



# The Villager

The official newsletter of the Plasticville Collectors Association

Volume 8

August 2009

Number 3

## Constitution Revision Approved

The proposal 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” has been approved by the Executive Committee as no objections were voiced by the general membership.

The revision adds the founder, Joe Kutza, as a member of the Executive Committee.

## Suggest a 10th Anniversary Building

By John Niehaus

It may seem early to be discussing what to offer for the 10th Anniversary of the incorporation of the Plasticville Collectors Association but it really isn't. Most of the other organizations with which I am associated offer members an anniversary piece without asking for member input. The PCA is different. We want your input. The 5th Anniversary two story house was the outcome of input from the members.

There are now over 400 members in the PCA. Every one of you probably has an idea as to what you, personally would like to see for a 10th Anniversary piece.

Let us know. The more suggestions received, the more options for consideration by the Executive Committee.

All suggestions will be considered. Suggestions already received have and include both buildings in special colors, as well as specially decorated rolling stock. Send your suggestions to PCA@netins.net. It will be appreciated if you include the words 10th ANNIVERSARY SUGGESTION in the title or mail your suggestions to: PCA, ATTN: 10th ANNIVERSARY SUGGESTION, 601 SE Second Street, Ankeny, Iowa 50021-3207

## Color Hard Copy Newsletters Available in 2010

In response to member input, the Executive Committee has voted to offer members the option of receiving color hard copy newsletters but at an increased membership rate. The annual dues for members who have opt for color hard copies of the newsletter in 2010 will be \$40. Those who opt for color hard copies will receive their first color edition with the February 2010 issue of *The Villager*.

Membership dues for black and white hard copies will remain at \$10 for 2010.

Membership dues for ePCA members will also remain at \$10 for 2010.

The dues renewal notice you will receive either with the November edition of *The Villager* or mailed separately will have a space to denote the type of membership for which a you are submitting dues.

### **The Villager**

Published quarterly by the Plasticville Collectors Association.

[www.plasticvilleusa.org](http://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



I have several thoughts running thru my mind, totally unrelated to each other that I wanted to address in this column. Not being able to decide on just one, I will touch on three.

I recently picked up a Plasticville Dairy Barn kit that was created by Bachmann for the 1994 LCCA Convention in Chattanooga, TN. I know there are also a Hangar and an Airport Administration Building that were made for the LCCA. I was wondering what other kits may have been made for the LCCA?

I also know of the Independence Hall that was made for the Republican Convention in Philadelphia, the gold Union Station for the TCA convention, and our own PCA blue and gray 2 story. Can members add to this list of kits made for events or clubs?

I really would like help on this so the info can be added to the website. Hopefully, I will get more than a few people responding. I seem to ask for help and get little or no responses. This is your club, so PLEASE help.

I know there are a bunch of white box kits that were made for Lionel for some of their department store specials. At this time I am not seeking info on those kits.

I am happy to report that the PCA now has over 400 members. When Joe Kutza started this organization, I am sure he never expected such a large membership. Having said that, it makes me wonder why the response is only a handful when the membership is asked to supply info, opinion, or feedback for any given subject. Is it apathy or a fear that you answer may be 'wrong'? As far as I am concerned there are no "wrong" answers. I always think through all of the replies I get and usually pick up an idea or new slant on an old subject. PLEASE, when asked to contribute, do so. It can only make the PCA more informed.

At the last Executive Meeting, I was shocked to find out that my longtime friend Bill Nole was not a member of the PCA for the last several years. I remember

in the early 1970's, when York was 1 hall, maybe 2 and there was no EBay, beating the bushes for a #57 Lionel AEC switcher for my collection.

I would run into Bill there at York, or Hamburg, or maybe Allentown, and he would be beating the bushes for rare or oddball Plasticville. I remember that he would always check out the table of "Plasticville Frank", the 1st "Mayor of Plasticville", to see if he had unearthed any rare variations.

In 1981, he published his first price guide for Plasticville. He took the time to list the many, many color variations of the kits. I had several dozen file boxes of kits in the basement and this gave me the chance to see how many I owned. He also listed the number of pieces in each kit, plus the parts often missing, the original year the kit was made and all of the different issue numbers. To my knowledge, this was the first time this mass of info was offered to the public. He followed up that book with several others; each one correcting the mistakes of the previous issues and adding any variations that were previously unmentioned. Our own PCA website has references that were originally found in Bill's books.

There have been several attempts by other people to create a Plasticville guide. I have owned all or most of them and they are pale by comparison as far as accuracy and completeness. In my opinion, Bill has done more to help people interested in identifying and collecting the many variations of Plasticville kits than anyone else.

For 25 years, Bill could be found at his stand at York, selling Plasticville. You could stop by and look, buy, or just talk Plasticville. He was often joined by his daughter Kim. He has now retired from setting up at York. I know I will miss seeing him 2 times a year. I think this man NEEDS to be a member of PCA. I think Bill Nole should be an Honorary Lifetime Member for being a pioneer in Plasticville collecting. I would like some feedback from the membership about this.

That's all for now. You can contact me thru the PCA website under the 'contact' tab.

## Resource People Needed

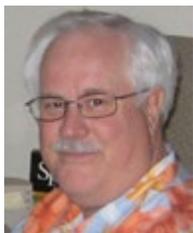
The PCA needs volunteers to fill the following resource person categories. There is minimal involvement in that only when a member has a question that a knowledgeable member is available for assistance with their questions. Please let the Secretary/Treasurer know if you would like to fill one of these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

The PCA wishes to thank Lud Spinelli and Wesley Kidd for their volunteering to be resource persons for American Flyer/Connecticut Hobbies and King Plasticville respectively.

There are only five areas in which we do not have a resource person. In all cases we are referring to the plastic buildings of these companies. Please let the Secretary know if you can fill one of the these positions.

Plasticville HO  
Plasticville N  
Lionel Plasticville  
Skyline  
Storytown

## Vice Presidential Insights



Well another hot July in the Valley of the Sun. It was 115 yesterday and today our AC went out!

I attended the TCA Annual convention that was in Phoenix this year and here is a short review.

There were an only a few folks selling Plasticville and the selection was sparse, except for what member Shirley Hunter had for sale. No one had parts to sell to speak of which I found disappointing as well. There was also no Marx or any other Plastic buildings at this meet. Oh well, at least I saved some money and there is always Baltimore next year.

There was a dinner for PCA members this year and it was attended by three members and spouses. The attendees were my son Charles, Reginald Henry, and me. Both my wife Becky and Reginald's wife Wendy were also there. We all had a great time talking about a bit of everything including our collections. Maybe next year another member in Baltimore can arrange a small get together for the members?



Those attending the first official gathering of PCA members outside of a York train meet are from left to right, member Charles Gilliatt, Vice-President Doug Gilliatt, and member Reginald Henry.

It continues to be gratifying to me and the other Executive Committee members that our members continue to send in articles, stories and pictures that make *The Villager* the great publication that it is. It is always with great interest that I await the next issue to see what new things I can learn. Hopefully you, the members, will

continue to support our organization by sending in articles/photos etc. of interest to our members.

On another subject; this is that of On-line (e-mail) delivery of the *The Villager*. I would like to again promote the delivery to our members via e-mail in place of USPS mail delivery (we are closing in on 50% On-line delivery). I am sure there are some members who might not want on-line delivery and that is their decision.

However, for those who are considering on-line delivery here are some good reasons:

1. Timeliness – Arrives immediately after being uploaded so you get to read the great articles and the ads ahead of everyone who receives it via mail.
2. Storage – You can save *The Villager* and all its great articles on-line, no more searching thru your other publications looking for an issue.
3. Search capability on-line - so no more looking thru a stack looking for a specific article. On-line you can just search for the article (Keyword) to pull it up.
4. Portability – If you are like me and you carry a laptop when you travel, it is great to have the issues on the computer. You can pull up and review an article while you are on the road. You never know when you will find something that requires some research on your part and the articles are there at your fingertips.
5. Color – Reading *The Villager* On-Line in full color.
6. Last but not least, there is the cost savings to your Club, as there are no postage or printing costs associated with electronic delivery of *The Villager*.

