



The Villager

The official newsletter of the Plasticville Collectors Association

Volume 8

May 2009

Number 2

Proposed Constitution Revision

It has been proposed that Article V – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE of the Constitution of the Plasticville Collectors Association be revised 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 revision adds the founder, Joe Kutza, as a member of the Executive Committee. The revision will become permanent on July 31 pending comments from members.

Suggestions for 10th Anniversary Building Solicited

The Executive Committee is soliciting suggestions for a special item to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the incorporation of the Plasticville Collectors association.

Suggestions are being solicited now as the Executive Committee has decided to sell the item by subscription only. This is the manner in which most of the train clubs sell special run pieces.

All suggestions will be considered. Suggestions

already received have and include both buildings in special colors, as well as specially decorated rolling stock.

Please send your suggestions to PCA@netins.net. It will be appreciated if you include the words 10th ANNIVERSARY SUGGESTION in the title.

You may mail your suggestions to: PCA, ATTN: 10th ANNIVERSARY SUGGESTION, 601 SE Second Street, Ankeny, Iowa 50021-3207

Do You Want Color Hard Copies of *The Villager*?

During the April Executive Committee meeting it was brought up that there are members who would prefer to pay an additional amount in order to have color copies of *The Villager* mailed to them each quarter.

Secretary Niehaus produced a spreadsheet of costs for both black and white and color printing. The cost for black and white was \$10 while the cost for color was \$40.

It was decided that a notice would be included in this issue of the newsletter asking for member feedback regarding the option of receiving the hard copy newsletter

in color instead of black and white.

This will become an option if there is enough member interest. The annual dues for those opting to receive the mailed newsletter printed in color will be \$40 per year.

Please send your comments to PCA@netins.net. It would be appreciated if you include the words COLOR NEWSLETTER in the subject of your email.

You may mail your suggestions to: PCA, ATTN: COLOR HARD COPIES, 601 SE Second Street, Ankeny, Iowa 50021-3207

PCA Meeting at TCA Convention in Phoenix

The 55th annual TCA convention will be held in Phoenix, Arizona from June 28 thru July 5 of this year. PCA Vice President Doug Gilliatt will be attending the convention. He would like to have an informal PCA member meeting during the convention, possibly the

evening of July 2nd or 3rd.

Send an email to Doug at vicepresident@plasticvilleuas.org if you plan to attend the convention and would like to meet fellow PCA members.

The Villager

Published quarterly by the Plasticville Collectors Association.

www.plasticvilleusa.org

President: Glenn Bowman

Vice President: Doug Gilliatt

Secretary/Treasurer: John L Niehaus

Webmaster: Joe Kutza

Newsletter editor: John Niehaus

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From the President's Desk



Recently on eBay I saw a fellow member, and a person with whom I have many dealings, offer many quality Plasticville kits for sale. I was curious why he was selling so many kits, and I hoped it was not a case of illness or economic problems.

I emailed the gentleman and asked if these were his extras. His reply was he had to sell his collection because he was moving to a place where there would be no space for his collection. I really felt bad for him. He spent many years finding the kits he wanted in mint or near mint condition and now they will be scattered to the four winds.

I had to remind myself of some very profound words a collector told me when I was starting out. He said that in collecting anything, "the thrill is in the chase!". When I thought this through, I reminded myself of the days many years ago when I collected Lionel Postwar. I had a large want list and when it was time for York, I would pick 5 or 6 pieces that were my top priorities. I would sit and study anything I could find to make sure I knew everything about the pieces I wanted. I didn't want to find an item and end up buying something that was incomplete or worse yet, just plain wrong. To me, that was all part of the chase.

When the 3rd Friday in April or October rolled around, I was prepared for my quest to find these key pieces in the condition that I wanted and at a price that I felt was fair.

Sometimes I succeeded, sometime I didn't.

I remember bringing my new found treasure home and placing it on a shelf in my train room. It was a thrill to sit there and look at it, but the thrill soon diminished and it just blended into all the other Lionel pieces filling shelves on the walls. I now had my sights on other pieces on my list. So everybody remember, when you see a collection being broken up, the owner had many hours looking for the single pieces that now have become his collection.

Speaking of York; last month at York, I was talking to a Plasticville seller who was describing how he had 2 different types of kits. One type had all original parts and in the correct original boxes. The second type may be unboxed and may have non-original parts. I thought to myself, "Maybe all buyers should be informed that some kits are not completely original?" Some novice buyers may not be able to tell the difference between repro, reissue, and original vintage parts.

I think it is the seller's duty to make all buyers aware of what they are buying. All PCA members who are sellers take note - THIS IS NOT A DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL OPTION. The bylaws insist on honest dealings, and honesty includes stating defects, repro parts, and incorrect boxes.

Because there are so many crooks in the market place, a novice buyer who is unsure of a kit, should ask a more experienced or more knowledgeable collector to check the kit for them. It doesn't only have to happen at a meet; items on eBay can also be checked. Most members will be happy to help, you just need to ask!

Glenn Bowman

Vice Presidential Insights



Well, summer has arrived today in the Valley of the Sun, April 22nd, and they are predicting the first 100 degree day! But we all know it's a dry heat.

It is hard to believe that the PCA has almost 400 members and is closing in on being an organization for 10 years! I was just thinking about the wealth of knowledge that exists within our organization and how much has been shared between members in these past years. As the PCA continues to grow our newfound knowledge uncovers previously unknown facts about these little plastic buildings. Let us hope it continues to do so into the future.

I am sure all will agree that we get a thrill out of finding a piece that we do not own or even a better piece to replace one we do own. So it's that time of the year for all of us to go out and start scouting those garage sales and flea markets for another treasure. If you do manage to snag 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 find?

I am hopeful that I will see some of my fellow PCA members at the National TCA convention this year in Phoenix. Since it is in my back yard this year (relatively speaking) I do hope to meet some of the members on the trading floor or perhaps at an informal get together/dinner (even one member would be great, but the more the merrier). If members would drop me an e-mail to let me know if they would be available either on the evening of July 3rd (Friday) or the 2nd (Thursday) then we could all meet for dinner at the Convention Hotel and swap stories about our hobby? (*Contact Doug at vicepresident@plasticvilleusa.org if you will be at the convention and would like to get together. Editor*)

On another subject, the On-line (email notice and download from the website) delivery of *The Villager*. I would like to again promote the delivery of *The Villager* to our members via the website in place of USPS mail delivery. We have almost reached 50% e-PCA delivery to our members but would like to get that percentage up

higher. It is really great to see the articles in color on your computer. If you are still receiving a paper copy and have a computer at home then please consider the online delivery system. *(The newsletters are in PDF format so that you can download and even print them in color on your personal printer if you wish. Editor)*

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

Notes from the Editor



I hope you enjoy this edition of *The Villager*. It is a bit late in being published for a very good reason. The computer ate my newsletter!

I use Microsoft Word to create the newsletter. As I was putting the finishing touches on it by moving things to balance the pages Word decided to not respond. It froze up and I could do nothing but shut down the entire machine. I had all twenty eight pages completed.

When I reopened the newsletter file it only displayed twenty one pages and the last page was blank! No matter what I tried I could not edit the file. It somehow had been corrupted thus I was forced to start the newsletter from scratch. Fortunately I could copy material in the corrupt file to the new newsletter file. This meant that I only had to recreate the last eight pages. Yes, my friends, the computer did eat my newsletter.

As Vice-President Doug Gilliatt notes in his comments, we are coming up very shortly on being an incorporated

organization for ten years. We would very much like to hear from you what you would like to see Bachmann create in the way of an anniversary building or piece of rolling stock. I have spoken with Bachmann's marketing manager and he is agreeable to consider our suggestions. What would you like to see as our 10th anniversary piece?

