



The Villager

The official newsletter of the Plasticville Collectors Association

Volume 7

November 2008

Number 4

Dues For 2009 Are Now Due

It is with great pleasure that the Executive Committee announces that the dues for 2009 will remain at \$10.00.

The cost to mail the hard copy newsletters took an additional increase again this year when the new postal rates took effect in mid May, but the Executive Committee felt that they could hold the dues to \$10.00 for 2009.

The same process used last year for the submission of dues will be utilized again this year.

Included with this issue of the newsletter is an envelope with a label addressed to the PCA. All you need to do is enclose your \$10 dues payment in the envelope, put a return address label and a stamp on it, and drop it in the mailbox.

Be sure to first check the mailing label on the package in which you received this newsletter to determine if you are already paid for 2009. Your member number and dues expiration year are on the bottom of the mailing label.

If you are an ePCA member you will receive a dues renewal notice in a separate mailing if you need to renew your membership.

It is also asked that you include your member number on your check or on the envelope under your return address label to ensure proper credit. We are over 375 active members so it is now more important than ever before to include your member number when communicating with the secretary/treasurer.

Vote in the 2009 Officer Election

For the first time in the history of the Plasticville Collectors Association there are more than one person nominated for President and Vice President. This means that we will, for the first time, have an election of officers.

A postcard sized ballot has been included in the dues remittal envelope included in the 9 X 12 mailing envelope if you are a hard copy newsletter member.

The same ballot has been included as part of the dues reminder special mailing you will receive if you are an ePCA member.

In order to make it easier for you to submit your vote for who you wish to be the officers of the Plasticville Collector Association for 2009, the Executive Committee

has decided that ballots may be returned to the Secretary/Treasurer in the same envelope in which you remit your 2009 dues.

The Executive Committee encourages all members to take the time to vote and include their ballot in the envelope with their 2009 dues.

Remember that for your vote to count, it must be received by the Secretary/treasurer before December 31, 2008.

Contact the Secretary/Treasurer at the address below or email him at secretary@plasticvilleusa.org or if you do not receive a ballot with your newsletter or in a separate mailing if you are an ePCA member.

The Villager

Published quarterly by the Plasticville Collectors Association.

President: Fred Ruby

Vice President: Doug Gilliatt

<http://www.plasticvilleusa.org>

Secretary/Treasurer: John L Niehaus

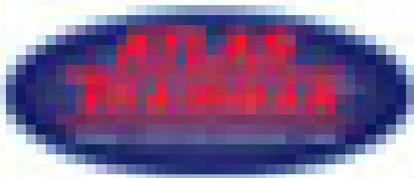
Webmaster: Joe Kutza

Newsletter editor: John Niehaus

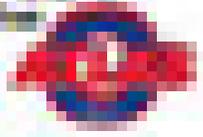
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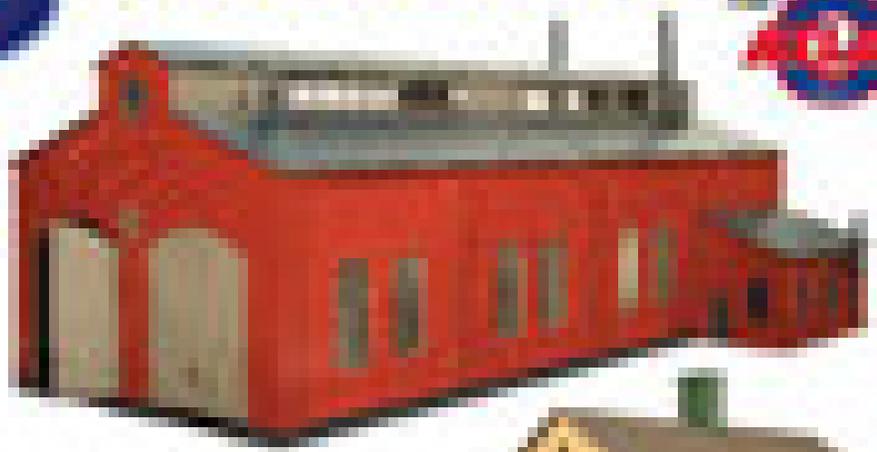
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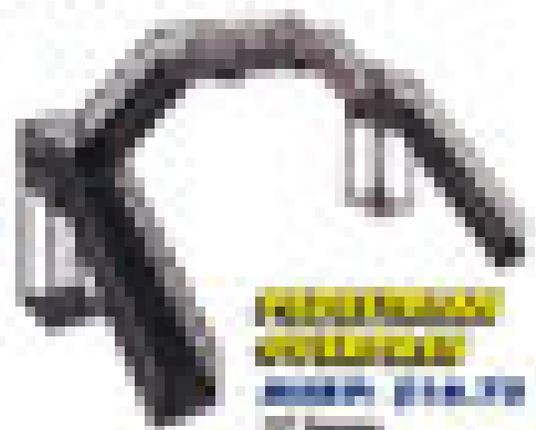
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From the President's Desk



As this gets written, the temperatures around the country have taken a turn for the crisp in most places. Recently, I journeyed from (hot that day) SoCal on a business trip to Kansas City and found myself glad for bringing a jacket. As I zipped up against the chill and rain, sloshing thru muddy run-off when crossing the construction site of the new building our team went to inspect, the weather brought up memories of childhood play.

I recalled getting the time off at year's end from school, staying home due to poor weather so common that time of the year. Setting up the Flyer ovals and figure-eights on the family room floor, cardboard trestles and electric uncoupler, whistling billboard and Marx water tower. Running the yellow, green, black and white wires; looking for suitable wire to make the runs a little longer. Filling the precious smoke fluid in the stacks of my 303 and 283, the smell of that wonderful smoke, the sight of the locos with the room lights off and the 930 caboose, lighted brighter than almost anything else around, cheerfully following the headlight over and under or around and around.

But the strongest pleasure came later that day, waiting for the (inevitably delayed) flight home. Sitting in Denver for the connecting flight, the earlier thoughts of trains came up again, only to morph into the steps needed to assemble as many of the different Plasticville buildings that I could recall. One by one, they came back to me. The Suburban Station, the Coaling Tower, the Switch Tower, the Cathedral, the Large Gas Station, the Firehouse and Firetrucks, all the extra benches and telephone poles and telephone booths and outhouses, well-pumps and fireplace/BBQ pits, arranging the citizens and Tootsietoy and Matchbox cars on the layout. My mind drifted, almost trance-like in euphoria, capturing those long past times of innocent entertainment.

Is this what pulls us together as a group; the shared ability to re-capture childhood pleasure from the same group of toys? Or is it the love of the collector's pursuit? Having one of each and then going for doubles and beyond to enable the trade for missing items?

Yes, I know, some are in it to make a little pocket change to pay for the gas to go to a meet and a cold hot dog until home is reached that evening. And a few pursue

e-auctions as a means of (almost) sole support. But most are in this hobby (and our club) for the hobby's sake.

Yesterday, a few of my friends gathered to do some detail work on a corner module that had to have the track relaid with a bit more space between the inner and outer lines to avoid scale length passenger cars and locomotives with excess overhang from clashing. The other three corners were okay, just this one had problems. The four of us worked side by side, each taking a task and area so as to allow the others to pursue their own portion of contribution. I ballasted and glued the scale gray rocks between the ties, moving from one end to the other, a little middle work, a little on the ends. Jeff, James and Richard prepared and glued ballast on the sides of the roadbed: one; applying a layer of glue, a second sprinkling the ballast, while the third came behind and used a small putty knife to press the ballast to the roadbed sides. Then we did more of the between the ties work on the outside of the rails. We all shared in some scenic detailing, making the 5" bridge tracks and mostly enjoying the camaraderie.

Now I think that may well be another key to this club: the sharing of knowledge and experience and common memories with others of similar bent. The camaraderie: that must be a large part of it. The notes from the Yahoo groups, writing columns and articles, meeting folks at swap meets and online; are all a large part of the appeal. If that's true, we can make this an even better experience by growing the club. It won't take much effort. Just take a few copies of the Club's membership application (from our web site or write any of the officers to get copies) and handing them out to anyone selling Plasticville at a meet or when you buy from them online. It's also very easy to include a copy of the web-site's address when you write to anyone you buy from or sell to.

In this quarter's *Villager*, we have John Gottcent writing about modeling the seasons in his *Plasticville on the Board* column, Phil Fravesi's layout was featured in *The Toy Train Collector* and that article is reprinted inside, we have a report of Bachman's Bud Reese being honored by the HMA and NMRA model and hobby associations, a report on York by Joe Kutza, reviews of children's books, a new Lionel video from TM, an American Flyer price guide and the Second Edition of a Lionel pre-war price guide.

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



Fall has arrived in the Valley of the Sun (meaning we can turn off the AC for awhile) and the weather is just right for going out on Saturdays to do a little Plasticville/Train hunting at the local garage sales.

This edition of the Villager has several articles of special interest to our members. Ed Johnson has a great article on the "Creative" Use of damaged parts – (A factory this time). If you have as many spare/junk parts lying around as I do this could give you an idea on a way to spice up the layout with a one of a kind structure. Also, in this edition is the Non-Railfan antics article by Gordon Kelly that is always interesting.

The PCA board is proud to announce that there will be no change in the dues this year and that for 2009 they will remain at \$10.00.

This is the first year in the history of our organization that we are going to have an election for President and Vice President. Ballots are being prepared and will be sent out shortly if not already in the mail. Please be sure

to vote as it is important that the PCA continues to have strong leadership as we head toward our 7th year in existence.

I hope that all the members had a safe and great summer of collecting and Model Railroading. And I also hope that for the lucky members that made it to York, I hope they came back with at least one treasure. If you did so why not write a short article and maybe a picture or two for publication in *The Villager* on your find?

As I have said many, many times before in *The Villager*, it is the hope of all of us that our organization continues to grow and attract new members which will allow us to be as vibrant and interesting as it is today into the future. While new membership is essential to the continuation and expansion of our organization we must all continue to be a source of interest/learning to our existing membership.

And as always, I want to remind everyone please remember to patronize our advertisers that support the PCA

PCA Vice-President, Doug Gilliatt

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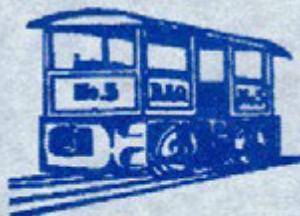
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Notes from the Editor



It seems as if it has been a while since I have taken the time to include an Editor's section in the newsletter. Some of the time I have left my notes out due to space. Other times there just has not been that much to talk about. This time I have plenty.

First up on the agenda is to inform you that the Executive Committee has established a member complaint process. To review the document: from the PCA home page, click on **Members**, then on the "**The Villager**" newsletter, roster and officer information link. Once you have logged in it will be the fourth document from the top on the page that comes up.