Can the long time members believe we are closing in on our 10th year as an organization and with over 400 members, and still growing? Be sure to mention our organization at the meets or if you are with other collectors. We can always use new members and their knowledge.

Also, I want to continue to remind everyone to please remember to patronize our advertisers that support the PCA.

Everyone please have a safe and Happy Summer.  
PCA Vice-President, Doug Gilliatt.

**Lionel Plasticville American Flyer**

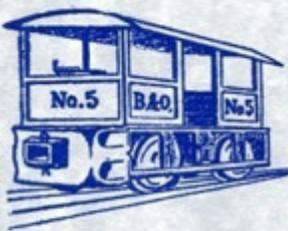
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## Notes from the Editor



It has taken nearly a year but the Plasticville Collectors Association is now officially recognized and designated by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c) (3) tax exempt organization. There are many benefits to obtaining this designation including exemption from paying taxes, reduced mailing rates – if I can ever decipher all of the regulations, and that donations to the PCA may be claimed on a donor's Federal income tax return as a charitable contribution. All donations whether monetary or in kind will be acknowledged with a receipt for tax purposes to comply with Federal law as well as provide the donor a record of their donation. Monetary donations will be acknowledged as to the amount, while in kind donations will be left to the donor to determine value.

As you have seen on the front page and will find in the minutes of the July Executive Committee meeting it has been decided to offer color hard copies of *The Villager*. Enough members expressed an interest in receiving color hard copies of *The Villager* at \$40 annual dues that the Executive Committee voted to offer that option. Look for a revised 2010 membership renewal notice.

September 15 will soon be upon us. If you want to order a golf shirt with the PCA logo please don't hesitate. The September 15 deadline was set to ensure that the shirts were shipped in time for the October York train meet.

I wish to thank two newer members for volunteering to fill openings as resource persons. Lud Spinelli has offered to fill the opening as the resource person for the American Flyer/Connecticut Hobbies buildings. I am sure he will be valued in this position as he is an American Flyer collector and frequents train meets in numerous East Coast states. New member, this year, Wesley Kidd has offered to be the resource person for King Plasticville. I hope that others will offer to fill the remaining openings. It is the easiest job in the club as one only has to be available to answer questions now and again. No muss, no fuss, and no meetings to attend!

Our webmaster and the website developer have been working diligently to create a standard format for viewing pieces in each category of Plasticville buildings. If you have not visited the website in a while I suggest you look at the new format in which the Ranch Houses are listed. I believe that this format will enable members to verify not only the colors of their buildings but also the Bachmann item number associated with their piece.

If you are not receiving emails from PCA@netins.net then you are missing out on club information. I am still getting non-deliverable emails when I send out messages

to the general membership. These messages include notifications when a new edition of *The Villager* is available on line, special offers to members only, informal member meetings, and other announcements. Please let me know whenever you change your email address so that I may update your membership record.

With the last message I sent, I received undeliverable responses for the following:

Arnold Douglas, Eatontown, NJ

Lee A Johnson, Sheboygan, WI

Ralph Abildnes, Swan Lake, NY

Scott Hickam, Murphysboro, IL

The date of the 10th anniversary of the incorporation of the PCA is August 1, 2011. I have been in contact with Bachmann regarding the creation of a special edition of one of their current production buildings. They are definitely on board with honoring our 10th anniversary with a special piece.

I have received some suggestions but would like to see more. Don't hesitate to make a suggestion. All suggestions will be considered by the Executive Committee and the final decision will be made based upon those suggestions. Please email your suggestions to PCA@netins.net or mail your suggestions to: PCA, ATTN: 10th ANNIVERSARY SUGGESTION, 601 SE Second Street, Ankeny, Iowa 50021-3207.

I greatly appreciate all of the members who send me used postage stamps for the youngsters. There is no need to send a few at a time. I would suggest that you clip them, toss them into an envelope, and then send them with your membership renewal dues. This will save you postage and still accomplish the end of getting the stamps to me.

Have you been to the Bachmann Gift Shop on their website? They offer a "Property of Plasticville High" T-shirt, two different coffee mugs, a ball cap, and the current catalogs. At \$9.99 plus shipping the T-shirt seems to be a bargain. I have one and whenever I wear it I am asked, "Where is Plasticville?" Imagine all of the possible answers.

If you are a high railer and are looking for signals you may want to check out the Atlas O Color Position Light Signal, part of their 21st Century Signal System offerings. It is modeled after the PRR-type position light signals and faithfully replicates the vertical green, diagonal yellow, and horizontal red lighting of the prototype. It lists for \$67.95 for the three rail version and \$78.75 for the 2 rail version.

Also available from Atlas is an HO laser-cut plywood kit, Kim's Classic Garage. It is a 2 pack of garages designed to complement the previously released Kim's Classic American home. The kit lists for \$48.35.

## Minutes of the July, 2009 Executive Committee Meeting

The July, 2009 Executive Committee meeting was called to order on July 12 at 12:00, Noon, Eastern Time by President Glenn Bowman

Those in attendance were; President Glenn Bowman, Vice-President Doug Gilliatt, Immediate past President Fred Ruby, and Secretary/Treasurer John Niehaus. Comments attributed to Joe Kutza are from an email in response to an agenda sent previous to the meeting.

### **Old business:**

#### **Application for 501(c) (3) acknowledgement**

Secretary Niehaus reported that he received confirmation on May 20, 2009 that the PCA is now recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c) (3) organization with an effective date of August 30, 2001.

#### **Donated items from Bachmann**

Secretary Niehaus reported that an additional request for items was received from Southern California S Gaugers Club and that the requested pieces were shipped. He also reported that there have not been any orders generated through the notice on the PCA website.

#### **Downloading issues with electronic documents from the on line storage provider**

Joe Kutza reported that there was no update on this issue.

#### **Retaining the professional website developer as our webmaster**

Joe Kutza reported that the person currently performing the task of website developer is to be considered our webmaster.

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

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to accept the bylaw change as no objections were received from club members.

#### **PCA debit card**

Secretary Niehaus reported that the PCA now has a debit card to use in lieu of checks.

#### **Adding scale interest to the membership application**

John needs to update the application and will do at the same time as he revises the dues schedule to allow payment for color hard copies.

#### **Creating and mailing a member information update and satisfaction survey**

Tabled

#### **Unlimited Plastics information on the website**

Joe Kutza reported that additional information regarding Unlimited Plastics was added to the Littleton section of the website.

#### **PCA member meeting at the upcoming TCA convention in Phoenix**

Vice President Doug Gilliatt reported that Reginald Henry and his wife Becky attended the convention dinner. Accompanying Doug was his wife and his son Charlie.

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

Secretary Niehaus reported that he had responses both positive and negative to offering color hard copies of the newsletter.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to offer the option of mailed color hard copies of *The Villager* commencing with 2010 issues.

A second motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to set the membership dues at \$40 for mailed color hard copies of *The Villager* for 2010.

An additional motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to continue the dues for ePCA membership and mailed black and white copies of the newsletter at \$10 for 2010.

#### **Securing Plasticville photos on website to members only**

Joe Kutza reported that the O scale is now secured to members only but that the HO section still needs to be secured to members only.

#### **“Plasticville Police” – volunteer to monitor eBay Plasticville listings and report incorrect/bogus listings**

Glenn Bowman reported that he has had no success in his attempts to contact eBay. He asked John to see if he can find out who to contact at eBay through his contacts at the American Philatelic Society.

#### **Web page photo project coordinator**

Joe Kutza reported that he has worked with Glenn Bowman and the website developer to revise the Ranch House listing to the desired standard. He will continue to work with Glenn Bowman and the website developer to update the remainder of the listings.

#### **Backup developer to ensure continuity of the website**

Joe Kutza reported that the current website developer performs this task part time. Joe suggested that as a temporary measure that the PCA ensure that their version of the software be current with that of the developer.

A motion was made and unanimously seconded that the PCA purchase an upgrade to the version of the web development software used by the website developer and allow Joe to load it on his personal computer as a backup to the professional developer.

