



# The Villager

The official newsletter of the Plasticville Collectors Association

Volume 9

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Number 2

## Mania Family Sets Up Third Annual Train Display to Benefit Local Food Pantry

by Joe Mania



A mother and her two daughters enjoy the operating layout at the third Freehold Open Door Benefit fundraiser while in the center rear a father and his two sons enjoy one of the many other model train exhibits.

On February 21st we organized yet another train display to benefit the Freehold Open Door. This time we held it in the Knights Of Columbus hall right in the heart of Freehold, New Jersey.

I believe the combination of a more local location and the efforts put forth by my wife JoAnn to get the event publicized made this year's event an even bigger success than anyone had anticipated.

Once again, we have to thank all the volunteers that pulled together to make this the huge success that it was.

*(This is the third time that Joe and his wife JoAnn and their daughter Danielle have coordinated the setup and publicizing of this event that benefits those less fortunate in their area. Their efforts netted a total of 2000 pounds of food and \$3,000 in monetary donations.*

*Please let me know if you or a local model railroad club conducts similar outreach/public service projects even if you are not directly involved. Editor)*

## Dark Green and White BN-1 Barn



The barn pictured here was recently offered on eBay as a Bachmann product. As soon as the item appeared on eBay the PCA received inquiries as to the authenticity of the piece.

When the seller was asked how they knew that the piece was authentic their response was that they had identical pieces in their possession in the past.

They also stated they had seen the item in a Type 2 BN-1 box with a sticker that read "Dk Green White".

As with any item that seems to be extremely rare, the PCA would like to know if any members have this piece in their collection and in the BN-1 box with the "Dk Green White" sticker.

Please send photos of your piece and the label on the box to [villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org](mailto:villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org).

### The Villager

Published quarterly by the Plasticville Collectors Association.

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**Vice President:** James Dawes

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

**Secretary/Treasurer:** John L Niehaus

**Webmaster:** Joe Kutza

**Newsletter editor:** John Niehaus

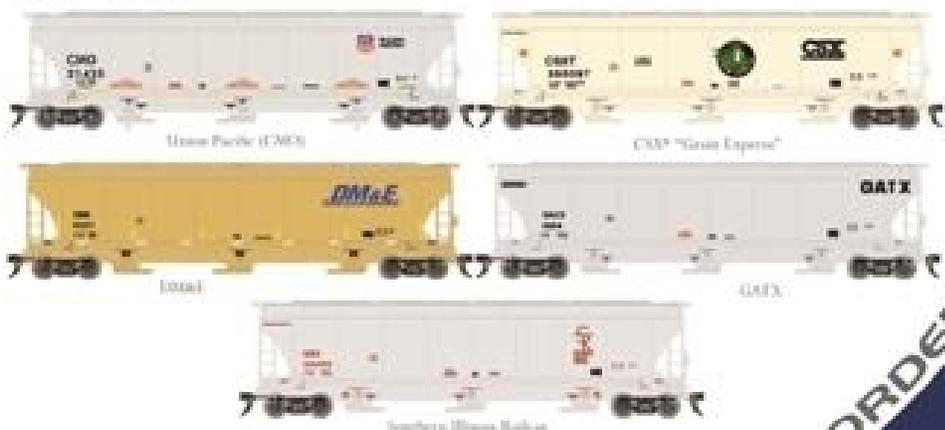
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## From the President's Desk



As always, it was great fun seeing old friends at York on the 22nd and 23rd of April. I remember in the early 1970's, I would start getting excited about going to York a week prior to the event. But, that was a different time to be collecting Lionel and other Trains. It was pre-Ebay and

York was the supermarket of toy trains. While there was only one building, the blue hall, it was like no other train meet. It was huge! That was a time when from spring to fall in this part of the world, there was a train meet every weekend, the only problem was that you had to drive two hours or more to get there. Often you would make the drive, end up buying a cup of coffee, a hotdog and not seeing anything on your want list.

We had a few larger meets in our area including the train meets at Hamburg and Allentown. A collector could often find some hidden gem at one of those, especially Sam or Ralph's Hamburg meets. But more often than not, many meets were more or less small and disappointing. I remember looking for a certain Postwar piece for 5 years before I finally found one in the condition and at the price I wanted.

We are lucky in this area to have always have had many public auctions, or "estate sales" as some call them. Often there were toy trains among the items. The only problem was they would always bring the train collectors out of the woodwork. It would end up being a real shoot out between two or more people. Don't get me wrong, I was able to often go home with something. More often than not they were not on my wish list, but were items to repair and clean up so I could eventually sell.

Then one day, EBay showed up on the internet. It was a whole new ballgame to the collector. It meant one could sit in the comfort of their own home and bid on items. No need to drive for hours to meets, and no need to sit in the hot sun at an auction. It doesn't get any better than that. What is often overlooked is the fact that a person can add to their collection in a much, much shorter time, assuming you have the extra coin to do so. The downside is you are buying from an anonymous, unknown person and relying on a few pictures and the few words in the item description. It isn't the same as looking at a sellers table, picking up a piece, looking for good and bad points with your own eyes. Also missing is the fact one doesn't get to

talk trains with other train collectors. Talking to other collectors is why I NOW enjoy York so much.

Thru the years, Plasticville pieces not only changed color combinations, but on a few occasions, they changed design of some of the pieces. Our club's Founder Joe Kutza and I had an ever so short discussion about the



Note the difference in the factory water tank legs. Subtle changes in the way pieces are molded over time can have a dramatic effect on the correctness, and ultimately, the value of a piece as President Bowman notes in his comments.

water tank brackets of the Factory kit. He noticed that some had stylized tips and others were cut straight off. My thought was the cut off version was easier to get them out of the mold without being damaged. I think the change happened around the time the front wall overhang changed from two tiny round pins to larger square pins. Did you ever notice the underside of the factory roof? The second issue roof from the 1980 issue scenic classics has raised ribs, probably from a mold change instead of an attempt to reinforce the roof. These same ribs appear on the underside of the corner store roof that was issued by King Distributing. Sadly, I have seen kits that had late roofs in early kit boxes. Try and remember to look before you buy. The wrong roof will lower the value of the kit.