If you have not visited the PCA website in a while I suggest you do. It has been completely redesigned. As part of the Executive Committee I have been very much involved in the redesign of the website. In the next few months you should see additional pictures of, not only Plasticville buildings, but those of other manufacturers as well. Look for new manufacturer names. I, personally, have one, if not two, manufacturers to add to our list along with photos of their product. Take a look at the new website, You will not be disappointed.

I am sure that all of us would expect to see the Plasticville Collectors Association name printed in various model railroad publications but it is amazing at times where the Plasticville Collectors Association's name turns up. I recently purchased a piece of Plasticville on eBay and, of course, suggested to the seller that he might wish to join the PCA. Unfortunately he graciously declined.

Much to my surprise a few days later he informed me that he was glancing at his wife's Spring 2008 edition of O AT HOME, Oprah Winfrey's magazine and noticed our name. The magazine was running a feature article entitled Modern Love. It was a story of how a Mr. Bernard Cooper found his dream home in the San Gabriel mountains. What caught the seller's eye was a full page spread of nine different Plasticville Ranch Houses. Part of the article was a sidebar with the title Collecting Plasticville and there as the last entry of the sidebar was the following, "For more info: Log on to the Web site for the Plasticville Collectors Association, plasticvilleusa.org."

I purchased the magazine just to see the entire article. It was well written but mostly about Mr. Cooper finding his dream home. I would like to contact him, though, as the houses pictured in the article had some unusual colors. As illustrated were buildings with tan walls, and medium brown walls as well roofs that look medium brown and rust. If anyone knows Mr. Bernard Cooper please ask

him if he would contact me at villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org.

For those of us who collect the Amloid, My Dolly's House dollhouses I have some news regarding the current state of the company. If you were unaware, Amloid as with many other manufacturers had a presence in Mexico. Their primary production facility was in Monterrey. Note that I said "was". In an email from Mike Albarelli, the president and grandson of the founder of Amloid, he informed me, "Sorry for delay, but on Dec 9th at 6 pm we had a catastrophic fire at our Monterrey Factory, 93 years of family business history went up in smoke in 3 hours."

I am still hoping that at some time in the future I can get information on the My Dolly's House from Mike.

How many of you have a house being moved down the street on your layout? National Motor Museum Mint has been offering a 1:50 scale Diamond T989 with House Load set for quite some time. It comes with the truck, a story and a half house, and 24-wheel interlocking skids. The price in their current catalog is \$49.98. Their website is www.motormint.com. If you are looking for some bargain vehicles right up through the high end Corgi pieces then I suggest you visit their website.

If you have read the bylaws, you saw that we would like to feature member layouts in future newsletters. There are two ways in which we feel this can be accomplished. You can take pictures of your layout, write an article and send them to me. I can use either regular photos or JPG images. The text describing your layout can be handwritten, types, or sent in TXT or Word format. It doesn't matter. The second method is to contact me and request a visit by one of the club officers. The officer visits will be at their expense so your locale will play a role in whether a visit is feasible. We would especially like to see how you have incorporated the 50th anniversary house into your layout.

Every time that I send out email messages to the members I get back quite a few as undeliverable. If you have changed your email address in the past year please send your new one to secretary@plasticvilleusa.org. If I do not have your current email address you are missing out on notices as to another newsletter being posted and other messages of importance. You can verify that I have your correct email address by reviewing your member record in the roster in the Members Only section of the website.

And finally, I wish to thank all of you who have sent me used postage stamps, old collections and accumulations for passing on to young stamp collectors. There seems to be plenty of stamps being created by the United States Postal Service but not many of them are being used. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Villagereditor

Minutes of the 2008 October Executive Committee Meeting

The October Executive Committee meeting was called to order on November 8, 2008 at 11:00 Eastern Standard Time by President Fred Ruby

Those in attendance were: President Fred Ruby, Vice President Doug Gilliatt, Secretary/Treasurer John Niehaus, and immediate Past President Joe Kutza.

Old business:

Professional revision of the PCA website

The website is up and has been approved by the Executive Committee with the exception of setting a few of the links to email the appropriate individual.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to authorize Joe Kutza to make the final payment to the developer.

Updating bylaws to show current membership dues schedule

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to revise Article 1.3 of the PCA bylaws to replace dollar amounts with fractional amounts. (*The revised bylaws may be viewed on the PCA website. Editor*)

Application for 501c3 acknowledgement

Secretary Niehaus reported that he has not heard from the Treasury Department and will make a follow up call.

New Business:

2009 officers

President Ruby announced that he had received nominations for both president and vice president. Glenn Bowman and Fred Ruby were nominated for president. James Dawes and Doug Gilliatt were nominated for vice president.

Allowing ballots for officers to be included with dues payment

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to allow the officer election ballots to be mailed with November newsletter or November ePCA member dues reminder as applicable.

Revised membership application

Secretary Niehaus reported that he made the following additions to the membership application.

The word *COLOR* was added to the ePCA line option line.

The words "*Mailed copies are in black and white but you still have access to the color version on the website*" was added below the ePCA option line.

Putting a sample newsletter in a public area on website

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to add a sample newsletter in a public area on the PCA website. Secretary Niehaus will determine an appropriate issue and notify the webmaster when it has been uploaded to the website.

Back issue pricing

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to make all back issues of *The Villager* available in the Members Only section of the website. It was also agreed that the offer for sale of articles and back issues would still be included in a public area of the website.

Donated items from Bachmann

Secretary Niehaus reported that Bachmann had donated some first edition built-ups to the PCA. (*See the article later in this issue as to how the Executive Committee voted to distribute these items. Editor*)

Offsite storage of PCA electronic documents

Secretary Niehaus agreed to use the current mobile hard drive to store the PCA data off site as a temporary measure. Joe Kutza will investigate on line data storage.

Retaining the professional website developer as our webmaster

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to retain the person who developed the website. It will be his responsibility to update the website when newsletters are uploaded as well as make additional changes as requested of webmaster, Joe Kutza. Joe will work out the specifics as to how to compensate the developer for his work and make a report during the February, 2009 Executive Committee meeting.

Plasticville Trader page to be only the current classified ads from the newsletter

This was tabled until the February meeting.

Officers visiting club member layouts at club expense

Secretary Niehaus noted that he had been given a suggestion that PCA officers visit member layouts for publication in *The Villager* at club expense. A motion was made, seconded, and approved that in lieu of visiting member layouts that requests for layout photos and stories be solicited from the members. Additionally it was agreed that the members wishing to have their layouts visited to contact the Secretary.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:58 Eastern Standard Time

Respectfully submitted; John L Niehaus,
Secretary/Treasurer

Bowmans Play Good Samaritan to Fellow PCA Member

By Jack Maikos



Glenn Bowman

A short story about one of our PCA members. It shows that we have good people in our organization.

This past weekend, October 18, one of our members, Jerry Clark of Hemet, California slipped and fell on ice at a service station while gassing up his rental car while on his way to the Baltimore, Maryland airport. He was returning home from the TCA meet in York, Pennsylvania.

Jerry was in bad shape with a shoulder separation and 3 cracked ribs. Being a PCA member, Jerry called upon fellow PCA member Glenn Bowman for help. Glenn responded in a way that all PCA members can take pride.

Glenn and his wife, Kris, picked up Jerry and took him

to a local hospital. Glenn drove Jerry in his rental car to the hospital while Glenn's wife followed in their car.

Not only did they stay with Jerry at the hospital, but they also took him to the airport. Again Glenn drove Jerry's rental back to the rental place and Kris drove their car so they could get back home. They managed to get Jerry into a hotel near the airport so he didn't have far to travel for his flight home.

I thought you'd find this a neat story. Hey, who knew when you guys started the PCA club that things like this would have such a happy impact?

You and the rest of the startup group should feel mighty proud of your efforts. I know I am and I keep telling a lot of people about it !!!!!!!



Jerry Clark

From the Webmaster's Desk **The New PCA Web Site is Here!!!**

Yes, it's finally true. I am extremely happy and proud to announce that the all new PCA web site is up and running.

I went through the history and thought processes behind the PCA web site in the May, 2008 issue of The Villager – Volume 7, Number 2 and have been working diligently with our new web contractor, Gordon Low since then to get things going.

We had a last minute twist in that we decided to change our web host with the introduction of the new site. Once those growing pains were addressed, the new site was loaded.

I recommend that everyone check out the new site. If you still see the old site, please refresh your page.

As I mentioned previously, I have been holding off on updating content on the site knowing that a new site was coming. Now that the technical details are final, and Gordon has agreed to help us with further updates, I look forward to updating content – articles, photos, plastic village information, all of it will be revised in due time.

Thanks again for your patience, and I look forward to receiving feedback on the new site. Bring it on, I want to know what you like, and don't like, so that we can make the site the best that it can be!

Joe Kutza, PCA webmaster

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Surprise Donation from Bachmann

By John Niehaus

I was contacted in late May of this year by Bachmann's Communications Manager asking if the PCA might be interested in some surplus Plasticville items. When I indicated in the positive, he sent me one of each item for review.

Upon receipt and review it was pretty obvious that the items were older production items in mainly O and HO scale. In further correspondence, I suggested that the PCA might be interested in using the pieces as possible items to put in our Corner Store.

Time passed and I did not hear back from Bachmann and concluded that they had disposed of the items in another manner.

Then in late September I received an email regarding the honor bestowed upon Bud Reese. In my acknowledgement of the announcement I also again enquired about the items previously offered.

On October 1 I was informed by email that a shipment of items was on its way to the PCA. I never expected what happened next!

On Thursday, October 9, at about 7:30 in the morning, my wife called me at work and asked if I was expecting a shipment from Bachmann. It was her day off and she was "sleeping in". I responded that I knew they were sending some items as we had previously discussed. Then she dropped the bombshell, "Was the shipment to come on two pallets and in a semi?!"

The items that I had expected to arrive in a few cartons via UPS were actually a few cases of the first edition Plasticville built ups.

During our recent Executive Committee meeting it was decided to initially offer these pieces to model railroad related and other organizations as a gesture of goodwill. It was also felt that it may be a good way to get our name in front of potential members.

If you are aware of an organization that would like one of these items - at absolutely no cost - please have one of their officers send a request on their club letterhead, if available, to me at our club address of 601 SE Second Street specifying which piece they would like. The organization does not necessarily need to be a model railroad club. Any organization that is model railroading related may make a request.

The buildings available are:

45004 house under construction (HO)

45005 split level house (HO)

45006 freight station with platform (HO)

45007 dairy barn (HO)

45304 hobo jungle (O)

45305 two story house (O)

45308 country church (O)

45310 trailer park (O).

The Executive Committee reserves the right to validate requests.