I am excited to see that we are now embarking on a census of building color combinations and in which boxes these color combinations were available. I believe this is the first concerted effort to document Plasticville buildings to this level.

I am still getting undeliverable returns when sending emails to some of you. You are missing out on announcements because of this. If you have an email address on file with us and did not receive an email telling you that this newsletter was available on lint then you need to send me your new email address.

We still need people to fill voids in our Resource People list. Please consider volunteering for one of the positions listed below. It costs you nothing but gives me and other club members a person to contact for answers to our questions regarding your area of expertise.

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.

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- King Plasticville
- Lionel Plasticville
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Minutes of the April, 2009 Executive Committee Meeting

The April, 2009 Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 11:00AM, Eastern Time by President Glenn Bowman

Those in attendance were; President Glenn Bowman, 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 had received a telephone call from the IRS that the request for 501c3 had been denied but that the PCA did qualify for 501c7 status.

He also reported that he had not received a formal notice of the denial but had on April 16 received a notice that the 501c3 request had been closed.

He has since contacted his Senator for assistance due to the lack of response from the agent who initially called him. He is awaiting a response to his call for help.

Donated items from Bachmann

Secretary Niehaus reported that the Hobo Jungle and Trailer Parks are sold out. He also reported that there is only one two story house available as well as fourteen churches and that there are still between 4 and 6 pieces of the HO built up still available.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved that the remaining items be added to the Corner Store for purchase by the general public.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to allow President Bowman to offer the remaining pieces on eBay. The proceeds from these sales, minus Glenn's eBay expenses, are to go to the PCA treasury.

Downloading issues with electronic documents from the on line storage provider

Joe Kutza is still investigating why documents do not download correctly. He stated that graphic files and PDF files do not seem to be a problem. He did state that there is still an issue with Microsoft Word documents.

Retaining the professional website developer as our webmaster

Joe Kutza will work with the current developer to create a fee structure and will report to the Executive Committee at the July Committee meeting.

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

Secretary Niehaus noted that an announcement and request for comments has not been included in the February newsletter as was to be the case but they will be in the May newsletter.

PCA credit card

Secretary Niehaus reported that he has requested and should have in the next week or two a debit card in the

name of the Plasticville Collectors Association with his name as the card holder.

Adding scale interest to the membership application

Due to time constraints this subject was tabled.

Creating and mailing a member information update and satisfaction survey

Due to time constraints this subject was tabled.

Unlimited Plastics information on the website

Joe Kutza will contact the web developer and have him add the words Banner and Unlimited Plastics in parenthesis after the Littletown heading.

PCA member meeting at the upcoming TCA convention in Phoenix

Vice President Doug Gilliatt reported that he has received no responses from the people he contacted.

It was requested that Secretary Niehaus send out a broadcast message to the members asking that they contact Doug if they would like to have a PCA gathering at the convention. The message is to include a link members can click on to send an email to Doug.

New Business:

Offer members the option of color or black & white hard copy newsletters

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to send a blanket email asking for feedback regarding providing the option of a color newsletter at \$40 per year.

Securing website Plasticville photos to members only

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to secure the Plasticville photos with only a select few available to the general public as a sample of what is in the members section.

Joe Kutza will work with the website developer and report back at the July Executive Committee meeting.

"Plasticville Police" – volunteer to monitor eBay Plasticville listings and report incorrect/bogus listings

President Bowman brought up the fact that there are sellers on eBay who are inaccurately describing their items. He stated that he feels that the PCA should play an active role in ensuring that inaccurate descriptions are corrected.

He will contact eBay to determine what is required of the PCA to be considered as expert resources for Plasticville and other plastic village manufacturers. He will report on his findings at the July Executive Committee meeting.

Web page photo project coordinator

President Bowman volunteered to coordinate the project. He will work with Joe Kutza to determine a format in regards to photo layout as well as web content layout.

Backup developer to ensure continuity of the website

Joe Kutza will contact the current website developer to determine if he has another person who can support the PCA website when he is unavailable.

Joe will also determine from the developer what type of site content backup the developer employs.

10th anniversary piece

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to make the 10th piece available on a pre-order basis only.

An additional motion was made, seconded, and approved to limit to two (2) the number of pieces a member will be allowed to purchase.

It was suggested that the order forms be made available on line and also included in the 2010 editions of the newsletter.

Vice President Gilliatt requested that Secretary Niehaus include a short article in the May newsletter soliciting

ideas for the 10th Anniversary piece.

Golf shirts on a pre-order basis

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to offer short and long sleeve shirts, with and without a pocket, on a prepaid basis in the next two newsletters at the following prices;

Short sleeve no pocket (\$16.50)

Short sleeve with pocket (\$19.00)

Long sleeve no pocket (\$21.50)

The prices include shipping.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM, Eastern Time

Respectfully submitted; John L Niehaus

Secretary/Treasurer

Approved by the Executive Committee; April 21, 2009

A Lucky Friday the Thirteenth

By Chris Matthy

Last June I had a table at my church's yard sale where, among other things, I had a number of HO train items that I was selling off cheap. One gentleman purchased a good pile of stuff, then returned later to purchase almost everything I had left. He mentioned that the local senior center was beginning a model railroad club and that some of these things would be good starter items. A few months ago the local newspaper ran an article on the club to which he referred; the Over the Hill Model Railroad Club of the Eleanor M. Kahle Senior Center in Toledo.

Fred Heberling is a member of the Swanton Model Railroad Club in the Toledo, Ohio area. This club has taken on a project to assist the Over the Hill Model Railroad Club in building their layout as a fun learning experience for some of the folks at the senior center. They gather every Friday from 10 am to 1 pm to work on the railroad.

It dawned on me that this was the perfect audience for those Bachmann buildings the PCA was offering to clubs. Through a quick collaboration with John Niehaus, a few boxes arrived on my doorstep, and on Friday, March 13th, I stopped in at the center with a full trunk.

I had let the director know what was up, so the members present were expecting me and absolutely

delighted with the five HO built-ups I presented them on behalf of the PCA. Though, as you can see in the picture, the Kahle Central RR is still really a "plywood central", these finished buildings will add instant character.

Thanks to Bachmann, the PCA and John, Friday the Thirteenth turned out to be a lucky day; oh, and I am now

an honorary member of the KCRR, complete with nametag! I realize that these buildings may not be what every scale model railroad club wants for its layout, but perhaps there are some folks like these Toledo retirees near you, and it might just make your day to hook up with them.

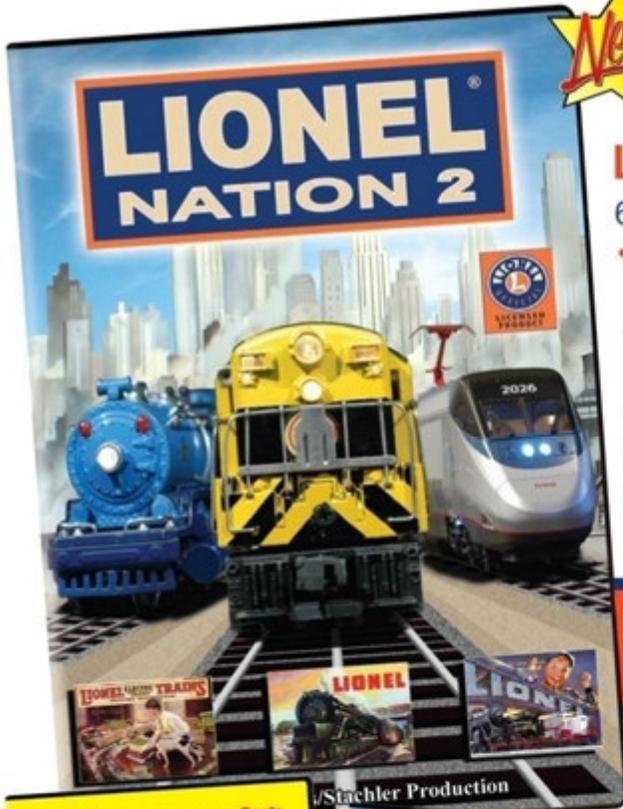
(The PCA received a hand signed thank you letter on Senior Center letterhead stationery that read, "The Eleanor Kahle Senior Center Model Railroad Club

would like to thank you for your recent donation of 5 Plasticville Models. They will be a wonderful addition to our layout. Thank you for your generosity and for thinking of us." Signed, Cathy S. McVicker, Executive Director. Editor)



Chris Matthy (01-73, center) presents five HO buildings to Al Harris (left) and Fred Heberling (right) of the Over the Hill Model Railroad Club in Toledo, OH. Photo by club member Bill Gorshoff.