Glenn Bowman

*(It is rare that a photo is included with the President's comments. In this instance I felt it was appropriate in order to illustrate the minor differences in the pieces of one building. These differences can detract from the correctness, and ultimately, the value of that piece.*

*It is the intent of the PCA to ultimately document these very subtle production differences on our website so that you, the members, can be assured that the building you have or are contemplating purchasing is correct in all respects. Editor)*

## Vice Presidential Insights



Hello again from Syracuse, NY. A little cool today, April 29, 2010. Just back from our semi -annual trip to York, Pa. I sat up at the Best Western, Kenneth Street. On Tuesday weather was good as well as sales. Wednesday was a day of showers off and on so closed up at 2:00 PM. So had time to visit with Robert Pershing in the fire hall. He had a lot of original Plasticville parts

plus his own brand of repo. parts. Thursday afternoon it was a rush from building to building looking for that SPECIAL PIECE, arriving a little too late - someone just purchased a nice piece good for him (John). Lots of Plasticville in all buildings, in all conditions and prices.

We had a very good breakfast at Alexander's and a well attended lunch at the Fair Grounds. Now home and back to work and Plasticville when time permits.

See you on the trail of more Plasticville.

Jim Dawes, Vice President

## Notes from the Editor



Greetings from the middle of our great country where it is a wonderfully Spring day one day, almost unbearable Summer the next, and Autumn all over again on the third day. I sure wish the weather would become more like Spring so that I can take a few rides in my old Nash and Mustang Mach1. We have had enough rain to clean the streets so it is time for some Spring and Summer cruisin'.

Our 10th Anniversary building is still in process. It will be the current production dairy barn but in the same dark blue walls and light gray roof as was our 5th anniversary two story house. Along with the special colors, Bachmann intends to add our logo and 1999-2009/10th anniversary to the milk house roof section. It is my hope to have all of the arrangements complete and an order form in the August newsletter'

I believe that most of you know that I attend both York meets every year. My attendance at the April/Spring meet is to promote the PCA. Three new members completed applications during my promoting the club to them and I collected the dues for 2010 from two former members. In addition to adding members, I spoke with quite a few vendors, large and small, who expressed an interest in advertising in our newsletter. If you know a person who collects or models Plasticville or other plastic village buildings, speak to him about joining the PCA. Does your hobby shop have a nice selection of Plasticville buildings in their inventory? Why not ask them if they would like to advertise in our newsletter. A business card sized ad is only twelve dollars for the entire year or four insertions.

I want to thank Joseph Mace for his follow up on my comments regarding the Plasticville offerings by Eastwood in the last newsletter. Joseph was able to provide us with enough photos of the two houses set that

we not only can be relatively certain of the colors offered but also the product numbers in that set. If you have either the firehouse and gas station kit or the barn, silo, and animal set please let me know so that we can document the product numbers in these sets as well as positively identify the silo in the barn set.

I am still getting undeliverable emails when I send out broadcast messages. If you are not receiving notices about our now semi-annual York Thursday morning breakfast or Friday noon lunch and share or other email notices then what we have in your member record for your email address is no longer current. The easiest way to update your email address is to send a message to secretary@plasticvilleusa.org. Please put "updated email address" in the subject. You don't even have to ask me to update your record as "the subject says it all".

As you are aware, the PCA is now a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. Any donations to the PCA are tax deductible to the extent of the law. Donations can be monetary or physical items such as unwanted buildings, etc. Please keep this in mind when you consider throwing away damaged or no longer wanted building pieces, missing part kits, or complete kits. A written acknowledgement of your donation will be mailed to you from the PCA.

And last but not least, this newsletter is YOURS. I would like very much to see continuing articles on other plastic village manufacturers such as Marx, K-Line, and other manufacturers. My hat is off to Todd Hendrickson who rose to the challenge and has breathed new life into the *Along the HO Line* column. My feeling is that there are others in our organization who are very capable of contributing an article every quarter to the newsletter. If you have a subject that has not been addressed in previous newsletters do not hesitate to contact me. Ask any of our current contributors and I will bet that they say it is a very gratifying experience.

## April 2010 Executive Committee Minutes

The April, 2010 Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 12:00 Noon, Eastern Time, on April 18 by President Glenn Bowman.

Those in attendance were; President Glenn Bowman, Vice-President James Dawes, Immediate past President Fred Ruby, Secretary/Treasurer John Niehaus and founder Joe Kutza.

### **Old business:**

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

Joe Kutza reported that the download issue of electronic documents has been resolved.

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

Joe Kutza reported that all photos of Plasticville O/S & HO buildings have now been secured to members only.

He also stated that the majority of photos of other manufacturer's builds are also secured and that the remainder will be secured at a future date.

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

Joe Kutza responded that he now has access to the website and that he will be able to make minor changes but would need assistance with major changes.

Joe will follow up with the developer again to determine a backup person should he become unavailable.

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

Secretary Niehaus reported that he has been in contact with Bachmann on numerous occasions and that slow progress is being made regarding the 10th anniversary piece. He stated that in his last communication with Bachmann he was told that to include the windmill in with the barn would probably make the barn and windmill cost prohibitive. Only a price to the club for the barn with a special anniversary imprint on the largest section of the roof will be quoted.

#### **Advertising in CTT and TCA**

Secretary Niehaus reported that he has not contacted either CTT or the TCA regarding advertising schedules.

#### **Ease of locating bylaws**

Joe Kutza reported that the bylaws are now a public link under the PCA link on the website home page.

### **New Business:**

#### **Photo guidelines on the website for all to view**

Joe Kutza will contact the website developer and will have him add in a public area on the website to contact Joe for photo submission information.

He and Glenn Bowman will also work to develop photo guidelines and a photo agreement document for posting to a public section of the website at a future date.

#### **Purchase of portable photo studio from ProCyc**

Tabled for Committee member review and future discussion.

#### **Newsletter prices**

Secretary/Treasurer Niehaus reported that it may be necessary to raise the dues for the hard copy newsletters next year or the year after due to rising printing costs and a possible postal rate increase.

He will provide a report on the expenses of each membership level at the July Executive Committee meeting.

#### **Email book sale offer from Krause**

Secretary Niehaus reported that he received comments from members regarding the appropriateness of sending the email offer to members since Krause is not a current advertiser.

He reported that he intends to contact Krause after the offer expires to determine the level of response to the offer. If the response was reasonable then he will suggest that future offers be either in the form of a paid non-member classified ad or a display ad.

#### **Software upgrades for the computer used for PCA business by the Secretary/Treasurer**

A motion was made seconded and unanimously approved to allow the Secretary/Treasurer to purchase software upgrades necessitated by the upgrade of the computer used for PCA business.