Non-Railfan Antics

A View from the Other Side

By Gordon C Kelley

I talked about my Milwaukee Road conductor Neil in the last issue. Now for another "Neil" story.

The Wisconsin Central issued an order that no one was to smoke in the cab. The engineer was supposed to enforce the order. I had too much to do my job and did not watch Neil to see if he lit up next to an open cab window. The engine we had pumped its oily black smoke into the cab and out Neil's cab window. Neil was buried in oily black smoke all the way from Neenah, Wisconsin to Appleton, Wisconsin.

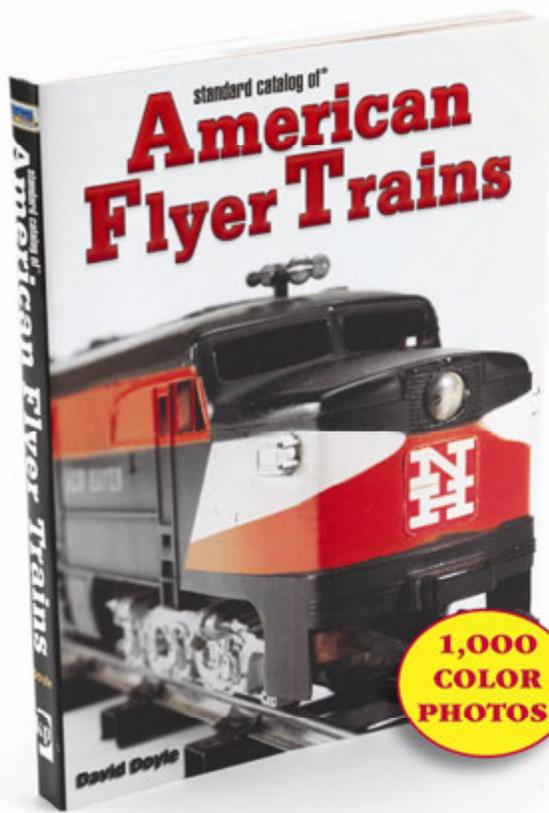
Neil looked oily. Neil smelled oily. Neil said his mouth tasted oily when he got off the engine to make the cut for our Appleton set out. Neil got back on the engine and sat next to his open window. The set out was made.

Next was the trip through the Appleton Flats and set outs at Kimberly, LC siding, Combined Locks, and Kaukauna, Wisconsin. Neil was relaxed. He lit up and I growled "Anyone who sucks on those things would suck on anything. Put it out. I don't want to smell your smell".

Neil blew up (just what I wanted, I had gotten him again). "Right!" he screamed, "The cab was full of black smoke for fifteen miles and you're worried about a little cigarette smoke!" "Company rules", I said. "Company rules my foot!" screamed Neil as he looked my way. Then and only then did he see the "Chessie" cat smile on my face. Then and only then did he know that I was "pulling his chain". I did it so well that he knew that I got him again.

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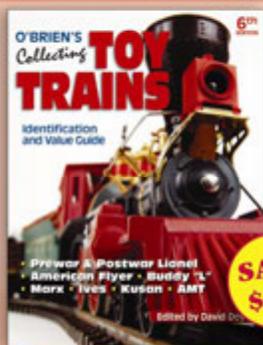
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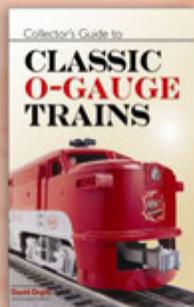
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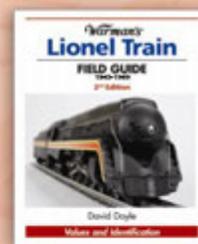
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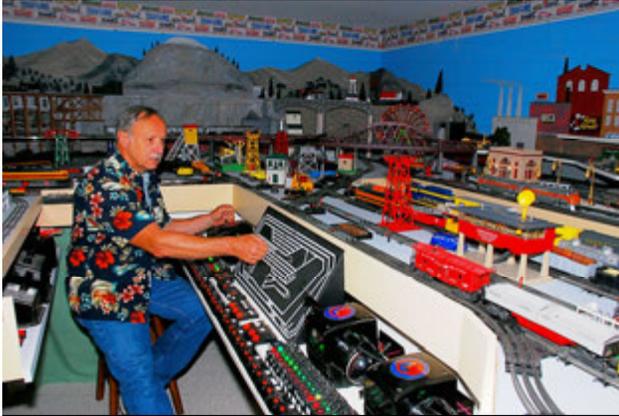
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A Postwar O Gauge Layout Story

By Phil Fravesi / Photos by Mark Boyd

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I am a postwar O gauge collector who started collecting about twenty years ago. My wife enjoys Christmas and one time made a casual comment about wanting a train running around the tree. That's how it all got started.



Phil Fravesi at the controls of his 18 X 35 Lionel postwar layout.

My layout is 18-feet by approximately 35-feet in a new section that was added on to our current home near Sacramento, CA. I am a contractor and builder, so in 2001, Emma and I "negotiated" a new add-on train room to be offset with a new master suite and bath. An agreement was reached and construction began. In December of 2001, we hosted the Sac-Sierra Chapter Christmas dinner in an empty room. By January, I was laying track on the floor to try out various designs. The rest is history as they say.

My plan was to mirror the Lionel catalogs that I had spent so much time wishing over as a kid. I also wanted to have freight and passenger areas separate. I was tempted to expand into other areas and manufacturers but made the conscious decision to stick with postwar Lionel. Most of the modern UP equipment on the layout now is a result of a layout that was going to be built in a previous home in 1996 that had a 43-foot long train room. The plan was to model the Feather River Canyon and Williams Loop, but we decided not to move to that house.

I don't have any 'rare' pieces, but I do have some scarce items. The 6651 USMC Cannon was a great find as was the 3429 USMC helicopter car with the original USMC helicopter. The 2341 Jersey Central was a big acquisition as it rounded out the FM Trainmasters that I never thought I would own. The Canadian Pacific set with the two additional cars was a big milestone also.

I have always thought if I had to give up all my trains but keep one piece, it would be a GG-1. I think I could be happy in my old age sitting in a rocker staring at those sleek lines.

The layout theme is Lionel toy trains from the postwar period. It's what I had as a kid and I have come to appreciate and accept their toy-like appearance. As Jane Howard from the California State Railroad Museum reminds some of the docents that get picky about detail, "You know these aren't real don't you?"

I can run five trains independently. There are seven Lionel transformers along with two 500 watt commercial transformers for lights and switches. (There are 3 ZW's, 1 KW, 1 Z, 1 A, and 1 TW.)



How many Plasticville pieces can you identify in this picture of Phil's layout? It seems that he may have a representative sample of every commercial building made.

There are buss wires running around the whole layout. The ground is a bare 12 gauge solid copper wire. All the feeders for lights and accessories are 14 gauge solid insulated soldered to the track. I just peel off the insulation in the areas where I want to connect.

My wife Emma supports my collecting hobby. When we go to shows together, I show her a picture of what I am looking for and then we split up and both look.

Most of the collection has come from local train shows like the Cal Stewart Meet. I've been to York three times and I always return home with "real treasures."

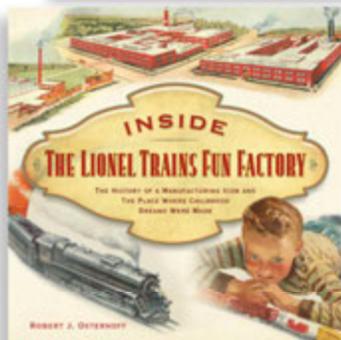
(This article and photos was featured in the July, 2008 issue of The Train Collectors Quarterly, the Train Collector's Association's quarterly publication. Editor)

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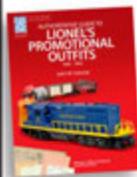
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Creative Use of Damaged Parts

Triple Five Soul factory

By Edward Johnson

My daughter is a fashion aficionado for Triple Five Soul clothing. I accompanied her to one of her shopping sprees and found some stickers for the Triple Five Soul brand. Instantly I knew there was a use for them. What evolved is this factory building.

The building is a small modification to the basic Plasticville factory. I had one factory that had the corner broken off and a fragment of another Plasticville factory.

That's all folks, Eddie J



By squaring off the jagged edges on the broken corner and cutting up the fragment I made a small extension on the side. The extension is a boiler room. The boiler (cap from an eye liner case) is visible through the window.



On the roof is a ventilator from Rix Models. The other vent is a wire wheel from a 1/35 scale auto model. The skylight over the boiler room was scratch built and the chimney is a plastic tube.



Window treatments were made using Design Software and lobby is marked off with brick paper creating a sort of vestibule at the front entrance. Finishing touch was putting the Triple Five Soul sticker over the front entrance.

Walter "Bud" Reece Recognized for Contributions to the Hobby Industry



(The following is a press release I received during this quarter from Bachmann and felt it newsworthy to the membership. Ed)

Model train manufacturer Bachmann Trains proudly congratulates Senior Vice President of Sales & Marketing Walter "Bud" Reece for honors recently bestowed upon him by the

Hobby Manufacturers Association (HMA) and the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA).

The HMA Hall of Fame recognizes members of the industry who have made significant contributions to the hobby over many years. Honorees must possess an impeccable record of integrity and respect as well as a history of service in the model railroad industry.

The NMRA's Distinguished Service Award is given to individuals who have given outstanding service to the hobby.

Reece's body of work is a testament to his devotion to the hobby industry. Beginning as a sales representative for Tonka Toys, Bud went on to become an independent

manufacturer's representative, covering ten states in the Southeastern U.S. for companies such as Model Power, Lionel, Revell, and Pactra Paints, to name a few. Later, Reece held the position of National Sales Manager for Estes Rockets and Hi-Flier Kites.