#### **10th anniversary piece**

Secretary Niehaus reported that suggestions for a 10th anniversary building include: a Frosty Bar, a Barn with a PCA 10th anniversary sticker, TV Transmission Tower, a windmill and barn combination, an O scale freight car, a water tower with the PCA logo embossed into the side, a factory with PCA logo on tower or over the door.

Secretary Niehaus reminded the Committee that the choice of piece would more than likely be one that is currently in production.

#### **Golf shirts on a pre-order basis**

Secretary Niehaus reported that he has received only a few shirt orders at this time. He reported that the order form and article which appeared in the May issue of *The Villager* will be included in the August issue.

#### **New Business:**

##### **PCA home page update to denote that the PCA is a 501(c) (3) organization**

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to ask the webmaster to have the website developer change the paragraph at the bottom of the PCA website home page to note that the PCA is a 501(c) (3) organization.

Joe Kutza stated that he will work with the website developer to add this information to the PCA website home page.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:39 PM, Eastern Time

Respectfully submitted; John L Niehaus

Secretary/Treasurer

Approved by the Executive Committee, July 15, 2009

## **A RARE FIND**

By David Allen

In all of my years of collecting, and of the many things that I've collected, I believe that Plasticville and its related items have given me more moments of thrill than any other. I've found that rare train at a flea market or garage sale. I've gotten some good deals on things. But for some reason, finding a scarce of rare Plasticville item is the most thrilling. This is true, I find, whether I already have the item or not. Duplicates of that nature are fine with me! I am sure that all of us, at one time or another has had this experience.

I have been in a rather dry spell with the last really good find I made about a year ago last June when I stumbled across a Dark Blue ranch house, like new in the box, sitting in an old train store with \$20 on it. As with most dedicated collectors, I'm always on the lookout for scarce, rare, and/or unusual items. I would like to share the story of my latest find with you.

It was a boring evening; TV was terrible, no chores left to do, and the honey-do list (aka "The Scroll") was blank. For no specific reason I was upstairs and stopped into the study and checked my e-mail. Nothing there, so I did a quick look on eBay. The page loaded and I started moving down the listings. It was my lucky day! I spotted a Make N Play Fire Chief Helmet pencil sharpener, and it was Buy It Now. I snapped it up immediately as I had heard that these were quite hard to find. I was happy and excited about my find and immediately sent payment.

The seller responded with a thank you, and I took the opportunity to ask if he happened to have any of the other components of a Make N Play set such as a fire house or fire trucks etc. He did not respond right away, so I had a chance to do some research on this Make N Play stuff by Bachmann.

The old Iron Horse publication had only one page of information in it, and no values. Bill Nole's newer book

had a little more information, and some great photos of mint kits, but again, no values.

After a short while I checked my e-mail, and still had no reply to my inquiry. So I checked the auctions again. Unbelievably, there I see yet another Make N Play Fire Chief Helmet pencil sharpener. Again it was Buy It Now, and again I snapped it up. I went back to my e-mail to contact the seller and ask if they could ship them both for the same cost I had already paid. I found a response to my original inquiry there, and the seller stated that he collected pencil sharpeners, and did not have any of the other Make N Play components, but that he had listed yet another Helmet pencil sharpener. So I informed the seller that I had purchased the other pencil sharpener, and asked about the combined shipping.

Now I had some research to do. I knew about the Fire Chief Helmet pencil sharpeners and the Make N Play sets. I knew they were hard to find. In fact, in all of my many years of collecting, I think I had only seen one and it was not being sold, or something prevented me from obtaining it. I also knew they came in red. But wait just a minute! I just bought two, and neither one of them was red. One was black, and one was yellow.

During this buying spree, I had been conversing with Bill Nole regarding some parts, and he had seen my dealings on the first black helmet, and said I got a great deal. So I inquired as to if he knew them to come in any other color but red. Bill said he had never heard of them, or had never seen one in any other color but red.

I asked another collector I know for his opinion, and I got the same reply, they had never seen any in any color except red, and that the Make N Play kits are exceedingly rare. As can be expected, my excitement was growing. I waited on pins and needles for their arrival in the mail. Finally, the parcel arrived, intact.

I gently opened it and removed the pieces. I was very surprised at the size of them. From the photos, I was assuming they were quite small, but these measured a good two inches wide and about an inch and a half tall. The little paper badges were of course there and intact. Both helmets were in excellent condition.

I took a series of clear digital photos, and sent them off to our PCA President, Glenn Bowman for his opinion. Glenn stated that he had only seen them in red with a white sharpener, and white with a red sharpener. With that, I am concluding that these are indeed quite rare as no

one seems to have ever seen one, or heard of one in any other color but red or white. I sent the photos off to Bill Nole, and asked his opinion as to their authenticity, and he kindly confirmed that they certainly do look real with correct paper badge.

I would like to share this find with the PCA membership, and have supplied digital photos of both helmets. If anyone else has any information on these, or has seen, or has, any other colors besides red in their collection, please let us know.

David & Kim Allen, PCA 02-121



The only recorded color of the Fire Chief helmets in the Make N Play sets is red. We now have visual proof that the helmets were molded in black and yellow. Numerous questions now arise. Were these colors included in the Make N Play sets? Were those molded in black and yellow offered as single sale items? It is interesting to note that the sharpener in the yellow helmet is red while the sharpener in the black helmet is yellow. What is the color/s of the sharpeners in the red helmets? Are they all the same color or various colors? Member input is solicited as to what color sharpener is in the red helmet.

## ARE YOU AN HO PLASTICVILLE COLLECTOR?

### WOULD YOU LIKE TO WRITE HO ARTICLES FOR *THE VILLAGER*?

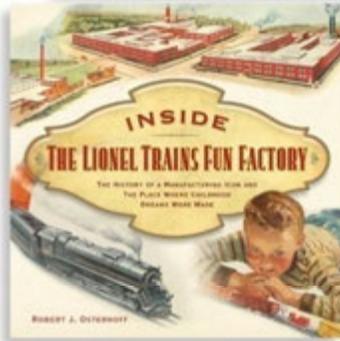
The Plasticville Collectors Association has grown to the point where there are a number of collectors who specialize in HO Plasticville.

If you are a collector of HO Plasticville, how about sharing your knowledge with the members. You do not have to be concerned with the format or even the quality of writing. Put your thoughts down in electronic or paper form and send them to *The Villager* editor. No contribution is too small or insignificant.

# INSIDE THE LIONEL TRAINS FUN FACTORY

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

BY: ROBERT J. OSTERHOFF



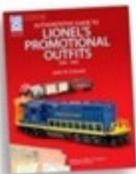
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## ALSO FROM PROJECT ROAR PUBLISHING

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XX Large		\$21.50		
XXX Large		\$21.50		
<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>\$</b>

## Non-Railfan Antics

### A View from the Other Side

By Gordon C Kelley

In the late 1970's I was called for a 7:50am work train at the cut off. There were eight other jobs that went to work there and when I counted engines there were only eight. We were to be number nine but there wasn't a ninth engine.

I called the director to tell him of the problem. He told me to go out and sit because we would have power.

I told the yard master when he came in at 7:00. He told me to go sit – there was plenty of power.

I told my conductor when he came in. He called various people and he was told to go out and sit because we had power assigned. So we did just that. We sat and sat.

By 8:00 all the other jobs had gone to work and all the power was gone. We continued to sit.

At 8:45 the Milwaukee Road master came in. He wanted to know where his crew was for the work train. He needed gravel to be shook and needed it now! He was told by the yardmaster where we were but that we were waiting for power. He blew up when I told him that I notified people at 6:15am that we did not have power.

We were ordered to get an engine that was coming out of the west yard. It had been there for the weekend and needed service. I was now 10:00am and I am on an engine that is running out of fuel. I was ordered to go to work with it and not go to the house for fuel. We took the engine, doubled to our rock cars and the engine died for the last time. We were out of fuel!

We were pulled onto the fuel track at 12:30pm. I wrote a report about the morning activities along with a work report on the engine. They were picked up at 1:00pm. At 11:30pm the traveling engineer got on the engine and asked why I had not made out a work report. I handed him a carbon copy of both reports.