#### **Destruction of 2010 Officer election ballots**

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to destroy, by shredding, all ballots cast in the 2010 Officer election.

#### **Official Anniversary year**

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to use the founding year of 1999 as the reference year for all anniversaries.

#### **Mission Statement on home page**

Joe Kutza will contact the web developer and request that he add the PCA Mission Statement and possibly the Vision Statement and Statement of Purpose, on the home page of the PCA website.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:58 PM, Eastern Time

Respectfully submitted; John L Niehaus

Secretary/Treasurer

Approved by the Executive Committee, April 20, 2010

## York Report

by Joe Kutza

Another Spring, another York Meet to report on. I am thrilled to be lucky enough to attend the York meets on a regular basis but unfortunately I have not been able to attend the bandit meets over the last three years or so. I'm just not able to get away for two days in a week anymore. If anyone out there would like to add some notes to my semi-annual York reports on the bandit meets, please let me know.

Unlike last October when it was a nasty, rainy day, April 24th was a fabulous, sunny day. I met up with John Niehaus briefly before starting my trek through the blue and silver halls. It felt like I had the Blue Hall all to myself as there was hardly a soul around. I found a couple of small items that I needed. The Silver Hall was much more crowded and I picked up a few other needed items, but nothing really special.

Next on the Agenda was the Red Hall. I tend to always do well there, but that wasn't the case in October, so I was a bit hesitant. I again found a number of basic items that I was looking for and was not disappointed.

I quickly moved on to the White Hall where I spent quite a bit of time with Frank the parts guy filling up on some hard to find original and repro parts including smokestacks in each color and water towers in each color for the Factory. I still need a light gray water tower roof if anyone has one!

After a quick trip to the car to deposit my purchases (including 2 complete Factory's (one of each color for just \$50 for both) I took a quick run through the Purple Hall before heading over the PCA Luncheon.

As I was walking towards the cafeteria I noticed there was a rather large group of people standing out front. I wondered what other group was meeting there when I realized that large group was made of PCA Members! The lunch and learn session sure has grown since the days when we had only 3 or 4 members attend to the regular 10 to 15 that we get now.

We took our traditional group picture and headed in to eat.

There were some nice show and share items including an absolutely amazing, mint, RA-6 brought in by Jim Farace. And Glenn Bowman gave me an interesting variation of the simple Footbridge. Look for an article on Footbridge variations in an upcoming issue of The Villager.

Also amazing was the fact that for the first time in history, four of the five members of the PCA Executive Committee were together in person. President Glenn Bowman, Vice-President Jim Dawes, Secretary/Treasurer John Niehaus, and Founder Joe Kutza were all at the luncheon. Only immediate past-President Fred Ruby had to send his regrets.

Fortunately, we just recently held an Executive Committee meeting by teleconference (see minutes thereof elsewhere in this publication) so we were able to use the time to discuss more than just club business. We all look forward to getting together again soon.

After lunch I headed over to the Orange Hall and it

wouldn't be York if I didn't find at least one great item. This time I was able to find two within a price range that I was quite happy with. The first was a Grandstand from the Road Racing series. The Grandstand is absolutely beautiful with all the decals still on the original sheets! This completed my set of Road Racing items, all of which are in excellent condition.

The second super find for me was the very rare Loading



There are so many members now attending the PCA lunch and share sessions that it is difficult to list all of their names. This only part of those that attended during Spring York. Photo by Kris Bowman



Jim Farace's mint RA-6 Railroad Accessories set. Although difficult to see the street light in the center of the box has a black pole rather than the normal green.

Platform in the 1707-129 box. All I can say is "Wow!" I was so happy to be able to add this to my collection. I found both of these items at the table of long time Plasticville collectors, and PCA Members, Dave and Scott Horner. Thanks guys!

OK, it's time to wrap up this report by doing my traditional imprecise, highly subjective listing of prices of a few items that I saw over my great day at York. These represent prices as marked and my assessment of quality is not based on the PCA Guideline, just a quick look: Fire House, no box, Ex, \$20; Hospital, no box, complete with furniture, \$30; NOMA Church with light, no box, \$25; NOMA Church, no light with box, \$10; Colonial Church in 1910 box, \$50; Hardware and Pharmacy in red/white/blue 1853 box, \$60; Dark gray Police Station with car in a fair box, \$40; Marx 065 water tower with good box, yellow tank, gray supports, green base and cream ladder, \$95; AU-6 master unit new in Ex box, \$299; Ranch House in turquoise, with white roof and gray doors, VG RH-1 box, \$35; Cathedral with dark gray roof, complete in Ex C-18 box, \$25; group of painted citizens, 10 cents each; Littletown Colonial Mansion with red roof,

missing 1 chimney half, no box, \$5; set of 14 assorted Marx figures, \$5.

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 of prices that I saw at the April 2010 York meet leads me to give a rating of 3 gold bars to the spring meet. That's up from the 2.5 rating that I assigned to the Fall, 2009 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!



## Eastwood Automobilia Follow-up

by Joseph Mace



Eastwood Automobilia offered a Plasticville Ranch House and a 2 Story House in their 1997 catalog. The packaging for the Eastwood buildings are unique in that not only are the walls and trim in their usual sealed bag but that the sealed bag, along with the roof are all sealed in another plastic bag

We now have some additional information on one of the Eastwood Automobilia Plasticville offerings complements of member Joseph Mace.

Joseph writes, "Regarding your inquiry of Eastwood Plasticville: In January of 1997, 1-23-97, to be exact I purchased their "Plasticville House set". The set included

the #386700A 2 Story house with white walls, red roof, and beige trim, and #386700B Ranch house with gray walls, medium blue roof, and white trim. Both came in clear, sealed, plastic bags with instructions. There were no paper boxes. They were packed loosely in a shipping box along with the Eastwood #383500 Lionelville delivery set that I ordered."

