing. However, Bill Nole decided not to include them with this kit. The PCA was the sole source for brown variants of the shrub for a time, as we were able to include them with the Add-A-Floor fundraiser that we featured early in our existence. Bill Nole now includes them in some of the Add-A-Floors that he sells, and with a collection of shrubs he lists on eBay from time to time that includes one each of the green, blue, yellow, red, tan, darker tan, and dark brown. However, there is one more shrub to be had: the white shrub. The history on these is a little unclear. Some were probably made in the early 50's, and may have been part of one of the Church display units (and may not have had the base section, just a stem). Other white shrubs were samples produced for King Distributing, and apparently are quite rare. So the white shrubs were never mass-produced, thus making them an enigma, and somewhat indefinable. Nonetheless, there are some out there!

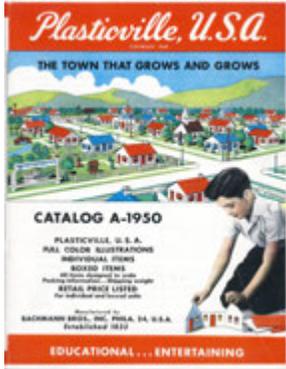
As Plasticville's resident tree-hugger, I just wanted to give a brief update on shrub history. I thank Bill Nole for providing information, and welcome comments, questions, and sightings of other color variations of the shrubs. As the shrubs were last made for King Distributing, I'd venture a guess that the mold is still around, and who knows, more shrubbery may one day be available. That's good news for the fans of Plasticville, and good news for the Knights Who Say Ni. Maybe we could arrange the shrubbery for a two-level effect "with a little path running down the middle"..... J



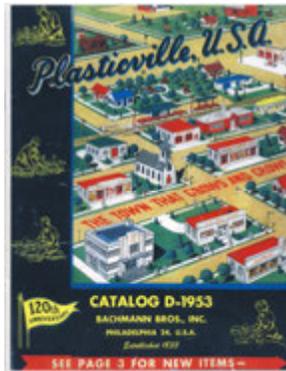
There are nine different known colors of Plasticville style shrubs. They are from left to right; light green, dark green, blue, yellow, white, dark brown, medium brown, light brown. The green shrubs are Plasticville. The blue, red and yellow are Storytown items. The white shrubs may have been part of early Bachmann Christmas items but were also produced by King Distributing. The three brown shrubs were produced by King Distributing.

More Catalog Reproductions From Anatol Vasiliev

PCA member Anatol Vasiliev has been at it again! He has added a reproduction of the 1950 and 1953 catalog to his repertoire of Plasticville catalogs. In addition to these



two catalogs he has also reproduced the 1961 Birds, Dogs, and Animals of the World catalog and the early 60's Plasticville, U.S.A. Road Racing Accessories flyer. Including his 1958 Storytown and 1954 Littletown catalog reproductions he now offers a total of six pieces of Plasticville paper. These most recent offerings are again printed on paper very similar to the originals making it difficult to tell these reproductions from the originals if not for the rubber stamped "reproduction" in black ink in the lower right hand corner of the back page of each piece.



The 1950 catalog has a distributor name on the back page. These would normally be rubber stamped by the dealer. In the case of his reproduction it is obvious that it was printed during reproduction. Additionally the pages are not quite folded on the same fold line as the original as one can see where the staples were placed on the original. Still it is a very good copy.

The 1953 reproduction is a much better copy. The only less than obvious sign that it is a reproduction is on the

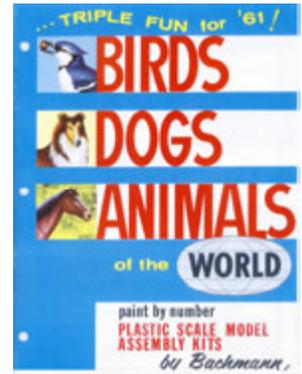
front cover. Near the bottom of the cover is a small rectangle in blue where it looks as if a small piece of the cover may have been missing. There is also what looks like what may have been a small tear at the bottom of the page also.

Even without the reproduction notation on the back of the road racing brochure it is obvious it is a reproduction. In order to hold down production costs, Anatol opted to forego the round and oval holes as well as the rectangular cutouts on the fold side of the brochure.

The same cost cutting measure was used on the Birds, Dogs, and Animals of the World catalog. The three round holes for putting the catalog in a binder are omitted.



Another subtle difference is the placing of the binding staples. They are slightly wider apart than are the staples in the original. This is only evident as the holes for the original staples are slightly visible in the center of the catalog. All in all the brochures are quite well done. They would make great references if you do not feel the need to purchase an original. Pricing and shipping information on these and Anatol's other offerings can be found in the For Sale section of the classified ads found near the end of this newsletter.



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Railfan Antics

Or How NOT to be a Good Railfan

By Gordon C Kelley

The first exposure to railfan antics dates back to the early 1960's. I was a locomotive fireman who was working the 11:59 PM Humboldt "beer train". The train was made up of reefers full of beer from Schlitz and Pabst, empty hide cars, empty boxcars from American Motors, and loaded scrap cars.

The "nut line" ran from downtown Milwaukee to North Milwaukee where we entered the main line so that we could pick up more cars at Glendale, Wisconsin and go to the Menomonee Valley yards. The "beer train" needed a signal to enter the main line at North Milwaukee.

The needed signal could only be seen from the fireman's side of the Fairbanks Morse locomotive. I told the engineer that we had the signal. For some unknown reason he asked me what color was the signal. I answered, "clear-green" and he dumped the air. We came to a screeching halt – just as Milwaukee Road's "The Copper Country Limited" flew past on its way to Calumet, Michigan.

The clear green signal should have shown restricting or

white to proceed. The signal would otherwise have shown red – stop. The engineer ran over to my side of the cab and there it was – a clear-green signal.

We exited the cab and found the antiquated "pot signal" was gone, removed, missing!! Hung in its place was an oil switch stand lamp. The electric wires from the pot signal were grounded to show the tower operator that the signal showed red – its normal indication. Three sides of the switch stand lamp were painted black, leaving a clear-green showing down the "nut line".

