



The Villager

The official newsletter of the Plasticville Collectors Association

Volume 8

February 2009

Number 1

2009 Officer Election Results

The following are the results of the 2009 officer election. For the first time in PCA history an election was necessary due to there being multiple candidates for President and Vice President.

President: Glenn Bowman has been elected to his first term as PCA President. His opponent, Fred Ruby, will now take his place as the immediate past President on the Executive Committee.

Vice President: Doug Gilliatt garnered enough votes to continue to be the Vice President for the eighth

consecutive year.

Secretary/Treasurer: John Niehaus will continue as Secretary/Treasurer as there were no opponents for that office.

Although the position of newsletter editor is a non-elected position, John Niehaus will continue in that role.

Joe Kutza, the club founder, has graciously agreed to continue in his role as webmaster.

The Executive Committee wishes to thank all the members who cast their votes in this first election.

Possible Unknown RH-1 Color Combination

By John L Niehaus



Although in an RH-1 box with the correct series one color code of Blue/White this Ranch house has grey doors. Research indicates that they should match the roof color.

Do any members have this building in the same box and can authenticate this color combination?

The RH-1 Ranch house pictured here was recently purchased by me through eBay from a very reputable seller. It is unique in that it has a light blue roof, white walls, and light grey doors. To the best of my knowledge this is an unknown or unreported color combination. The only colors currently documented for this vintage Ranch house are in light blue or pastel blue.

The box is the first version of the RH-1 in that it has both the roof and wall colors listed. In this case the colors stamped on the box are blue over white, indicating that the building inside should have a blue roof and white walls.

The seller's auction description stated that the original owner was not a train person and used this piece in a Christmas layout. He also stated that this was the only Ranch House the person had.

Could it be that there were some light grey doors molded at some point in time when the light grey roof with pink sides RH-1's were being molded?

Does anyone else have an RH-1 Ranch house in this color combination? Until we can verify that there are others with the same legitimate color combination I feel we will have to consider this as an undocumented although attractive color combination

The Villager

Published quarterly by the Plasticville Collectors Association.

President: Glenn Bowman

Vice President: Doug Gilliatt

www.plasticvilleusa.org

Secretary/Treasurer: John L Niehaus

Webmaster: Joe Kutza

Newsletter editor: John Niehaus

All content © copyright by The Plasticville Collectors Association. Content may not be reproduced in part or in whole without the express written consent of the Plasticville Collectors Association.

Contact secretary@plasticvilleusa.org for advertising rates or by mail at PCA, 601 SE Second Street, Ankeny, Iowa 50021-3207

ATLAS O TRAINMAN® STRUCTURES



AVAILABLE NOW!



ENGINE HOUSE

MSRP: \$83.95

- 11-1/2" x 27-1/2" footprint
- Interior length of 27"
- 2 stalls with opening doors
- Exhaust stacks • Movable office



RURAL STATION MSRP: \$26.50

- 9-3/4" x 5-1/8" footprint
- Simulated shingles and brick detail



TWO STORY HOUSE MSRP: \$26.50

- 9-1/2" x 6-1/2" footprint
- Detailed window shutters
- Shingled roof
- Wrap-around porch w/decorative bracing



SWITCH TOWER

MSRP: \$20.95

- 7-1/4" x 4-1/4" footprint



PEDESTRIAN OVERPASS

MSRP: \$16.75

- 6" clearance

To find an Atlas dealer near you, go to <http://locator.atlasrx.com> To get a copy of the new Atlas Quarterly All Scales Catalog, visit your local hobby store or visit www.atlaso.com

Atlas O, LLC • 378 Florence Avenue • Hillside, NJ 07205 • www.atlaso.com

From the President's Desk



Since this is my initial column as President of PCA, I want to first say I feel very honored being the first elected president of the PCA. I was surprised when a member told me he was going to nominate me for President, and I was stunned when I found out I was elected.

My only goal as President is to make the PCA website the most complete and accurate place to obtain information on Plasticville and the many other brands of plastic building kits. I know there are many fellow baby boomers returning to the toy train hobby. They are now getting a chance to build the layout they wanted when they were kids. They are buying the trains and plastic building kits that they may have once owned or wanted to own many years ago. These are the people we need to inform; to prevent them from buying kits that are incomplete, incorrect, or just plain wrong.

For the last several years at train meets I looked at kits for sale. Many times I found kits marked as complete, but weren't or they were recent reissued kits in boxes from the 1950's, or color combinations that were obviously made up out of spare parts, and the ever present kits with undisclosed repro replacement parts.

This scenario is 100 times worse on eBay. I see sellers week after week offering goods that are overgraded or have undisclosed problems. I keep thinking how some novice collector is going to get ripped off buying these items. We can't stop the crooked dealers, so let's educate the buyers.

My idea is to have the website picture of a building, say a Cape Cod, in a 3/4 front and 3/4 rear picture. Also show all of the parts laid out so they can easily be seen. Then

show a front view picture of every color variation, accompanied by text stating when the variation was made, which box style and number(s), and any color stamping on the box. We must list all known variations. This is where I am asking, no, BEGGING for help from the membership.

Let's start with Plasticville, since it has the most variations. Take the time to look at the variations on the website, and see which variations you own, or have seen, that are NOT listed. I am aware of several I have seen in the last 40 years of dealing in Plasticville, but I am sure there are many more. PLEASE Email the details of the missing ones to me at president@plasticvilleusa.org. If you have a picture, that would be even more helpful. If we all work at this, we can create the definitive reference guide to Plasticville et.al. The Executive Committee is behind this project 100 percent.

As the new President, I would like the membership to communicate their thoughts to me on how this group can improve. Tell me what you like or don't like. Your feedback is appreciated. We can't fix anything until we find out what is broken! Email me at president@plasticvilleusa.org.

It will soon be April and that means York train meet. We are planning our usual Thursday morning breakfast and Friday luncheon. It is a great time to meet fellow members and sit and talk Plasticville plus see some oddball or rare items. You never know what little gems will be offered for all to see.

I must end this with again thanking all of the members who voted for me. With everyone's help, we WILL make this organization grow and forever prosper.

Glenn Bowman

Vice Presidential Insights



I want to first thank our outgoing President (Fred Ruby) for all of his help during his tenure as the President of the PCA. We all valued his opinions and his keen insight and hope he will continue to be a resource for our organization.

I would also like to welcome our incoming President (Glenn Bowman) and the new ideas that he will bring forth to the PCA.

And I would also like to thank the membership in their vote of confidence in re-electing me as their Vice President.

In his edition of the Villager there are multiple articles of special interest to our members. Here are just a few of

the highlights in this issue: Colleen Spillman's kitbashed model of her home, and another great article on the "Creative" Use of damaged parts – (local Pub). 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 another article on Non-Railfan antics by Gordon Kelly that is always interesting.

I hope that all the members had a Happy Holiday Season for themselves and their families. I also hope that some of us might have been given new Building or other train related item as a present this past Holiday season. If you received something that you believe that would be of interest please write a short article and maybe a picture or two for publication in the Villager on your gift?

This might be a bit early but I was thinking about an informal Dinner at the TCA annual convention coming to Phoenix this year? I believe that Friday July 3rd might work the best as it is on a night there is no TCA events scheduled for that evening that I know of. Please send me your thoughts and if I get enough interest I will try to arrange something in the upcoming months. I would enjoy meeting more of our members and sharing any finds they had during the trading day.

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

From the Immediate Past President's Desk



It is a little strange to be out of office and still have an influence on the club. I don't have an obligation to write a quarterly column, but I want, even need, to do so. The outlet for communication to so many friends is a worthy goal. I was thinking

about all the accomplishments the club has made the past two years, and it is a positive record, indeed. Not that my contributions were all that noteworthy, Joe Kutza and John Niehaus have been the two driving forces to make the PCA what it is. Doug Gilliatt has been a steady hand behind those two keeping things in check.

Still, ...

- We have mapped a members' dispute resolution process
- Our website was moved to a much better service provider
- A professional website designer and builder was found and hired with a new look and revitalized effort at the core of the club (next item)
- Large steps have been taken to better catalogue the various buildings / boxes / variations aimed at a complete encyclopedia of PV knowledge (Joe and Prez Glenn are doing that with help from other experts and, we hope, anyone with even a single rare piece)
- Recruitment of new members has us grown to 375 members with a reach to several other countries besides the USA
- ePCA members are increasing over hard-copy members, especially with the latest group of folks to join
- Bachmann issued a special color 2 story house just for the PCA on its fifth anniversary. These were

available only to members. (You didn't get one? Keep your eye on *The Villager* and eBay!)

- We've been able to give a modest thank-you gift to the regular contributors of *The Villager*
- We have published seven glorious years of *The Villager* all of which are available for viewing in full color and downloading from the PCA website
- The PCA Corner Store has stocked and sold out of several nice items and continues to offer great gifts for yourself and your collecting pals. (*See the newest additions to the store elsewhere in this issue. Editor*)
- The club has kept dues quite low, especially for the quality received by the membership
- York breakfasts and lunches continue to grow in popularity and we are spreading the concept to TCA National this year (thanks, Doug!)

Yes, a lot of great accomplishments for the club and the beneficiary is you, the club member. The minimum you get in return is *The Villager*, an invaluable guide to buying, collecting and modifying Plastic Buildings and other items related. But the tangential articles like rail-fan antics (and non-fan antics); reviews of books, software and DVDs; stories of the rare find and friendships all make *The Villager* the best benefit of maintaining your membership and recruiting others to join our organization.