Lionel® Nation 2!



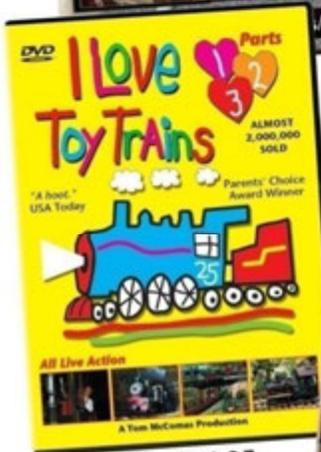
Lionel Nation No. 2

65-minutes of great Lionel action.

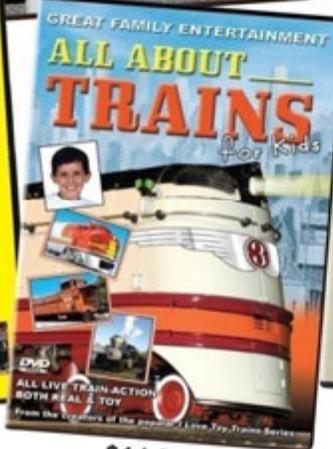
- Norm Charbonneau's incredible hi-rail, weathered, Legacy layout
- John Potter's prewar layout and collection
- We visit a toy train auction
- Lionel's new Conventional Classics
- Lionel's Acela and more

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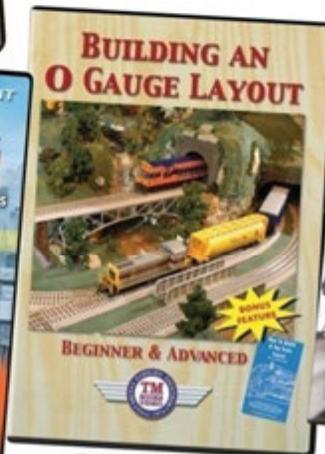
**Lionel Nation No. 3
will be released in April 2009**



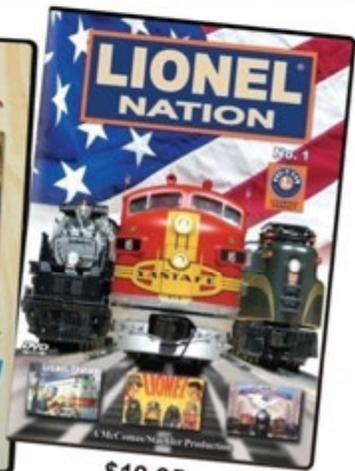
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The York Report, April, 2009

By Joe Kutza

Time for the April 2009 York meet already? Wasn't it just Christmas? Phew, time flies when you're amazingly busy at work! As always, I was greatly anticipating the York meet. What better way to spend a precious vacation day than to stroll around the halls searching for plastic treasures? From the crowds gathered outside the Blue and Silver Halls, my traditional starting point, I thought this York would be as busy as those in the past years. But it wasn't quite so. Both the Blue and Silver Halls were rather easy to navigate with few "crowd delays". It's always nice when you can move at your own pace. Other than a nice collection of Littleton pieces and parts from PCA Member Anatoly Vasiliev (with an assist from PCA Member Jim Dawes), I didn't find much in the plastic village line in those halls, and was thinking this might generally be a "bust" year. But I should know better, I always end up finding a few nice items at reasonable prices, you just need to look closely.



The groups assembling for the lunch get together at the fairgrounds cafeteria grow every year. Pictured are sixteen of the more than twenty members and guests.

Ahh, the Red Hall. One of my favorites. Unlike the Silver and Blue, the Red Hall was as crowded as ever. And, as usual, I was able to find a couple of nice items.

Next was the White Hall. This is where the lack of crowd and the results of the economy really hit home. There was a large black curtain that "walled off" the back section of the Hall. That could only indicate that there was a lack of sellers. I'd never seen that before in any of the Halls. The crowd is normally light and subdued in the White Hall and this year was no different. With that, I made a quick stop at my car before heading over to the cafeteria for the PCA lunch.

We had another great crowd at the lunch, close to 20 people showed up and we had three long tables to ourselves way in the back. Was it me, or did the food line

seem to move faster this year? The PCA lunch has quickly become one of my favorite parts of the day. Good company and good plastic village discussion. It's always a bunch of fun.

There were a number of show and share items ranging from layout photos to advertisements featuring Plasticville items, to rare Canadian Plasticville, and more. It's an hour or so where all the Plasticville freaks and geeks can be themselves and revel in the finds and the sharing of notes and ideas. Fantastic!

After the lunch session I decided to head over to the Purple Hall. Before the Orange Hall was built, this was a major Dealer Hall. Now it's still filled with Dealers, but it's nowhere near as crowded. The Purple Hall has been lucky for me in the last few trips (remember the JC-3 Fence and Tree Unit for just \$22 that Vic Koenig led me to last fall?). Alas, the magic was not there this time. I took a quick look at the display set up in the Black Hall before heading over to the Brown Hall. I keep going to the Brown Hall despite the fact that it is a perennial loser in terms of plastic village items! This meet was no different. The grand finale is the Orange Hall.

Though not as crowded as in years past, the fanfare put on by the major dealers always gives the Hall somewhat of a carnival atmosphere. PCA Member Dave Horner and his son Scott always have an excellent display of items, as does George Sottung. And I'm glad that they do because the place just doesn't seem right now that both Bill Nole and Bob Persing no longer set up shop there (though Bob joined us for lunch and I was happy to see him). I was able to find a couple of nice items, including two Skyline K-10 "The Winchester" houses complete with relatively nice boxes. And with that I made a couple of quick stops in various Halls to double check some sightings and before you know it was time for dinner.

John Niehaus and I regularly visit The Roosevelt Tavern in downtown York. The food is good and it's always nice to catch up with John. We even had a few discussions with a lively group of TCA Members from the Chicago area who were at a table next to us.

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 (everybody gives at least a little break on the marked 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, interpret these as you will.