Months later the FBI found the "pot signal" in a private collection. The railfan who stole and removed the pot signal was prosecuted, fined, and jailed. He found out that the Feds didn't love him. Neither did we and he nearly killed a lot of people and all just to own a piece of railroad equipment.

Editor's note: The February, 2006, issue of The Villager contained Gordon's first offering which was a listing of various railroad terms. Additional terms will be defined in each of his articles as necessary.

What's Wrong With These Pictures?

PCA member Charles Wilbur has a very sharp eye. Look at the pictures of the 1807 Two Story House and the 1808 New England Rancher. Charles' comments and the

answer to this quiz can be found on page 21 of this newsletter.



Here is a challenge for the visually observant. Charles Wilbur has pointed out that both of these illustrations have a MAJOR error. Are you as observant as Charles? The answer is on page 21 of this newsletter.

Plasticville on the Board

The Inside Game

by John Gottcent

One of the problems facing those of us who like to display our plastic villages on lighted layouts is what to do about the insides of the buildings. Most structures have open windows and doors which visitors can see through. If there's nothing to be seen—or worse yet, if there's a bare but brightly lit light bulb visible—that certainly takes away from the look of reality we'd like to achieve.

A number of modern manufacturers have anticipated this problem and taken care of it for us. I have a Lionelville barber shop, for example, that comes complete and assembled, with inside details that not only show up but actually operate. There are two barbers who move slowly but surely around their customers' chairs, plus many other accessories, including movable ceiling fans and a rotating barber pole just outside. And for show, you can easily lift off the roof to make sure your visitors get the full effect.



Photo 1

A simple addition of tissue paper to the inside of a building using rubber cement hides the bare interior and the rubber cement does not damage the building and is easy to remove. Use very thin paper to let heat escape if you are going to light the building.

Other manufacturers make a variety of such buildings, including several ceramic McDonald's restaurants from which you can almost smell the Big Macs being fried.

Bachman itself provided some help in this direction, including window inserts in Plasticville buildings like the Post Office, Super Market (both large and small), and Hardware/Pharmacy. These inserts were paper strips illustrated with scenes likely to be encountered inside their respective structures—not as realistic as the Lionelville barber shop, but still a way to hide a bare inside or a bright bulb. The Plasticville diners also came with plastic window shades that covered at least part of the openings.

These buildings still had doors that were uncovered, however, and there were many other buildings, ranging

from Cape Cod houses to suburban train stations, that came with no coverings at all. What to do about them?

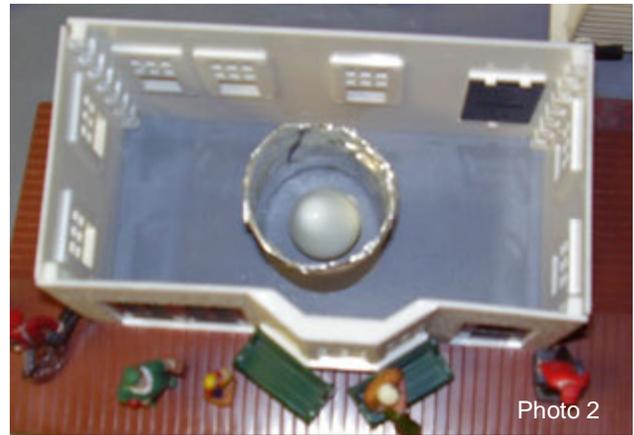


Photo 2

When curtains of tissue do not seem appropriate I use the tube from the center of a toilet paper roll, cut down to the needed height and lined with foil. This adds a muted light to the building while the foil protects the building from the heat of the bulb.

Perhaps the easiest solution, and the first one I tried many years ago, is to cover the windows and doors with "curtains" made from tissue paper. (See Photo 1.) The paper can be white or colored, and if you want to get really fancy, you can put different colors in different "rooms," or use masking tape to simulate window shades. I usually attach these curtains from the inside with rubber cement, which is easy to remove and leaves no permanent mark on your buildings.



Photo 3

I use the toilet paper tube method especially when I wish to give the effect of a light on in an upper room (say, a bedroom), while lights are out on the floor below. (Note the light in the upper left hand window)

If you do this, be sure your tissue paper is thin enough to let heat out. Better yet, leave one or two uncovered

openings that are in the back and out of view to ensure that your light bulb doesn't start melting walls or roofs.

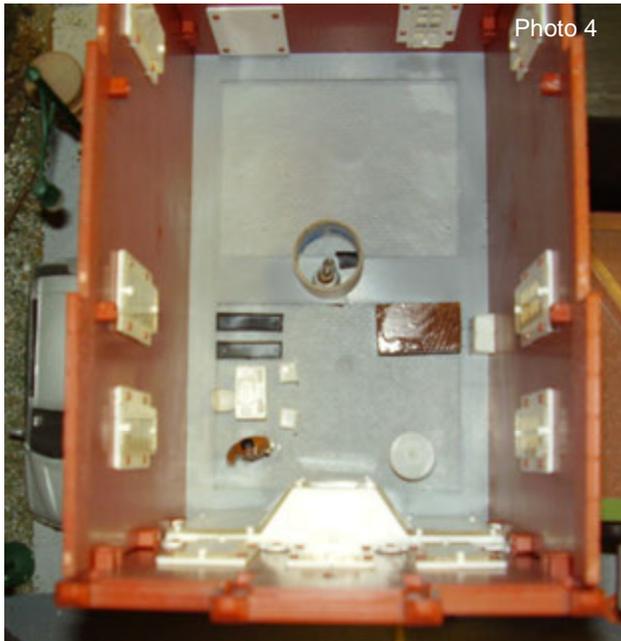


Photo 4

Figures and furniture do not have to be first rate if visitors are only going to view them through the doors and windows.

If curtains don't seem appropriate (e.g., in a train station), you can hide a bulb by surrounding it with a cardboard cylinder cut down from a toilet paper roll. (See Photo 2.) Lining the inside of the tube with aluminum foil both protects against heat and gives added reflection to your light. The view from outside is muted and more realistic.



Photo 5

This is what visitors see when viewing the detailing and lighting in the building shown in photo 4.