I send best of luck wishes to Glenn Bowman, Doug Gilliatt and John Niehaus for running the PCA the next twelve months; I send gratitude to Joe Kutza for founding this enterprise to our mutual benefit and enjoyment; I send thanks to each of you for creating a true club with Plasticville at its heart and fun as its soul.

Any questions, comments or clean jokes, please write to: pca_prez@yahoo.com

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

Notes from the Editor



I thought that this time that I would give you an idea as to what your Secretary/Treasurer does during the November through January time frame. This is the busiest quarter for me in regard to PCA business.

First, and always foremost, is getting the February newsletter edited and made available to both the hard copy and the ePCA members in a timely manner.

There is also the separate mailing of dues renewal notices to the ePCA members as well as ensuring that dues return envelopes and renewal notices are included in with the hard copy newsletters.

In addition to all of the regular November mailings there was the need to include a 2009 Officers election ballot in the mailings this year.

Once the nominations were received and accepted by the nominees, I created the ballot on the computer. Then it was off to the printer to have them printed. Then I had to ensure that each one of you got a ballot included in whichever mailing you received.

Once you received your mailings my work really gets heavy. By mid-November I am receiving around a dozen dues renewal checks each time the postman passes by. The processing of your dues payment includes logging your payment, updating your membership record, and mailing your membership card.

The tallying of the votes for the Officer election was an added bonus this year.

As there were changes to the Officers this year it was necessary to update the website Officer page. This entails modifying the document, uploading it to a special folder on the website, and then contacting the webmaster to replace the new document with the old.

I also create a list of members from whom I have not received their renewal dues. This is done for two reasons. One reason is just to have a record of those who have not renewed. The other reason is so that I can make personal calls to them. This is done as a means of gaining feedback regarding both the club in general as well as *The Villager*.

While all of this is happening, as I stated earlier, I am also editing the February issue of *The Villager*.

My work finally slows down when I have informed all that the February newsletter is on line and in the mail.

As I start my eighth year as your Secretary/Treasurer I must say that although it is a lot of work being both the Secretary/Treasurer and newsletter editor I enjoy the work.

Stamps for children: I wish to again thank all of you who sent used postage stamps along with your 2009 dues payment. The total amount I received was very close to one pound. The kids will be thrilled with your generosity.

Throw the bums out! If you have any of the older membership applications where the dues is listed as \$8.00 please throw them away and ask me to send you some of the current applications. I am still getting applications from when my wife was Secretary/Treasurer and the dues were \$8 and that is what is being remitted with the application. Annual dues are now \$10 and the new applications have a schedule of dues to remit with the application.

Incorrect email addresses: There are still some of you who are not receiving email notifications when they are sent out due to an old email address in the PCA database. If you have an email address but are not, at the very least, receiving a notice when the newest edition of the newsletter is on line and being mailed, please contact me at secretary@plasticvilleusa.org and I will update your record.

Donations to train clubs: Although the Executive Committee voted to place the built up buildings from Bachmann in the Corner Store for member purchase we would still like to donate some additional items to clubs. An email to me explaining their club is all that is needed to get the donation process started.

Resource people needed: We still need people to volunteer to fill voids in our Resource People list. Please consider volunteering for one of the positions listed below.

Department of Corrections: I have been told that the unusually dark log cabin reported on in the York Report article in the November 2008 issue is actually a Canadian Plasticville log cabin.

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
Plasticville N
American Flyer/Connecticut Hobbies
King Plasticville
Lionel Plasticville
Skyline
Storytown

Minutes of the January, 2009 Executive Committee Meeting

The January, 2009 Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 12:07 Noon, Eastern Standard time, by President Glenn Bowman

Those in attendance were; Vice-President Doug Gilliatt, Immediate past President Fred Ruby, Secretary/Treasurer John Niehaus, and club founder Joe Kutza

Old business:

Application for 501c3 acknowledgement

Secretary Niehaus reported that he made a follow-up call to the Treasury Department and has been informed that the application has been assigned to an agent. He also reported that he would contact the agent in late February if he has not received any communication by then.

Putting a sample newsletter in a public area on website

It was announced that a modified May, 2008 edition of *The Villager* is now available in a public area on the website and can be downloaded.

Back issue pricing/adding back issues to the website

It was announced that all back issues of *The Villager* are now available for download in PDF format in the Members section of the website

Donated items from Bachmann

Secretary Niehaus noted that very few requests for buildings were received. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to add the buildings to *The Corner Store* with a listed price of \$17.50 which includes shipping.

Off site storage of PCA electronic documents

Joe Kutza reported that he had investigated three free on line data storage sites, FileQube, Adrive, and 4Shared. He recommended that we use the 4Shared service.

A motion was made and unanimously approved to upgrade the 4shared account from the free 5Gb storage limit to 10Gb storage for one year.

Retaining the professional website developer as our webmaster

Joe Kutza reported that he is working with the developer to complete the work for which the developer was contracted. A compensation agreement with the developer will be created at such time as the currently contracted work is complete. Time spent on any work performed by the developer outside the initial contract is being logged for future compensation.

President Bowman questioned the means of navigating through multiple variations of a specific piece. Joe responded that we will not be changing that format but can try to make it clearer that once a picture with an "M" on it is opened, one has to use an "N" or "P" to get to the next or previous picture.

President Bowman stated that he felt that there could be more definitive information on each type of building. He and Joe will work together to develop a format that will include additional data and possibly a new layout for each type of building. Upon Joe and Glenn's conclusion of the design, Joe will work with the developer to change the website.

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

Secretary Niehaus made a motion to delete the Plasticville Trader section from the website. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. Joe will contact the developer with the request to remove all references and links to that section.

New Business:

Constitution change to include the founder as permanent member of the Executive Committee

Immediate Past President Fred Ruby made motion to add the founder of the Plasticville Collectors Association, Joe Kutza, as a permanent member of Executive Committee. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. It was requested of Secretary Niehaus that an announcement as well as the actual text of the revision be published on the February newsletter.

PCA credit card

Secretary/Treasurer Niehaus made a motion to acquire a credit card in the name of the Plasticville Collectors Association. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved with the stipulation that the card be free of any annual charges.

Adding scale interest to the membership application

Secretary Niehaus, acting as newsletter editor, asked to update the membership application to include scale interest. He stated that it may assist him in the solicitation of articles as well as the article mix of the newsletter. The request was unanimously approved.

Creating and mailing a member information update and satisfaction survey

Tabled

York meet breakfast & luncheon meetings

A question was raised regarding whether to continue to hold two meetings due to the fluctuation in attendance, especially at the breakfast meeting.

It was suggested that one of the reasons may be the lack notice to the members in time for them to make plans. It was requested of Secretary Niehaus that he send out a broadcast message approximately ten (10) days prior to each meet with the dates and times of the meetings.

The decision was made to continue both the Thursday morning breakfast and the Friday, Noon, luncheon gatherings at the York train meets. The Thursday breakfast time will be moved ahead to 8:30 from 7:30 in

the hope that doing so that will be a more agreeable time for members.

Comment was made as to the possibility of reserving two of the rectangular tables near the back of the room in the cafeteria for the Friday luncheon. President Bowman will check with the cafeteria management at the upcoming April meet to see if that is possible.

Unlimited Plastics information on the website

Joe will work with the developer to add information regarding Unlimited Plastics to the website.

PCA member meeting at the upcoming TCA convention in Phoenix

Vice-President Doug Gilliatt suggested that the PCA look into having a meeting during the TCA convention in Phoenix, Arizona June 27 through July 5. He volunteered to research the possibility of a breakfast or luncheon meeting during the convention's run.

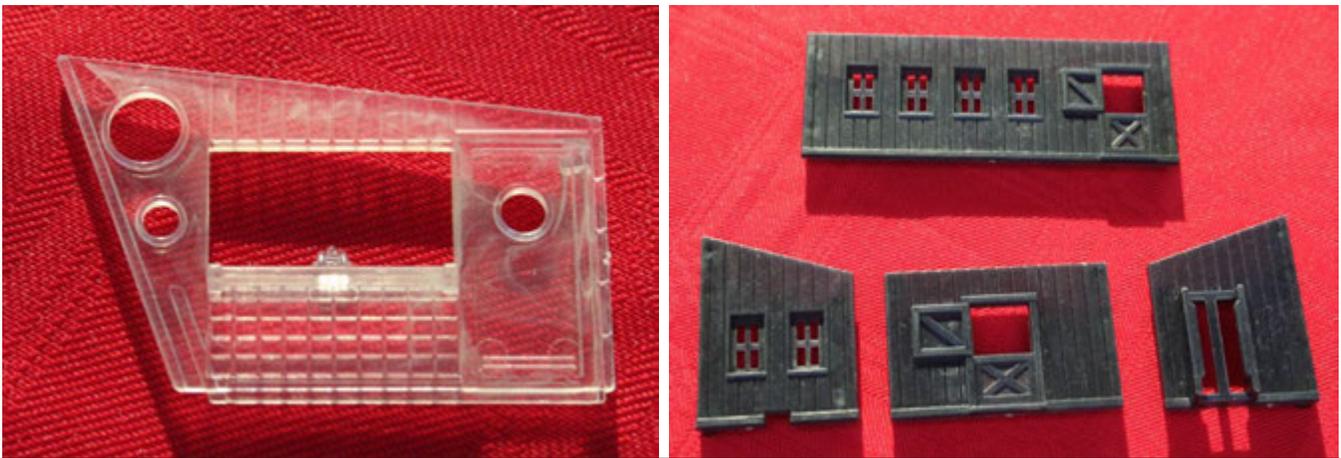
The meeting was adjourned at 12:14 PM Eastern Standard time

Respectfully submitted; John L Niehaus
Secretary/Treasurer

Approved by the Executive Committee; January 26, 2009

More Unusual Plasticville Pieces

By John Niehaus



PCA member Russell Muller recently acquired the pieces you see here at an auction. All of the pieces are HO scale. The piece on the left is a clear side for either an HO Frosty Bar or Hot Dog stand. The pieces on the right are four sides for an HO barn. It is presumed that all these were test pieces.