Here we go: House Under Construction, complete in fair box, \$80; Marx White House with Presidents, glued, \$45; 1776 and PH-1 Town Halls complete in Ex boxes, \$100 each; Bridge and Pond in a poor box, \$5; Hobo Shacks complete in VG box, \$295 and Corner Store in Ex box \$150. Interestingly, these last two items had photocopies of pages from Bill Nole's latest book with the prices highlighted as if trying to justify the prices. Sorry, it didn't work! Marx Railroad Station in a good box, no accessories, \$14; 5&10 in a VG box, \$18; HS-6 Hospital, no furniture in a poor box, \$45; CC-7 Church complete in a poor box, \$10; SM-6 Supermarket in a poor box, \$15; 3-F Fence in an Ex box, complete, \$30; Post Office, complete, no box, \$25; Salmon-Gray Ranch in a good box, \$20; Autumn Trees in a VG-Ex box, \$185; Trestle Bridge, complete, G-VG box, \$25; Greenhouse, glued, no box, \$55; Gray Ambulance, \$25; Lionel HO Cape Cod in



There are always lively discussions as well as many unique items and finds to be shown when a group of PCA members get together for lunch. This time the cafeteria even reserved three large tables in the back of the room for our meeting.

a good box, \$29; House Under Construction, light gray, missing some small pieces, good box, \$29; Diner, red/gray complete in a good box, \$25. 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 April 2009 York meet lead me to give a rating of 3.5 gold bars to the spring meet. That's a full Gold Bar more than the

October 2008 York 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!



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Golf Shirts with PCA Logo Available by Pre-Order

For a limited time only the PCA will accept orders for a medium blue golf shirt with or without a pocket for delivery in early to mid-October.

The shirts are a high quality cotton polyester blend or 100% cotton as noted on the order form below. They will be royal

blue with the PCA logo printed in white on the left side regardless of shirt style.

The order form as well as a larger picture of the shirt is available on the PCA website.

Orders must be received no later than September 15, 2009.



Plasticville Collectors Association Golf Shirt Order Form



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

All prices are in US dollars.

Make your check or money order payable to: Plasticville Collectors Association.

Mail this order form along with your payment to:

PCA golf shirt, 601 SE Second Street, Ankeny, IA 50021-3207

Orders must be received by September 15, 2009

Short sleeve – no pocket, 100% cotton				
Size	Qty	Price	Quantity x Price	Total
Small		\$16.50		
Medium		\$16.50		
Large		\$16.50		
X Large		\$16.50		
XX Large		\$16.50		
XXX Large		\$16.50		
Short sleeve – with pocket, 50/50 cotton/poly				
Size	Qty	Price	Quantity x Price	Total
Small		\$19.00		
Medium		\$19.00		
Large		\$19.00		
X Large		\$19.00		
XX Large		\$19.00		
XXX Large		\$19.00		
Long sleeve – no pocket, 50/50 cotton poly				
Size	Qty	Price	Quantity x Price	Total
Small		\$21.50		
Medium		\$21.50		
Large		\$21.50		
X Large		\$21.50		
XX Large		\$21.50		
XXX Large		\$21.50		
Grand Total				\$

Non-Railfan Antics

A View from the Other Side

By Gordon C Kelley

I got out of active military service in 1965. I returned to the Milwaukee Road in September of that year. By December and January, it was cold and snow was piled in the railroad yards. We had new men who were switch tenders at the cut off. There were three positions: east of the diamond, at the diamond, and west of the diamond. The switch tender east of the diamond was a sight to behold!

He was a new hire. Right out of school. It was very cold with snow and ice on the ground. There he stood, almost frozen in place. His head was bare, no cap. He had a thin waist length jacket. He wore a thin pair of "peg leg" pants with pointed dress shoes. He was not wearing gloves or boots. He was ready for work?

We were going to be held at the cut off, for some main

line trains. He slowly slipped and slid his way towards my engine. He lined the switches for our movement and then got into the engine cab to get warm.

Before he could complain about the cold, or whatever, we started ridiculing him about how he was dressed. He informed us that he was "in style" and that people his age dressed "in style". "Style was fine", my conductor said, "but you are going to freeze to death or slip, fall, and break bones to 'dress in style'". He did, however, take an extra pair of work gloves that I offered him.

Four nights later I saw him again. He was wearing those gloves plus a brakeman's wool cap, boots, bibbed blue overalls, and a heavy lined blue work jacket. The minus 20 degree temperatures converted him from "being in style" to "dressing for the work".

Built Ups from Bachmann Now Available to the Public

The Executive Committee voted to make available, to the public through the PCA website, the remaining buildings that were received from Bachmann and offered to members on the website and published in the previous two newsletters. The price per building will remain at \$17.50, including shipping.

The buildings still available for purchase are:

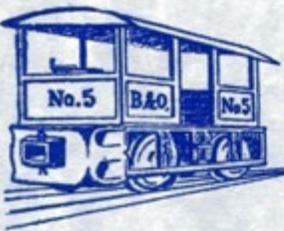
45004 – House Under Construction – HO

45005 – Split Level House – HO

45006 – Freight Station w/Platform – HO

45007 – Dairy Barn – HO

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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.

REPAIRING WARPED BOXES

By David Allen

Recently I purchased a lot of vintage Plasticville pieces on e-Bay to get an Orange roof Airport Hangar in an original AP-1 box.

All of the kits in this lot were in excellent condition, but the boxes had been exposed to moisture. All of them had the corner joints sprung, all had mould in various degrees, and all of them suffered from warping.

The only other damage was the paper signs to the Railroad Station, and Loading Platform. I did not want to have to buy a nice blue roof Airport Hangar in a solid box just to re-box the scarcer Orange Roof version I had obtained. So I set out and tried to repair the boxes to as close to original condition as I could, feeling that I had nothing to lose.

My first deduction was that the boxes warped because they were wet or moist, so moisture was the key to getting them flat again. Seeing that the boxes were already sprung apart, they were easy to lie flat, and wipe down with a damp cloth and then a wet cloth.

My main desire was to get the Airport Hangar box back so this is what I started with. (Photo 1)



The condition of the AP-1 Airport Hangar box as it was received.

The Train Station box was not too bad either. The Loading Platform didn't fare too badly either, everything considered. (Photo 2)

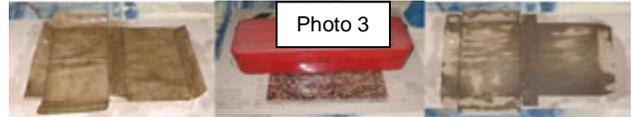


The Suburban Station and the Loading Platform boxes were in about the same condition as the Hangar box.

My first step as I mentioned above was to wipe both inside and outside with a damp soft cloth to remove dust,

loose dirt, and mold. I then laid down a piece of hard board. On this I placed the box face down. I did this to avoid wetting the printed side thus preventing, hopefully, any damage.

I wet the train station box with a spray bottle filled with plain cold water. (Photo 3, left) While the box was wet, but not soaked, I placed another piece of hard board on top, and then applied a weight. My weight was a left over piece of granite. (Photo 3, center) I left this sit for about two hours. Then I removed the weight, and upper hard board. The box was now flat as a pancake. (Photo 3, right)



After wetting, but not soaking, the Suburban Station box - left - I placed a piece of hardboard and a piece of granite as a weight on top of the hardboard - center. The box was "flatter than a pancake" in about two hours - right.

I then left the box open to the air to dry for about an hour. Larger boxes like the AP-1 box wanted to curl a little so I applied weights to the outer edges while leaving the center to dry. Once most of the moisture had dried away, I used an old hair dryer to completely dry the box on both sides. (Photo 4)



Air drying, followed by a warm blow dry with a hair dryer nicely flattened out the boxes.

Seeing that I had no repairs to do to the tabs, I could start reassembly of the boxes. I used Elmer's ® white glue. I applied it to the tabs, and tucked them into place. I held them with paper clips and small clamps. I did the front tabs first as I wanted the box to be steady when I did the rear part with the main lid weight. (Photo 5, left) Once these set up for about 2 hours, I did the rear tabs. (Photo 5, right)



Elmer's ® white glue along with paperclips of various designs were used to reattach the front and back tabs to the box.