This technique works especially well on two-story buildings, where it can give the effect of a light on in an upper room (say, a bedroom), while lights are out on the floor below. (See Photo 3.)

If you want to get really fancy, you can actually place some people and some furniture inside your building.



Photo 6

The movers, moving truck, and furniture placed outside a house explains why the building is lighted but has no interior details.

Bachmann anticipated this when they supplied furniture with some of the Plasticville hospitals years ago, but you can usually come up with items of your own from doll house collections or miniature shops.

Photo 4 shows an aerial view of the inside of my Walthers Realty Office. Note that the people and furniture don't have to be in first-rate condition, since the view from outside will give only the general effect. (In this case, unlike with the barber shop above, you may want to avoid lifting the roof for visitors. Just let them peer into the windows and be done with it!) Photo 5 shows the same building from the outside, with the roof in place.

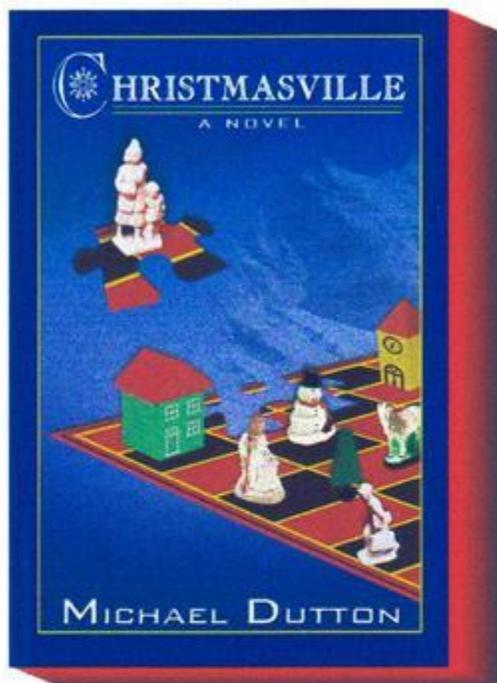
One clever device I hit upon for one or two buildings is to suggest that their occupants are just moving in. The movers, moving truck, and furniture placed outside the Skyline house in Photo 6 help explain why the building is lighted, though it doesn't have anything in it.

Finally, as a last resort, you can leave a few buildings unlighted to suggest that no one's home. This not only adds variety and reality to your village, but also prevents you from having to worry about the insides of every single structure on your layout.

So there you have several options to choose from when dealing with "the inside game" for your plastic village. If you have other ideas, please send them along to me at jandjgott@juno.com. And, as always, happy villaging!

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A NOVEL

BY

Michael Dutton

(PCA MEMBER #03-236)

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Plasticville, USA Enters the Combat Zone!

by Joe Kutza

No, not Iraq or Afghanistan, the game “Combat Zone” and the related “Kill Zone”. Combat Zone is a 25mm skirmish game set in the near future. Try picturing a post-nuclear holocaust sort of setting, but it’s more of a post-technology, or more specifically, post-internet society gone dreadfully wrong. Vast territories controlled by corporations, and wasteland controlled by gangs. It’s not a computer game, not a board game; it’s a turn-based strategy game using miniature figures. It can be played right out of the box, but I’ve found a bunch of dedicated gamers who have taken their hobby to the next level by creating fantastic custom scenery designed for their own Combat Zone (CoZo in the vernacular!). The custom scenery runs the gamut of modeling, but of course I am most interested in their use of Plasticville and other plastic village items. I first ran across this interesting use of plastic village items a couple of years ago while doing a general internet search on “plasticville”. I added it to my long list of “must write” stories for the Villager, and, sure enough, its time has finally come.

Try visiting this site for some basic background, overview of the scenario, and basic rules of the game: <http://www.combatzonechronicles.net/cozo4/xabout.htm>. This next link: www.combatzonechronicles.net is where one can find an ongoing, on-line magazine titled “The Combat Zone Chronicles” that is designed to provide information to help players get the most out of their gaming experience. Articles and information are presented on an “as available” basis for fans of Combat Zone everywhere. It’s here at the Combat Zone Chronicles site that I found some great articles on using plastic village items for the game.

Let’s take a quick look at some of my favorite builds, all by an enthusiast that goes by “Gisby”. First up, the “Frosty Bar” turned into the “Rosty Barf” by the gangs. It’s really just a detail job rather than any big kitbashing project:

A little paint, some skull and crossbones flags, and some interior details sure can turn the place around. The link for the Rosty Barf is <http://www.combatzonechronicles.net/cozo8/barf.htm>

Next up is the “Stupid Club”. This is more of a traditional kitbashing project where Gisby started with a Police Department, added a second floor, and turned it into a nightclub. There are some tips for making handrails in the accompanying article, and I like the roof hatch that



he designed. See the rest of the “Stupid” story at <http://www.combatzonechronicles.net/cozo8/stupid.htm>

The last build I’ll feature is the “GW Cheese Shop”. Believe it or not, one of my non-plastic village hobbies is cheese. Really! Yes, I’m an aspiring frommage, although



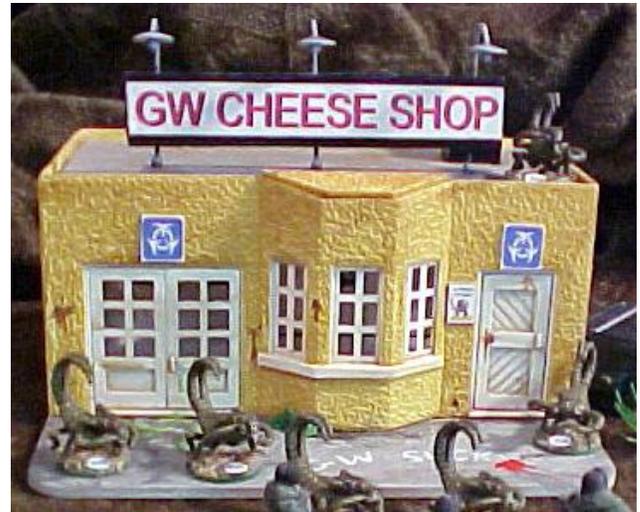
the GW Cheese Shop might make me think twice about that! The Cheese Shop is a nice combination of detail work and kitbashing all starting with the shell of a simple suburban station. Darn if that yellow paint job doesn’t

make the station look like a big hunk of cheese!
<http://www.combatzonechronicles.net/cozo9/cheeseshop.htm>

Take a look at the Combat Zone Chronicles site and you'll find interesting articles on how to modify a Plasticville Car, make your own "Nuclear Arms" apartment house, or how about a version of the "Our Lady of Perpetual Motion Taxpayers Hospital"? or check out Gisby's rendition of the trailer park. And take a visit every so often, as there's always something being added, like one of the newest articles, the "El Gato Negro" which also features parts of a suburban station. Whether you're thinking of playing the game, looking for detailing or kitbashing ideas, or just want to see an interesting use of plastic village items, the CoZo Chronicles site provides a little something for everyone.