SOTTUNG'S SERVICE CENTER
808 Girard Avenue, Croydon, PA 19021
215-788-5353 after 5:00 p.m.

MODEL RAILROAD SUPPLIES

Lowest Prices On:
Reproduction PLASTICVILLE Parts
For parts list send 8 1/2 x 11 SSAE with 78c postage

Non-Railfan Antics

A View from the Other Side

By Gordon C Kelley

The Wisconsin Central thought they were the greatest in the railroad industry. Just ask any official, he would tell you so. Part of their problem was that they would not believe human thought or input. The computer knew it all. So it was with the paper mill in Combined Locks, Wisconsin.

The train shed held four box cars. The computer said the shed held five cars. So every time the dock supervisor would order a "full spot" we would spot four cars and the next day Neil would get his tail chewed because the computer said we did not give the mill a "full spot". The computer was not happy. It was happy if they ordered a one, two, three, or even four car spot. If they ordered a "full spot" and we spotted four cars, the computer was not happy. The trainmaster was not happy and Neil was not happy getting tail chewed.

We told everyone: supervisor, clerks, yard masters, and the trainmaster that the building only held four cars. No one listened. So, when Neil got his tail chewed again, I blew up.

I told the trainmaster that I would put five cars in the building if he authorized it. If he would not authorize it to shut up and leave us alone. I reminded him that if I put five cars in the building that one would be through the roof but the train door would be closed. I reminded him that the customer would not be happy and that the claims department would not be happy either. The computer would, however, be happy. Neil and I would be happy because we would not be accused of not giving the paper mill a "full spot".

"Now, either authorize five box cars", I said, "or shut up because if you issue verbal discipline again with a four box car spot I will file an unfair labor practice complaint with the Nation Labor Relations Board".

The trainmaster was shocked into being quiet. The chief computer "geek" from the Rosemont, Illinois office stood up, turned to the trainmaster and said, "I think you better take this man seriously." He saved the day and we never heard another word about not giving the paper mill a "full spot".

Built Ups from Bachmann Now Available for Purchase

The Executive Committee voted to make available, only to the PCA membership, the buildings that were recently received from Bachmann. The price per building was set at \$17.50. The price includes shipping.

The buildings are being referred to as "first editions" as they have a clear plastic sleeve wrapping entirely around the box front, top, back, and bottom.

These were the first built ups shipped from China. Due to a communications error, they were shipped without the glassine window commonly seen on window boxes. This left the buildings very susceptible to damage in transit as well as on the local hobby shop shelves. The wrap around sleeve was the most economical means of correcting this problem.

The buildings are listed on Bachmann's website with retail prices ranging from \$28 to \$41. There are no limits as to how many of each may be purchased.

You may view the pieces in color in the Members

section of the PCA website by clicking on Members in the menu bar at the top of the home page, logging in, and clicking on the **Built Ups For Sale** link. You may also view the buildings on Bachmann's website at <http://www.bachmanntrains.com> and searching on the item number.

The buildings available are as follows:

- 45004 – House Under Construction – HO
- 45005 – Split Level House – HO
- 45006 – Freight Station w/Platform – HO
- 45007 – Dairy Barn – HO
- 45305 – Two Story House - O
- 45306 – Hobo Jungle - O
- 45308 – Country Church - O
- 45310 – Trailer Park - O

Please contact the Secretary/Treasurer by email or US mail if you intend to purchase a quantity of these buildings as there is a limited number of each.

Taking Care of Your Boxes, Catalogs and Paper Items

By Joe Kutza

When I set out to recreate my childhood Christmas layout about 12 years ago, all I wanted to do was find some Plasticville. As time went on, this simple quest turned into a hobby that went well beyond my initial intentions. Now I am particularly interested in all the variations of the boxes that came with plastic village items. As collectors know, for the vast majority of plastic village items, the value is in the box, not what's in the box.

Perhaps, as with many of you, I have any number of boxes and paper items that have seen better days. Stains, folds, rips, split corners, you know what I mean. I just can't bring myself to throw them away, no matter how bad off they are.

I started looking into conservation and repair techniques a while back and would like to share with you some of my findings. The information in this article comes from a variety of sources, but the majority is from articles written by the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC) and is used here with their permission. A link to those articles, and others, is included at the end of this article. Hopefully, some of this information will be helpful to those of you who have an interest not only in collecting or operating, but in preserving plastic village items as well.

Handling:

It's best to handle your paper and cardboard items as little as possible. When you do, be sure to wash and dry your hands well first. The oils in your hands can cause staining. If you want to be hard-core, consider cloth gloves. It's a good idea to avoid having food and drink in the area when handling your items.

Storage:

When it comes to paper items, such as catalogs, flyers, and advertisements, individual enclosures offer the best protection, especially for those that are fragile or damaged. Enclosures should be larger than the document being stored, and specifically made for preserving paper products. I used to store my catalogs in the standard document protection sleeves from the Office Depot, but they are not the correct size, the catalogs are difficult to get into the sleeves, difficult to remove, and the plastic material is not good for the paper. It's much better to store them in acid-free alkaline folders or polyester film folders (if you have a comic book store nearby, they may have these items). Catalogs and flyers in good condition can be stored in groups within folders. The folders, or the box you store them in, should be rigid enough to provide adequate support. If possible, store the item unfolded, as folding and unfolding can damage an item. Of course, never use tape, stickers, rubber bands, or even sticky notes. All can lead to irreversible damage.

Conditions:

Limiting exposure to light will help to reduce fading over time. Damage due to light exposure is determined by the type of light, the length of the exposure, and the intensity of the illumination. Damage is cumulative and irreversible. Try to keep light levels low and eliminate daylight whenever possible. Light sources containing ultraviolet (UV) rays are especially harmful. UV is found in all daylight and in many fluorescent bulbs. Incandescent lights are preferred.

Ideally, you should store your paper and cardboard items in a cool, dry environment. Maintaining a temperature of 72 degrees with relative humidity between 30 and 50 percent would be of great help. Warm or moist conditions accelerate deterioration, and encourage mold growth and insect activity. Temperature fluctuations can cause paper to expand and contract which can lead to buckling. I have most of my collection in my basement (not unusual, I would guess) and I know quite well that while the temperature stays fairly constant down there throughout the year, the humidity level fluctuates greatly from very humid in the summer months to very dry in the winter months. I do my best to control the humidity with a dehumidifier.

Repair:

As unrealistic as it may sound, repair and preservation is best handled by an experienced conservator. To preserve a paper item properly, the process includes a deacidification step to adjust the pH of the paper. This is generally not a do-it-yourself project! Even so, I do want to provide some basic information on repairing split box corners. This is something that you might consider trying on your own. Please, No Tape!

I asked Paul Messier, an experienced conservator of paper items and the Director of Communication for the AIC about how to address split corners on boxes. Paul has repaired some vintage board game boxes and recommends a combination of Japanese paper and wheat starch paste. Japanese paper is the type traditionally used for origami. Its use is recommended for conservation purposes because it is made by a process that uses very few chemicals, resulting in a paper that is safe to use on delicate and vintage items. The wheat starch paste is, of course, made from wheat starch. Similarly, its properties satisfy the true conservator, and the bonding process is reversible (unlike glue or tape). The trick comes in determining how much paste to use. If it's too wet, it can buckle the material, if it's too dry, the bond won't be strong enough. Please refer to the links at the end of this article for more information on this method and for tips on preparing wheat starch paste. I have also included two links to sites that show how to repair a split corner using standard white Elmer's glue. I can't recommend those

methods over the Japanese paper and wheat starch method, but they do use materials that you likely have around the house and they are infinitely better than taping a box.

Reality Check:

I know you're unlikely to drastically change the storage conditions of your collection, or to use a conservator simply based on the information I provide here. However,

maybe you will consider at least some minor changes. Every little bit helps. I still keep my collection in my basement, I have no choice, but I take the humidity control more seriously, and I keep my catalogs and paper items upstairs under better conditions. I have not tried any of the split corner repair methods yet, but I fully intend to do so.

Glossary of Box Terms (for your reference):

Modified from a list on www.thegamesjournal.com.

- Box top: refers to the front part of a box. Sometimes known as the box lid.
- Box rear: refers to the back part of a box. Sometimes known as the box bottom or rear.
- Surface: the front or rear areas of a box where graphics and other printed information are located.
- Edge: the sides of the box top or box rear.
- Surface/edge junction: the point where the box top or box rear surface meets up with the box top or box rear edge.
- Rippling: when the paper on the box front or box rear surface does not lie perfectly flat, it has a wavy appearance.
- Concave: refers to the box top or box rear surface being curved inward.
- Convex: refers to the box top or box rear surface being curved outward, or bowed.