After the glue dried for several hours and the clips removed and I had normal looking boxes again, now ready for their original parts. (Photo 6)

The boxes did suffer from a musty odor as well. After I had the boxes reassembled and the kits back in them, I wrapped each kit in newspaper and left it to sit wrapped like that for a few weeks. That eliminated most of the odor, and now as time has passed, most of the musty smell is gone.



With the paperclips removed the boxes are now ready for their parts.



The fully refurbished boxes and their original pieces. Although it took some time and ingenuity, I saved myself the expense of purchasing a blue roof hangar just to have a presentable box for the orange roof hangar pictured here. It is now in the box in which it was received. The same is also true of the other pieces.

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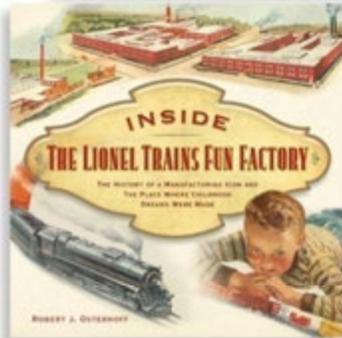
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BY: ROBERT J. OSTERHOFF



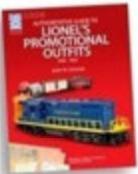
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Creative Use of Damaged Parts

Bulk Storage Tanks

By Edward Johnson

We, the members of this group are bound together by our interest in all things Plasticville. Some of us collect Plasticville models; some of us use them as scenery for our model railroads; and some gather together the used and abused Plasticville parts to make something unique. I am one of the latter of these three.

We sometimes display our Plasticvilles with our trains and we can give them a unique look without affecting their collectability. I will use a Plasticville factory as an illustration. For now overlook the paint job on the building.

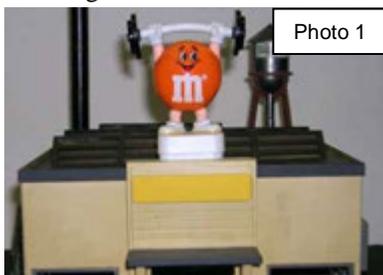


Photo 1

The simplest way to give a Plasticville factory a unique look is to add something to it, like the M&M figure shown in the photo. It's just placed on the roof without using any glue or tape. See Photo 1.

Another easy way to change the look of the factory model is to place

Simply placing a figure on the roof of this factory gives the viewer an idea as to what may be manufactured inside without causing permanent damage to the structure.

something beside it. Most real factories have some type of bulk storage unit near them. See photo 2

Photo 3 shows six potential bulk storage units. These storage units were all made from different containers. Placing one at the side of the factory or near a track adjacent to the building immediately gives a new identity to the building. Study the following photo to see what I



Photo 2

Other units on adjacent track. Suggesting liquid storage = place for tank car.

Placing a bulk storage tank adjacent to a piece of track alongside a building creates an ideal location for spotting one or more tank cars.

mean. The various shapes and sizes of the cylindrical storage units suggests different types of liquid or gas are being used by the factory and it becomes a place to park a tank car.



Photo 3

The six potential bulk storage units pictured are all made from items that would have otherwise ended up in a landfill. They can all merely be painted or detailed with graphic paper and other detailing pieces if desired. The two on the platform are Campbell's soup cans!

Spray painting a can or bottle is the easiest way to create a storage unit. The two tanks on a platform were made by spray painting two Campbell Soup cans and mounting them on a platform. The black unit is a painted contact lens fluid bottle.

If you want something different you can wrap a printed paper graphic around a can. The blue unit and wooden tank were made by printing the pattern on photo stock paper and the wrapping it around the cans.

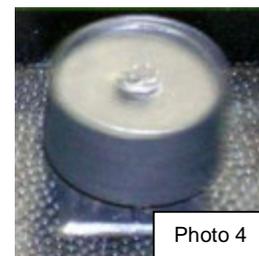


Photo 4

The cap from a tube of hair crème and a disk for contact t lens cleaning can become a roof vent.

Probably the most realistic appearance is accomplished by wrapping Plastruct 1/32 half round strips around it. The large gray unit (empty shampoo bottle) and the green unit (an empty cigar tube) were made this way. It looks great but is both tedious and time consuming to prepare.

Storage units are not the only things to give our factories a unique look. Consider photo 4 of a cap from tube of hair creme and a disk for contact

lens cleaning - both destined for "hundreds of years in a landfill" but when glued together they become a roof vent that can be placed on a factory building.

Note that all of the units were made from things destined for the garbage can. But if we find an alternative use for them we make a small help to our environment and create something we can be proud to display.

That's all folks, Eddie J

Plasticville on the Board

Detailing

By John Gottcent

One of the things that distinguish the collectors from the layout builders among us is how we feel about making adjustments to plastic village pieces. Collectors generally want their buildings in as close to original condition as possible. Layout builders, on the other hand, are often willing to make some changes to enhance the appearance of their display.



Photo one

Gargrave track ties easily make the step down from the station platform to the ground reasonable rather than the scale three feet from the platform to the ground.

Since this column focuses on the builders, I'm going to offer some suggestions about minor modifications to Plasticville structures that I think make them blend more attractively into my village. All but one suggestion, however, will leave no permanent marks on the buildings, so even collectors may be willing to give them a try.



Photo two

Although intended as a vehicle delivery door, adding a few spare Gargrave track ties makes this door a pedestrian door also.

One thing that has always bothered me about the Suburban Station, for instance, is the great leap passengers would have to make to jump from the platform to ground level in order to board a train—3 feet in O scale. Of course, if the train pulled up right next to the platform, this might be no problem. But on most real railroads, people had to get

down to the ground, walk over to the tracks, and then climb into a passenger car via the conductor's handy step stool.

The solution was simple and did no damage to the building. I constructed a wooden stairway out of several pieces of old Gargrave track ties, and placed it in a convenient spot in front of the platform (Photo One). And since the same problem exists with the rather high-placed entry door at the back of the station, the same solution works there as well (Photo Two).

The WPLA television station came with a small plastic "light" atop its tall tower. I'll admit to having lost mine decades ago. So I decided to replace it with a flashing red LED. I found one at Radio Shack that ran on 3 volts, so I hooked it up to a battery container holding two D cells under my board, interrupting one of the wires with an Atlas slide switch. (You could also use an HO DC power pack, as long as you can adjust the setting to as low as 3 volts.)

Of course I had to run some wires up the tower to accomplish this. I held them in place with one strip of black electrical tape placed where the tower changes color (it looks like a natural connecting collar there).

A similar piece of tape holds the bulb in place at the top. My white wire is hidden fairly well against the white portion of my tower, though naturally it does stand out more against the red portion above. If you want to further camouflage things, you could change the color of your wire at the joint to match the tower's color, but I was too lazy to go that far.

You can see the result in Photo Three, though repeated attempts with my camera to catch the flasher as it was showing red proved fruitless, so you'll have to take my word for it that the LED indeed lights up. The flashing looks like a real tower warning, especially in the dark. And if I need to take the structure apart, any residue left by the tape can be easily removed with GooGone.



Photo three

A flashing red light atop the WPLA transmission tower adds charm to the piece.



Photo four

A small bulb at the ends of a covered bridge surely helps Plasticville drivers as they navigate across the old structure in the dark of night.

entrance. Bachmann made this easy by providing several “knotholes” in the bridge’s front piece, including one just about over the center. A small bulb can easily be installed with its wires pretty much hidden inside the bridge, and the light it provides surely helps Plasticville drivers as they navigate across the old structure in the dark of night (Photo Four). If you’re really enterprising, you could install another light at the other end, but fortunately, my “other end” faces a wall where no one can see it.

A while back my daughter bought me some flashing neon-like signs from Miniaturics Corp. One advertises “Joe’s Diner.” It was simple to position the sign between the Plasticville Diner’s roof and front wall, and run the wire from the sign to the unit’s small control box hidden inside the building. Photo Five shows the result, and this time I even got the flashing light to be “on” in my picture!