Many thanks to "Gisby" for allowing us to reproduce some of his pictures and information for this article. Keep up the good work! And to those PCA members who are reading this in black and white, you could be reading this article in beautiful color on our website. After viewing it in color why not contact secretary@plasticvilleusa.org and say, "Make me ePCA.."

(All members may download and print the newsletter from the Members Only section of the website but opting to download only – become an ePCA member – helps keep the dues low. Editor)



More on Bachmann Birds

Text by Charles Wilber, Photo by Glenn Bowman

The **FB-8** Flock of birds were released in 1950 in a dealer box of 12 bags, each bag containing 8 birds in various color combinations. There are two variations to these bags: clear cellophane and clear cellophane with birds pictured. The cellophane is noted for being subject to the elements, and will sometimes crumble into pieces upon handling. Needless to say, for this reason they are

very hard to find intact, especially with all of the birds still contained in the bag. These birds were always colored **LIGHT BLUE**, **YELLOW**, and **RED**.

The birds that came in these bags had a round base that helped hold them upright. If you cut off the base, these birds could be inserted in the holes on either the **CBR** Bird Bath or the **GT-1** Garden Trellis.

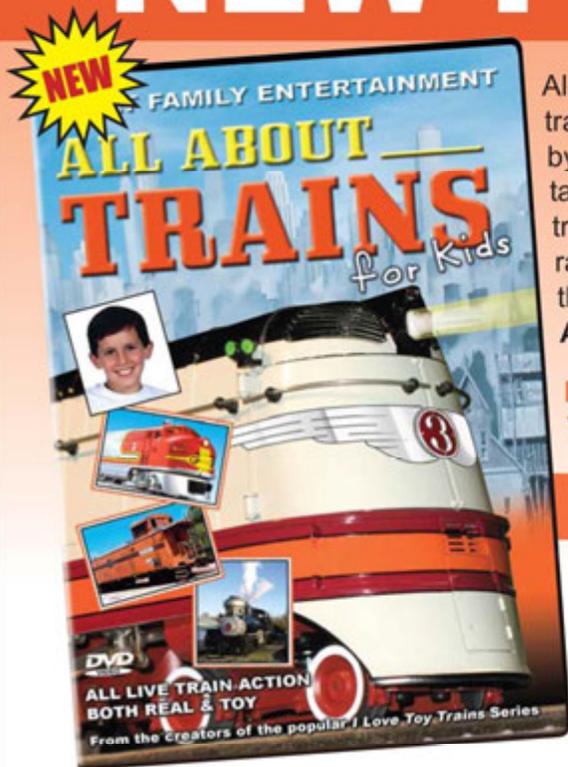
It is important to note here that we are talking about the smaller of the two sized birds that were used on the Bird Bath. The larger (candle holder) bird in the Bird Bath existed in **RED** and **LIGHT BLUE**. These are the only colors that I've seen, but there may be more. I'm told that there is a **PINK** color, but I've never seen one. These birds all have the candle hole filled in.

The larger "bird in the bath" was entirely assembled at Bachmann's factory and none of the component parts have been reissued, nor have they been reproduced. The last Bird Bath with a **BIG** bird that I saw go through eBay sold for \$25.00.



Various color birds in Glenn Bowman's collection. Top row from left to right: white, light pink, pink. Second row: pastel pink, bright yellow, blue and red.

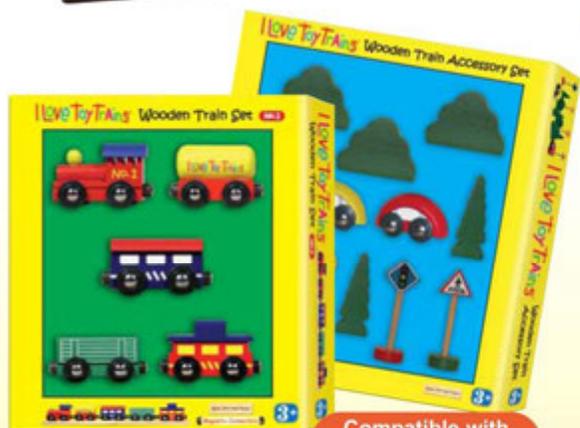
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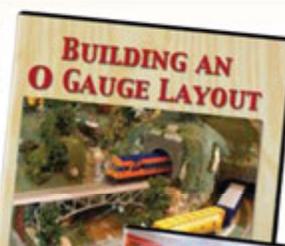
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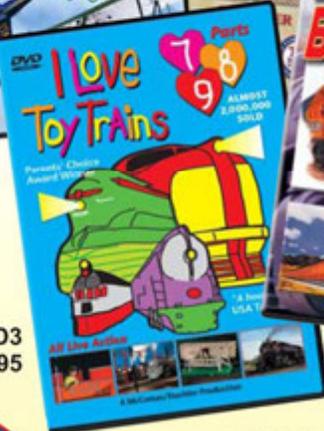
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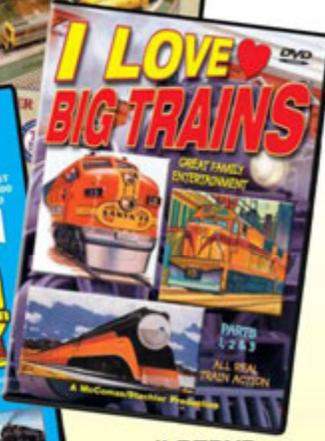
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Creative Uses of Damaged Parts

By James Hehn

Hello fellow PCA members. I just completed my latest creation. It took a lot of thinking and many hours of tedious work. This, now completed, hospital project was constructed from broken, cracked, and glued pieces. I started with eight hospital walls and four factory walls.