Internet References:

aic.stanford.edu/library/online/brochures/paper.pdf

The AIC article that I borrowed information from (with permission).

www.loc.gov/preserv/care/paper.html

The US Library of Congress is an excellent reference, and is always willing to help.

www.artright.com/nori.htm

A source of pre-made wheat starch paste

www.frametek.com/HTML/Articles/Wheat_Starch_Hinging.html

Some information on using Japanese paper and wheat starch paste for repairs.

www.thegamesjournal.com/articles/RepairingBoxes.shtml

An article on repairing split corners with white glue.

www.thegamesjournal.com/articles/RepairingBoxes2.shtml

Another method for repair with white glue.

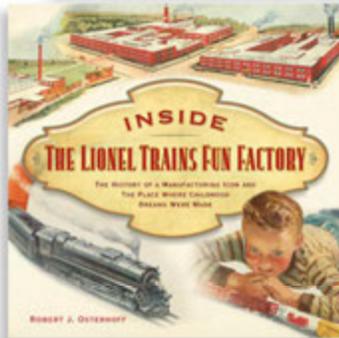
www.antique lure collectibles.com/Articles/Lure_box_repair_and_restoration.htm

A split corner repair method using white glue. Interesting to see what other collectors are up to

INSIDE THE LIONEL TRAINS FUN FACTORY

THE HISTORY OF A MANUFACTURING ICON AND THE PLACE WHERE CHILDHOOD DREAMS WERE MADE

BY: ROBERT J. OSTERHOFF



248 Pages - 10" x 10"
Full Color - 575+ Photos & Images
Hard Cover - \$34.95
ISBN 978-1-9336-0005-5
Limited Edition Collectible Hardcover
(Autographed) - \$69.95
ISBN 978-1-9336-0006-2

DO YOU LIKE LIONEL TOY TRAINS? Enjoy corporate history? Or just want to take a nostalgic journey back to your childhood?

Then *Inside The Lionel Trains Fun Factory* is for you—delivering a fascinating trip through the rise, fall and rise again of Lionel, one of the manufacturing and pop icons in modern American life. The impeccable research by Lionel historian Robert J. Osterhoff, along with hundreds of unpublished photos and images, tells the history of Lionel's trains, factories, employees and business practices from the late 19th century until today.

ALSO FROM PROJECT ROAR PUBLISHING

Authoritative Guide to Lionel's Promotional Outfits 1960-1969



848 Pages - 8½" x 11"
Color - 1,500+ Photos
Softcover - \$69.95
Hardcover - \$89.95
Limited Edition Hardcover
(Autographed &
Numbered 1-100) \$150



Winner Best Reference Book
(IPPY Gold Award) from
Independent Publisher Book
Awards.



Winner Honorable Mention
Reference Book from *ForeWord
Magazine's Book of the Year
Awards.*

Authoritative Guide to Lionel's Postwar Operating Cars



160 Pages - 8½" x 11"
Color - 325+ Photos
Softcover - \$29.95
Limited Edition Hardcover
(Autographed &
Numbered 1-100) \$64.95

"PHENOMENAL! THIS NEVER-BEFORE-SEEN RESEARCH MAKES VIVID HOW A BRASH JOSHUA LIONEL COWEN CREATED THE FUN FACTORY OF THE WORLD. CONSIDER THIS VOLUME 2 OF ALL ABOARD! THAT EVERY COLLECTOR NEEDS AS MUCH AS A 700E."

— RON HOLLANDER, author of *All Aboard! The Story of Joshua Lionel Cowen & His Lionel Train Company*

"THIS BOOK FINALLY TELLS THE LIONEL STORY THE WAY IT ACTUALLY HAPPENED: THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY. I KNOW BECAUSE I WAS THERE FOR MANY YEARS AS AN OFFICER OF THE COMPANY."

— ROBERT STEIN, Vice President The Lionel Corporation (1965-1982)

"BOB OSTERHOFF, A METICULOUS AND DEVOTED RESEARCHER, HAS WRITTEN THE DEFINITIVE BOOK ON LIONEL FACTORIES. I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THE BOOK FOR ALL STUDENTS OF LIONEL HISTORY."

— BRUCE C. GREENBERG PH.D., President Greenberg Publishing Company (1975-1991)

"MARVELOUS HISTORICAL INSIGHT IN WHAT IT TAKES TO RUN A TOY MANUFACTURING COMPANY GIVEN ALL THE CHALLENGES OF WARS, STRIKES, AND CORPORATE INTRIGUE THAT LIONEL'S FUN FACTORIES ENCOUNTERED OVER THE YEARS."

— GEORGE J. SCHMID, CEO Kiehl Engineering Co. (1972-2000)

To order from Project Roar Publishing
Call 630-653-ROAR (7627) or visit www.projectroar.com

Also available from your local hobby retailer, Amazon.com and Barnesandnoble.com



PROJECT ROAR
PUBLISHING
P.O. Box 599
Winfield, IL 60190

Creative Use of Damaged Parts

The Neighborhood Bar

By Edward Johnson

A local train store shop had a small table for those used and abused items we love. Among them was an HO scale Plasticville factory. For fifty cents there was the four factory walls and nothing else. I picked it up and thought its HO; I model O scale, so I put it down.

Then the scratchbuilding gremlin started teasing me "It's only fifty cents. You can make something with it." So I bought the parts.

Looking them over, I decided that if the roof line was

used as the base, then a small O scale model could be made. It seemed some type of small store was appropriate but eventually I settled on a bar.

All the miscellaneous parts used on this model came from the parts box. I also used some cardstock items from an airplane diorama. It's a cozy little place just don't let your wife or mother know you go there.

That's all folks, Eddie J



Toy House Kit (Cape Cod) in a Large Box

By John Niehaus

It has been known for some time that Bachmann packaged their Cape Cod houses in a box larger than what are typically seen. The large box is predominately red and black. The art on the large box cover is the same as on the smaller box. The sides of the large box have variations of the printing on the small box sides.

A unique feature of the large box is the printing on bottom of the box. It notes that the house is "Another Plastic Product by Bachmann Bros. Inc." as well as Solarex sunglasses. The real intriguing printing states,

"Advertised in LIFE". We must presume that this means Life magazine.

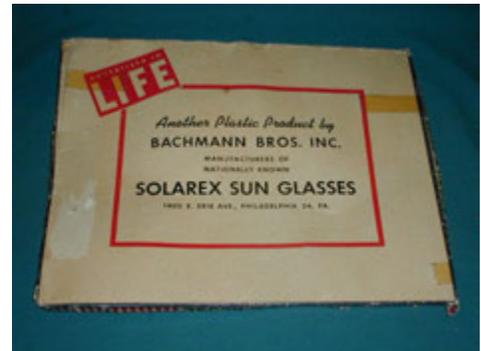
It is my presumption that this box was created prior to or at the same time as the small box or around 1950. If you have a Life magazine from the late 40's or early 50's in which this piece is, or any Bachmann buildings are advertised, please let me or any officer of the Plasticville Collectors Association. You can always contact us through links on the PCA website.



A general layout of how the parts were placed in the large Toy House (Cape Cod) kit.

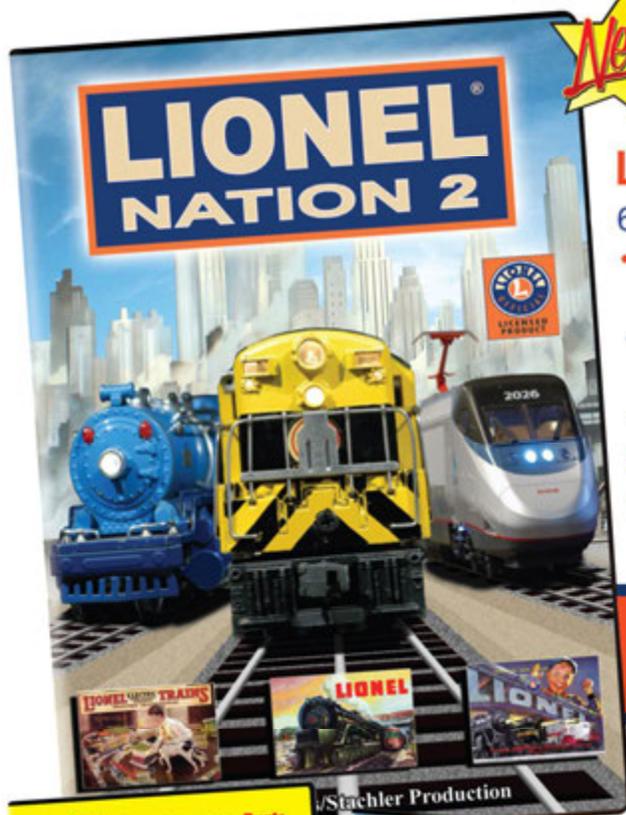


A comparison between the large Toy House Kit box and what one would normally see.



The key to dating when this box was created lies in determining when it was advertised in Life magazine. If you have a late 40's early 50's Life magazine containing a Bachmann Brothers ad, please contact the author.

Lionel® Nation 2!



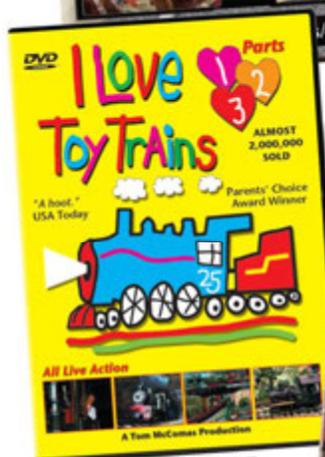
Lionel Nation No. 2

65-minutes of great Lionel action.