*(We can definitely determine from the photos supplied by Joseph that the Ranch House is the common Plasticville number 45934 with grey walls, bright blue roof, and white trim. From that we can deduce that the Two Story House is, more than likely, the common Plasticville number 45936 with white walls, red roof and tan trim version.*

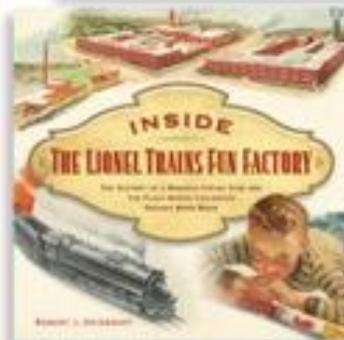
*The packaging of these items may also be unique and identifiable as being from Eastwood. I believe that the standard production numbers 45934 and 45936 do not have their roofs sealed in a bag but are loose in the box, while the remainder of the pieces are in a sealed plastic bag. The Eastwood pieces have the roof sealed in a plastic bag along with the sealed bag containing the remainder of the pieces.*

*Please let us know if you have the fire house and gas station set or the barn, silo, and animals set as we would also like to document their contents. The barn, silo, and animals set is especially intriguing as the silver silo does not seem to be a Bachmann product. Editor.)*

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## More on Illuminated Plastic Churches - Member Responses

by John Niehaus

I received numerous responses to Richard Wedekind's church article in the February issue of *The Villager*. In some cases the responses were additional questions and photos of additional churches of similar designs.

I feel the way to best present the information is to address each church in separate "chapters" and include the photos and comments from each member.

### **The red roofed church:**

PCA President Glenn Bownam responded that the church is a Noma #1515. He sent photos of, not only the

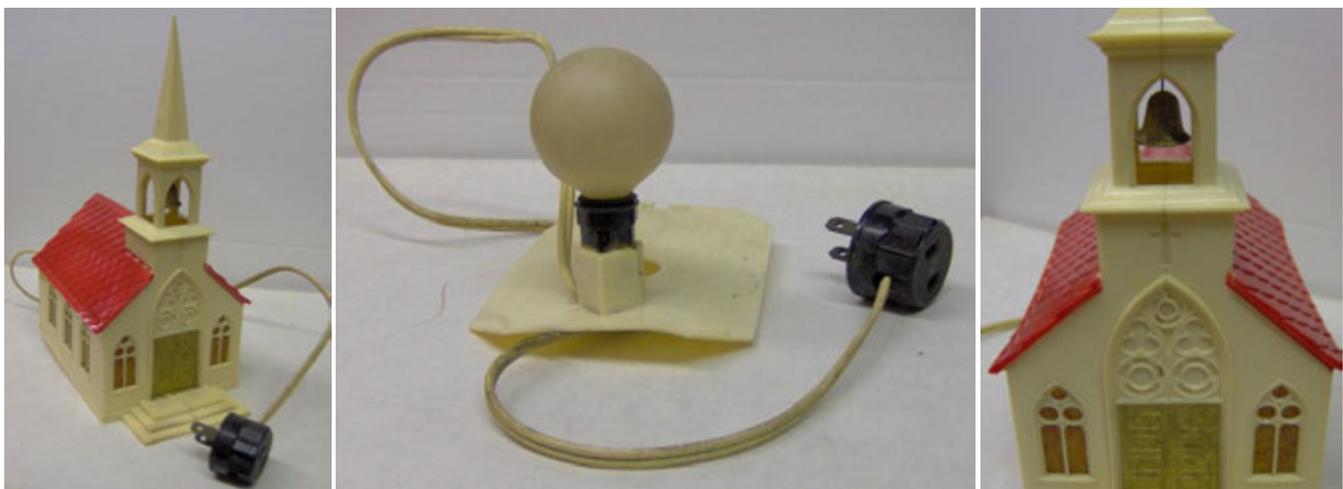
church with the wiring, but also photos of the box in which it was packaged.



President Glenn Bowman submitted these photos which identify the church as a #1515 "Illuminated Plastic Church" by Noma Lites. Note that the area over the front of the door seems to be melted, more than likely, from an oversize bulb.

From Rob Flanagan, " I read the article in the latest villager about illuminated churches and have some more info. I have one of the second churches. I do not know who made it but mine is in different colors. Mine is beige walls with red roof, 8 colored windows, inlaid cross

above the door with no added color, gold doors and bell. the light socket is the size for the old style Christmas bulbs and the bulb in it is large white globe with GE on it. The plug for the wall is an inline plug with both male and female ends.



Although Rob Flanagan cannot positively identify the church he has it definitely looks like the Noma church with the exception that the cross above the door is not gold colored. We can probably sagely assume that this is a Noma variation as the electrical plug on the cord seems to be the same as that shown in the photo of the box submitted by Glenn Bowman.

Tom Friesner wrote, "I'm responding to Richard Wedekind's question about identifying the White Plastic Church with Red Roof. I have a "Church Scene" manufactured by the Glolite Corporation in 1953. It is item #1514. The measurements are the same as those for Richard's Church. In addition to a light in the base (mine is missing), it includes a windup music box that plays Silent Night. The base is made from very hard plastic (possibly Bakelite) painted cream color with glitter

covering the paint. The Scene includes the Church and 3 bottle brush trees. Overall, the Church Scene measures 12" by 9 1/2". The Church is attached to the base using 4 screws. These Scenes were placed on the Fireplace Mantel or included as part of the Train Layout during the Christmas Holidays. The Church itself is unmarked. I've included several pics of the Church Scene including the front, back, underside and a close-up of the tag that is attached to the wind-up key.



Tom Friesner's church is a church scene made by The Glolite Corporation of Chicago, Illinois, #1514. From left to right: Front view of the church showing the gold inlaid cross, far left; overall view of the rear of the display, center left; close up of the tag held in place by the music box wind-up key, center right; underside view, far right. The church is definitely the same as those owned by Glenn and Rob.

A word of caution is added by the response from Joseph Mace who replied, "Regards the church on the right side picture: I have two of these. The last one I purchased at a TCA meet in Mars PA. (Cranberry Twp), conveniently only 6 miles north of me.

made by Ideal. I wish now that I had queried him more.

A word of caution. The first of the churches I have needed cleaning and as the roof looks plastic, I cleaned it with a soft brush assuming the roof was molded in red plastic. This was not the case. I removed some red of the paint."

The gentleman who sold it to me stated that it was

Ken Landry has a similar church to the others but with some differences. The cross is raised rather than indented. The doors seem to be hinged. The light is inserted through the back of the building instead of through the floor. My guess is that it is an early import based upon the box design, company name and logo.



Ken Landry's church is a bit different. The cross is raised rather than indented and is not painted. The light is inserted through the back of the building. The doors seem to be hinged. It is interesting to note that the item number is 1515, as is Glenn's Noma church. This was probably an imported church based upon the company name and logo.