The trim on the eight hospital and four factory walls were painted a gloss blue followed by an application of yellow brick and random stone paper.

On all of the walls, I painted the trim and windows with Testors #921527 gloss blue. After each wall was painted, I applied O scale yellow brick paper and random stone paper from micro-mark.

When the four walls were completed, each wall included painted trim around each of the doorways and painted doors. The steps I painted black and then added black painted street lights to them. To the blue painted overhang over the front steps I added a cross from a plasticville church.

After painting the roof black, I then added a factory water tower, pump air-conditioning unit and smoke stack to the building.

The second floor insert was added after gluing a paper copy of an original insert onto heavy card stock and trimming it to fit. This completed the construction of my first hospital!!!!!!

The right hand wing of this hospital complex has some differences from the left hand wing. I used a factory wall for the right hand side along with a factory loading platform so the hospital can receive necessary supplies. Hospital windows were added to maintain the same window style all around the loading platform. This completed the construction of my second hospital!!!!!!

The third wing of the complex is a two story elevated section. The front wall of this section is a hospital front into which I inserted a modified union station window to replace the front doors.



I added a loading dock to the right hand wing of the hospital. Both wings have a factory water tower, pump air-conditioning unit and smoke stack on their roofs.

I added a unique detail in that I modified a turnpike sign to read "PLASTICVILLE HOSPITAL". Our flag proudly flies from the center of the sign.

The side and back walls, of this hospital, are factory walls to which I added hospital windows. The left and



A modified Plasticville turnpike sign now reads, "PLASTICVILLE HOSPITAL" with an American flag proudly flying in the middle. It is supported between the two wings by signal bridge girders.

right walls each have a door leading out to the roof of the first and second hospital. I added two floors in this section.

The bottom of this wing is supported by signal bridge girders. The roof is made from black foam board. The safety railing around the roof is made from broken pieces of signal bridge railing. A heliport, TV station tower, siren, altimeter, and radar tower all sit on top of a rooftop entrance to the hospital. The rooftop entrance is made from factory walls.

No project of this size is complete without exterior detailing. I added yellow brick walkways, grass, trees, flowers, cars, and ambulances (one of the ambulances I painted blue). Other accessories that I added were benches, a telephone booth, boulevard lights, street signs, and the American flag on a flagpole.

Plasticville people and Marx figures such as the motorcycle policeman and dock workers populate the scene. To personalize this project just a bit more I primed and hand painted all of the figures.



In addition to completing the four story, three wing hospital I took great pains to detail the scene. Small crosses were placed on the canopies of the side wings along with street lights. Yellow brick walkways were added around the buildings in addition to flowers, trees, and shrubs. Additional small accessories such as benches, a telephone booth, boulevard lights, street signs, and the American flag on a flagpole. I hand painted all of the figures.

What Members are Saying

In 1952, I received for Christmas the blue and white Bermuda ranch house. My mother for Christmas received a new extravagant coffee table for the living room. After the packages were unwrapped and calm set in, I cheerfully assembled and glued the Bermuda ranch in the living room. After assembly and waiting for the glue to dry, I placed the ranch on my mother's new coffee table. As we all know, the old airplane glue of usage then, is runny and goeey and thus ran down and dropped on mother's new table. Needless to say, the scorn I encountered as we lifted the Bermuda ranch and saw the horrible spot on the table left by the hardened glue. Even today, as I visit my mother, I can still see that awful spot on her coffee table as of nearly 55 years ago. Therefore, my pen tip would be, lest we forget, when gluing our plasticville buildings, always, repeat always, make sure we glue and assemble them on our work bench or with proper table covering underneath. (Jim Steed)

I completely agree about keeping a pleasant pastime pleasant. I trade friendly banter with my "pseudo rivet-counting" hi-rail friends, "electric mice" HO friends, and "electric cockroaches" N-gauge friends. They banter back about my "pigs with lipstick" rescue cases, and we all learn from each other and appreciate each other.

Most of my trains are also either lovingly used or heavily repaired. I bought an AF 336 Challenger basket-case for \$50 and then paid Doug Peck four times that to completely restore it. I might have bought a middle-quality engine for the same money, but now when I look at my shiny-new big beauty chugging and smoking as it pulls 16 #655 coaches without breaking a sweat, I have the satisfaction of knowing that it would have been bought for parts without my intervention. My Holiday benefit display layouts are always a mix of O and S, Plasticville, Department 56, Lemax, etc. It is impossible not to have fun, even when you know the only scale is the one in the bathroom. This year it took me an hour to build a train that was exactly the right length for the pilot of the engine to come within 1/32 of an inch of hitting the step on the caboose, as the train negotiated the O31 loop and hit the 90-degree crossing at one end of my inside track. Everyone from toddlers to great-grandparents was fascinated by this age-old gimmick. Even my two-rail friend asked questions. Wait until they see this year's layout! (Doug Wynne)

I like the idea of adding a PCA membership application with the Villager for us to distribute. I think it needs to be "jazzed up" a little more. Just seeing an application blank laying on a table does not attract attention. The page 2 side could be made page 1 and a description of what we are could be added to the top with a catchy headline and the logo. (There is a half a page of white space on page

2). The actual application would then be on the back. (Tom Fritsch)

Editor's note: It was due to Tom's suggestion and his acceptance of the challenge to put his ideas to paper that we have the new membership application/information sheet. A copy of this new form is the last two pages of this newsletter. Thanks, Tom.

The little people live forever on my layout. The population count is up to 3,183. Classic Toy Trains has made a second visit to my humble layout. There will be another article on my layout in the future. It is really a great honor when CTT revisits someone's layout. (Ron Schlicht)

Hi Gang, Last week I received the best gift ever, a son! After several years of trying we now have a beautiful boy named Jason. I have been trying to get things cleaned up



Is this a future Plasticville collector? Jason Borges born June 27 to Steve and Yolanda Borges. Congratulations Steve and Yolanda

around here and part of that is changing my "train room" over to Jason's future room.