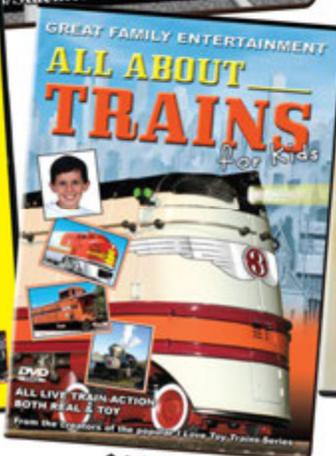
- Norm Charbonneau's incredible hi-rail, weathered, Legacy layout
- John Potter's prewar layout and collection
- We visit a toy train auction
- Lionel's new Conventional Classics
- Lionel's Acela and more

\$19.95

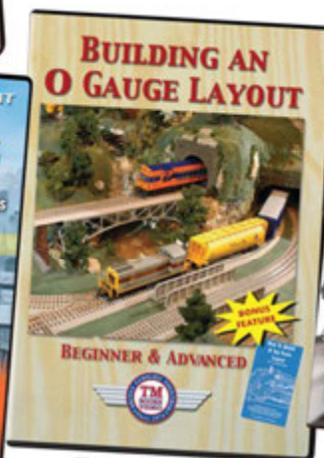
Lionel Nation No. 3
will be released in April 2009



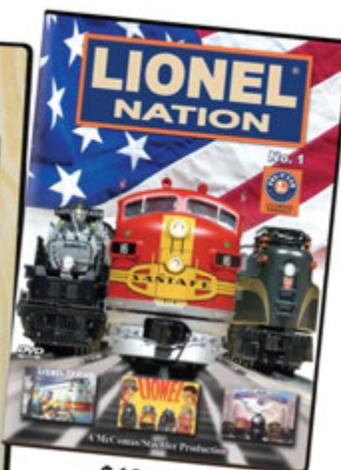
Reg. \$24.95
SALE \$19.95



\$14.95



Reg. \$19.95
SALE \$14.95



\$19.95

\$5 OFF

All DVDs for Plasticville
Collectors Association
reader's only. Prices do not include shipping

Call now
to order!



800-892-2822
www.tmbv.com

Plasticville on the Board

Have You “Scene” It?

By John Gottcent

Plays and movies are made up of scenes. No matter how grand and epic the scopes of the whole, if the scenes don't work, the effort fails. And it's the scenes that stay in the audience's minds.

“Did you ever see *The Godfather*?”

“Sure. Remember that scene where that horse's head...?”

The same is true of plastic village layouts. No matter how large and spacious they are, they have to be composed of individual scenes. And the more attention you give to those scenes, the more memorable your work becomes. Fortunately, there are simple ways to enliven various locales on your board.

The parking lot outside the neighborhood McDonald's may be familiar, but, left alone, it can be a pretty dull site. However, add a sanitation truck and a couple of workers and you've got something just a bit more out of the ordinary. (Photo One.) The fact that the workers appear to be moving, while the customer just stands by to watch,



Photo One

The addition of a sanitation truck and a couple of workers makes this scene a bit more out of the ordinary.

also presents a dynamic and a good contrast.

Lionel's Hobo Campfire is a nice accessory that adds color through the flickering red LED that simulates a real fire. The various hobos in different positions of rest also provide interest. (Photo Two.) But you can liven up this scene by adding a policeman (upper left hand corner) who's obviously just stepped out of his parked vehicle and is about to invade the scene. He seems to be trying to decide which of many county ordinance violations he can write tickets for.

Also adding a dimension to this scene is a blue PortaJohn between the cop and the hobos. And visitors will be further intrigued when you remove the white top from this structure and reveal an embarrassed seated citizen caught in the act. (No photo, but use your imagination!)

Finally, if you're worried about that white dust all over the track bed and turnout, you can take a tip from reader

Mike (he didn't give his last name), who responded to an earlier column by recommending a swifter duster for your layout. “It attracts the dust like a magnet,” he writes. But if you're lazy like me, you can tell visitors that's not really dust—it's snow, silly, just starting to fall, and making that warm campfire even more inviting.



Photo Two

The Lionel Hobo Campfire makes an nice addition to a layout but look at how the introduction of the police officer adds an additional realistic element to the scene.

Sometimes you can create a scene using elements designed for other purposes. For a long time I'd wanted a used car lot on my layout, but I didn't have room for one of the ready-made sets now available. Then one day I was browsing in a hobby shop when I saw an MTH plastic trailer in a coat of metallic silver paint. “That would make a great car lot office,” I thought, so I brought it home and began building my lot around it.



Photo Three

We again visit Honest John's Used Cars but this time to see how the addition of some flags made of construction paper and a lighted sign really adds to the scene.

I'd acquired a collection of die-cast 1958 Chevy's, which made for some nice stock. A vintage vehicle from the past added a nice dimension in the background. But I

needed some things to bring attention to the scene. So I created some flags and an elevated sign.

The flags were cut out painstakingly from colored construction paper and placed between two lampposts which I had to glue down to provide enough tension on the rope (actually, sewing thread) holding them up. The sign was a bit more challenging. I decided to adapt an HO scale lighted billboard over which I pasted a computer-generated sign announcing "Honest John's Used Cars." The elevation came via a short piece of hollow metal pipe which not only supports the sign in the air but also hides the wires that light it. The result can be seen in Photo Three.

Almost forgot—don't fail to add some people, such as the customer scratching his head at Honest John's price quote, the man and woman searching for their dream vehicle, and the worker polishing up the antique car in the rear.



Photo Four

There are times when people are the only objects needed to create a scene. The bride and groom in this scene are about to enter a receiving line on their way into the church or maybe they are about to be helped into the auto by the chauffeur.

Speaking of people, sometimes they're all you need to create a scene. Nothing brings a crowd like a wedding, for instance, and if you can set up a receiving line outside your local church (Photo Four), you've got it made. The convertible and its driver waiting patiently in the background help complete the effect.

Did I say nothing brings a crowd like a wedding? Nothing, that is, except a traffic accident. These can be staged almost anywhere on your layout. Start with two or



Photo Five

A traffic accident can be staged anywhere on your layout. Use two or more of your more beat up vehicles along with a police cruiser and an ambulance. An uninvolved vehicle patiently waiting will add to the realism of the scene.

more of your already-beat-up vehicles. Add an ambulance, a police cruiser, and some rubbernecker, and you're all set. (Photo Five.)

Visitors usually ooh and aah over the first impressions they get when they see your layout, but before long they're moving around picking out individual scenes. A good way to encourage this is to provide a little scavenger hunt in the form of a quiz. "Find the woman hanging out clothes in her backyard." "Look for the man washing the windows on one of the public buildings." "Where's the rancher about to lasso his horse?" I've found that people like this kind of challenge, and it helps them appreciate the time and effort you've put into each individual scene in your village.

Well, that's about it for now. If you have comments or suggestions for future columns, contact me at jandjgott@gmail.com. Hope your winter hasn't been too hard, and as always, happy villaging.

Lionel Plasticville American Flyer

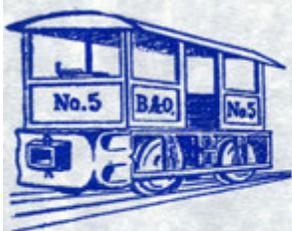
www.GarysTrains.com

GARY'S TRAINS

BUY - SELL - REPAIR



GARY MOSHOLDER
gtrains@floodcity.net
BOSWELL, PA 15531-2421
(814) 629-9277



JOSEPH L. MANIA
Toy Train Reproductions and Restorations

JLM TRAINS, L.L.C.

17 Douglas Rd.
Freehold, NJ 07728
(732) 303-8299
www.JLMTRAINS.com
JOE@JLMTRAINS.com

A Return to Collecting Plasticville

By David Allen (#02-121)

OK, OK!!!! I'm back into collecting Plasticville!

John, you had written after I posted for the first time in years on the Yahoo group about boxes deteriorating, and about sending in a check. I was not ready to get into it again at that time. I wanted to make sure that the market was back for Plasticville. That's why my wife and I had gotten out of collecting a few years ago. Nothing was selling as Bachmann had pretty much saturated the market with re-makes of all of the popular kits and people were buying them at \$12 to \$18 a pop instead of chasing the vintage stuff. We figured why spend this money on something if there is no way to sell it at a future date and get something back out of it.

My story is that I had an ancient FoxPro program that I used to use to track my collection. I needed something much better. Being into Delphi now, I decided to re-write the whole thing. Now I can do everything including storing photographs of each kit. I can do additions, deletions, updates, reports, inventory of parts, listings of parts needed, track kit storage locations, you name it. After a few months work and tweaking, I finally had to load some accurate data.

I had lost almost all of the photos I had sent to Joe for the Web page, and my inventory was a mess. So I took another month to meticulously take each kit out, note its storage location, assemble it, photograph it, check for missing parts or other issues, check that the box was correct, and check it off of a huge catalog listing. It was during this process that I discovered how some of the boxes had deteriorated and some kits became warped due to improper packing. That was when I posted my message on the boards.

Doing that re-inventorying of my collection and seeing those kits brought back many good memories of when my wife and I would take trips to shows, and many favored shops that stashed a ton of Plasticville. My program now

prints a list of items needed, and I was, after tweaking it, a bit surprised to see how many kits we still needed. Many of them are fairly common, but there were a few scarce items also.

So I decided to keep an eye on the market for a while and see what was happening. What I found was that some common kits were still not selling like hot cakes anymore, but a lot of kits were showing decent activity, although not as hot as it used to be. I decided that if a free weekend came up, and they have been extremely scarce due to extensive home remodeling, that we would go hunting again.