Photo five

A Miniaturics flashing sign is easily inserted between the front wall and roof of a Plasticville diner converting it to JOE’S DINER

Miniaturics makes several other signs, for “Train Store,” “Motel—No Vacancy,” etc., and they can be similarly installed in other plastic buildings. Like the LED above, they require only a few volts of DC, so you can hook them up to the same battery case or HO transformer that powers your TV tower.

I got the next idea while watching a display at a train show. The layout builders had spiced up their Covered Bridge by adding a light over the front

PCA member Mike Cedro makes several small details that enhance Plasticville buildings while doing no damage to the structures themselves. One is a window air conditioner that slips right into a Cape Cod or similar house, as you can see in Photo Six. Mike also makes such things as newspaper vending machines and convenience store ice chests that can turn your streets from toy-like to realistic.



Photo six

A window air conditioning unit from PCA member Mike Cedro helps to keep this Cape Cod cool.

Of course, a closer look at Photo Six will reveal something else. Another thing

that’s always bothered me about PV houses is that their attic vents are the same color as the walls—highly unrealistic. So one day, after several episodes of “Monk” had heightened my obsessive/compulsive side, I took out a small paint brush and turned one of those vents from white to metallic silver. It’s the only suggestion in this column that can’t be easily undone, but hey, since we’re talking about one of the most common of PV buildings here, maybe no one will mind.

Well, that’s about it for another issue. If you have questions, comments, or suggestions for future columns, drop me a note at jandjgott@gmail.com. And as always, happy villaging!

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RH-1 Color Combination - Confirmed

By John L Niehaus



Member response to this picture of a ranch house in an RH-1 box has been such that it can be added to the list of ranch houses in the first version RH-1 boxes, those with two colors rubber stamped on the box.

As published in the February issue of *The Villager*, the RH-1 Ranch House pictured above 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.

I asked members to contact me if they owned or had seen additional buildings in the same color in the first version RH-1 box.

Three members responded. One respondent included a picture. I was also able to visually verify a third building while at the York train meet in April.

James Cathcart wrote, "John, Several years ago, I bought several ranch houses on eBay. One of them was that same color combo: white sides, light blue roof and grey trim. It did not come in a box, so I don't know if it is legit or not, but based on your article, it might be."



Overhead view of Joe Pianoforte's RH-1 Ranch House with a Disney stickered box.

Longtime member Jim Dawes wrote, "Have one of the white sides light blue roof gray doors ranch house in a RH-1 box with a Disney sticker on it also blue white stamped on it. Got it from a gal in Wisconsin". I visually verified Jim's building and box while at the April York train meet.

Joe Pianoforte wrote, "I have a Plasticville Ranch House RH-1 in the same colors you mentioned in your article in the February issue of *The Villager*."

I purchased it in December of 1992 from Train City, whom I believe to be a reputable dealer. They were located in Pennsylvania at that time. They have since moved to Florida.

I believe this box is the first version of the RH-1 in that it also has both the roof and wall colors listed. My box has the colors blue over white stamped on the box.

My Ranch House has a light blue or pastel roof, white walls/chimney and grey doors.

I have included pictures of the Ranch House and Box.

I have been wondering for years about this color combination and have not been able to confirm it. Maybe since you have one and possibly other members do, they will also send in some feedback. We will then be able to establish if this is a valid combination. It may have been a limited production run or a factory error. Upon feedback from our members we can then add this to the list of Ranch Houses RH-1's accordingly.

Thank goodness for the Plasticville Collectors Association. We have a great avenue of information that's at our disposal.

I look forward to see a follow up on this in the next issue of the PCA."

Joe also sent two photos of the building. Between Joe's photos, my visual verification of Jim Dawes' building, and James Cathcart's message, I feel we can now consider this color combination as verified as being packaged in the first version RH-1 Ranch House box.



Front view of Joe Pianoforte's RH-1 Ranch House showing the BLUE over WHITE rubber stamping on the accompanying box.

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Ranch House Color Census

One of the goals of the Plasticville Collectors Association is to be the definitive place to visit for complete and accurate information regarding Plasticville buildings as well as plastic village buildings of other manufacturers. This goal can be achieved only through the participation of all members in color censuses of the various buildings. Had we not had input from other members, the white wall, blue roof, gray doors RH-1 would still be a questionable variation.

We would like to start these ongoing censuses with one of the buildings with the most color combinations, the Ranch House. We are further limiting this first census to

a subset of the Ranch House, the RH-1 varieties.

If you have a color combination in an RH-1 box that is not listed below please let us know through an email to PCA@netins.net. Please use the words Ranch House Census as the subject of your email.

You can also send a letter addressed to: Plasticville Collectors Association, RH-1 Ranch House Census, 601 SE Second Street, Ankeny, Iowa 50021.

Include the wall, roof, and door colors, and the two colors rubber stamped on the side of the box.

Upon receiving your email or letter, we will contact you for further information.

RH1 - 1st series stamped with two color names

Upper name is the roof color; lower name is the wall color

Stamp	Walls	Roof	Doors
Gray/Pink	pink	light gray	white
	pink	light gray	light gray
White/Yellow	bright yellow	white	white
	pastel yellow	white	white
White/Green	dark green	white	white
	olive green	white	white
Blue/White	white	light blue	light blue
	white	pastel blue	pastel blue
	white	pastel blue	light gray
Red/Brown	marbled brown	dark red	dark red

RH1 - 2nd series – Stamped with roof color only

Stamp	Walls	Roof	Doors
Gray	salmon	dark gray	white
	salmon	dark gray	dark red
	reddish-salmon	dark gray	white
	turquoise	light gray	light gray
Red	marbled brown	dark red	dark red
White	salmon	white	white
	turquoise	white	white
	turquoise	white	red
	turquoise	white	light gray
	yellow	white	white
	dark green	white	white
Blue	olive green	white	white
	white	light blue	light blue
	white	pastel blue	pastel blue
	white	light blue	dark red

Note: In all cases the chimney color is identical to the wall color.

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What Members Are Saying

Perhaps it is just me, but I can never figure out how / where to login in order to read the newsletter in color. There is NO obvious place to do this from the home page. Clicking on "Members" in the "menu" brings me to the page for joining the PCA. It would be really nice if there were a member login directly from the home page. Thank you. (David Schwartz)

(The Executive Committee is aware of this and are working with the our web page developer to make logging in easier. Editor)

I noticed on the Members site that you have all of the old newsletters archived. I either lost or didn't download all of the old Villager newsletters. Will this feature always be on the PCA site? I certainly hope so. It is fun to look at some of the earlier published documents. This also saves me the job of putting them in folders on my computer. It is a great reference tool.

I belong to a small organization that is regressing not progressing. It is good to see that the PCA is getting better all of the time. (Ron Schlicht)

(The PCA Executive Committee felt that if the TCA could make available on a permanent basis all of their previous TCA Quarterlies then the PCA could make available all of the previous issues of The Villager. There is no intent to remove this service to members. They will be there and will continue to grow with each new edition. Editor)

John, how about a billboard insert that fit any of the Plasticville or Lionel billboard frames that advertises the PCA for model layouts?

Also what about inserts to the Corner Store for a Hobby Shop (with Plasticville items in the window)?