I have gathered up a list of Plasticville items I need to sell and would like to offer them to the group before going to EBay or such.

Here is what I've got now. I may add more as I sort through more boxes.

Firehouse NB \$10
2 Story Col. NB (missing posts, ant. & weathervane) has been glued \$10
Police Station (lt. grey) NB \$20
Horse Barn NB (red sides ,white roof)missing vent tops \$10
Post Office NB cracked front & back walls, chip on 1 side, no flag or inserts \$5
Log Cabin NB (log broke on side, piece is there, missing chimney) \$5
Country Church NB (brown roof, white cross) \$15
3 Suburban Stations NB (green roof) 2 missing chimneys, no platforms \$5ea
1 Suburban Station NB (green roof) missing chimney but has platform \$10
2 Cape Cods NB w/ brown roofs 1 missing chimney \$20pr
Switch Tower 1402-79 Boxed (brown sides, light grey trim) broken stairs otherwise very clean piece \$15
Empty box for 1600-100 church \$5

2 Lg. Gas Stations NB (1 has broken front tower, no inserts) \$15pr
 Signal Bridge parts in parts of a box! \$5
 House Under Const. rough box (light grey) missing shovel, hoe, board for the sawhorse) \$40
 Horse Barn NB (white sides, red trim) no silo top, vent tops, or weathervane \$5

Country Church CC-8 Boxed (brown roof w/ gold bell) \$20

I know most of these are missing some parts, but I think I priced them accordingly. Regards, (Steve Borges)

Product Reviews



Tracks of Terror, CD collection, Radio Spirits, 10 CDs, #39.98. Tracks of Terror is a 10 CD collection of train related radio programs dating from 1946 – 1954. There are two programs on each of the first nine disks and one on disk

10, for a total of 19 episodes. Disk 10 has a one hour episode of The Lux Radio Theatre and is an adaptation of the 1951 Alfred Hitchcock movie Strangers on a Train.

All of the programs have a train connected with them in some manner. Approximately half of the programs take place entirely on a train or in a railroad setting exclusively.

Some of the programs run the entire length of the story without commercial pauses. Others do have commercial pauses for advertisers such as Autolite batteries, the Signal Oil Company, and of course Lux Beauty Soap.

The programs are broadcasts from a nice mix of various radio programs. Some of the programs included are The Shadow, Escape, Suspense, The Whistler, and The Haunting Hour.

It is also interesting to see the names of some of the players in these programs. Some of the players in the various programs are Ray Milland, William Powell, William Conrad, Hans Conried, Ruth Roman, and Alfred Hitchcock's daughter, Patricia.

It was interesting for me to listen to these and marvel at how performers on the radio were able to create a picture

in my mind using only words and sound effects. I listened to every one of the disks. In very few cases was I able to guess the ending but not until very near the end of the program.

I found the disks to be of high quality sound. My guess is that they were remastered from professional recordings, as one hears no background hiss, cracks, or pops that would have been experienced when listening to the radio during that era.

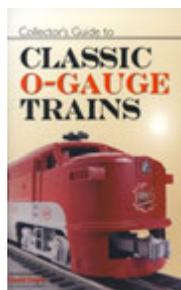
Included with the ten CDs is a thirty two page booklet. The booklet contains facts about each performance in general as well as trivia regarding the show itself. It also contains many interesting facts about the players in the performances. It was almost as much fun to read as it was listening to the CDs.

I thoroughly enjoyed the ten hours I spent listening to these disks. My first use of them will not be the only time that I play them. I recommend them for anyone interested in remembering radio programs of their younger years or for those who have never had the pleasure of listening to programs such as these.

The Tracks of Terror CD collection can be purchased on line from Radio Spirits at www.radiospirits.com for the discounted price of \$35.98 plus shipping. It should also be available through a phone order at 800 833-4248. I don't know if the discounted price would be available with a telephone order. Their mailing address is: Radio Spirits, Inc., PO Box 3107, Wallingford, CT 06492.

The collection may be available at your local Borders Books as I found it on their website but at a price of \$39.98. I did not find it on the Barnes and Noble website.

Collector's Guide to Classic O-Gauge Trains, David Doyle, 270 pages, \$19.99 (\$24.99 CN) Full color on slick paper, perfect bound, Krause Publications. 5 X 8 format.



Upon receipt of this book it was my intent to compare it to the 2007 edition of the Greenberg Pocket Guide to Lionel trains. Upon closer examination I found this possible but probably not fair to this publication as it contains

listings for more than just the Lionel brand name.

The book is laid out in a format offering a chapter for each manufacturer. These include American Flyer, AMT, Dorfan, Hafner, Hoge, Ives, Kusan, Lionel, Marx, Unique, and Wyandotte. In addition to these chapters there is an introduction that addresses basic collecting, condition and rarity, and boxes as well as a short paragraph with the title, "How old is my train".

Each chapter is prefaced with a minimum of a page of information for that manufacturer. The remainder of each section consists of color illustrations on the left hand page

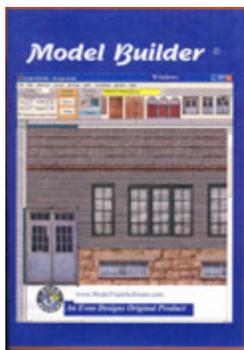
and numerical listings of pieces. In many cases the entire left hand page contains illustrations. The listings are in a format starting with the catalog number, if one is known for the piece, followed by the years of production. This is followed by a brief description of the piece. Values for each piece in C5, C7 and C8 condition complete the listings. It should be pointed out that this book covers both prewar and postwar items in many cases.

As one could expect there are many illustrations of American Flyer, Lionel, and Marx. Most of the other manufacturers had a few illustrations. I was quite surprised to find that there were no illustrations accompanying the Hafner listings yet there was an illustration accompanying the Hoge listings.

I found this book to be exceptional in the amount of color illustrations. The history that accompanies each

chapter is an added positive for the book. If you are looking for a smaller format book that covers the major and even some of the minor O-gauge toy train manufacturers this may be the book for you.