Ken comments, "... Saw the church. My grandmother had two she put on the mantel each Christmas. Lost those but see them from time to time. When one came about for a dollar it needed to be mine. Had it many years on a shelf in my train/slot car room with the original box. Recently threatened to sell it at my antiques co-op but you must be the reason I did not. Anyway I will attach some photos. The company is World Wide Enterprises, Inc. Chicago 54, Illinois. It has Cat. No. 1515 on the top.

Probably made in someone's garage. Hope we have the same church. Today World Wide Enterprises is a supply company started in 1987.

## Raylite Church

I received a reply regarding the Raylite church from Jim Steed. Unfortunately I have misplaced the photo he sent so I am including Richards church photo once more for reference. Sorry Jim. It must be age creeping up on me.

Jim writes, "... the church pictures on page 6 of the Villager, Yes, I have the Raylite Elect. Corp., NY, NY church building. It was good to read about it and see it in color. This one is only the second one I have ever seen. I got mine for \$1 at flea mkt. because it did not work, that is play a song. Never knew what song until now - it played Silent Night - as the



winding stem is not there, nor is the motor. But, it looked great. No broken parts, terrific stained glass windows.

Yes, the cross was missing. I made a cross out of large match stems, painted it gold, and put a night light inside. Presto, it really looks GREAT. I even took some colored plastic strips and put them over a few more places / windows/doors to give an even more "stained glass effect".

I get compliments and comments on the church with most each and every visitor. The rays of light coming through the stained glass windows are a real attention getter."

I believe that we now have some new questions to answer. Why does Tom Friesner's Glolite church diorama carry the number 1514 and Glenn Bowman's Noma church carry the number 1515? Coincidence or was Glolite a possible subsidiary of Noma or did Noma purchase Glolite at some point in time? That may answer why the numbers are only one digit apart.

Would Rob's church floor would fit Tom's floor without a problem? From what I can see of Rob's floor that is a distinct possibility.

Glenn and Tom's churches, sold by different companies according to their packaging or markings, are white while

Rob's is beige. Is Rob's a victim of aging plastic or an actual color variety? It also seems that Rob's church has a different design stained glass windows.

Even though the three churches were possibly sold by three different companies were they made in the same mold? I know that the mold for the Ideal the gas station was the same mold used to the gas station for other companies.

Look for an article on what seems to be special run Plasticville churches with roof slots, lights, and music boxes in a future newsletter.

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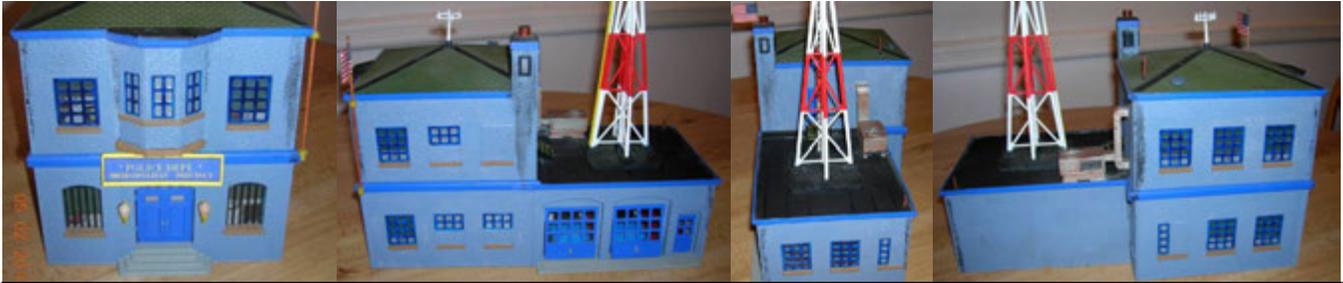
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# Creative Use of Damaged Parts

## Big City Police Department

By Edward Johnson



A counter clockwise tour around the building. Front: the lower level is a police station front with the bay window from a suburban station combined with pieces of fire house side walls. Right side: The lower level is a combination of a police station and a fire house wall while the upper floor is another police station side wall. Rear: The lower level wall is a fire station wall while the upper wall is a rear police station wall with a door cut into it for access to the garage roof. Left: The garage wall a "customized" piece while the station wall is a police station wall.

The Plasticville Police Station makes a nice model of a small rural Police Station. I wanted a Police Station more like a station in a large city. So I combined several sections from the Plasticville Fire House, Police station, Suburban Station and Windmill to build this model.

Let's start with the front. left photo above. The ground floor is the original PV police station front. The second floor has a bay window from the suburban station flanked with windows from the sidewalls of the firehouse or police station. The roof has the usual police dept. station antenna with small attachments. (looks more modern this way).



A detailed floor of thick cardstock was added to the garage. The motorcycle is kitbashed Bandai WW II German Sidecar motorcycle kit.

Moving around to the right side, center left photo. We have a ground floor side wall extended with a front wall from a PV fire house. The second floor is another sidewall. As usual, I block off some windows to conceal damaged windows or for looks. The garage section can

house two die-cast police cars. The floor is thick cardstock to allow the cars to roll out easier. The motorcycle is kitbashed from a Bandai WW II German Sidecar motorcycle kit.

Around the corner to the back, right center photo. The second floor is the PV firehouse/ police station back with door cut into it. A small staircase leads down to the roof. On the roof is the base for a radar-dome made with a PV



Front view of the changing of a damaged windmill tower into a communications tower using items literally found on the sidewalk.

windmill tower. The dome and antenna were made with things I really found on the sidewalk. ( As a child my mom would scold me for my habit of picking up and bringing home things I thought were useful) The air conditioning unit is card stock construction. The ground floor is another sidewall that was cut down because the end was broken off.

Now we turn another corner to the left side, right photo. The lower wall of the back wall is smaller than a full size part so there is a small indent to the left side. The ground floor and second floor are sidewall parts "customized. In this photo we see the various roof details, antenna,

plumbing vents, vent, chimney antenna, A/C unit and radar-dome tower.

The last photo shows the radar-dome antenna at its full height.

Window treatments and the sign were made using commercial software programs. When completed the model was painted an overall gray with blue accents.

This was a fun project and answered the question "What am I going to do with all these mismatched parts?".