I found out later that the power desk had thrown out both of my reports. They blamed me for all the problems. The traveling engineer showed them the carbon copies and they changed their story to say someone spilled ink on the reports. We all used ballpoint pens at that time! So much for that lie.

The engine was released at 2:00pm. We got back on the rock cars at 3:30pm. We went home, to sit, at 3:00pm and they shook rock the next day.

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## Clear Walled C18 Cathedral

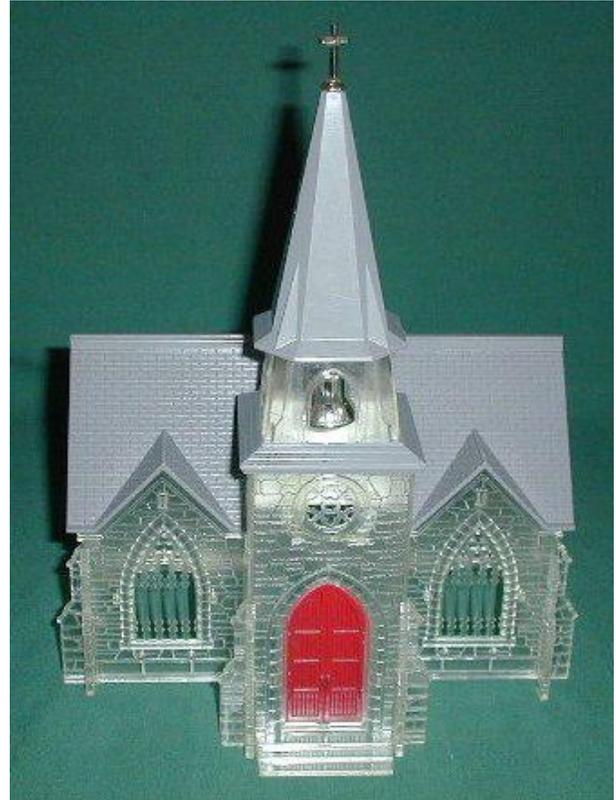
By Glenn Bowman

This is probably one of the rarest non-production items I have ever seen. It is presumed to be a test shot of the C18 cathedral in clear plastic. The clear pieces that I have are shown in the photo on the left. The door, cross, bell, and clapper in the photo were not included. The only structural piece that was missing was the short wall for the back of the bell tower.

In order to assemble the model for a photo I added a white small tower wall, all of the roof parts, the cross, and the bell. (*Glenn has since offered this item on eBay. It sold for over \$350.*)



The pictured clear walls of a C18 type cathedral are presumed to be test shot. Test shots were generally performed using clear or white plastic. They were used to verify that the mold was ready for production.



Additional pieces were added to the clear walls to create a complete model. Notice the white of the missing rear tower wall showing through the front wall



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# Creative Use of Damaged Parts

## Power House

By Edward Johnson

This is a model of a powerhouse or substation. It was influenced by the Lionel pre-war small powerhouse and an Ives powerhouse. Both of those models were made with sheet metal but for my model I used two sides and two backs from the Plasticville Bank.



The inspiration for my power house came from an Ives and a Lionel prewar metal power house, left to right respectively.

The smokestack is an HO model #6017 by Vollmer. I've had it for a number of years and felt it was time to use it. I covered the door on one back piece with some plastic brick material and cut a slot for the smoke stack base. The smokestack is attached to this model with a sticky wax. This way it can be easily removed when storing the powerhouse. I intend to eventually install a smoke generator in it.

The other back was cut out to accommodate a Plasticville Police Station door and two windows left over from a Lionel building kit. This section became the front of this model.

One bank sidewall was used as is. The other sidewall was cut and spliced to match the other side so that both large windows are toward the front. The ladder to the roof is from Plastistruct.



Brick material was used to cover the door of one back wall where the chimney will be attached while the other wall was cut to accommodate a police station door as well as cutting out openings for two windows.

The roof is a Plasticville Bank roof trimmed to fit. The skylight was cut out and a graphic application was used to create a semi-transparent sky light. The large roof vent is made from a cap from my wife's hair conditioner crème.

This model is lighted. The light over the door is a Walther's HO product.

The model was painted overall with Testors Flat Gull Gray. Testors Euro Gray was used on the foundation blocks. Tamiya semi-gloss black was used to paint the roof and the window. The roof trim was painted with Games Workshop Goblin Green.

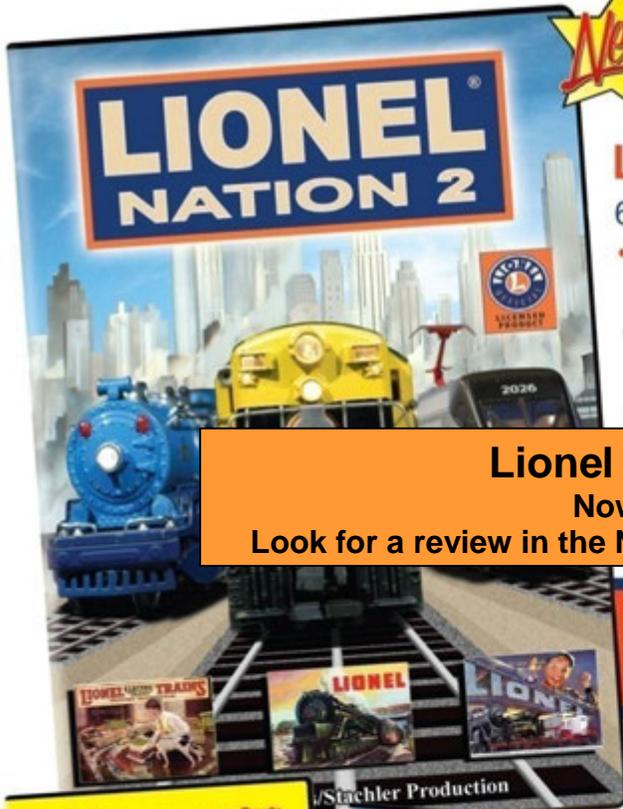
The insignia on the front is an image from the Internet.

*That's all folks, Eddie J*



From left to right: front, left, right, rear, and overhead views of the completed model. The wires visible in the picture are for the interior lighting. A smoke generator is also planned as a future addition.

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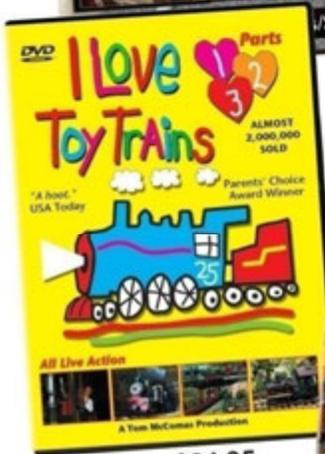
- Norm Charbonneau's incredible hi-rail, weathered, Legacy layout
- John Potter's prewar layout and collection
- We visit a toy train auction

## Lionel Nation No. 3

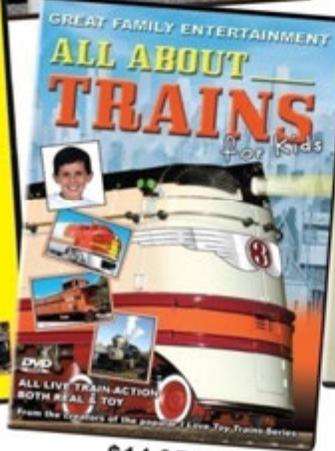
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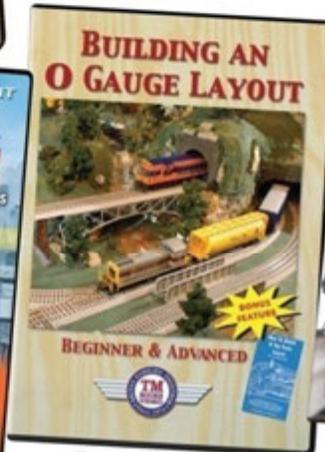
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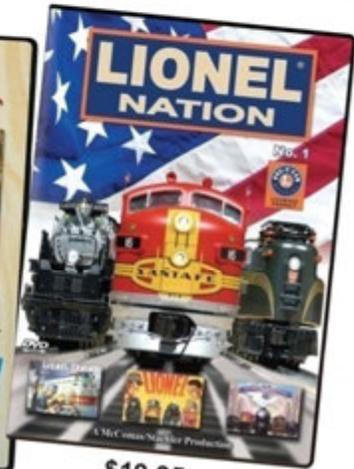
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# Plasticville on the Board

## Layouts for Kids

By John Gottcent

One of the things I've come to learn since becoming a grandparent is that building a layout for kids is a lot different from building one for adults. My regular layout, for instance, is about 40 inches off the floor—fine from an adult perspective (and good for my aching back when I have to crawl underneath to fix wiring). It's literally filled with bells and whistles, crossing gates and flashing lights, most of which wow grownups by working automatically as the train hustles around the track.