On our very first stop we purchased a scarce dark blue ranch for \$30, a late buff bank mint for \$20, and a chrome and red diner for \$15 all EX, and of course boxed. I have to admit that felt good! Sadly, one of our best train shops for gaining Plasticville had closed, but the farmers market we used to frequent was still hosting a trains booth, there we acquired some common kits to fill some open spots. All in all, we did great, we had a blast and we were again, hooked.

Since then I've been buying and searching like crazy. In fact, I'm buying too much, but nice stuff that I need keeps showing up. I've purchased something like 23 kits in the last 6 to 7 weeks. Our best score was a grey siren firehouse for \$45.

I've done some purchasing off of Glenn Bowman. If I e-mail him and ask a question, he will reply with accurate info. I don't think I've ever met him though.

Anyway, in the last kit I bought from him he sent me an application. It's been sitting here staring at me now for a few weeks. So enclosed is the application form, and a check for \$10 for my dues for 2009. Please re-instate me as an active member, and let me know what my PCA number was. Take care. David & Kimberly Allen.

Proposed PCA Constitution Change

It has been proposed by the Executive Committee to add the founder of the Plasticville Collectors Association as a permanent member of the Executive Committee.

Article V of the Plasticville Collectors Association Constitution will be amended, subject to member comment, to read, "The officers of the Association, the immediate past president, **and the founder shall** constitute the Executive Committee, which shall look after the routine business and welfare of the Association. It shall meet as often as the President deems necessary, to conduct the affairs of the Association."

The current article reads, "The officers of the Association and the immediate past president shall constitute the Executive Committee, which shall look after the routine business and welfare of the Association. It shall meet as often as the President deems necessary, to conduct the affairs of the Association."

Comments regarding this proposed change may be addressed to any Executive Committee member. The constitution will be amended as noted above on May1, 2009 subject to member comments.

A copy of the current Constitution is available on the PCA website for your review.

Modeling Your Own Home

By Coleen Spillman

With technical information by James Hehn

Since joining the PCA I have encountered an endless source of knowledge both written and verbal by fellow collectors. However the most cherished are the friendships I have made through the organization.

Several months ago James Hehn was selling off his Plasticville on eBay. Through several purchases a friendship was born with him and his wife Lillian and to this day I still send them correspondence.



The front of my house and James' model. The dog on the front porch is an extra touch as James is aware of my fondness for dogs.

After viewing the items he had made with his kitbashing skills, I asked if he could do a model of my home. I also told him my house was a cedar color which the builder talked me into but I always wanted a white house with green shutters. This became a long, tedious project which is now complete. The dog on the porch was a special touch, since he knew of my love for dogs.

James has provided structural detail on how this house was made which is the second part of the article. I am thrilled with the model and will pass it down to my sons.

(James Hehn) I started with two broken two story colonial houses the problem was you have four windows across the top of your house so I trimmed out a section of one colonial house "front" (bottom window, door, and top window) then I trimmed out a Marx-k line front entryway with the circle window above and added it to the section of the colonial house. I

trimmed out the second section of the second colonial house (top & bottom window and also enlarged the top window to match the bottom window). When adding it to the entryway it gave me four window across the top and



The back view of my house and James model of the same. The deck and all railings are made from matchsticks. They were left their natural color rather than being stained to match the color of the deck and railings on my house.

made the house about 2" longer. I also trimmed the garage from the second colonial house and added it to the first

I trimmed and added a 2" section to the back of the house. A back wall was added for the garage and a section was removed in order to add the patio doors. The patio doors are the front doors from a supermarket.

No modifications were required for the garage side walls. The opposite side I trimmed the peak off a garage side then added a full garage side to give me the height needed. I trimmed out the chimney from the Marx k-line house and added it to the side and filled in window where chimney went. Then all four sides were glued together.

The front porch was handmade from

matchsticks and painted white

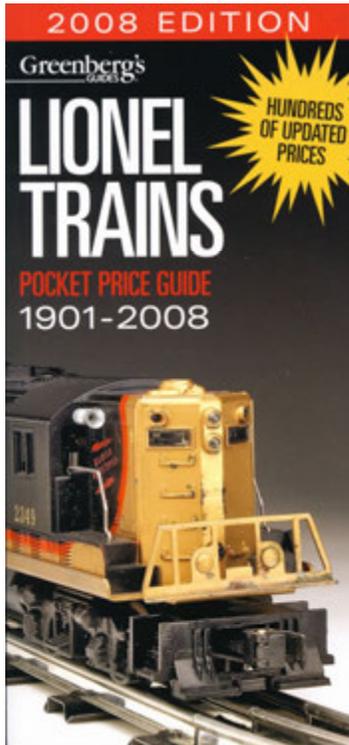
As I made the house 2" longer & added a second garage and a front porch some additional roof needed to be created. I trimmed and lengthened both roofs and widened the main roof so I would have an overhang over the porch. When complete, the complete roof was glued to the house walls.

The back deck and railings are all hand made from matchsticks. I decide to leave it natural. The roof deck is from one of the farm buildings with added skylights.

The final step was to add stained glass to the round window above the entry way, pillars, lights, windows, doors, garage doors and landscaping around the house.

Greenberg's Guides Lionel Trains Pocket Price Guide 1901-2009

By John Niehaus



The 2009 edition of Greenberg's Pocket Price Guides are now available. The Lionel guide is now a whopping 328 pages. It is in the same 4 x 8 1/2 format as the many previous years. Although it is still called a pocket price guide it is getting to the point where it barely fits in a trousers back pocket, much less a blue jeans pocket.

A nice addition to this year's edition is the updated club car listings. There are now twenty one pages of club car listings. The cars are listed under the sponsoring

club. Values are listed for excellent and new.

With this year's guide, I again performed a comparison of values for about twenty pieces of various scarcities and vintages against the previous year's values. It seems that I never find what I expect. The prices generally stayed steady or made nearly insignificant gains or declines.

The most significant increase in Greenberg value of the items I compared was for the postwar 2343 double A Santa Fe diesel set in excellent condition. It increased by \$33 from \$310 to \$343 while the unit in good condition remained at the 2008 value of \$170. I find it a bit strange

that the good condition price increased by over 10% while the excellent condition price did not change.

Values for a 746 with long stripe tender were listed at \$560/\$990 in 2008 guide and increased by \$8 and \$5 respectively in the 2009 guide.

The values for the five stripe number 2360 GG1 in Tuscan decreased to \$575 & \$1200 respectively for good and excellent conditions from \$600 and \$1250. The dark green five stripe in good condition decreased \$12 for good condition and \$5 for excellent condition.

The prewar pieces I compared remained the same as in the 2008 guide. The only exception was a \$5 increase in the good condition price for the number 8 standard gauge maroon electric 0-4-0. It is now listed at \$235 for good and \$250 for excellent. Interestingly enough, the good price in the 2007 guide was \$235.

Modern Era pieces also saw no change in prices from last year.

It seems to me that the toy train collecting hobby has also seen the effect of the current economic downturn. I say this as I have looked at the prices of the same pieces over a four year period and, except for a few rare occasions; values have dropped from what they were those four years ago. For those who purchase their trains to operate and enjoy then the reduction in collector value is probably of minimal concern. If you are a collector/investor then it may be a good time to hold onto your trains and hope for a better future.

The cost of the 2009 guide is the same as last year's edition, \$17.95. It is available from Kalmbach Books, 21027 Crossroads Circle, Waukesha, WI, 53186. www.kalmbachbooks.com. Their toll free number is 800-533-6644 Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Central Time. Outside the U.S. and Canada 262-796-8776 Ext. 421

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.

What Members Are Saying

The villager is excellent!!! Well put together. Only 1 problem..... Nobody answers or calls pertaining to my ad Why? (John FJ Tully)

I am enclosing \$10.00 dues for another year (2009) of the PCA.

Question: How can a non-member of the TCA get into the York Penn. Shows? I am a member of other toy train groups (PCA, LCCA, TTOS, LOTS, etc.) but not TCA

I also went to the TCA's museum in Strasburg, Penn many years ago. Many trains (real and toy). Also visited the the Penn Museum of RR and the Strassburg RR, and the Red Caboose motel, but not the York show. (member name withheld by request) *You ask a very good question. The TCA members are allowed to bring a non-TCA member a total of twice to the York meet, if I am not mistaken. If you know someone in your area who is a TCA member and attends York you may want to approach them about their taking you as their guest. Editor)*

John, we appreciate all you do. PS: I was in Cheshire and bought HU-7 house unit with a rough box cover for \$50. Thanks (Lud Spinelli)

Dear John: I have several varieties of the log cabin, but never found the one with the rifle over the door. This past Saturday, I went to the local garage sale held every month at Merchant's Square in Allentown, Pa. There was a guy with some Plasticville houses and other pieces, but most were glued. On his table he had TWO Log Cabins, each with a large yellow rifle over the door. The rifles were not glued; they were held in place by three attached pins snapped into holes drilled into the walls. One of the walls had a broken locking tab underneath the front of the rifle. Both rifles are not damaged.

The man wanted \$5.00 for one or \$8.00 for both. Naturally, I bought both. Am I correct in assuming that these are the correct rifles for the log cabin?