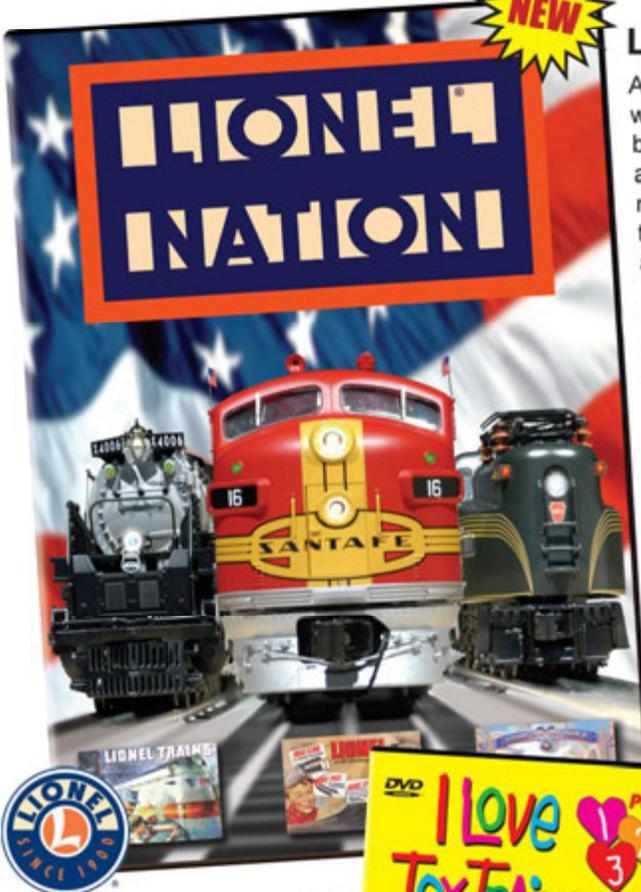
He joined Bachmann in 1993 as National Sales Manager, and after one year, Bud was promoted to Vice President of Sales for Bachmann. In 1999, he was named Senior Vice President of Sales & Marketing, a position he holds to this day. During his tenure, Bachmann sales have experienced continued growth, thanks to Reece's tireless promotion of the hobby and expansion into new markets, including the acquisition of the assets of Williams Electric trains, a move that put Bachmann into the O gauge 3-rail segment of the model railroad industry.

"It's an honor to be recognized by my peers for all my years in the business," said Reece. "I'm very fortunate to be part of a hobby that continues to grow and bring so many people together."

The presentation of Reece's NMRA Distinguished Service Award and induction into the HMA Hall of Fame occurred in July at the 2008 NMRA National Convention in Anaheim, California.

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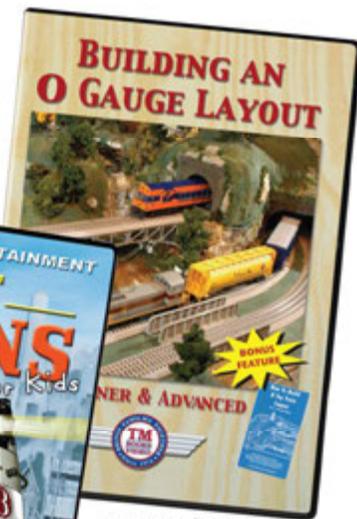


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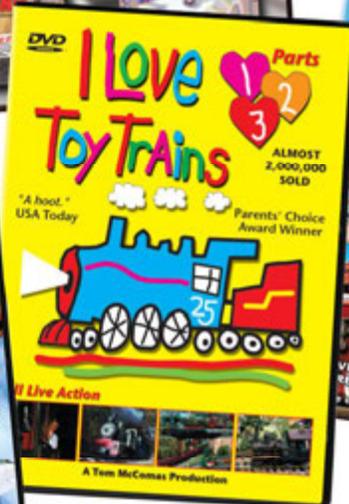
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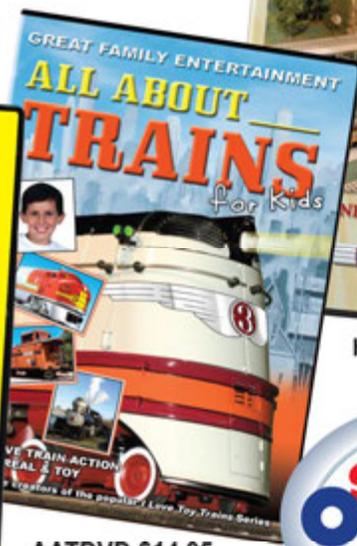
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Plasticville on the Board

Preface

I hope none of you were hard hit by Hurricane Ike. Even though we were spared the brunt of the storm, its high winds hit southern Indiana and did serious damage, cutting off power to many homes for up to a week.

Fortunately, we were spared. And this time, Plasticville came through unscathed! (There are some advantages to having your village in the basement.)

Modeling Seasons

By John Gottcent

One of the decisions we plastic village modelers need to make involves what season of the year to depict on our layouts. There are various ways to do this, each, as usual, with its pros and cons.

The simplest solution is to choose one season and run with it. This is ideal for those whose villages are only set up at holiday time. Winter is the obvious choice, and you can cover your entire layout with snow, people in heavy clothing, and Christmas decorations. Some ceramic buildings (such as those in the Department 56 line) come with holiday decorations permanently attached—ideal for this situation.

Of course it's also possible to choose a different "permanent" season—but the downside, especially for those layouts set up all year, is that this gets a little, well, boring.

Another option, suitable for larger layouts, is to model different seasons in different locations. You can have a winter ski scene on your mountain, while swimmers are enjoying a sunny day down at the shore. Spring and fall can be displayed in other areas separated by natural barriers, like hills, or artificial ones, like risers.

On the other hand, unless your layout is suitably large and spread out, visitors are going to wonder why spring trees are budding over here while autumn leaves are falling over there.

seasons four times a year, corresponding roughly to what's happening in the real world outside my Indiana door. From December to February it's winter, from March to May it's spring, and so on.

Regardless of which method you use, there are several things to watch out for as you depict the appropriate season for your village. First and foremost is the landscape. Deciduous trees, at least, should look bare in winter, light green in spring, full green in summer, and nicely golden in fall.

But even evergreens can reflect snowfall or winter berries when it's cold outside, yet not when the temperature warms up.



A bare deciduous tree and an evergreen tree with snow gives the feeling of winter as does the mailman and motorcyclist in winter clothing.



The same trailer scene now looks spring like with the tree now leafed out and the family playing catch in the yard.

Notice the holly bushes with snow and berries in Photo One, and also the bare deciduous tree with its exposed tire swing in front of the trailer. In Photo Two, however, the bare tree has come to life, and the evergreens are nowhere to be seen. (If someone asks where they went, tell them the homeowners decided to have them cut down!)

A second thing to watch for is the clothing your citizens are wearing. Light casual attire that fits right in during July is going to look out of place if the season has changed to January. So the family playing catch in their backyard in Photo Two have replaced the fully dressed mailman in the background and a warmly covered motorcyclist on the street in Photo One.

The solution I've used for my small layout takes a little more work, but adds interest and diversity. I change the



Photo 3

Even construction workers need to wear heavy clothing if they are working to repair a street in the winter.

Notice also the heavily clothed construction workers shivering away as they dig up an alley next to Harry's Barber Shop in Photo Three, when it's winter, and see how different they look when the weather warms up in Photo Four!

Another season-related category often forgotten by layout builders involves your vehicles. It's fine to have your convertibles on display with their tops down if it's spring or summer in your village, but come winter, you'd

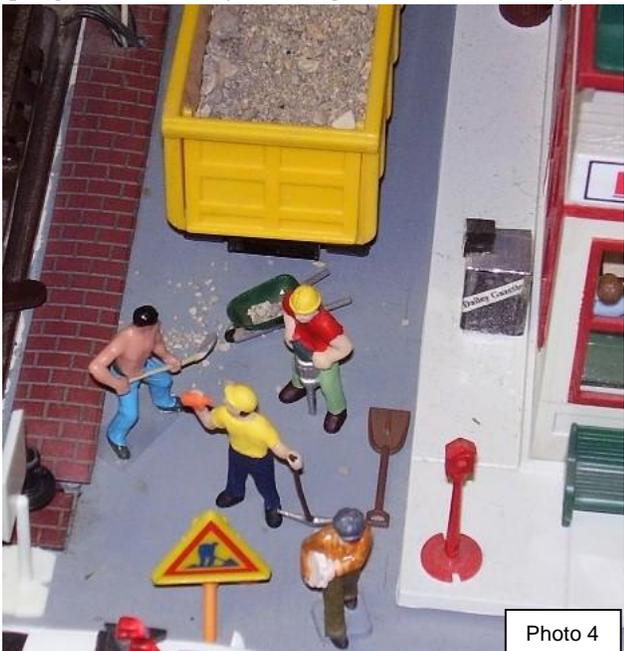


Photo 4

The construction workers have shed their winter attire and now are in shirtsleeves, or less, in this summer scene.

better replace those cars with ones that will hold in the warmth. Also, some commercial vehicles will be weather dependent.



Photo 5

A convertible and an ice cream vendor give on the impression that the scene is summer.

And so in Photo Five we find the ice cream man selling his wares to a young family in warm weather duds while standing in front of his snazzy red sports convertible. (He must be having a good selling season to afford that car!)



Photo 6

The same area on the layout as in photo 5 but the hard top auto and the chestnut vendor gives an indication that this is a winter scene.

But come winter in Photo Six, he has to give way to the hot chestnut man, whose smaller hardtop suggests the nuts must not be selling as well as the chocolate cones.

In either case, note how the minister in the foreground goes trudging along, dressed the same, regardless of season. Some things never change.

If you've got other ideas about displaying seasons, or anything else you'd like to see covered in this column, drop me a note at jandjgott@gmail.com. Meanwhile, as always, happy villaging!

A PCA Outreach Appeal

By John Niehaus with Fred Ruby

PCA president Fred Ruby received an email from a Sarah Wall in the UK on Saturday, October 8. The email read, "Dear Sir/Madam, I am searching for a Kleeware Crusaders Castle for a friend. He is suffering from depression and his councillor suggested he should get one as he owned one as a child and associates many happy memories with it. Any help on where to start would be greatly appreciated. Kindest Regards Sarah Wall – UK".

As the Executive Committee meeting was held that same day, Fred relayed the contents of Sarah's message to the committee members. It was decided that we, the committee, would do a bit of research and offer suggestions as to where she might locate the item for her friend.

Fred responded shortly after the adjournment of the Executive Committee meeting with, "The executive council discussed this and the UK eBay was the first recommendation. But our webmaster is in the UK and we will contact him to see if he has any recommendations.

We also recommend you do a search on the web directly for this item and we think there is a UK society /

club dedicated to UK manufactured plastic toys. We think we may have a picture for you, if found, it will be sent to you.

Your note will be published in an upcoming quarterly magazine (*The villager*) and perhaps one of our 400 members will have recommendations for you beyond this.

Know that the executive council all send you their best wishes."

Later that evening I took a few minutes to research on Google the item she was pursuing. I found three sites that I felt may be of value in her search. One was a picture of the castle. The second was a photo of the actual castle. The third was a link to a website that she may wish to contact for assistance in locating the item. The third link seemed to have one for sale recently.

If any member is can add to the information we have already sent Sarah, please email Fred at president@plasticvilleusa.org.