Photo One



But this is not so good for young kids, who have to be content with being held and merely watching as the dazzling display works its wonders. This may be OK for

a while (see six-month old granddaughter Lauren in Photo One), but soon the kids get bored. They want to get their hands on things, not simply serve as awestruck observers. So here are some tips for creating a successful layout for the preschool set.

First, put it on the floor. Forty inches may work for you, but not for someone who's only 30 inches tall herself! Keep it simple, with just a few trains and accessories. And as far as you can, keep the wiring out of sight and away from inquisitive hands. Photo Two shows what I came up with when I tried to apply these principles.

Photo Two



Second, make it interactive. Adults like to watch a crossing gate close "by itself" as the train goes by. It's the same with the watchman who comes out of his shack to warn of an approaching freight. If you've used insulated track sections instead of the cumbersome (and visible) weight switches supplied by Lionel and others in the past, they'll be amazed at how all this seems to work like magic.

Of course older kids like to watch too, as granddaughter Stella (2 ½) is doing in Photo Three. But they also like to operate things themselves. That's why I wired the gate,

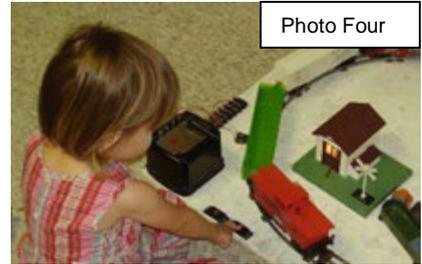
Photo Three



watchman, and the whistle shanty on my kids layout to pushbutton switches accessible up front, allowing Stella to make the whistle blow herself, as she's doing in Photo Four.

Sooner or later, kids will also want to operate the train itself. This can be arranged under adult supervision, at least for those two years old and up, by selecting the right transformer.

Photo Four



I chose a postwar Lionel #1034, a 75 watt power supply whose B-U terminals supply a maximum of 14 volts. That means even if the kids push the throttle to Full Speed (which they will eventually do), most trains will continue to handle the curves without derailing. The 1034 also has convenient fixed voltage terminals for the operating accessories, and a small red reverse button easier for tiny hands to push than the larger buttons found on other units. Also, as you'll notice in the pictures, I've plugged the transformer into a power strip which "only Grandpa can use," meaning that nothing will be operated without my presence and that, in case of emergency, I have a quick dead switch to shut everything down. (See the arrow in Photo Five)

As far as the train itself goes, kids like cars that are interactive too. That means fewer box cars and tankers, and more cars that things can be put into and taken out of, like the gondola and open-top hopper visible in the photos. It's also a good idea to have a few old automobiles and tractor-trailers ready up front, so kids have a few things they can push around directly, instead of by remote control.

What about the buildings that makes up your plastic village? This is certainly no place for your rare red-roofed post office or your complicated town hall. It is the place for things that are glued together (nobody likes to pick up a snap-together house and have it fall apart in their hands), or for your non-Plasticville structures like the miniature doll house and Lego-type white dentist's office seen back in Photo Two.

Kids also like to see the train go through a tunnel, so if you have one handy, set it up. But place it in back, away from tiny hands, so it doesn't get bumped or moved around such that the train smacks into it on its next go round.

I've saved the most important point for last. When all is said and done, it's time for you yourself to get down on the floor and get involved from the child's perspective. Photo Five shows me with grandson Nate playing with a different temporary layout I'd constructed at his house



Photo Five

instead of mine. And if you need help getting back up when the play is done, ask Grandma for assistance and keep the Ben-Gay handy that night. It will all be worth it! If you have comments or other kid-related advice you'd like to pass on, contact me at [jandjgott@gmail.com](mailto:jandjgott@gmail.com).

## 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](mailto: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.

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## **SEE ROCK CITY Barn**

By John Niehaus

President Bowman mentions in his article the he recently “picked up a Plasticville Dairy Barn kit that was created by Bachmann for the 1994 LCCA Convention in Chattanooga, TN”. I own one of these pieces, having purchased it on eBay in March of last year. I had heard a story that the piece existed about three years ago but had never seen one until it showed up on eBay.



The roof of a common 45932 Dairy Barn was painted black and vinyl letters spelling out SEE ROCK CITY were applied.

With a little bit of detective work we now know the story of how the piece came to be. The following is what I have been told by Bill Stitt. Bill was the 1994 LCCA Convention Host.

“In 1994, the local Convention Committee here in Chattanooga thought it would be interesting to have a See Rock City barn as an LCCA Convention piece. These barns were seen throughout the South in those times - similar to the old Chew Mail Pouch Tobacco barns in many places.

We ordered a total of 144 barns from Bachman. They were red with white roofs and trim. A local HO modeler who I don't know painted all the roofs black. The inside of one of the long red walls was stamped in black with

the identifying LCCA Convention mark. Then, the roofs were decorated on one side in white vinyl lettering by Joe Faulkner of Faulkner Sign Co. (a fellow I knew).

These barns were given away at the Banquet as one of the centerpiece prizes for attendees. Those few left over



The same inner wall on all pieces received the LCCA Convention rubber stamp.

were given to members of the Convention Committee team locally (approximately 25). I have one of these barns on my train layout currently and Joe missed lettering one roof. I still have this unmarked barn in the box in my basement somewhere.”

The barns ordered were the 45932 Dairy Barn. The black painting on the roof pieces is so well done that when I first acquired my model that I was certain it was black plastic.

The finished product was not created by Bachmann so it should probably be considered a kitbashed production piece rather than a piece created by Bachmann. Either way, they are definitely a unique addition to one's Plasticville collection.

My thanks to PCA member Charles Swanson for making me aware of the existence of this piece; Dick Johnson, LCCA President; Bob Carter, LCCA Secretary; and Bill Stitt, the 1994 LCCA convention host. They all played a part in my ability to report on this piece.

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## Ranch House Color Census Update

Two more possible color combinations have been reported for the first series of Ranch Houses.

Charles Wilber has reported that he has a piece with tan walls, light blue roof and light blue doors. He states, "I believe that this is a pre-production test run due to the inscription on the back of the rear wall." That inscription reads, "PLASTICVILLE, U.S.A. / REGISTERED".

Chuck Bryner sent an email stating, "I have a color combination that I did not see listed. It appears to be mint, but at the least it is in the box. It is bright blue (not turquoise) with a gray roof."

If you have either of these color combinations in an RH-1 box please send an email to PCA@netins.net.

Please use the words Ranch House Census as the subject of your email.

If you have color combinations other than these two or not on the list below please send an email to PCA@netins.net and use the words Ranch House Census in the subject

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 one or 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**

<b>Stamp</b>	<b>Walls</b>	<b>Roof</b>	<b>Doors</b>
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
	<b>white</b>	<b>pastel blue</b>	<b>light gray *</b>
Red/Brown	marbled brown	dark red	dark red

### **RH1 - 2nd series – Stamped with roof color only**

<b>Stamp</b>	<b>Walls</b>	<b>Roof</b>	<b>Doors</b>
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
	olive green	white	white
Blue	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.

\* added May 2009

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## What Members Are Saying

I have been very busy lately, plus I had eye surgery recently. Some day, I will get you some articles and pictures for publication.