Would it matter if I take a good front wall from another cabin and mark and drill new holes to mount the rifle? Or should I leave well enough alone? The yellow rifle extends from the top right corner of the left window to the end of the right locking tab second from the top. Please let me know what you think about this. Sincerely, (Howell Q. Strye)

I would like to thank you for placing an ad on HO Plasticville and etc. in this month *The Villager*. Once again you and your staff have done an outstanding job through the whole year. My wife and I enjoy every issue that you send to us. Also it was a good idea to send

pictures and write a history of the 2009 PCA officer candidates (Robert W Johnson)

Hi John, I received my membership packet today and immediately went on line. I am very happy to have joined the Plasticville Collectors Association. Web site is great. I will enjoy it very much. Thanks and Happy Holidays (Danny Stellabotte) *(I am pleased that you like the website. Much thought and debate went into whether to do an update. I am also pleased to say that it has been well received by the members. There are more good things to come including all previous issues of The Villager in PDF format. Editor).*

CLASSIC SHOWS, LLC TRAIN & TOY SHOW

SHOW SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 21, WALLINGFORD

JANUARY 4, SHELTON

FEBRUARY 8, WALLINGFORD

APRIL 26, WALLINGFORD

**ZANDRI'S STILLWOOD INN
WALLINGFORD, CT**

1074 S. COLONY RD. (US 5)
EXIT 13 I-91

AND

**COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT
SHELTON, CT**

780 BRIDGEPORT AVE
EXIT 12 RT. 8

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Admission \$5, 12 & under FREE w/adult

Trains of all sizes, old & new
TOYS, DIECAST, MODELS
Lionel, Flyer parts

OPERATING LAYOUT

info: (203) 926-1327

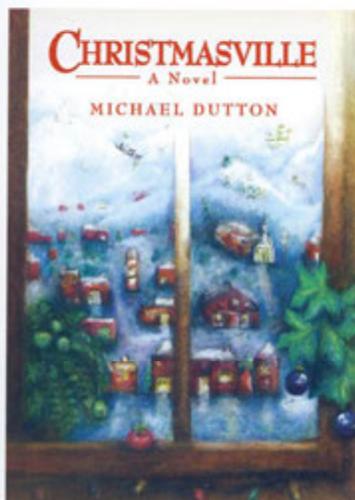
WWW.CLASSICSHOWSLLC.COM

Scenes from Christmasville

("Life on the Scale of Lionel!")



It's the same routine every year: at Carson's Gas Station Mary Jane picks up the new map of Christmasville because, with each December first, all the homes and buildings are rearranged - just like the pieces on a checkerboard. But no one, but her, seems to notice.



Christmasville by Michael Dutton

(PCA MEMBER #03-236)

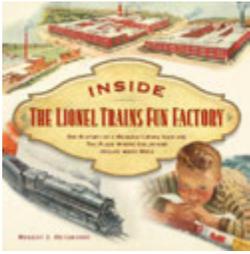
Autographed, Hardcover, First Edition

- 25% off the suggested retail price of \$18.95
- Free Montabella *Christmasville* Pen
- Free Shipping & Handling



TO ORDER, please send check/money order for \$14.20 to:
Linden Park Publishers, 51 Bateman Ave., Newport, RI 02840.
Excerpts and Reviews at www.lindenparkpublishers.com

Product Reviews



Inside the Lionel Trains Fun Factory, by Robert Osterhoff. Published by Project Roar Publishing, Winfield, IL. \$34.95. 248 Pages, 10 X 10 format, hardback, color illustrations.

Bob Osterhoff has hit a home run out of the park with this book! His approach to the history of Lionel is uniquely refreshing. The book is loaded with color and black and white photos. In addition to historic photos there are illustrations of many, many documents that have not been made available to the general public until publication of this book. These include plant layout drawings, employee communications documents, and actual drawings of Lionel production pieces, to name a few. Two interesting illustrations are sketches by Joseph Bonanno of a proposed electric mixer.

In addition to 13 chapters there are three appendices; Lionel department numbers, a timeline of major Lionel fun factories, and a listing of Lionel patents through 1964. Both the timeline and the patent list have created spin-offs. Reviews of these spin-offs are below.

This is a very well researched and copiously illustrated book. I highly recommend it if you wish to learn of Lionel's fun factory from a refreshingly new point of view.

A second Opinion: PCA member Les Mathis posted a comment regarding this book on the Yahoo Plasticville



The Lionel Patent Archives - The Companion To the *Inside the Lionel Trains Fun Factory* book. CD Rom, Robert Osterhoff, Published by trainpaper.com, Wildwood, MO. \$19.95 Compatible with Mac OS and MS-Windows 98 and newer,

including MS Vista.

As noted in the title, this CD Rom is indeed a companion to the book in the above review. Upon inserting the CD into my player I was presented with a screen that required that I agree to the presented licensing agreement through a mouse click on the word yes. It seems that this screen will be presented each time the CD is loaded into a player.

The CD contains four sections. These include Background on Patents, Lionel Patents, Lionel Trademarks, and Ives Patents. I found the Background on Patents section quite informative. It also explains what

group just prior to October 2008 York. His comments are published here with his permission.

"This afternoon the UPS truck stopped at the house and dropped off Robert Osterhoff's new book on the history of Lionel I ordered from Barnes and Noble. While I was told it wouldn't be available until November here it was. I have yet to put it down.

First a perusal of the approximately 250 pages found lots of interesting photos and facts including a list of patents filed by individuals at Lionel. I've already read through page 23 and frankly can't put it down.

Growing up within sight of the Lionel water tower in Irvington the pictures alone bring back memories. To be sure the "boob tube" will be abandoned tonight in favor of reading the book. So far I'm duly impressed and find the style and flow of the text to be excellent.

I understand the book will be available with a signing by the author at the TCA Museum on the Wednesday before York. I highly recommend those attending purchase the book. I'll have more to say as I read further but it appears at the moment I will be up late tonight."

Inside the Lionel Trains Fun Factory can be purchased on line from Project Roar Publications at <http://www.projectroar.com/store/>. It can also be ordered by phone Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm Central time at 1-630-653-ROAR (7627). The book is also available at a pleasant discount on Borders Books website and at the list price Barnes and Noble's website. It was also available on Amazon.com in both new and used offerings.

one will find in the other sections.

The Lionel patents section included all known patents issued to Lionel inventors, including employees, licensees and outside contractor inventors. I compared a number of patents listed in the Inside the Lionel Trains Fun Factory book to this CD. Every number I checked was represented on the CD. All of the documents on the CD are in Adobe Acrobat Reader format for ease of viewing and printing. I found the CD very easy to navigate. There is a "Return to Home" link on the three document sections as well as a Help link on the home page.

If you are interested in the actual patent documents or feel printings of some would enhance your train room then I recommend this CD. It is definitely a fine companion to the Inside the Lionel Trains Fun Factory book.

The Lionel Patent Archives may be purchased on line from the author at trainpaper.com. You need only to follow the instructions regarding ordering on Items for Sale page of his website.



The Lionel Trains Fun Factories poster, 12" X 36", published by Project Roar Publishing, Winfield, IL. \$11.95 Appendix B of the *Inside the Lionel Trains Fun Factory* book is a four page graphic timeline of Lionel's many factories from the first one in New York City until the present. This poster is a reproduction of those four pages. It is printed on slick heavy poster stock. It is

suitable for framing and displaying in you train room or in an office.

The poster can be purchased from Project Roar Publications at <http://www.projectroar.com/store/>. It can also be ordered by phone Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm Central time at 1-630-653-ROAR (7627).



Lionel Catalog Archive, 1945 – 1969, CD Rom, Hybrid Systems Ltd, Inc., \$50. A digital archive of all Lionel consumer catalogs and other paper from 1945 through 1969. Compatible with Mac OS and MS-Windows.

Upon inserting the disk into my CD a licensing agreement was presented. One click on an "agree to license" link and then on a "continue to the archive"

link and I was on my way. In between, though was a link to frequently asked questions (FAQs). The FAQs include how skip the license agreement each time, setting optimum screen resolution, viewing large or small images – I will explain later, and a color sample so that a person can adjust the color on their monitor if need be.

The next page presented is divided into two frames. The left frame lists the Introduction, Table of Contents, Regular

Features and FAQs hyperlinks as well as an Exit button. The right hand pane contains five vertical bar type hyperlinks. Three of these are for specific periods of consumer catalogs while the fourth is to a master list of all consumer catalogs on the CD. Each list is not in text format but actually a scan of each catalog for either the period or, in the case of the Master Index of all the consumer catalogs on the CD. Each is laid out horizontally by year, starting with the consumer catalog and including any different sized catalogs as well as any accessory catalogs for that year. There are no advance

catalogs listed. The fifth vertical bar is the Bonus Section. Here you will find a few other publications as well as illustrations of the mailing envelopes.

Clicking on any catalog illustration under these hyperlinks takes you to that specific catalog. The catalog, or part of it, will be shown in the left hand frame. This is where the choice of small or large images as well as resolution comes into play. I found it easy enough to scroll the picture if I wanted to see a certain piece of a page. There are two small frames on the right hand side of the screen. The upper frame allows you to click Next Page if you wish to view the interior pages of the catalog you selected. You can also jump to the next or previous cover or whole catalog. The lower frame is a page index where you can select pages of a catalog. Two pages are displayed per selection, the same way Lionel illustrated most of their catalogs.

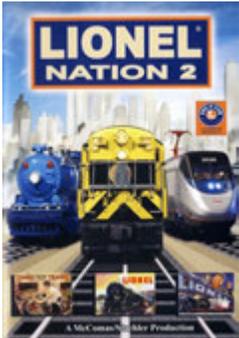
The "Regular Features" link on the Home page is quite interesting. From this link you can toggle through various subjects such as front covers, inside covers, O or O-27 train sets or engines, operating rolling stock and others.