(It should be noted that Sarah's message was sent using the "Contact" link on the NEW PCA website. Editor)

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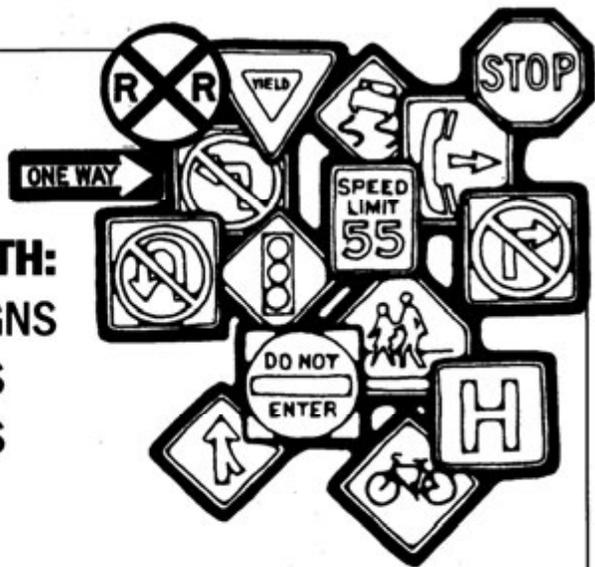
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The York Report, October, 2008

by Joe Kutza



Attending the Thursday morning breakfast at Alexander's was from left to right: Ray Frederick, Jerry Clark, George Sottung, Glenn Bowman, Jim Dawes, David Niehaus and John Niehaus (not pictured).

The York meet seemed to sneak up on me yet again this year. I always send in my registration as soon as I receive the notice but then tend to forget about it until the day before the meet. Attending the York meet without some level of preparation is not the best way to go. I prefer to have my list of wanted items updated, have my price guides with me, PCA literature, extra PCA t-shirts,

some items for the combined luncheon and show and share meeting, and the various other things needed to make the trip fun and efficient. I managed to get my act together somewhat the night before and was up and ready for the 90-minute drive on Friday morning. I once again was unable to make it to the bandit meets, but was ready for both a day off and a day at the York Fairgrounds.

I arrived at the entrance to the Silver and Blue halls, my traditional starting point, with about 10 minutes to spare. Before long, the doors were flung open and we all started moving at once into the halls. The crowd at the Blue Hall was not bad at all. I was able to move at my own pace without being held up or pinned in. The Silver Hall was the opposite. Each aisle was packed with eager buyers and sellers bumping into each other and generally being clogged. There seemed to be a somewhat healthy level of sales, or at least discussions on prices throughout both of the halls. I only found one item of note for my collection, a Mark Church, complete, with an

excellent box! The box was the darker version with the red color and not the monochromatic blue version. It was the excellent condition of the box that made me shell out \$40 for this item.

Next up was the Red Hall, where I generally find a few deals. The hall had quite a crowd, as usual. I was able to find an S-5 Skyline Church, with the music box, in its original box for just \$10. I thought that was going to be the "find" of the day. I then quickly went through both the White and Purple Halls before heading over to the cafeteria for the luncheon. How did I manage to get through all of those halls before lunch? It wasn't easy, but I had plans for a trip to Philadelphia early the next day and was motivated to get home early.

I was very pleased with the great turnout we had once again for the PCA luncheon. So many people, so much



The attendance at the Friday luncheons continues to grow. Pictured are just some of the members who stayed for lunch or just dropped by to greet fellow members.

plastic village discussion, what a great time. See the accompanying photo of our lunch group. Those in attendance included: John and David Niehaus, Glenn and Kris Bowman, Warren Plumer, Ken Landry, Ludwig Spinelli, David Angeli, Ron Dise, Mike Dailey, Bob Dohman, Jerry Clark, Don Heck, Larry Harnish, Rob Ross, Joe Kearney and Jack Maikos. We easily filled a couple of the round tables at the cafeteria.

There were a few interesting items for the show and share including an unusually dark log cabin, a display of "packed by" numbers, and the first version, second version, and Canadian version of LM-3 Station Platform (all brought by Glenn Bowman, see the pictures) as well as my collection of Bachmann catalogs from 1968-1999 (missing 1983, 84, and 85; let me know if anyone has any of those available either for sale,



An unusually dark brown log cabin was part of the items shown at the Friday luncheon. The color is dark enough that one could think it was black at first glance. It is unknown how this color variety was created but it is not suspected to be a test piece.

or can send pictures!).

I also brought two of the K-Line “Statue of Liberty” items. I found both of them earlier in the day; both bagged and complete, one for \$8 and one for \$9. What I didn’t notice until John Niehaus pointed it out to me at lunch was that while both were sealed, and one had a header card and one didn’t, the bags themselves were sealed in different orientations. The one with the header card had a rectangular shaped bag with the seal across one of the long sides of the bag while the one without the header card was sealed along one of the short sides of the rectangular bag. One theory is that the latter was provided in the boxed version of this item. Any thoughts?

An interesting topic of discussion, brought up by Don Heck, centered on the new issue Farm Buildings. Don found a set with white walls that have a roof section spray painted brown (over white plastic) and wanted to know if they are also sold in the reverse colors (brown walls and white roofs). I don’t know. Can anyone out there help us?

After lunch I was off to the Orange Hall. Dave and Scott Horner had there usual fantastic collection of plastic village items for sale and seemed to be doing brisk business, though it was very unusual not to see Bill Nole at the show. Although he told me in the Spring that he wouldn’t be attending the fall York show for the first time in many, many years, it was still a bit of a shock. However, I felt a little better after running into PCA Member Victor Koenig. Vic was nice enough to escort me over to the Purple Hall to show me a JC-3 Fence and Tree unit. It had some tape on the box, and it was missing the

only \$22 for this very rare boxed item, and I had a new “find” of the day. Thanks Vic! I made a quick stop at the Bachmann/Williams booth and had a very nice chat with John Morath of Bachmann. John has long been a good friend to the PCA. He mentioned that one of the questions he often gets is “will Bachmann re-issue more Plasticville items?” The answer is “possibly”. It seems that they would like to do so but are having some difficulty in locating all the molds needed to re-issue items other than those they already have. The molds were sent over to China all together, in no particular order, and they are still working on sorting everything out. All in all, I’d say that’s good news for those who want to see more Plasticville items re-issued. We just need to wait a little bit longer.

The last topic for this York report is a brief description of some of the prices that I saw. Please remember that these represent the marked prices (just about everybody gives a break on the listed price!) and that they are NOT graded according to the official PCA grading standards, as I just did not have the time to do that. So, take these with a grain of salt. Here we go: K-Line Christmasville, whole set in original box, \$35; K-Line Factory with VG box, \$10; BR-2 Trestle Bridge, complete, VG box, \$10; 1624 House Under Construction, dark gray, complete with VG box, \$99; FH-4 complete with no box, \$10; Marx Church, complete with Excellent box, \$40; City in a Box (older and newer versions) or Public Buildings boxed set, all with some tape on boxes and generally complete, \$265 each; BA-6 Barn and Animal Unit, \$85; Skyline Church, no box, no music, \$5; CT-6 tree, translucent/sparkled green, \$35; PH-1 Town Hall, nice with a poor box, \$15; Marx Chicken Coop with and excellent box, \$100 (I had never seen one with a box before); 1404 Pine Trees with EX box, \$28; 1805 Covered Bridge with a G box, \$40. These prices are provided to give you a general idea of what’s out there and where things stand in the real world. My completely subjective opinion on prices that I saw at the October 2008 York meet lead me to give a rating of 2.5 gold bars to the spring meet. The Gold Bar rating (from 1 to 5 bars) is meant to provide an assessment of how much people generally think their plastic village items are worth. A high rating means people think the items they have for sale are worth their weight in gold. The Gold Bar rating represents my opinion only!



Three varieties of the LM-3 station platform that are known to exist. From left to right: first U.S. version with the narrow slot in the roof, second U.S. version with the wide slot in the roof, Canadian version.

original trees, but the Fence was all there and the insert was in exceptional condition. I was quite happy to pay



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EASTWOOD EXCLUSIVE The Lionelville Iron Horse Ranch set is the ninth release in the exclusive Lionelville series and is painted in authentic Lionel colors and decorated with pad-printed graphics. In 1:43 scale, this model is perfect for O gauge. The detailed Featherlite trailer has opening rear doors and side windows. Pulling the trailer is a 1956 Ford pickup with opening doors. **404000 Lionelville® #9, Iron Horse Ranch Pickup/Trailer Set \$24.99**

The set of O scale buildings consist of a two-story farm house and a traditional red barn. Quick assembly and molded in color. **395200 Farm Building Set \$19.99**



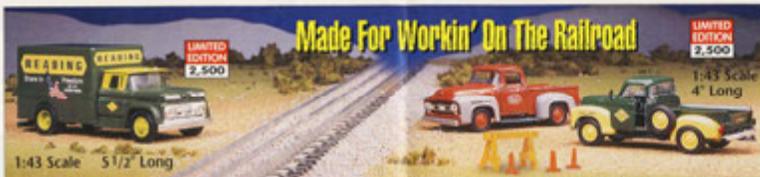
Distinctively boxed set includes a 1:43 scale, 1950 Chevy tractor trailer measuring 11 1/2" long, and a 1:24 scale, 1905 Ford delivery van measuring 5" long. Both die-cast models bear a pad-printed reproduction of Mr. Cowen's signature and period graphics. A replica of Mr. Cowen's business card completes this highly collectible set. **1901 Joshua Lionel Cowen Signature Edition™ Set \$29.99**



Deliveries can be made to any house on your O gauge layout by the Lionelville Parcel Delivery Service. Painted deep blue with pad-printed gold accents, this 1:43 scale, die-cast, 1950 Chevy delivery van is the first from new tooling. Includes the hand-painted, two-person LPDS delivery crew complete with hand cart. **383500 Lionelville® #8, 3-Piece Set \$24.99**

NEW
Now Showing! Lionel!
Here is an entertaining video for Lionel fans of all ages. This amazing video features three original Lionel films, including the 1962 line introduction, "The Cavalcade of Trains." There are many prototypes and views of the Lionel factory and showroom layouts. There is also new video featuring vintage Lionel sound effects records and commercials. Running Time: 48 Minutes in Color and Black and White. Videos are not returnable, if defective they will be replaced. **400400 Lionel! The Movie II \$14.95**

9/97 1-800-343-9353



EASTWOOD EXCLUSIVES Here are some great vehicles to dress up your O gauge layout! On the left is the 1960 Chevy Reading Line Truck painted in the authentic yellow and green of the Reading Line, pad printed with period "Share in Freedom" theme graphics. On the other side of the tracks, the New York Central crossing crew drive a red and grey 1956 Ford F100 pickup and the Reading Lines yard crew arrives on the job in a green and yellow 1953 Chevy C3100. Both pickup trucks feature working doors and tailgates and are decorated with pad printed graphics. The pickup truck set also comes with three safety cones and a yellow sawhorse barricade. **345000 Reading RR Truck \$17.99** **393500 Railroad Pickup Set #2 \$19.99**

412500 Special Value - Both the Reading Truck and Pickup Set #2 \$34.99 - Save \$2.99



Earth Movers!
Look at this construction site muscle. This two-piece set contains a Case excavator and a Case tractor/loader/backhoe. Both models are 1:50 scale and look great digging up an O gauge layout! The excavator pivots and the boom and bucket extend; the tractor bucket moves up and down, the backhoe swivels, the bucket extends and support arms raise and lower. Both models are painted in authentic colors with pad-printed graphics. **401300 Two-Piece Case Construction Set \$39.99**

50th ANNIVERSARY
Plasticville USA Turns 50!