One thing that I really want to compliment you on is the PCA website. The ability to view past newsletters is one of the absolutely best things about it. Putting them in a year by year format is terrific. There is a ton on ideas that we "Toy Train" enthusiasts can incorporate into our layouts from those newsletters. It also saves us from loading up our computers.

Thanks for the great work that the association does. I don't join a lot of organizations, but the PCA is one that I really enjoy. (Ron Schlicht) *I hope that the eye surgery was an unqualified success. The members as well as I will anxiously await your articles, especially one on how you perform "surgery" on Plasticville citizens to create new poses. Editor*

Keep up the Great Work - Love *The Villager*. (Walter Schurmann)

Do you know if Mike Cedro sells the A/C units or other detail items that you mentioned in *The Villager*? If so, would you pass my email on to him? I'd be interested in seeing what he's got for sale (James Deacon)

Phoenix in the summer? I know this wasn't chosen by anyone in PCA. (Michael Frank) *Michael is referring to the fact that the TCA convention was held in Phoenix this July. Editor*

Thank you for the opportunity to get THE VILLAGER in COLOR. YES. I WOULD PAY \$40 dues per year for color. Even if I am the only one, yes, send it to me in COLOR. (I made a simple calculation. At 28 pages per issue to "print" on my wife's color copier, that's about 120 pages per year to copy. A color cartridge from our Wal-Mart costs about \$30 each, and gives us about 50 pages of print, Gayle estimates. So, even "if" I ran it off, I'm still better to pay \$40 dues and have my Villager in Color. Even if it gave us 100 pages, I'm still ahead, plus the wear and tear on our copier and the paper costs. Please, give it to me in color.) I still want it in COLOR to sit and read in my easy chair. THANK YOU. Please send my "thanks" to President Glenn Bowman for the "color" option. (Jim Steed)

Please discontinue the mailed B&W hardcopy of the Villager effective with May 2009. I'd rather just download the color online version. (Ron Oechslin)

Congratulations on a great issue of the newsletter! You can convert me to internet-only receipt. (Mark Lembersky)

I would like to see more articles on HO Plasticville in *The Villager*. There is not much info on HO Plasticville

in previous newsletters since Dominic San Giovanni stopped writing articles. Also I see that the roster does not list an HO resource person. There must be someone in the club who is HO knowledgeable who could volunteer to be the resource person. (Robert W Johnson) *The newsletter is primarily the contributions of articles by members. I can only publish what I receive and would be thrilled if one or more members would send me articles related to HO Plasticville and other HO manufacturers. Editor*

I would love to pay \$40 per year to get a color copy! Thanks for considering it! Can I vote early and often? (Phil McKnight)

While I'm happy to pay any extra to get it by mail rather than on my computer, so I can read it while walking my dog or on the subway and have a paper copy to file, I don't see the need for color. At least if it goes through, people like me won't have to pay for it. (Michael Frank)

I would not pay for a hard copy color newsletter. Black & white is fine. If I want to see the color pictures, I go on the web site. This does not happen too often. I will continue to get the hard copy versus e-copy because it is easier to read when not sitting at the computer. (Lawrence Fachler)

10th Anniversary Suggestion. The Plasticville Factory. Maybe "PCA" on the water tank or across the door. America (especially in the 50's) stood for MANUFACTURING. Our Plasticville and the era of modeling usually coincides with the 50's, the steam/diesel transition era. My suggestion; the factory. (Jim Steed)

Instead of a different color or a stick on label, is it possible to temporarily insert something into the die to leave an impression in the plastic? Example: the water tower with "PCA" embossed in it. That would make the item very unique. (Phil Fravesi)

I would like to suggest The WPLA Transmission Tower for the 10th Anniversary building. It was my first Plasticville structure. It was a Christmas gift from my grandmother, probably late 50's early 60's. A great addition would be a blinking red light on the tower as seen in *The Villager*..... Keep up the Great Work-Love *The Villager*. (Walter Schurmann)

Please consider producing an O/S Plasticville Frosty Bar in turquoise & white (no chrome) for the 10th anniversary building. (Doug Jines)

Instead of yet another color combination of an old building, I'd like to see an O-gauge freight car labeled for Plasticville. I believe Atlas produced one (a boxcar) a few years ago but I was not quick enough on the draw to buy

one. Now, it would seem appropriate for Williams to make one. (John Gottcent)

How about a windmill and a BN-1 barn, as a set in PCA colors? I have always found the monotone windmill to be somewhat uninteresting, but if it were blue and white [or, for that matter, even all blue] it would stand out on a layout or display. Also, having the barn makes a nice set - and these two could be displayed with the 5th Anniversary run, which could be the 'farm house'.

I would argue against a special piece of rolling stock, for the simple reason that members collect & operate different scale trains. It would be prohibitively costly to produce more than one size car. Also, I suspect there are PCA members who focus on plastic villages alone and do not have a train collection/layout. It would be shame to leave these members, and members with the "wrong" scale trains, out of the 10th Anniversary celebration item.

By the way, another thought on my suggestion for a 10th Anniversary windmill & barn in PCA colors. I just noticed that the picture on [at least one of] the early windmill boxes shows it standing next to a barn. And,

looking at the plain gray windmill, it sure would be spruced up if made 2-tone in PCA colors. (Mark Lembersky)

I would like to see the barn issued for the PCA 10th anniversary. I think it should be in the same color scheme as the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary house: blue walls, light grey roof and maybe a gold weathervane. I would also like to see a sticker or decal of the PCA logo, maybe adding "10th Anniversary," that could be placed on the barn's blank wall on the silo side. This would be reminiscent of the many "Mail Pouch" barns found throughout Bachmann's home state of Pennsylvania, my home state of Ohio and many other states in the east. Many other advertisements can still be found painted on barns including the Ohio Bicentennial in 2003. I would not like to see rolling stock issued - we generally collect Plasticville, not rolling stock. (Tom Fritsch)

10th Anniversary bldg; how about a former Littleton General Store (center store) in blue and white w/multiple inserts (PCA, Plasticville, Bachmann). (Joseph Mace)

## Welcome New Members

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

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

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

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

## 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

Richard L Lilleberg, Cypress, CA  
David G Florio, Roseto, PA  
Todd M Hendrickson, Fairfield, CA  
John L Faso, Pembroke Pines, FL

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 October 1, 2009.

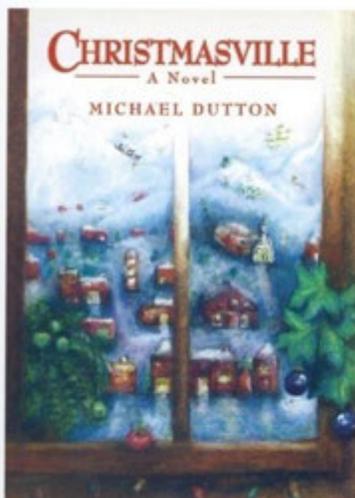
Ronald P Tedesco Sr, Boothwyn, PA  
William R Klein, Danville, IL  
Allan L Becker, East Peoria, IL

# 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)

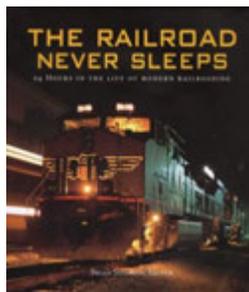
*Autographed, Hardcover, First Edition*

- 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](http://www.lindenparkpublishers.com)

## Product Reviews



**The Railroad Never sleeps, 24 Hours in the Life of Modern Railroading**, Brian Solomon, published by Voyageur Press, 176 pages, hardcover, 9 1/4 X 10 7/8 format, color photos throughout. \$35.00 U.S., \$38.50 Canada.

This book is very similar to the *Day in the Life* books published a few years ago. It chronicles the activities of the modern railroad industry over a 24 hour period in a multitude of captioned photographs.

The photos were all taken on the same day, May 10, 2007. May 10 is the anniversary date of the 1869 Golden Spike ceremony in Promontory, Utah. Inside the front cover is a map covering the United States and Canada indicating some of the locations where photographs were taken. The same map is inside the back cover. By my count there were well over one hundred locations across the United States and Canada.