I did not find on my own a means of searching for a specific item number such as a 736 engine. There is an FAQ on that subject. The search must be accomplished using the search function of your browser while viewing the Table of Contents page. This is a bit out of the ordinary but necessary since the majority of the site is images.

I was skeptical as to what I was going to find on this CD when I received my review copy. I can honestly say that after a lengthy review I am no longer skeptical. This is a very well laid out and thought out CD. The more that I use it, the more illustrations I am finding. There are

many in the Table of Contents and Regular Features areas that are not in the Lionel Bonus Section. If you are interested in Lionel catalogs but do not have the space to store them or want what is probably the most comprehensive archive in digital format then I recommend this CD.

The Lionel Catalog Archive, 1945 – 1969, CD ROM



Lionel Nation 2, DVD, 60 minutes, TM Books & Video, \$19.95. This is the second in what I have been told will be a continuing series. It is in the same format as the volume. There are five features on this volume.

The first feature is a lengthy review of John Potter's huge layout. John has a very large layout in the second floor of his garage. Who would not like an 11 X 24 layout loaded with accessories and plenty of track on which to operate toy trains.

The second feature takes us to a Stout Auction. Greg Stout gives his views on past auctions, current auctions, the effect of eBay on actions along with other insights. I found his comments quite interesting.

There is arguably no more detailed a high rail layout than that of Norm Charbonneau. His layout may not be

sells for \$50 plus \$5 shipping. It can be purchased directly from Hybrid Systems Ltd, Inc., 200 University Park Drive, Edwardsville, Illinois 62025. Their toll free number is 800 799-2802. They have an order form on their website but it still entails a call if paying by credit card or printing the form after submitting it electronically and mailing it along with your payment.

the largest but his attention even to the tiniest of detail makes his layout outstanding. Norm has no compunction in weathering a new \$1,000 engine. His layout is highlighted in the third feature on this DVD.

The fourth feature discusses the new Lionel Conventional Classics line of trains. It highlights the postwar pieces upon which the new ones will be modeled. This feature also notes which engines will be in sets and which will be sold separately.

If you have not had the opportunity to see the new Acela train by Lionel running, then you are in for a treat with the last feature of this DVD. This is a very nice operating segment with the Acela running on Norm Charbonneau's layout. It even includes a segment showing the doors of the cars opening and the courtesy light illuminating.

Lionel Nation 2 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.

NEW and IMPROVED!

- Cleans and Polishes Plastic and Painted Metal
- Use Safely on *Virtually ALL Surfaces*
- Works Especially Well on Pre-War Tinplate Trains

New wide-mouthed jar
\$7.95
plus \$3.75 S/H

We accept **PayPal**

Order Now!
Dealer Inquiries Welcome!

Andrew J. Ferrone
TCA #94-38726
PO Box 945 Brick, NJ 08723
(732) 836-9444
AJTrains@verizon.net

NOW WITH IT'S OWN APPLICATOR!

Lantz's Train Shop
www.WholesaleTrains.com

All Gauges of Model Railroad Equipment
101 S. Main St. Hanover Square
Horseheads NY, 14845
607 795 5038 fax **795 4124**

Phone order line toll free 1 888 762 6633

CLASSIC TOY TRAINS MAGAZINE

The best resource for your hobby!

No other magazine covers toy trains like *Classic Toy Trains* magazine! Every issue is packed with:

- **The latest news!** Learn about the newest trains and products made by Lionel, MTH, K-Line, and others.
- **Expert tips!** Learn step-by-step track planning, wiring, layout construction—everything you need to get your trains running smoothly.
- **Inspiration!** See some of the most amazing photography of the greatest toy trains and layouts ever built.
- **Collecting coverage!** Learn how to identify and repair old Lionel and American Flyer trains.
- **And much more!**



Subscribe Now and Save!

Act now to subscribe to *Classic Toy Trains*!
You'll get 9 big issues for just \$39.95.
That's a savings of 19% off the news-stand rate.

• **classictoytrains.com**
FOR FASTER SERVICE, ORDER ONLINE

• **800-533-6644**

Monday–Friday, 8:30am–5:00pm Central Time.
Outside the U.S. and Canada, call 262-796-8776.
Please have your credit card ready.

Welcome New Members

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

Tim L Sweitzer, Glen Rock, PA
Jim G Ostrowski, Philadelphia, PA
Robert E Stout, Allegany, NY
James D Hellyer, Wyndmoor, PA
Carmen A McNerney, 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

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 April 1, 2009.

Paul A Fiumara, Walkerville, MD
Joseph M Stately Jr, North Haledon, NJ
Kevin E O'Connor, Carlsbad, CA
Tony J Fresta, St Louis, MO
Debra L Pepper, Ankeny, IA
Richard D Rowe, Chino, CA
Daniel J Stellabotte, Sayville, NY
Kevin M Ray, Albion, NY
Eugene J Piplica, Trafford, PA
John S Tidwell, Penn Valley, CA
Anthony J Santay, Wescoville, PA
Joseph A Sibenac, Lake Wood Ranch, FL
Fred G Nix, Madera, LA
David R Mills, Johnstown, PA
W Douglas McHan Jr, New Preston, CT
Dennis W Gerber, West Grove, PA
Kaitlyn V Koenig, Beachwood, NJ
Donald G Yager, Twinsburg, OH

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

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.

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](http://www.plasticvilleusa.org)
FOUNDED 1999 - \$4.00, postpaid.

NEW:

O and HO builtups - \$17.50 each, postpaid
45004 – House Under Construction - HO
45005 – Split Level - HO
45006 – Freight Station w/Platform Station - HO
45007 – Dairy Barn - HO
45305 – 2 Story House - O
45306 – Hobo Jungle - O
45308 – Country Church - O
45310 – Trailer Park – O

See photos of the pieces in the Members section of the PCA website.

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.

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

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 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)

For Trade

Wanted

Weather vane 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. Two wheel sets for K-Line auto. 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

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.

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 McNeerney, 16623 Adrienne Way, Ramona, CA 92065 (Aug 09)

Plasticville for sale. First the duplicates will be sold in first list. Future lists will have my collection of 25 years. Send name and address for FREE list. #04-257, John Wickland, 2331 S 58th Street, West Allis, WI 53219 (Nov 09)

For sale or trade. New England scenic rancher, factory sealed. \$20.00 each or two for \$30.00. gfgulewicz@aol.com #02-93, Jerry Fuglewicz, 11262 Sunrise Ln, East Aurora, NY 14052 716-655-0223 (Nov 09)

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@tricity.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)

Wanted: glued structures. I plan on building a permanent display so any "O" or "O27" plastic kits or built-ups or otherwise "value added" will be OK. I plan to paint them,

etc. anyway. Thanks. Oh – partial or “parts” buildings, etc. also suitable. William.gruendler@gmail.com. 08-540, William “Paul” Gruendler, PO Box 60997, Palm Bay, FL 32906 (Nov 09)

Box for SC-4 School House Box. Have the school house need a good empty box. william.r.samsell@jci.com #04-317, William R Samsell, 19 Harmony Dr, Falling Waters, WV 25419. (Nov 09)

WANTED! PLASTICVILLE 'LITTLE GIRL'. Molded in colors other than the common flesh color. WILL trade! ashmorse@comcast.net #01-21 Johathan Morse, 49 Agawam Dr, E Wareham, MA 02538. Phone 508 291 2653 Monday – Friday; 9 am-12pm, anytime weekends (Nov 09)

Wanted: An excellent condition copy of Bachmann's 2005 catalog. One "Butcher" for the Storytown "Three Men in a Tub" kit. #99-01 Joe Kutza at webmaster@plasticvilleusa.org (Nov 09)

SCALEFIGURES <i>a division of Fun & Games</i>	Allen Pollock <i>Owner</i>
	P. O. Box 243 shipping: 1040 Myrtle Avenue Jefferson City, MO 65102 573-635-6163 Ext. 216 Fax: 573-635-9680 E-mail: orders@scalefigures.com Website: www.scalefigures.com

<h1>HOBBY HAVEN</h1> <p>2575 86TH STREET URBANDALE, IOWA 50322 (515) 276-8785 (515) 252-0112 FAX (800) 697-1213 OUT OF TOWN http://www.hobbyhaven.com</p>
--



<h2>J&K TRAINS & PARTS INC.</h2> <p>HOBBIES / TOYS / GIFTS 1461 ROUTE 9W MARLBORO , NY 12542-5418</p> <p>WWW.JKTRAINS.COM PHONE: (845-236-4096) CELL:(845-389-5935) EMAIL: SCILLAJK@AOL.COM</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">VISA / MASTERCARD / DISCOVER / AMERICAN EXPRESS ACCEPTED</p>
--

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

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

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

Two Names, One Commitment

In 1971 Jerry Williams founded what was to become Williams Electric Trains. For 36 years, the Williams tradition provided quality trains at affordable prices with a wide variety of products that represented some of the best values in O gauge.



This commitment to quality and affordable prices has also been at the heart of the Bachmann philosophy with our Spectrum[®], E-Z Command[®], E-Z Track[®], Big Haulers[®], and Plasticville[®] U.S.A. lines. By purchasing Williams, we bring two great names together and renew a common commitment to quality with *Williams by Bachmann*[™].



**Williams by Bachmann . . .
now that's the way to run an O gauge railroad!**



Bachmann Industries, Inc. • 1400 East Erie Avenue, Philadelphia, PA • www.bachmanntrains.com