Collector's Guide to Classic O-Gauge Trains can be purchased on line from Krause publications at <http://www.krausebooks.com> for \$19.99 plus shipping. I believe you can also order by phone Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm central time at 1-800-258-0929 within the U.S. and at 715-445-2214 outside of the U.S. It is also available in both Barnes & Noble and Borders Books' online stores so you may even be able to purchase it at your local bookstore.



Model Builder, building design program on CD, Version 1.3.5, Evan Designs, \$45. This is the sixth product offered by Evan Designs in their software for model builders series. The program allows you to create buildings in scales of Z, N, HO, S, O, OO, Standard Scale, and G with a simple point and click option on the opening screen. It also has an option to set any scale

from 1:10 to 1:300 on the same screen.

Upon entering the program three options become available to the user. You can set up a full sheet background of either bricks or siding, choose your own background material and add it and details to your design, or create your own custom version of one of the six included building designs. These designs include a trackside shed, service station, a station, a passenger station, a grain shed, an alley garage, and a curved roof service garage. All of these designs seem to be from the late 30's or 40's.

There are many options available in this program. The nicest option, in my opinion, is the ability to set a background of either bricks or siding at the start of a program using the Material Designer option. There are over a dozen different brick designs and eight different siding colors available in the Materials Designer. In addition to the various brick designs there is an option to add weathering and texturing. You can also change the color of bricks and mortar in a specific design. This is accomplished by using the colors available through your system's color palette. You can specify an RGB number for each color. In order to have this custom designed brick available in the future, you can save it as a custom style.

Many options are also available when using the Material Designer to create siding. It is possible to

change the color of the siding to any color available in your system's color palette as it is with the bricks. You can also specify the "width" of the siding, and how much shading or shadow you want on the siding

There are probably more details in the remainder of the options than an average modeler would ever need in this program. There are details for siding, roofing, sheet metal, wood, bricks, windows and doors for industrial as well as residential applications, store fronts, various horizontal trim, and even two different styles of water tower tanks and roofs. If there aren't the graphics you wish, the program also has the option of importing BMP or JPG graphics.

I am not a scratchbuilder but after just an hour or two with this program I was able to create and print one of the included building designs, using my preferred siding, windows, doors, etc.

I would recommend this program not only to those who are interested in creating buildings reminiscent of the Megow and Skyline cardboard and wood buildings but to those looking for a way to add custom details to their existing buildings. I don't believe they would be disappointed spending \$45 for all of the versatility of this program.

Model Builder is available for \$45 from Evan Designs through their website at www.modeltrainsoftware.com. You can probably order it by phone at 303-410-1118 M-F 8:00am - 5:00pm Mountain Time Mon - Fri. Their mailing address is Evan Designs, PO Box 2044, Broomfield, CO 80038. Their website currently states that shipping is free on orders over \$40.

You may wish to check out Evan Designs website for their other products which include high output LEDs along with modeler's foamboard, white and clear background decal paper and inkjet compatible vellum paper.

Welcome New Members

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

Dan Carroll, Orland Park, IL
William Shechter, Fairbanks, AK
Mike Gural, Edison, NJ
Robert D Ciskowski, Concord, MA
Marc S Grebosz, Seaford, NY
Edwin G Boyer, Palos Hills, IL
Joe M Walters, N Bellmore, NY
Edward J McCullough, Alto, NM

as of July 1, 2007. Their names are now listed in the on line roster.

Lee A Albanese, Naperville, IL
Anthony M Lewis, Winter Springs, FL
David L Barok, Vorhees, NJ
Paul A Slowik, Eldersburg, MD
Joseph J Gabuzda, New Castle, DE
James H Larson, Roscoe, IL
William S Fischer, Poughkeepsie, NY

Proposed Members

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

Robert P Federle, New Iberia, LA
Robert A Young, Baltimore, MD
Jeffrey S Players, Chalfont, PA
John J Bilella, Jr, E Norristown, PA

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 October 1, 2007.

Rodney D Myers, Morgan, UT
Paul E Limbach, Morthville, MI
James C Knight, Wooster, OH
Don Stratton, West Covina, CA
Brian J Torch, Campbell River, B.C., Canada



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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

For Sale

Lionel Prewar Trucks, a variety of types with Automatic Box Couplers some also have pickup roller. #06-414 Richard Meiser for description and price: E-mail r.meisersr@insightbb.com (502) 239-0203 (Aug 07)

Have the following Plasticville for sale, no box. Cape Cod in brown or green \$10: Red \$8: small supermarket \$35: motel in both colors, \$18: Suburban station medium brown gray platform \$17: green marbled platform, \$14: station platform brown/green roof \$7: Airport Hangar, white and blue \$40. #02-167, William Weaver, PO Box 1061, Grand Rapids, MI 49501 (616) 454-6037 anytime. (Nov 07)

All reproduction catalogs - Littletown 1954 \$20, Storytown 1958 \$15, Plasticville 1950-A first year \$20, Plasticville 1953-D \$15 (only a few left). Birds, Dogs and Animals by Bachmann 1961 \$15, Roadracing Plasticville 1961 \$10. Free shipping to PCA members. ibuytyco@aol.com #04-308 Anatol Vasiliev, 162 Redcrest St, Vineland, NJ 08361-8402, (856) 691-5797 (Feb 08)

For Trade

Have marbled buildings with boxes each need 1 or 2 small parts. Will swap whole kit of one for parts to finish another. Have water tower needing brown marbled spout & gray base: switch tower needing gray marbled sign &

Wanted

1701 box, 1614 Police Station box, 2 1/2 story house w/charcoal roof, Make 'N Play items or pieces, Firehouse w/red side/white roof. Storytown figures for Old Woman in the Shoe; girl spilling water, girl w/doll, boy on rope. chuckaboom@juno.com, #02-183, Charles Swanson, PO Box 33042, Knoxville, TN, 37930, (865) 693-5740 (Aug 07)

Wanted – your unwanted or extra Plasticville Kits, complete or partials, in excellent or better condition. One

issue in which that particular ad will appear.