*That's all folks, Eddie J*

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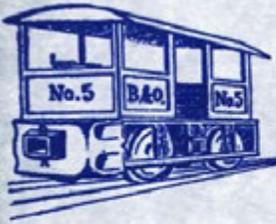


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## **Plasticville on the Board**

### **What is a Toy?**

By John Gottcent

What is a toy? This deceptively simple question is actually central to our hobby, and sometimes even divides us.

Are the plastic buildings that make up our villages toys or models? That of course depends on how you define “toy.” The same issue affects our sister-hobby of model trains. Many HO train enthusiasts would bristle at the label “toy,” for example, preferring to think of their trains as scale models and sometimes even works of art. Some carry this over to operation, running their trains (often with friends) on realistic schedules and performing most of the duties that actual trainmen do.

The O/S gauge crowds are not immune either. Some label their work hi-rail and consider it far removed from the world of toys, while others embrace the term “toy trains” and play with them like they did when they were kids.

So what is a toy? Some define it as a plaything meant for children—but that flies in the face of the old adage “The only difference between men and boys is the price of their toys.” Does that mean a toy has to be inexpensive? Any grandparent who’s gone Christmas shopping can counter that one quickly.

Perhaps the answer lies in scale or level of detail. A precisely scaled building with fine details might be a model, while a roughly scaled one with only generic finishing could be a toy. Yet that might relegate a red-roofed Plasticville Post Office or large supermarket to the toy category, when many of us would feel quite differently about those rare items.

Original intention doesn’t help either. All Plasticville buildings were first marketed as toys, but that doesn’t mean that collectors who are sometimes willing to pay 100 times their original price would consider them so.

For better or worse, here’s my definition. A toy is an object sized differently from its prototype and used primarily for interactive play.

Regarding size, most toys are smaller than their real world counterparts, though there are exceptions (some balls and dolls, for instance, can be larger than reality so as to be more easily manipulated by small hands). Regarding play, notice that the second half of my

definition refers not to the object itself, but to how it’s used.

Our plastic villages fit the first part of my definition easily, since they are all quite a bit smaller than their prototypes. As for the second part—well, that depends on us.

If we place a common Cape Cod house on a display shelf or in a crafted diorama, I would argue that it becomes a model, not a toy, regardless of its simplicity, lack of scale, or original marketing as a toy. Conversely, if we place a rare red-roofed Post Office on a layout which we play with, for me it becomes a toy, despite its market value.

I realize others will disagree, and I invite you to write me at the address at the end of this column with your thoughts. I also realize that we may be talking about another way to separate the collectors from the “users” among us. The former are much less likely to be comfortable with the designation “toy” than would the latter.

But I can’t get away from the centrality of “play” in the world of toys. Train enthusiasts who invite friends over to run their railroads may not like the term, but they’re doing the same kind of thing we all did years ago when we had pals over for a “play date.” It may be more sophisticated, scale-detailed, and prototypical, but it’s still far from a real railroad, and that makes it play, which for me means toys.

By the same token, those who display but do not interact with their buildings, including those who keep sealed boxes unopened to preserve their value, are for me dealing with models, regardless of whatever else might be true about those structures.

Maybe the problem is the connotation of the word “toy” as something cheap and disposable. Or maybe it’s our tendency to think that anyone who treats their buildings differently from me is doing something wrong. Toys and models can live together in harmony, just as collectors and users can. That diversity is part of what makes our hobby great.

If you have some thoughts to share, or have ideas for future columns, contact me at [jandjgott@gmail.com](mailto:jandjgott@gmail.com). Meanwhile, happy villaging.

### **YOU COULD BE A CONTRIBUTING EDITOR**

**Do you have an interest in a brand of plastic building other than Plasticville?**

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Please contact the editor of *The Villager* if you collect other brands of plastic buildings and have considered writing articles for the newsletter. It does not matter if you contribute just one article or a continuing series of articles.

He is looking for people who can contribute articles on Marx, Storytown, K-Line, Ideal just to name a few.

## Along the "HO" line Detailed Interiors

By Todd Hendrickson

While searching on eBay, I found the first model train kit I ever built; the #2905 Men's Store. It was still in the shrink wrap and at a good price.

I remember getting the kit when I was young and it being the only kit in the Mom and Pop Toy store that had the wooden frame around the box. Being a model car builder most of my childhood, I knew I could build it.

I was amazed at the detail that this kit had. It had clear plastic windows, a checked cardboard floor, clothing racks, and furniture. I had to do little painting as most of the kit came in color. It even had shrubbery for the flower boxes on the outside.

After the next couple other Bachmann kits I built, I realized this kit was different. It was the only Bachmann kit I built as a child that came with a detailed interior. I

am not sure if the earlier version of this kit had the detailed interior.

As my collection grows I have now found a few other kits that came with detailed interiors. The #2904 Drive-in Bank comes with clear plastic windows, a cardboard floor, a teller counter, and a vault.

These two kits are based on the same building but with small differences. The bank has a revolving front door. The side door was replaced with a drive thru window and there is no lattice or flower boxes.

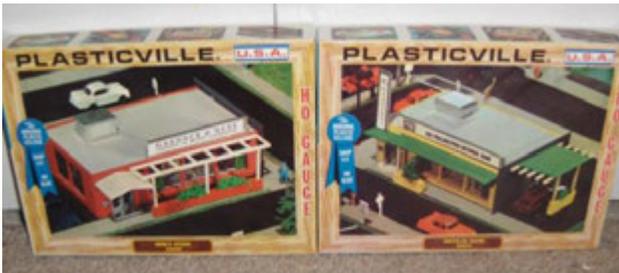
The kit #2904 Toy and Hobby Shop is very similar to Men's Store, but the Toy and Hobby Shop has cardboard picture inserts for windows and no lattice or flower boxes.

A couple of other kits have minor detailed interiors but not as elaborate. The #3907 New Car Showroom came with a detailed pattern cardboard floor, large clear plastic windows and a few cars for the would-be buyer.

The #2916 Drive Hamburger Stand came with a cardboard floor and parking lot. It has a counter with a clerk behind the cash register and large clear plastic windows. This kit, as far as I am aware, is the only kit that contains what looks like Corvette automobile.

While our layouts fill up and we have no more room for new buildings, we can look at these kits for inspiration, get rid of those cardboard windows inserts, and make our own detailed interiors.

Any comments or questions contact me at Mortemobire@yahoo.com. Please put PCA in the subject as I get lots of E-mail.