EASTWOOD EXCLUSIVE Celebrate the 50th anniversary of Plasticville by adding these two die-cast models to your collection or layout. The Plasticville Fire Chief rides in a '49 Ford while the taxi driver picks up fares in a vintage Checker cab. **344000 Plasticville #1, 2-Car Set \$24.99**

372900 Special Value - Set of Plasticville #1 and Plasticville Van \$54.99 - Save \$9.99

EASTWOOD EXCLUSIVE This 1:34 scale die-cast 1957 International moving van salutes Plasticville and features two-tone paint, pad-printed graphics, and hand-painted details. **301000 Plasticville Moving and Storage Van \$39.99**



9/97

The annual Plasticville ads this year comes from PCA member Nan Cashour. Both are pages from the September 1997 Eastwood Automobiles catalog. The 1:34 moving van is quite common. The set of autos is probably not as common as they are rarely seen in online auctions.

If anyone has the farm buildings set in their original packaging as listed in the upper ad please contact villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org as we would like to photograph it for inclusion on our website.

Resource People Needed

The PCA needs volunteers to fill the following resource person categories. There is minimal involvement in that only when a member has a question that a knowledgeable member is available for assistance with their questions. Please let the Secretary/Treasurer know if you would like to fill one of these positions.

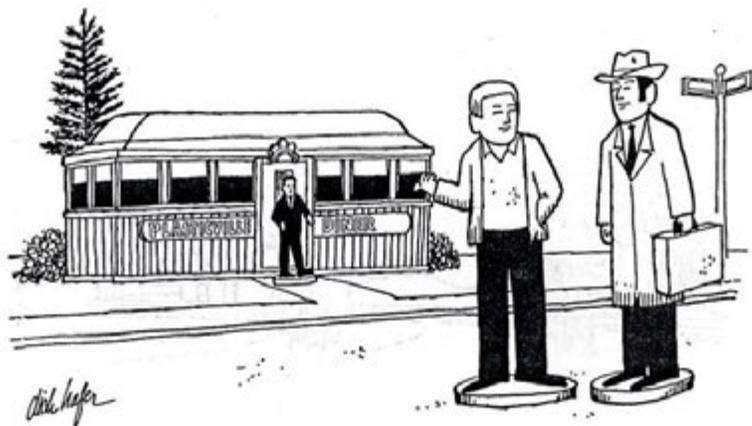
Plasticville HO
American flyer/Connecticut Hobbies
King Plasticville
Lionel Plasticville
Skyline
Storytown

More Unusual Plasticville Pieces

By John Niehaus

The below photos are of additional items acquired at auction some time ago by PCA members Bill and Linda Mazzoni.

Pictured on the left is a red Spruce Tree while on the right is the same tree but molded in a clear plastic. The green tint in that tree is from the green background. The tree is of totally clear plastic.



NO, LETS PICK SOMEPLACE BETTER TO EAT. THEIR FOOD IS SO... "PLASTIC."

What Members Are Saying

Many thanks for sending me the 2008 PCA roster and dues information.

I noticed there are some manufacturers I never heard of. I also was quite surprised that Plasticville made N scale.

I really enjoy being a member of the PCA; really enhances my train hobby. (Bob Stout)

I was rereading *The Villager* recently and thought of something that might help the club make a little money and be useful to newer members. Is it possible to put past copies of *The Villager* on a CD or DVD and sell at a nominal cost to members? Maybe, you could put a year's worth on one CD or DVD. Of course, this may not be an original idea and I am sure that others may have thought about it first. But, if not, that is my suggestion. (Richard Haisch) *(Thanks for your suggestion. Although difficult to find there is an option on the PCA website to purchase, in hard copy, a single article or a complete newsletter. We also offer a full year's issues as either hard copy or on CD. You can find the link to the offerings under General Information on the home page. Editor)*

I saw this ad in the Classic Toy Trains. The CD ROM for \$50 contains about 40 Lionel catalogs.

The Plasticville Catalogs were only a few pages. Perhaps HSL could partner with the PCA and create a CD ROM containing all the Plasticville catalogs for \$25.

This would be a little more than what just one reproduced catalog sells for. (Richard Wedekindt) *(The CD ROM to which Richard refers is the Lionel Consumer Catalog Digital Archive 1945 – 1969, published by HSL.*

I spoke with John Holtman of HSL at Fall York and he seems to feel that creating a Plasticville CD may be a viable project in the future. He hesitated to give me an idea as to when though. Editor)

Hi John, I wanted to take a minute of your time and say that I enjoyed meeting you, your son and the other members at the breakfast a few weeks ago. After our meeting I spent the entire day at the show and only spent \$1.50 for some replacement semaphore lenses. I thought there was a good supply of PV however I did not have my inventory data to consider any good purchases.

Question ? Do you have a sense of how many folks just search and purchase box lots of PV stuff and then just sell original parts as opposed to selling the complete kit w/ boxes? Thanks again and I look forward to the spring meeting. (Ray Frederick)

.... and thanks, as ever, for the great journal and its ability to provide so many pleasant moments of nostalgia, insight, and information.

Hey – one question I wanted to visit about – I have been buying several large P'ville sets this summer on Ebay. Any advice on doing so, and also, is there a good source which lists the ones which were made? And it

appears that some were slight variations, with one or two different houses, etc. Any thoughts? (Phil McKnight) *(The most recent publication of which I am aware that lists the various O gauge boxed sets is the 1993 Iron Horse Publications Plasticville Illustrated Guide. It lists the sets by number but does not list the contents. Sometimes the contents are listed on the box lid but not always. This sounds like a good project for a PCA member to step forward and volunteer to create. Editor)*

John, Another great issue! Keep up the great work. (John W. Schmid)

After reading the online newsletter I received in the mail the next day the paper copy. I agree that the on-line letter is the way to go. So if you can please stop the mail copy of the news letter. (Kenneth R. Olszewski) *(I could not agree more that the on-line newsletter is far superior due to being in color. Editor)*

In the February 2008 issue of the Villager, John Niehaus talked about the previously undocumented 45618 motel color variation of steel gray walls with pink roof.

I recently saw the same color combination for sale on e-bay for less than half the suggested retail price. I bid on it and won it, for I was the only bidder. The seller had actually opened the box and photographed its contents. So many Plasticville e-bay sellers show only the box, so we have no idea what is in it.

I know that the motel is not the only Chinese-made Plasticville that has color combinations that are not cataloged: I have 3 color combinations of both the rural station and the rural two story house. There are probably others. (Tom Fritsch) *(See the review of the new AtlasO buildings that are identical to the Plasticville 50th anniversary buildings in this issue. We must be certain that these buildings are documented on our website as AtlasO and not Bachmann entities. Editor)*

Hi John - Great work on all the newsletters. Fantastic information. (Rob Ross)

Would like to thank you for your time in sending me the August 2008 *Villager*. My wife and I enjoy ever issues sent. I think it is a good idea to have pictures of officers and staff. Know it is a lot of time putting this together.

Enjoy president and vice president insights and articles written by members on different subjects.

Not much news on HO Plasticville these days. Could you please send a list of members who are interested in HO? (Robert W Johnson, of FLA) *(If you are an HO collector and would like to communicate with Robert, his mailing address is in the online roster. I am sure he would greatly appreciate hearing from you. Editor)*

John

Just received your August email newsletter and what a terrific job.

I'd like to submit the following:

1. To help defray costs and to encourage email, may I suggest you consider no charge for email copies but a small fee to cover printing and postage for snail mail recipients. As food for thought, prior to my getting a new computer, I had Windows 95 and getting the newsletter was really s-l-o-w. That's why I elected to have it mailed. Paying an extra fee would have been actually worth it to me. So please, sign me up for email only and discontinue the snail mail issue. *(The Executive Committee has discussed a two tier dues structure at various times. There are pros and cons to doing this and we debate back and forth on a regular basis. We may eventually go that way but there is an issue with bookkeeping as well as how address the issues of a member changing from electronic to hard copy during a calendar year.*

We are also aware that for some people a hard copy is the only viable solution at home due to the age of their computer as well as how they connect to the Internet.)

2. It was mentioned that officer elections were upon us and perhaps I missed it but I didn't see any form in the newsletter to fill-in or position(s) to fill. Personally, I think the current group of officers are doing an exceptional job and hope all can stay. I know the time constraints are challenging what with trying to fit family, personal activities, etc. This is another reason I think all of you are doing such a marvelous job. *(I am sorry if the newsletter confused you. Per our bylaws we open the nominations for officers with the August newsletter and actually mail a ballot, if required, in conjunction with the November newsletter. The ballot is included in the with the mailed November newsletter or mailed separately to ePCA members.*

Thank you for your compliments regarding the performance of the current officers.)

3. Every once in a while we meet someone that can expand our knowledge of collectibles. Such is a member, Donald Heck, Ronks, PA (717) 391-6586. He is a collector (prefers to be called a "purchaser") and is extremely knowledgeable of Lionel's postwar trains and Plasticville. He collects only prime condition pieces that rarely see the light of day. Most of his collection is original and lately he has found some additional pieces. He'd not only make a good source of info but might be an asset to Chris Matthy's project. *(Donald Heck is member 06-390. As you mention additional pieces I may have to contact him if you believe these may be unusual or rare items. If we do not hear from him regarding Chris' project I may ask if he would be agreeable to assist Chris.)*

4. Speaking of Chris Matthy, FINALLY. I've been a member for a couple of years and trying to learn about

Plasticville and what direction to take to start collecting. I go to shows and don't know what I'm looking at and if it's a "find" or not. I think Chris's information would be a terrific help to all new, and existing, members. In fact, I'd like to get what info he has to get myself started-is it available or does the group have such info available? *(I am not certain if Chris has started any type of database but you sure could contact him. You should be able to get his email address from the roster (cmatthy@verizon.net). In the meantime I would suggest you find and purchase Bill Nole's 1993 edition of his Plasticville guides. I feel it has the most information and the easiest reading of his guides. The cover of this edition has numerous illustrations of boxes with a blue box with white text above and below. They are on eBay quite often. If you cannot find that particular edition then I know you can contact him directly to purchase his most recent edition of the guide.)*

5. Lastly. Some suggestions:

a. Have a drawing from a selected membership roster and have an officer go the individual's house to photo their Plasticville and talk-the-talk. Have the club pay for the officer's expenses. *(I like your suggestion to feature member layouts in the newsletter. We have had some member layouts in previous issues but maybe not enough. As the current officers are in California, Arizona, Iowa, and the past President is in Maryland we may be able to make some day trips to member's homes at minimal club expense. I will add that to the next Executive Committee meeting agenda.*

Some time ago I had the opportunity to visit with two members in the Detroit, Michigan area. I was there on business and used my spare time to visit fellow members. I also have photos from a member's layout in California that will be in a future newsletter.