Finally, don't know where else to send this but I think it would be nice for a Plasticville "block long" series of shops for those businesses that have never been in Plasticville before such as a Barber Shop, Department or Dry Goods Store, Dry Cleaners, etc. Not sure Bachman would be receptive to this. (Louis Leppert)

(The billboard and window inserts are something I will investigate and present to the Executive Committee. I will also relay your suggestion of the "block long" series to Bachmann the next time I speak with them. Editor)

As a new member, I love the color downloaded version. So there is no need to send me the black and white copy. Thanks. (Anthony Santay)

I was very happy to see that the PCA now has all the old newsletters on line. I think this is a great move for the new members and the old members like me who have lost a few of the newsletters.

You may change my status to on-line version only and stop sending me the printed newsletter. (Mark DiVecchio)

I am a charter member of PCA and a member of TCA since 1983. (I am retired). Ref: the VILLAGER. It is great, and I read it cover to cover. I have been a contributor to its copy.

Being retired, I have time to read and enjoy "train", real and model, publications. I enjoy coffee in the morning while reading a train publication. It's FUN, and I enjoy this routine. Same in the evening; with a drink just before dinner.

What I don't like is the "black & white" copy in the VILLAGER. I would like it to be in color. COLOR. I miss much of the enjoyment of the articles and pictures by it (the buildings) not being in color.

Your "response" to me is "it costs too much. We can save money by it being in black & white."

Here's my response, "I want enjoyment, I don't want to save money." Think about what I said. Did you ever think about pleasing the customer? Give the customer what he wants. Build the cost into the product.

I'll gladly PAY to have it in color. Other clubs do their publications in color, The TCA Quarterly, LCCA, LOTS, TTOS, but not the PCA.

Then, you'll say, "Read it on the web". Well I don't want to sit in a straight chair, hanging over a computer at a desk, just to get it in color. Remember, I enjoy sitting in my easy chair (along with my wife, AM and ,PM) reading for enjoyment.

Then you say "print it". No, then I'll burn up precious color cartridge capacity. HP cartridges cost about \$30 each here. That will not do.

Suggestion; Please the customer in business, club, or home, period. That's what it's all about, and where this country fails. (Go to Home Depot and try to get someone to help you. Customer service,, nada.)

Give the members a CHOICE, Color or B&W. If it costs more, put that in his dues fee. I think it's TCA, that lets you check on your membership renewal if you want "first class mailing to the member" or the "routine magazine/bulk rate" (which gets there later). Again, if the member wants it and can pay for it, give it to him that way. NOT, just a blanket response, IT COSTS TOO MUCH MONEY. I'm not rich, but I can afford a color copy of *The Villager*.

Give us a choice on the membership form, or whatever.

Thanks for listening. Respectfully, (Jim Steed)

(Elsewhere in this newsletter is a request for input from members regarding their desire to pay for the mailing of color newsletters. Editor)

I have only been a member for a little more than a year, but I find the association very informative and look forward to receiving the newsletter. Thank you for all the time and effort you and the other officers put into making PCA an awesome organization. (Tom Gaskell)

.....I would love to see us do a silver and blue Frosty Bar. By the way, the web site looks and works great -- it's what we should be all about. (Chris Matthy)

(Be assured that your suggestion will be added to the list of possible 10th Anniversary building suggestions. Editor)

Although I have never bought any build-ups before I was very happy with the ones I purchased from the PCA. It was also my way of showing my appreciation and support for the organization. ...Keep up the good work. (Colleen Spillman)

All 5 buildings arrived safely today, and I am pleased! Thanks for all your hard work on behalf of our club! (Steve D'Ambrosia)

I got the 2 trailer parks the other day and they are great nice detailed.....

A good friend of mine from Phoenix is Shirley Hunter. When I lived there people would call us the King and Queen of Plasticville as we would try to out buy each other. With Shirley's concentration on PV and my diversion into playsets she is much more knowledgeable

than I but I try to keep up as best I can. The membership in PCA will help that is for sure.

I look forward to being a good member to the organization!

PS: I wrote a toy article and put it on eBay and mentioned the club. Go under my trading name Marxieboy to view and look for the one guide I wrote. Maybe it will help build membership! (Dan Palaschak)

The 1953 and 1957 catalogs are mixed together on the "PCA Plasticville O and S scale: Catalogs and other paper items" page of the web site. Also page 12 for 1957 is missing. These catalogs are a great resource. Keep up the good work on the website. (Tom Fritsch)

(Thank you for catching this error. Our webmaster is working with the developer to make the necessary corrections. Editor)

.....Wish we had a life-time membership with a onetime charge so some of us do not need to try and remember each year. Just a thought for the serious PCA members. Regards as always. (Ray Frederick)

(A lifetime membership option is an excellent suggestion and one that will be addressed in a future Executive Committee meeting. Thanks. Editor)

Welcome New Members

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

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

as of April 1, 2009. Their names are now permanently listed in the on line roster.

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

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

John C Busch, Lakewood, CO
Spenser J Brunswig, Tribune, KS
Jeffrey W Gardner, Newburgh, NY
James J Jaehnen, Florence, KY
David M Starre, Cleveland, OH
William C Steele, Harleysville, PA
Robert L Gelini, Ben Lomond, CA
Ralph T Carrello, North Beach, Md
Wesley R Kidd, Jeannette, PA
Michael C Lennon, Hooksett, NH

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.

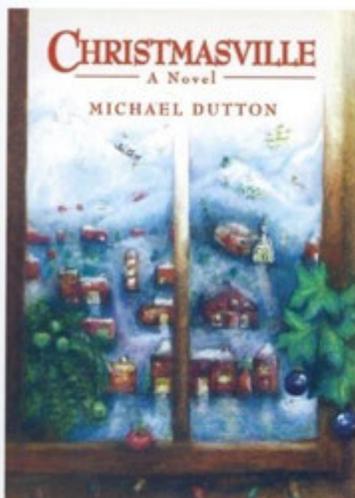
Sylvester R Jordan Jr, West Wareham, MA
Frank T Patti Sr, East Aurora, NY
Gregory J Hake, Fenton, MO
Andrew G Mlynowski, River Edge, NJ
William H Chapin, Orefield, PA
William E Nagle Jr, Columbia, PA
Nick Conidas, Northwood, NH
William S Cherup, Pittsburgh, PA
Robert N Frey, Pittsburgh, PA
James L Flinchbaugh, Kalispell, MT

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)

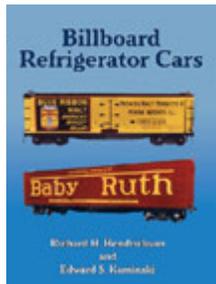
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Excerpts and Reviews at www.lindenparkpublishers.com

Product Reviews



Billboard Refrigerator Cars, by Richard H. Hendrickson and Edward S. Kaminski, published by Signature Press, \$60, 224 pages, 9 X 11 format, hardback, color and black & white illustrations.

Advertising on refrigerator cars, fondly known as billboard reefers, enjoyed an approximately 50 year life until banned as part of an

Interstate Commerce Commission ruling in 1934 which banned their use after January 1, 1937. This twelve chapter book is a much needed compendium of their history.

The first chapter is an overview and historical background. It discusses the origination of billboard reefers in the late nineteenth century. It also discusses how the ownership progressed from private car lines to railroads through their subsidiaries. There is also information regarding the actual ICC ruling that banned the practice of advertising on the cars.

The next two chapters cover the early reefer cars and the meat packer reefers of the 1920's and 30's. It is interesting to note that some of the car photos illustrated in these sections show the link and pin type of coupler rather than the modern knuckle coupler.

Chapters four through nine are each dedicated to a single car leasing firm. These as well as the other chapters all begin with a brief history of the leasing company. It is followed by photos of billboard reefers under that company's banner. Every photo is captioned with history relating to the car shown. I feel that this was



The Atlas O, LLC 40' Wood Reefer Collectors Guide, First Edition 2000-2004, perfect bound, 48 pages, 5 X 13, published by Atlas O, LLC, \$5.00. Color and black & white illustrations.