Pictured left is the 2905 men's store and right the 2904 bank. These and the other kits in picture frame boxes included interior details such as dressing rooms with the men's store and a safe for the bank.

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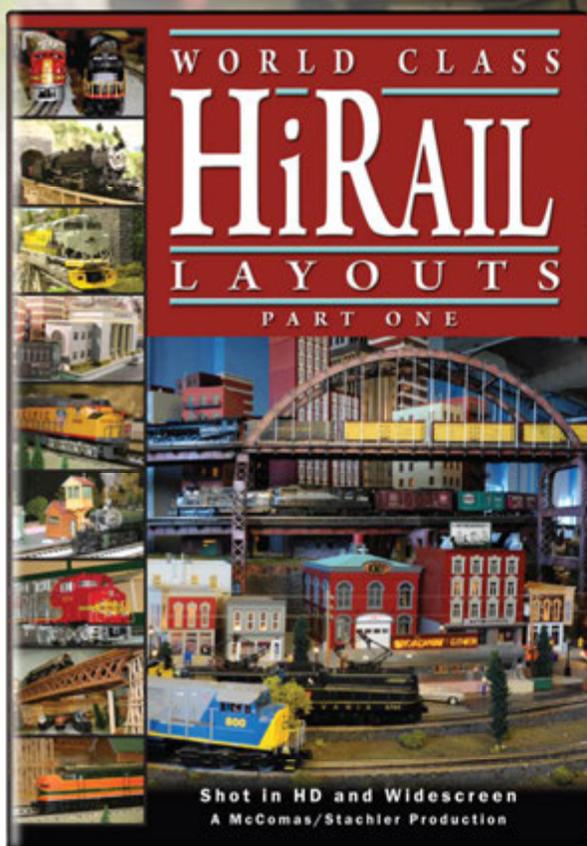
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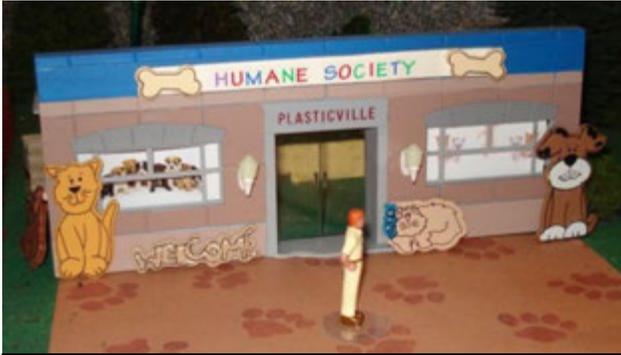
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## Abandoned Animals Take Over an Old Post Office!

by Gary B Connor



The front of probably the only humane society animal shelter housed in a converted Plasticville Post Office.

As I was reading the last issue of the newsletter, it occurred to me that we have a "new uses for old parts" example. I had a glued, painted and generally beat up Post Office which my wife turned into the only, as far as I know, only Plasticville Humane society in existence. Although not as elaborate as most of the examples that have been appearing, I think it shows what you can do with a little paint and imagination. Just thought I'd pass along, my wife, Karen's contribution to my layout!



Any good animal shelter has an exercise yard for the dogs and so does this one. This is a view of the rear of the Post Office that has been converted into an animal shelter.

## Is This an Undocumented Littletown Super Market?

by John Niehaus



Do you have a white walls, dark green roof and doors, and dark blue lettering Littletown Super Market in your collection? Please let us know.

Member Dave Brandel recently acquired this unusual color combination of the Littletown number

101 Modern Super Market. Dave stated in his message to me, "The walls are almost white. The doors and roof are dark green. The lettering is dark blue". This is a new color combination for this piece to the best of my knowledge.

The PCA website, as well as the 1993 edition of the Iron Horse Publications' Plasticville guide does not list the shown color combination.

It may be conjectured that the doors and roof may be from another Littletown piece yet I did not find any piece, based on the 1993 Iron Horse guide from which these parts could have been taken. Even the green roof of the gas station is too wide, per the guide.

The fact that the lettering is dark blue per Dave leads me to believe that this is an undocumented color combination.

Please contact me at [PCA@netins.net](mailto:PCA@netins.net) if you have an identical color combination of this piece in your collection.

We will add this color combination to the PCA website if we can validate that it is as yet an undocumented color combination.

## Non-Railfan Antics

### A View from the Other Side

By Gordon C Kelley

When you hired out on the railroad your seniority date was set to when you "got out" on your first run. If two men were hired on the same day, the first man to "get out" was the senior man.

My dad and another man were hired on the same day.

Dad "got out" before the other man. The other man missed a call or so it was claimed. The other man claimed he did not miss a call and so for forty years the growling was on as to who was the senior man.

My dad usually worked the north side of Milwaukee and the other man worked the 7:00AM West Allis job. When dad decided to retire he also decided that he wasn't going to go without showing the other man who really was senior.

My dad went on days and bumped onto the 7:00AM

West Allis job on the Monday that he was to retire. The other man was the oldest man on days and was up north for the weekend. He missed his call. Dad was sitting in the yard office filling out his time slip when the other man walked in. When questioned, my dad told him that he had bumped him. He also reminded him that junior men had to be home for "calling time". The other man exploded but dad completed the shift and retired at the completion of the day.

The other man lost two days work because of the missed call. He then worked another job for fourteen days as the West Allis job went to the Extra List for four days and he could not bump for ten days - Union rules. Guess who was really the senior man?

## My 1/55th People

by Joseph Kmetz

I would like to tell the PCA about getting near S scale "little people" for their American Flyer layout without paying an arm and a leg (literally \$5 and up for each one usually). Up until now no one has correctly sized these things but I will give it a try. I'm calling them my 1/55th people and I'll tell you why.

I graduated from 8th grade from Our Lady of Perpetual Help (OLPH) parochial school in South Ozone Park, Queens, Long Island, New York in June of 1955 at age 13



Do you need figures for your S scale passenger cars or to populate your layout? These fully painted seated figures, offered by Lionel as item number 6-21376, fit that need very nicely.

and was then tossed into the horrors of the NYC public education system - which turned out to be a blessing as many of the teachers were WWII veterans, and it showed. The mid-fifties in the City was like another world. No one in my family had an interest or connection to model trains, real trains, or hobbies in general. So it was this "other" New York world in which I gained my first collecting experiences. That is why 1955 is an important date for me and why I chose that size for the figures. Neither K-Line nor the other figure manufacturers seem to relate to any scale.