Numerous individuals provided photos for this book. In looking at the photo credits on the pictures I noticed many names of well-known railroad photographers. The majority of the photos are of such a size that there are

usually only two per page. There are some single page and a few two page photos.

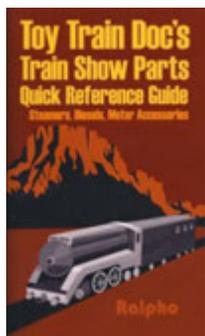
Each photo is accompanied by a paragraph indicating the time, location, and the relevance of the photo being included in this volume. The majority of the photos are of trains but there are also photos of maintenance crews at work as well as views inside modern switching facilities.

The book contains seven chapters. Each chapter contains between a page and a page and a half of introductory text to set the chapter's tone. Most of these are the work of the author while some are by well-known railroad photographers as well.

The index is nicely done as it lists the railroads included in this volume as well as the locations where photos were taken. The addition of the photo shoot locations is a nice touch.

This book very nicely chronicles a day in the life of the railroad industry. It is very easy to read and the photos are fantastic. I enjoyed my time with it and will visit it again in the future. This book and the previously reviewed book, *Working on the Railroad* from Voyageur Press would make nice additions to any railfan's library.

The Railroad Never Sleeps can be purchased from Voyageur press on their website at [voyageurpress.com](http://voyageurpress.com) or by telephone order at 800 826-6600. It is also available on line and possibly available in your local Barnes & Noble or Borders Books store.



**Toy Train Doc's Train Show Parts Quick Reference Guide, Steamers, Diesels, Motor Accessories**, Ralph Ofchinick, perfect bound, 81 pages, 5 X 8, published by AuthorHouse, \$14.95.

The book is broken down into fifteen chapters. Some of the chapters included are; EMD Switchers, 200 Series Alco engines, 2300 Series F3 units, and Scout locomotives. Inside each chapter is

a listing of units as well as the repair parts associated with each unit. Numbers are included, where applicable, in each chapter for the tender, motor, brush, brush spring, E-unit, bulb, roller, smoke unit, and power truck.

I did notice that a few of the chapters did not seem to include all of the units that one would expect in the chapter. One that seemed to be missing was the 2333 and 2343 F3 diesels from the 2300 Series chapter. I am presuming that adequate information is not available or it would have been included in the book.

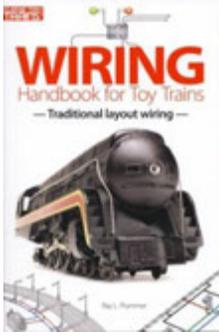
The book is bound on the long side, but to use the

charts one has to open it with the binding at the top rather than the left side. This is not an issue except that facing pages are positioned such that one has to rotate the book 180 degrees to read the opposite page. My guess is that happened due to a printer's layout error and the need to rotate the book to read opposing pages was not intended by the author.

To the best of my knowledge this is the first guide to electrical repair parts for postwar units in a compact format. Hopefully, with the assistance of others in the toy train repair hobby this book can be expanded to cover all of the postwar units.

I recommend this book if you are looking for a small format guide to use at train meets when looking for electrical parts for postwar units. (It sure beats hauling around one of the old hardbound *Greenberg' Repair and Operating* manuals!)

Toy Train Doc's Train Show Parts Quick Reference Guide, Steamers, Diesels, Motor Accessories can be purchased from the AuthorHouse website at [authorhouse.com](http://authorhouse.com). It is also available on the Barnes & Noble website at prices starting at \$9.99. I also found it on the Amazon website with prices from \$9.22 to \$19.91 which is nearly five dollars higher than the list price!



**Wiring Handbook for Toy Trains – Traditional layout wiring**, by Ray L. Plummer, published by Kalmbach Books, \$17.95, 96 pages. 5 1/2 X 8 1/2 inches, perfect bound.

Many of us grew up well before electronic control of trains was even thought possible. You may even be one of the people who, as the introduction of this book intimates, prefers to run your trains without all of the electronics.

There are 21 chapters in the book. As would be expected the first two chapters deal with the very basics of electricity. There are also chapters on multimeters as well as amp and volt meters.

The third chapter discusses transformers and has an excellent chart listing the input rating and usable wattage of some of the most popular postwar transformers. It also contains inspection information should one decide to use the postwar transformers instead of newer ones. It also contains instructions and suggestions on how to phase transformers as well as a helpful tip regarding how to keep them in phase.

Chapter seven contains a chart of the more popular postwar transformers along with their common ground post as well as a fixed and variable voltage posts.

Wiring, connectors, and soldering are also covered in this book. There are also chapters on operating toy trains as well as collision prevention.

**Micro-Mark O scale coaling tower topper kit, #84306.** An addition Laser-cut wood kit for the top of a Plasticville O scale coaling tower. \$24.95. *(I believe that this is only the second time that there has been a review of a laser-cut building in The Villager. All others have been plastic building reviews. As this is*



*designed to complement a Plasticville piece I felt it appropriate to publish this review. Editor)*

This kit goes together quite easily. I had the main part of the building assembled in two evenings. It took that long only to allow the glue to dry. The exterior walls are grooved as if made siding. The roof sections are two-piece. The instructions state to glue the brown cardstock piece to the rafters for the side sections and the ridge pole for the upper section if desired then add the simulated corrugated roofing. I found that doing so gave the building a bit more realistic look as the cardstock very nicely simulated typical sheathing.

The instructions are fairly easy to follow. It is also advisable to refer to the illustrations for guidance. I failed in this as I installed the windows from the inside instead

Do you know the input (operating) voltage of all of your postwar accessories? Over 30 postwar accessories are charted by Lionel number, name, and input voltage on page 62.

Chapter sixteen lists many postwar accessories by the type of controller that was packed with them. It then proceeds to instruct on how to create replacement controllers. Wiring diagrams are included for such accessories as the 97 coal elevator and the 456C coal ramp.

The final pages of the book contain eight layout diagrams. The last offering in the book is a brief description of how to set up a “waterwings” style layout that will allow two Lionel trolley cars to run independently on the layout and not crash. I believe that is something unique enough yet also simple enough that I may try building it myself.

This small format book is jam packed with information over and above just discussing traditional transformer controlled layout wiring. I felt that the charts alone are well worth the \$17.95 cover price. If you are working on a traditional layout and are looking for tips then I recommend this book.

Wiring Handbook for Toy Trains – Traditional layout wiring can be purchased from Kalmbach Books through their website at [www.kalmbachbooks.com](http://www.kalmbachbooks.com). Their 800 phone number for orders is 800 533-6644.

The Barnes & Noble website offers it for \$16.15 on line. New copies are offered at \$13.46 on Amazon’s website. I did not find it on Borders Books’ website.

of the outside thus they do not have frames around them.

A nice feature that does not show up in the illustrations but does in the instructions is to use the included angle strips of wood to cover the corners. This hides the tongued joints and really gives the piece a nice finishing touch.

In addition to the main building there are pieces to add a gate detail to the chute, and a new door at the top of the stairs.

The only drawback to this item is that one must remove the entire original tower above the last vertical board as well as trim a bit off the long chute. I found that the topper fit quite well over the walls of the tower once they were trimmed and did not need to be secured to the walls. The photos you see are of the kit I assembled.

If you have a tower that is not in the best of shape or do not have reservations about cutting pieces off the walls then I recommend you give this kit a try. Unfortunately, I had neither. I wish to extend my thanks to Bachmann for supplying the coaling tower kit pictured in this review.

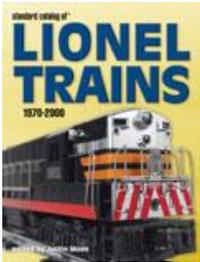
The kit, #84306, can be purchased from Micro-Mark at 800 225-1066 or on their website at [micromark.com](http://micromark.com). I entered the word *topper* in the search field and clicked Go. Much to my surprise the topper was on sale at a mere \$16.70.



**Tool-Light**, a set of three lighted tweezers, in a hard case, designed for different applications. Manufactured by TweezLight International, 7344 Laurel Canyon Blvd, N Hollywood, CA 91605. \$19.99 as reviewed.