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 \$25. 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 (Feb 08)

The Already Short Line is getting shorter. All stations beyond end of line must be sold! Railroad Centers #5608 or #5606, \$88.88. Station sets #5603 or RR-5, \$66.88. Station Sets #5400 or TA-2, \$44.88. Station Set TA-1, \$28.88. The airlines aint doin much better, Au-6, \$99.88. All original and complete. #02-154, Robert Spivey, Box 33484, Decatur, GA 30033. (404) 633-6777 (Feb 08)

Reasonable priced boxed Plasticville for sale. Please send a SASE to me for a list of 100+ boxed Plasticville items. Will sell one or 100 items. Email plastic1@fuse.net or call 859 525-7183 for all your Plasticville needs. #01-25, Bill Hunter, 1333 Ashford Dr., Florence, KY, 41042, (Feb 08)

smokestack: watchman shanty needing brown marbled light. blueshing@hotmail.com, 02-106, Brent Shingler, 1644 Baltar Dr, Gulf Breeze, FL, 32563, (850) 932-6157 (Nov 07)

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. (Aug 07)

Original WHITE rabbit(s) from the Plasticville Farm Buildings & Animals sets. A bearskin sticker for the Log Cabin door. 05-359 Mark Lembersky Please reply to mark290638-rail@yahoo.com. (Nov 07)

Any K-Line Budweiser buildings. 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. Original assembly instructions for signal bridge or any other Plasticville piece. johnln@netins.net #00-3, John Niehaus, 601 SE Second St., Ankeny, IA 50021-3207 (Nov 07)

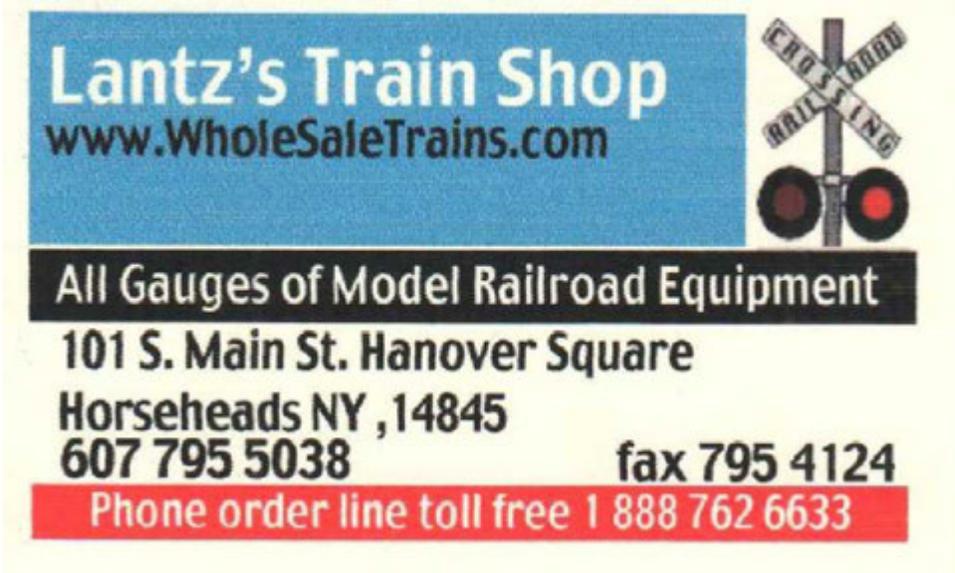
Switch Tower in EX 1631 box. Signal Bridge in Ex 1951 box. Water tank in EX 1935 box. Watchman's Shanty in EX 1816 box. Contact Joe Kutza at webmaster@plasticvilleusa.org #99- 01 (Feb 08)

Two add-a-floor kits for apartment house. Must be red and cream to match existing apartment house. Split level house, any color. aglewis19@yahoo.com #07-464, Anthony M Lewis, 692 Tuscora Dr, Winter Springs, FL 32708 (Feb 08)

Your extra Marx buildings, parts, walls, roofs, windows, signs in excellent or better condition. Please contact Mike Waskovics, 38 Nassau St, Johnson City NY 13790 or waxey38@yahoo.com #02-151 (Feb 08)

For HO Motel Office, the sign that hangs over the office door. Reads, VACANCY". Sign is grey and slides through slot in roof above office door. steadg@alltel.net #01-55, Jim Steed, 4757 Moon Shadow View, Blairsville, GA 30512-7047 (May 08)

Answer to **What's Wrong With These Pictures?** on page 7
Both of the pictures illustrated on the boxes are BACKWARDS of the actual building.



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An invitation to Join the Plasticville Collectors Association



Why would I want to join?

The Plasticville Collectors Association is the only independent organization dedicated to the collecting, study and display of **all** plastic village buildings. If you have an interest in Plasticville, Littletown, Marx, or other manufacturers of plastic village buildings and accessories of any scale or gauge and wish to enhance your knowledge of these pieces, the Plasticville Collectors Association is the only independent organization dedicated to bringing that information to you.

What are the benefits of my becoming a member?

There are many benefits to joining the Plasticville Collectors Association

- Quarterly issues of *The Villager*, the 20+ page newsletter, containing informative articles on buildings and accessories of all plastic village manufacturers
- Three free 50 word classified ads in each issue of the newsletter – one each in the For Sale, For Trade, and Wanted sections
- A user name and password that grants you access to a section of the website reserved for members only
- Accurate information about plastic village buildings and accessories regardless of the manufacturer
- Access to special offers available only to PCA members such as PCA T-shirts, address labels, limited edition Plasticville pieces and other items
- A membership card

How do I join?

Fill out the form on the reverse side completely and submit it with a check or money order made out for the amount noted below in U.S. funds only and made payable to “Plasticville Collectors Association.”

If you mail your application in:

January, February, or March, send \$8.00

April, May, or June, send \$6.00

July, August, or September, send \$4.00

October, November, or December, send \$10 (Includes next year's dues)

Your name will be presented to the entire PCA membership for consideration. You will be a probationary member, although you will be assigned a membership number, until the time set for objections to your membership has passed.

If any complaints are filed against your application, full membership will be withheld until the PCA Executive Committee has considered the matter.

Please send the completed membership application form along with the appropriate membership fee to:

Secretary, Plasticville Collectors Association

601 SE Second Street

Ankeny, IA 50021-3207