Mu summer family vacation is always in North Florida, around St Augustine, and I hope to meet members in that area and take photos of their layouts.

I think you will be surprised when you see the member layouts scheduled for future newsletters.)

b. Find a rare piece and raffle it off, making a profit from the entry fees. It will help the club raise funds. *(Again a good suggestion. We have not done this yet as the 5th anniversary house sales gave us a nice financial cushion. We may very well have raffles in the future.)*

c. Raise your dues to at least \$15 to help the club function more effectively. *(The Executive Committee is always considering how much to ask in the way of dues. We are comfortable with the \$10 at the present as it covers the expenses to mail out hard copies of the newsletter as well as other expenses such as the maintenance of the website as they occur. We may need to raise them in a year or two if postage rates continue to climb.)*

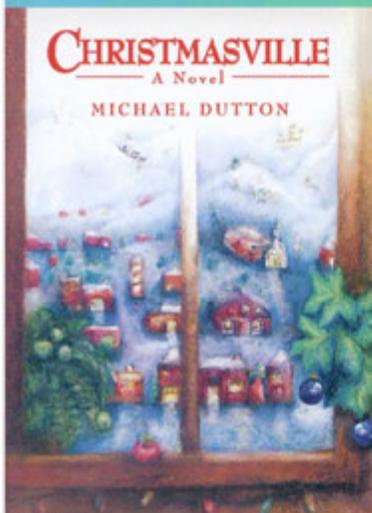
d. Keep up the great job-it shows in your passion to excel. (Larry Harnish)

Scenes from Christmasville

("Life on the Scale of Lionel!")



Mrs. Mason and her daughter, Rebecca, leave the hospital after discovering the terrible news. According to the doctor, Mr. Mason is experiencing the initial symptom of what is an irreversible and incurable condition. He's becoming bald.



Christmasville

by Michael Dutton
(PCA MEMBER #03-236)

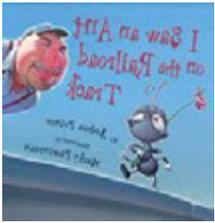
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Product Reviews



I Saw an Ant on the Railroad Track, Joshua Prince, illustrations by Macky Pamintuan, Hardcover, 24 pages, 10 X 10, Sterling Publishing Co., Inc., \$14.95, \$17.95 Canadian.

This delightful little book is the story of a hungry ant walking down the railroad tracks searching for a snack, totally oblivious to the huge steam engine about to run over him. The only other character in the book is switchman Jack who is just about to eat lunch when spies the ant's predicament. In true railroader fashion he springs into action to save the ant. I won't give away the ending but it is quite cute.

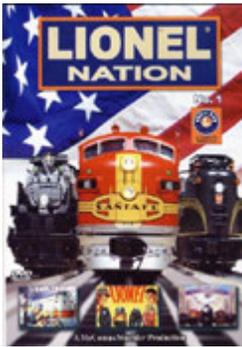
The book is written in the poetic style that not only enthralls youngsters but also adults. The illustrations by

Macky Pamintuan are a complement to the writing. They are caricatures of the ant, Jack, and the train which looks a lot like the 20th Century Limited.

Not only is this book a great little story but could also very easily become the basis for a lesson in how people need to help each other no matter who they are.

I would recommend this book for youngsters up through kindergarten age; although I got a chuckle out of reading it as has other adults to whom it has been loaned. It would make a great Christmas gift for a child or grandchild.

I Saw an Ant on the Railroad Track can be purchased at Barnes & Noble Books for \$14.95/\$13.95 if you are a Barnes & Noble Member. It is also available at Borders Books for the same price. You may also be able to purchase it at a discount at Borders if you are a Borders Rewards member.



Lionel Nation, Vol. 1 DVD, 60 minutes, TM Books & Video, \$19.95. This is another offering from TM Books & Video that somewhat follows the same format as the earlier *I Love Toy Trains* series. It contains a total of eight chapters. Each chapter is prefaced by a Lionel billboard displaying the title of the chapter.

The first chapter is a video of various operating trains and accessories accompanied by a voice over stating the vision of this series of DVDs which will include collector interviews and their layouts, operating tips, a review of Lionel classics, and all things Lionel.

Two of the chapters highlight toy train layouts by Chuck Brasher and PCA member Mike Theodorakus. While Chuck has an extremely large layout at 24 X 88 feet, Mike's is on a smaller scale. Chuck's standard gauge layout was built by himself while Mike had Clark Dunham create his 20 X 12 foot layout.

Another chapter highlights the toy train collection of Tom Sefton that is now part of the California State Railroad Museum in San Diego.

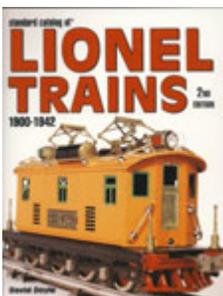
There is a chapter comparing three of the classic pieces to their new counterparts. It was interesting to see the real differences between the then and now pieces. An additional chapter in the same vein compares the sounds of the old air whistle to the new electronic sounds of today.

In keeping with the mission statement there is an additional chapter on creating an independent line. The information was such that I feel anyone could use the instructions and have an independent line set up without problems.

The final chapter is a brief history of Lionel in New York.

The chapters on the sounds of Lionel, the evolution of engines, as well as a brief history of Lionel in New York made this a very informative DVD. With the addition of the chapters on personal layouts and the Tom Sefton collection I thoroughly enjoyed this offering from TM. If you enjoyed TM's previous videos then you may want to add this one to your video library as well.

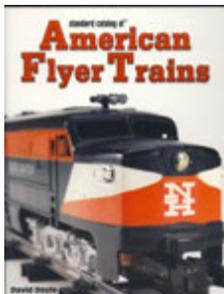
Lionel Nation, Vol. 1 may be purchased on line from TM Books & Video at TMBV.COM. Their 800 number for phone orders is 800-892-2822 between 8:00 AM and 5:00 Central time.



Standard Catalog of Lionel Trains 1900-1942, 2nd Edition, by David Doyle, published by kp books of Iola, Wisconsin. \$32.99 (U.S.), \$39.99 (CAN). 398 Pages, 8 1/2 X 11 format, perfect bound, color illustrations throughout. If you missed out on the first edition of this book you now have an additional

opportunity. The author has added additional photos as well as updated the values and scarcity ratings for certain pieces. It follows the same format at the previous edition as well as his books on postwar Lionel and American Flyer.

Standard Catalog of Lionel Trains 1900-1942, 2nd Edition may be purchased from Krause Publications through their website at www.krausebooks.com. It is also available on line at Borders Books and Barnes and Noble.



Standard Catalog of American Flyer Trains, David Doyle, perfect bound, 398 pages, 8-1/2 X 11, Krause publications, \$32.99, \$40.99 Canadian.

This is a similar book to the author's Standard Catalog of Lionel Trains, 1945, 1969. It is different in that it covers all years and sizes of trains produced under

the American flyer name.

This book follows the same format as the Lionel book, starting with an acknowledgement, an introduction, and a how to use this book section. It is then broken down into six sections. Each section contains from one to fourteen chapters. The sections include S-gauge, HO-gauge, catalogues, Wide and O-gauge accessories, Wide-gauge, and O-gauge.

As one would expect, the S-gauge section is the largest. It is over 230 pages in length. The section is broken down into steam, diesel, and electric engines, as well as an additional 10 chapters of various rolling stock types. The final chapter is a listing of catalogued sets. I found that to be something of a bonus for those wishing to complete a set as each listing contains an itemized list of all pieces that were included in a set.



New structures from Atlas O. As reported in the May, 2008 issue of *The Villager*, Atlas O is offering five new O scale structures in their Atlas Trainman line. Four of the structures are identical in design to the 45971 Two Story House, 45972 Rural Station, 45973 Switch Tower, and 45974 Pedestrian Bridge offered by Bachmann in their

1997 consumer catalog as 50th Anniversary pieces.

The Atlas offerings are; #2009000, Rural Station Kit (MSRP: \$26.50); 2009002, Two-Story House Kit; 2009003 (MSRP: \$26.50), Pedestrian Overpass Kit (MSRP: \$16.75); and 2009004, Switch Tower Kit (MSRP: \$20.95). The fifth item; #2009001, Engine House Kit (MSRP: \$83.95) will be reviewed at a later date. I did see a few of these at the Fall York meet for a few dollars less than the MSRP.

The Rural Station comes with light gray walls, a grayish brown roof and base, and Tuscan trim. The Two-Story House comes with pale yellowish walls, a medium brown roof and base, and dark green trim. The Pedestrian Overpass is a dark steel gray. The Switch Tower comes

The HO-gauge section seemed to be a bit sparse on illustrations especially in the motive power chapters. Catalog illustrations were used in some cases rather than photos of a representative piece.

The Catalogs section is a single chapter. Not only are the consumer catalogs listed but also many dealer catalogs as well as other items including various brochures and price lists. Starting with the listing for the 1938 catalog you will find included with the listing the publication number.

Both the Wide and O-gauge accessories and the Wide-gauge sections are presented in the same format as the previous sections.

The O-gauge section is a single chapter with all items listed in numerical order. The section is quite well illustrated but I would have liked to see photos of some of the pieces prior to 1939.

This book is heavily illustrated with most illustrations color photos of the pieces. If you are an American Flyer collector this may be the book for which you have been waiting. I found it quite informative even though I do not collect American Flyer.

Standard Catalog of American Flyer Trains may be purchased from krause publications through their website at www.krausebooks.com. It is also available on line at Borders Books and Barnes and Noble.

in a light tan walls, chocolate brown trim and base, and steel gray roof.

Each kit also comes with an instruction/assembly manual. Thankfully, the illustrations on the boxes fairly accurately reproduce the color of the item contained inside. It would be hoped that if additional color combinations are created that the box illustration will be changed to match the contents or a label will be added to denote the color combinations within.

When Atlas was first contacted regarding these pieces this reviewer was informed that it was necessary to glue them together. A notation on the boxes state, "Assembly required (glue sold separately)". Upon a close visual inspection I found that these pieces are identical in construction to their Bachmann counterparts. They also have the interference lugs used to join the walls to each other. My conclusion is that these were probably made on the same molds as were used for the Bachmann structures and will assemble in the same manner without glue except for the Pedestrian Overpass which must be glued.