TweezLight has created a set of three stainless steel tweezers in a hard case with a spring loaded hinged lid. The review set contains one each of the needle tip, chisel tip, and grabber jaw tweezers. Each has a high intensity white LED light as part of the tool. The lights are powered by three replaceable LR41 or AG3 button cell batteries. A switch on the side of the battery barrel turns the light off and on.

The grabber jaws tweezers have the ends serrated which would make it easier to pick up thin items or something that was relatively slippery. The tips of the chiseled tip tweezers are more like a standard set of tweezers. The needle tip tweezers are probably the set that would probably be of the greatest value



**Standard Catalog of Lionel Trains, 1970 – 2000**, Justin Moen, published by Krause publications, 396 pages, perfect bound, 8-1/4 X 11 format, color photos throughout. \$32.99 U.S., \$35.99 Canada.

I believe this is one of, if not the first, book to attempt to document Lionel trains of the modern era. My initial question was how the author was going to be able to do this in a single volume even if only chronicling thirty years of production. The text only Greenberg's pocket guide contains approximately double the entries for those same thirty years as the previous seventy precipitated that question. I was pleased to see that it has been done quite well.

The initial chapter in the book has the usual information for non-collectors. The one page history at the beginning of this chapter is probably one of the best, yet concise, histories I have read. In addition to the history there are the usual "How to use this Guide" information, a few paragraphs on collecting as well as a listing of the four major U.S. train collecting organizations. There is also a very informative half page discussion of scale vs. gauge and a description of Standard-O track.

The remaining thirteen chapters are laid out in a two column vertical format. They are divided into three categories. These categories include; Locomotives, Freight & Maintenance of Way Cars, and Passenger Cars. The last chapter contains illustrations of the consumer catalogs for each year as well as some additional toy fair catalogs and flyers. It is my hope that the author will publish a book on the accessories of this era as they are not included in this volume.

Surprisingly, there is no index of Lionel numbers. Hopefully in the next edition there will be an index with both the Lionel stock number as well as the numbers on the sides of pieces included.

Each chapter is prefaced with a full page photo of an item included in the chapter as well as a text introduction. Do not expect that you will see a photo of every item produced during the timeframe of this book. The author notes that where similar versions of a specific item were made he chose to illustrate a single piece and then list the versions below. An example of

to a modeler. I used them to add some fine details to the coaling tower topper reviewed above.

The Tool-Light tweezers come in three different sets. The set reviewed and illustrated here lists for \$19.99. A two-piece set including one each of the grabber and the needle tip tools in carrying pouch lists for \$14.99. A three-piece set in a carrying pouch including one each of the three different tip configurations lists \$19.99. All come with either six or nine additional batteries, depending upon how many Tool-Lights are in the set. Shipping is listed as \$6.95.

These lighted tweezers just may be what is needed for fine work or for those needing greater illumination of their kitbashing projects.

Tool-Light can be purchased on line from TweezLight at [www.tweezlight.com](http://www.tweezlight.com). You may want to check out their newest item; Magnet Light. It magnetically attaches to the shank of a screwdriver.

this would be the 18256, 7, 8, & 9 Dash 9 diesel locomotives of 1999. The Amtrak 18256 is illustrated while the remaining three are only described.

The descriptions are also as brief as possible while still conveying the information needed to identify a specific piece. As an example the deep blue color 9747 Chessie boxcar description reads, "9747 Chessie System: 1975-76, double-door boxcar."

Most of the photos nearly fill their half page width while others are smaller. All photos throughout the book are of excellent quality. The author notes that he used various sources for the photos and this is sometimes obvious. Some photos show the box as well as the item. Had the box been cropped out where it added no value to the picture, I believe a much larger photo could have been included. This would have been most helpful with passenger cars or boxcars with fine detailing. A larger photo would have been more to my liking.

I compared the prices in this book to the 2009 Greenberg's Lionel Trains pocket price guide. The prices listed in this book are for excellent and like new condition as are the prices in the Greenberg's guide. I was very surprised by what I found.

The prices in this book were lower on nearly every item that I compared. Two examples; the 8101 Chicago & Alton 4-6-4 from 1981 lists in this book at \$125/\$175 while in Greenberg's it lists at \$275/\$445. The Milwaukee Road EP-5 of 1976-77 lists for \$68/\$80 yet Greenberg's lists it at \$160/\$195.

The author states that the values in this book are, "based in part on monitoring activities, train shows, and auctions..... It is important however that you remember these values serve only as a guide."

As a first attempt at documenting this era of Lionel trains I feel this is a very good offering and my hat is off to the author for his efforts. If you are a serious collector of trains of this era then the fact that variations of a single item are listed makes this a "must have". It will definitely be added to my reference library.

Standard Catalog of Lionel Trains, 1970 – 2000 can be purchased from Krause publications at [www.krausebooks.com](http://www.krausebooks.com). Their telephone order number is 800 258-0929.

It is also available through the websites of Barnes & Noble and Borders.

## The Villager Classified Ads

### **Note:**

Member information such as name, address, email address, and member number should not be considered part of the word count. Telephone numbers will be included in the ad only if they are part of the submitted ad.

Classified ads run for four consecutive issues unless a change is made to the ad or notice is given to remove it.

The month and year at the end of each ad notes the last issue in which 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.

### **For Sale**

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](mailto:cmcnerney@hughes.net), #08-545, Carmen McNerney, 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. [gfulgiewicz@aol.com](mailto: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. [factf@juno.com](mailto:factf@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](mailto:starredm@gmail.com). #09-580 David M Starre, 5105 Herman Ave, Cleveland OH 44102 (Feb 10)

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

Send payment and the description of item desired to Plasticville Collectors Association, John L 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.

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  
See photos of the pieces on the PCA website.

### **Golf Shirts**

**Order by 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](mailto:secretary@plasticvilleusa.org) or mail your suggestions to him at the address noted above.

## For Trade

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

## Wanted

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

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

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 (Feb 10)

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)

Littleton passenger station parts; red or yellow chimney. Red left hand door and white base. Also built-up toy garage; yellow walls, red roof, blue doors (manufacturer unknown from the 50's. 01-56, Joseph Mace, 10083 Perry Hwy, Wexford, PA 15090-9224 (May 10)

HO parts; walls, doors, windows, roofs, chimneys and other small pieces. #02-117, Robert W Johnson, 419 US Hwy One, Apt 101E, North Palm Beach, FL 561 845-2484. (May 10)

Looking for crisp clear high quality photocopy of nursery rhyme for Goosey Gander Castle and Old Lady in a Shoe. Also can anyone supply the measurement of an original rhyme sheet. PDF file of the above copies is acceptable. #02-121, David Allen, 318 Wheatsheaf Dr, New Castle, DE 19720 (May 10)

### 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 Williams by Bachmann® Platinum Club!



New for 2009. The perfect addition to your Plasticville, USA® community, this year's Platinum Club car is a colorful 3 dome tank car. The car is a limited edition and will be delivered in Fall 2009.

### Membership Benefits for 2009

- limited edition Platinum Club Car
- 2009 Williams by Bachmann® catalog
  - quarterly e-mail newsletters
- new product announcements emails

All this for only \$35.00 makes ours the most affordable O-gauge club.

Join today!

Membership fee is \$35 per year. Acceptable forms of payment are MasterCard, Visa, Discover, American Express, or check /money order payable to Bachmann Industries, Inc.\*

To join, call 1-800-356-3910 ext. 402, or clip or photocopy this registration form, provide your complete contact information with payment and send to:

Bachmann Industries, Inc.  
Attn: Platinum Club  
1400 East Erie Ave.  
Philadelphia, PA 19124



\* Club car shipping included for Residents of the United States only. All other customers call for shipping costs.  
Phone: 714-533-1100

#### Williams by Bachmann® Platinum Club Registration

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Apt. # \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State/Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Country: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

(NOTE: Your e-mail address will be kept confidential.)  
Clip or photocopy this registration form, provide your complete contact information with payment and send to:

Bachmann Industries, Inc.  
Attn: Platinum Club  
1400 East Erie Ave.  
Philadelphia, PA 19124