For those of you who were unaware, Atlas O has been creating 40' wood reefers since the spring of 2000. These are all based upon the collection of handmade billboard reefers by the late Robert Wagner. Robert not only built many reefer models but he also performed painstaking research in order to get the cars he built as accurate as

possible in every aspect to the prototype.

The guide does starts with a page dedication to Mr. Wagner. Then there is a single page Welcome by Atlas O's Vice President, Jim Weaver. I was very impressed

an excellent manner in which to expand information on the company's history as well as the history of the car.

Chapter ten is similar in format to the preceding but discusses three smaller companies for which a full chapter was not warranted as well as a few companies who did not lease but owned their billboard reefers.

The cars shown in chapter eleven show the radical change in design brought on by the ICC ruling. The only color photos are included in chapter 12 which shows cars from the post World War II era. This chapter contains both color and black and white photos.

There are two appendices. The first is entitled Historical Color Renditions and show HO scale color boxcar sides that were originally produced by M Dale Newton. The second appendix reproduces the *Railway Age* magazine summary of the ICC ruling.

Finally you will find a bibliography, index, and a chapter on the typefaces used in the book and their history. This latter item I do not recall seeing in any other book I have read.

I found this book highly informative on a subject for which little historical information has been published. It is an easy read but loaded with information. Between this book and the Atlas O reefer book reviewed elsewhere in this newsletter a person should have a good start on researching billboard reefers. If you have an interest in billboard reefers, either toy or prototype, I recommend this book.

Billboard Refrigerator Cars can be purchased directly from Signature Press by telephone at 800 305-7942. You can FAX an order to 916 939-1960. Mail orders should be sent to Signature Press, 11508 Green Road, Wilton, CA 95693. Shipping is free within the United States.

with Jim's comment, "This book is not intended to be a price guide". To that effect, there are no prices retail or current collector value listed. It is strictly a guide.

The next five pages are a reprint of an article by Bob Lavezzi in a 2001 edition of *O Gauge Railroading* magazine. This article tells the story of how Bob became interested in the billboard reefers and his dedication to making them as near the prototype as possible. This is followed by a brief history of Atlas O.

The real meat of this guide is in the remaining pages. The fifth chapter is a brief description of the production process required to create the Atlas O version of a car. I was impressed with the inclusion of two blueprints of prototype cars in this section.

The next ten pages are a very brief history of the reefers with over 40 black and white photographs of prototype cars used by Bob to create his original cars. Per the guide, these photos along with blueprints and painstaking notes by Bob were also used in the creation of the Atlas O models.

In the following chapter is an illustration of over 140 different reefers made by Atlas O. Each car is illustrated in full color by its road name along with the release date, stock numbers for both 2 and 3 rail versions, and the road numbers. Any of the cars that were special runs are denoted by an * after the road name.

I presumed that I knew what was meant by special runs but consulted the included numeric and alphabetic indices to determine that it meant the car was made for another seller, such as Walthers or Peterson Supply Company.

I must compliment Atlas O on documenting a line of their products while that information was still available. This ensures that future collectors will have accurate



Two stall engine house kit, #2009000. \$83.95, Atlas Model Railroad Company. This piece is part of Atlas' O scale Trainman series

structures along with the four items previously reviewed. This is the largest piece in the series with a length of 27 1/2 inches and a width of 11 1/2 inches for the base building. It becomes a bit wider if one chooses to include the single story office as part of the building.

When I received the box, I wondered just what was inside as it weighed much more than one generally would expect of a plastic building. I was pleasantly surprised by what I found inside.

The walls are a light Tuscan. The base, which is needed to help align the walls at the bottom as well as center the track where it enters the building are a black to very dark grey. Trim pieces, including the doors and windows are a very pale tan. It also comes with clear "glass" for the windows.

A 12 page assembly manual is also included. I recommend you do not try to cut corners, follow the assembly manual.

The side walls, roof, and base are in three pieces. The design is such that the joints are not visible after assembly. Care should be taken in joining any of these

information regarding these wonderful cars.

I found this book to be interesting from the historical standpoint. If you have even a passing interest in the history of 40' wood reefers or the models that started the Atlas O line of these cars, then I recommend this book. It is well worth the \$5 price.

The Atlas O, LLC 40' Wood Reefer Collectors Guide, First Edition 2000-2004 can be purchased on line for \$5.00 plus shipping and handling at www.atlaso.com. Their physical address is: Atlas O, LLC, 378 Florence Ave, Hillside, NJ 07205. It is stock number 0140. The net profit from the sale of these guides will be donated to the New York Society of Model Engineers in the name of Bob Wagner.

together to ensure an attractive completed model.

Although not complex in its design, this model is probably for an intermediate model builder and above. It would be advisable to have a straightedge to which you can align the side wall, roof, and base segments when joining them.

I would also suggest that you use corner glue clamps similar to those used by picture framers to hold two wall sections at right angles when gluing them together. I found these type clamps at <http://ehobbytools.com> at a very reasonable price of \$6.00 each.

Although I feel this building is not for the casual modeler, this piece is very impressive when assembled and would make a great addition to an engine servicing area on a layout.

The engine house can be purchased through Atlas' on line store. Point your browser to <http://www.atlaso.com>. Then click the online catalog link at the bottom of the page. You will then need to click on the O Trainman Structures link in the left frame and then the building near the top of the page. This will bring you to the point where you can add it, and the other pieces shown, to your shopping cart.

You may wish to check with your local model railroad dealer to see if he has the item in stock. There is a dealer locator option on the Atlas O home page.

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.

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 (May 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 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

For Trade

I will trade some Plasticville parts of your choosing for original Union Station roofs to complete my model.

Wanted

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)

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.

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. gfulgiewicz@aol.com #02-93, Jerry Fuglewicz, 11262 Sunrise Ln, East Aurora, NY 14052 716-655-0223 (Nov 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 10)

I have a large assortment of Plasticville parts for sale. All parts are original vintage Plasticville. All parts are 50 to 75 cents per side, roof, or wall. Email me your want list and I will email back with items in stock. Some hard to find parts too. starredm@gmail.com. #09-580 David M Starre, 5105 Herman Ave, Cleveland OH 44102 (Feb 10)

starredm@gmail.com. #09-580 David M Starre, 5105 Herman Ave, Cleveland OH 44102 (Feb 10)

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! ashemorse@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)

6-1/2" Galoob 2-story dollhouse plus attic w/turret, approx 1/50. Victorian. Mainly white + pastels (except roofs). Wallpaper on exterior walls. "Lewis Galoob Toys" 1990 on bottom. Excellent condition not necessary. Will pay more extra for 3 X 3" garage, bathroom and kitchen fixtures. Describe porch rails and removable floorboards, colors. #06-409 Robert.J.Heine@irs.gov Robert Heine, 1718 P St NW, #301, Washington, DC 20036

Small marbled parts for Hobo Shacks. Porch roof and porch floor for red w/dark grey roof LH4 2-story Colonial house. K-Line buildings that were packed in train sets. Figures and accessories for K-Lineville buildings. johnln@netins.net #00-3, John Niehaus, 601 SE Second St., Ankeny, IA 50021-3207 (Feb 10)

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
45308 – Country Church - O

See photos of the pieces on the PCA website.

Golf Shirts

Available by special order only through September 15, 2009.

Royal blue 100% cotton or 50/50 Cotton/Poly blend.

A photo and order form are available on the PCA website

Short Sleeve, no pocket, 100% cotton - \$16.50

Short sleeve, with pocket, 50/50 blend - \$19.00

Long sleeve, no pocket, 50/50 blend - \$21.50

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.

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.

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