If you did not purchase the Bachmann 50th Anniversary pieces or would like to add additional color combinations to your collection or layout then these are for you.

These structures should be in most local hobby shops at this time. You may also order them on line from <http://www.atlaso.com>.

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Welcome New Members

The following individuals' names have been added to the Plasticville Collectors Association membership roster as of October 1, 2008. Their names are now permanently listed in the on line roster.

Nicholas A Pascarella, Marlboro, NJ
Scott A Hickam, Murphysboro, IL
John J Foster, Lake Zurich, IL
Thomas S Simack, Panama City, FL
Neil Blumberg, Pittsford, NY
Betty S Stanley, Dallas, TX
Edward V Weller, Wexford, PA
Bob J Lancellotti, Congers, NY
Dave C Winegardner, Schellsburg, PA
Michael J Petreycik, Stratford, PA
Andy Klase, Foster City, CA
William P Gruendler, Palm Bay, FL

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 members in accordance with the bylaws of the PCA. All names listed below will be permanently added to the Plasticville Collectors Association rolls if no objection to such action is received prior to Jan 1, 2009.

Tim L Sweitzer, Glen Rock, PA
Jim G Ostrowski, Philadelphia, PA
Robert E Stout, Allegany, NY
James D Hellyer, Wyndmoor, PA
Carmen A Mc Nerney, Ramona, CA
Robert W Hooper, Salem, VA
Charles L Brown III, Pembroke, NH
David F Haller, Parma, OH
Daniel J Palaschak, Virginia Beach, VA
Ronald K Curll, Greenville, NC
Joseph M Ferry, Havertown, PA
James M Peszko, Tonawanda, NY
Michael A Borowiak, Fraser, MI
Terri L Rich, Parkersburg, PA
Danny F DiDio, Malverne, NY
Ronald M Frame, Lincoln, NE
Gene Capron, Pomona, CA

The PCA Corner Store **Items for sale by the PCA**

Visit the PCA website to view all of the items offered.

Send payment and the description of item desired to Plasticville Collectors Association, Christine A Niehaus, 601 SE Second Street, Ankeny, IA 50021-3207 unless noted otherwise noted.

Personalized address labels

A sheet of 30, personalized, high-quality color labels are available from the PCA. The labels will include the PCA logo in color and up to four lines of address. Each label is a generous 1 x 2 5/8 inches. The price is \$1.00 per sheet plus \$1.00 P&H for up to three sheets. Please add 17 cents per additional sheet over three.

PCA T-shirt

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

Back Issues of *The Villager* on CD

Each CD contains all four newsletters for the specified year. The newsletters on the CD are in PDF format. The cost for each year is \$12, postpaid. A link and instructions on how to download Acrobat Reader is also included on each CD

PCA ballpoint pen

PCA dark blue barrel with black soft grip, black ink ballpoint pen with gold accents. The pen is imprinted in gold tone with three lines:

PLASTICVILLE COLLECTORS ASSN
HTTP://WWW.PLASTICVILLEUSA.ORG
FOUNDED 1999

\$4.00 postpaid.

Additional items with the PCA logo

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

We are currently looking at a cloisonné pin, baseball caps, and embroidered patches.

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

Bachman O-S scale suburban station #1911:200, complete, boxed, \$8 plus shipping. bobdraker@hotmail.com, #05-383, Robert Drake, 4404 Dartmoor Ln, Alexandria, VA, 22310 (Nov 08)

Almost all of my Plasticville! I've run out of room. Please e-mail me your wants. trainbrane@comcast.net #01-6, Glenn Raymond, 1106 11th St NE, Auburn, WA, 98002 (Nov 08)

All reproduction catalogs - Littletown 1954 \$20, Storytown 1958 \$15, Plasticville 1950-A first year \$20, Plasticville 1953-D \$15 (SOLD OUT). Birds, Dogs and Animals by Bachmann 1961 \$15, Roadracing Plasticville 1961 \$10. Free shipping to PCA members. ibuytyco@aol.com #04-308 Anatol Vasiliev, 152 Redcrest St, Vineland, NJ 08361-8402, (856) 691-5797 (Nov 08)

King Collectors Series #0300 Corner Store Newsstand. Mint in original box (box VG), seals on plastic bag unbroken. Gray walls, white roof. \$90 or best offer, plus

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 & 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 08)

Wanted

I have PLASTICVILLE Outhouses in red/white & all brown colors. Would like another color if one was made. And, I would like to find a RELIABLE, made in Canada, Outhouse. Also interested in other plastic RELIABLE playset pieces, furniture, and accessories. Geraldine@Collector.org #04-321 Geraldine Scott, 540 Viridian St., Englewood, FL 34223 (Nov 08)

issue in which your 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.

shipping. jandjgott@gmail.com #01-24 John Gottcent, 3912 West Oregon Street, Evansville, IN 47720 (Feb 09)

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 09)

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, (May 09)

Various buildings for sale, most in excellent condition with excellent condition boxes. Send me an email for a list and my asking price. cmcnerney@hughes.net, #08-545, Carmen McNerney, 16623 Adrienne Way, Ramona, CA 92065 (Aug 09)

I will trade one "Baker" from the Storytown "Three Men in a Tub" kit, OR one white parapet from the "Goosey Goosey Gander's" kit for one "Butcher" from the "Three Men in a Tub" kit. Contact Joe Kutza at webmaster@plasticvilleusa.org #99-01 (Nov 08)

Would anyone help me find the final Marx items for purchase or trade? L-Shaped ranch house-Missing assorted cowboys and the small yellow stump with an axe in it. Police station-Policeman handcuffed to man. Firehouse-Dalmatian & box in good condition. Army Barracks-10 assorted soldiers. mlaposata@partners.org

#06-432, Mike LaPosata, 85 E India Row, #19F, Boston, MA 02110 (Nov 08)

Wanted: One "Butcher" for the Storytown "Three Men in a Tub" kit. Switch Tower in Ex 1631 box. Signal Bridge in Ex 1951 box. Water tank in Ex 1935 box. Contact Joe Kutza at webmaster@plasticvilleusa.org #99-01 (Nov 08)

Needs for my 8 X 124 Lionel train layout. Marx: barn, Colonial house, ranch house, L-shaped ranch house, police station, firehouse, general store, diner, supermarket, gas station, factory, airport, two Army barracks. Littleton: two Cape Cods, school, general store, gas station, supermarket, Colonial house. Montgomery Ward: Colonial house. #07-504, John F J Tully, 2138 Foulk Rd, Garnet Valley, PA, 19061-2111 (Nov 08)

Wanted: 1. gray fan for Marx diner 2. Yellow "Marxville Diner" sign. trainbrane@comcast.net #01-6, Glenn Raymond, 1106 11th St NE, Auburn, WA, 98002 (Nov 08)

Original 1950's fire truck w/ladder. The deep red type. #07-481, Nan Cashour, 6500 Schneider Ln, Middletown, MD, 21769-7018. (Nov 08)

Weathervane and overhang for airport administration building. Red roof for large supermarket. Medium blue roof and two chimney halves for colonial mansion.

wnholcomb@aol.com #08-509, W Neil Holcomb, 6408 Chamel Dr, Indianapolis, IN 46278 (Feb 09)

Any K-Line Budweiser, Conoco or IHOP buildings. Porch roof and porch floor for red w/dark grey roof LH4 2-story Colonial house. K-Line catalogs. Figures and accessories for K-Lineville buildings. Loading dock roof for K-Line factory. Original assembly instructions for Plasticville pieces. johnln@netins.net #00-3, John Niehaus, 601 SE Second St., Ankeny, IA 50021-3207 (Feb 09)

Looking for two Plasticville Ranch Houses; grey sides, brown roof, white doors and; Aqua sides, dark grey roof, white doors. I have also seen one not listed in Nole's book; tan sides, light blue roof and doors. I would like this also. #08-528, Chuck Neuman, 128 Whittier Ave, North Babylon, NY 11703-4819. (May 09)

Wanted – your unwanted or extra Plasticville Kits, complete or partials, in excellent or better condition. One kit or a truck load, doesn't matter. I will also buy nice clean boxes. glennb@tricounty.net, #03-219, Glenn Bowman, 301 Buffalo Creek Rd, Newport, PA, 17074. (May 09)

I need a 1509 Add-a-A Floor box. May be taped or not. Mine was ruined. Not for resale, I want the box for my items. plasticforme@verizon.net or phone 951 927-5933. #07-449, Jerry Clark, 42221 Carnegie Ave, Hemet, CA 92544. (Aug 09)

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Tired of Black and White?

Every member has the privilege of viewing *The Villager* in color on the PCA website. All you need is a computer that has Internet capabilities and your assigned user name and password. You can probably even use a computer at your local library if you do not have a home computer.

If you have lost your user name or password, email secretary@plasticvilleusa.org or write to him at Secretary, Plasticville Collectors Association, 601 SE Second Street, Ankeny, Iowa 50021 and he will be more than happy to send them to you.

Plasticville Cape Cod box color stamps

HP8 - 1st series (tall version) and 2nd series (short version) Stamped with roof color only

Stamp	Walls	Roof	Trim
Red	white	dark red	dark red
Blue	white	light blue	light blue
	white	pastel blue	pastel blue
	white	dark (royal) blue	dark blue
Green	white	dark green	dark green
Brown	white	marbled brown	marbled brown

HP9 - Stamped with roof color only

Stamp	Walls	Roof	Trim
Red	white	dark red	dark red
Blue	white	light blue	light blue
	White	pastel blue	pastel blue
	White	dark (royal) blue	dark blue
Green	white	dark green	dark green
Brown	yellow	unmarbled brown	white
	White	unmarbled brown	yellow
	White	marbled brown	marbled brown
Gray	white	dark gray	dark red
	White	pastel yellow	white
White	bright yellow	white	white
	Turquoise	white	white

1400 - stamped with roof color only

Stamp	Walls	Roof	Trim
Red	white	medium red	medium red
	white	dark red	dark red
Blue	white	light blue	light blue
	White	pastel blue	pastel blue
Green	white	dark green	dark green
Brown	yellow	brown	unmarbled brown
	White	brown	yellow
Gray	white	dark gray	dark red
White	pastel yellow	white	white
	bright yellow	white	white
	turquoise	white	white

1502 and 1630 – stamped with roof color only

Stamp	Walls	Roof	Trim
Red	white	medium or light red	med or light red
Brown	peach	brown	white
	peach	unmarbled brown	brown
	bright yellow	brown	white
White	turquoise	white	white
	bright yellow	white	white

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