K-Line by Lionel has a set of forty, fully painted, seated figures that catalog as number 6-21376 and come in a blister pack. I purchased a set from Charles Ro for a reasonable \$23.99 (\$22 last year.) I am using them as people in several American Models Budd passenger cars but they can be used anywhere on an S scale layout. The price works out to about sixty cents per seated figure.

When I compare them with S Helper Service's figures, they are only slightly larger, hence I have given them the name 1/55 people. I suggest you give them a try.

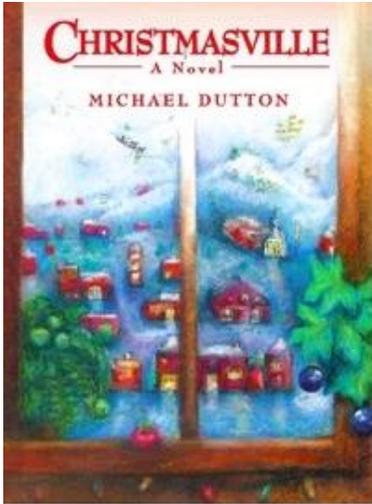
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## From the Webmaster's Desk

by Joe Kutza

Hi everyone. I just wanted to take a few moments to tell you where we are at with our ongoing efforts to update and expand the PCA web site. You have probably noticed that there is an ever-increasing number of pictures on our website. It's still not complete, but we are getting there. We are working on this from two angles.

First, I am working with our PCA President, Glenn Bowman, to add comprehensive information on individual Plasticville items. For example, take a look at the Ranch House listings on the PCA site. This was our first effort at this new approach. In addition to the basic list of color variations, we have also included the box numbers that each variation came in, pictures of each known box and variations thereof, as well as information on any markings on the boxes such as color stamps. We are now up to 29 color variations for the Ranch Houses! Similarly, we updated the information for the Cape Cod Houses including several new color variations. The only limitation is that color variations from 1997 onwards are not included. Look for an update to the Two-story Houses next.

The second angle that I mentioned is that we still accept pictures from any member who are willing to fill in the holes that we have on other items. We will add those pictures now and replace them as Glenn and I get to our comprehensive information for each item. By updating them later, we will ultimately have a harmonized, smoother, sleeker look when the site is completely updated.

I feel that one of the areas that still needs a lot of work is the list of boxed sets. There are very few pictures for those interesting items. If you can provide photos, please contact me.

Another area that needs some help is the Littletown page. If you can help, please let me know and I'll provide some tips for taking pictures.

Many thanks to Tom Fritsch, Dave Allen, and Ed "ICE" Berg for regularly sending in pictures for the site.

Some members have questioned the new color variations that we have listed on our site. Anything not in

one of Bill Nole's books seems to raise a question – and it should. Bill's books are a great reference and a great place to start, but they are not absolutely complete. The PCA Executive Committee is working on a method for verifying color variations that are not in Bill's books. This method is not yet complete but will require more than one verification and will include a new page on our web site where tentative color variations can be reviewed and comments can be made. Look for more information soon.

Next, I'd like to bring a few articles and features of the PCA web site to your attention. Most of these have been on the site for quite some time, but maybe it's time for a second look, or maybe some of the newer members haven't stumbled across them yet.

1) Click on the "Information" tab, then on "Articles" then on "Plasticville Patent Information". Here you will find ten pages of patent information that comes directly from the US Patent Office.

2) Click on the "Plasticville" tab, then "O&S scale", then "Catalogs and paper". Here you will find a list of various Plasticville paper items and, with the exception of the 1950-A Catalog, a complete set of scans from every Plasticville catalog from 1950 through 1969. And more will be coming soon (1970 right up to 2010).

3) Click on the "PCA" tab and you will find a direct link to the PCA by-laws. When was the last time you read through them?

4) Click on the "Information" tab, then the "Other Manufacturers" to find a listing of pages dedicated to several other plastic village lines. The Storytown page has a lot of great pictures that were provided by past PCA President Fred Ruby, the Littletown and Marxville pages are chock full of great information. Many more pictures are coming to the Marx pages soon courtesy of Ed Berg.

5) Don't forget to click on the "Trader" tab, then on "PCA Merchandise" for a list of items for sale. PCA coffee mugs, t-shirts, pens and personalized address labels can all be found here.

## Pen Tips

A PCA pen goes Nan Cashour for her tips below:

The blue PCA logo on your letterhead can be cut out, glued to a dark blue or other color heavy cardboard, plastic sealed, then placed in a billboard frame.

I cut out the PCA logo and wore it on my sweater to my first train show to identify myself as a PCA member.

*(Another way to identify yourself as PCA member is by wearing a PCA T-shirt. They are available for purchase from The Corner Store. Editor)*

***(Do you have a tip that would benefit the members of the PCA? Send your tip to the address on the front page and receive a PCA pen when it is published. Editor)***

# CLASSIC TOY TRAINS MAGAZINE

## The best resource for your hobby!

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

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

## What Members Are Saying

Over the years I have noticed that the white plastic has yellowed to an off white color. The yellow color is not glue stains. What I am wondering is that perhaps the yellowing is due to being exposed to sunlight and artificial light? As a result, I no longer put my vintage Plasticville buildings on my layout but rather the present day ones made overseas, which I do not care if they fade. Bob Stout (*Many times the yellowing of white buildings, especially the barns, is due to the chemical composition of the plastic. As the plastic ages the chemicals change properties. I would ask other members to comment on the thought of especially ultraviolet light causing pieces to yellow and fade. Editor*)

Many THANKS for the Villager "IN COLOR". It is GREAT. Thank you for this. This Saturday morning, I sat down with two hot cups of coffee and read the Villager. You made my day. Really!! Will you pass this on to the President, as I'm not sure I have his correct (or not) email address.

Most of all, the Villager is a great publication for us layout guys. It ranks right up there with Classic toy Trains, and O Gauge Railroading magazines for "pleasure" reading as for me. Keep up the good work. Jim Steed

Last November, we went to an antique mall in Asheville while visiting our daughter. At one of the booths they had Lionel trains and accessories. One of the items was a dark blue Plasticville ranch house with dark gray roof. I thought that it was an odd color. Actually, I did not think it was a very attractive color. My family was in a hurry, so I put it down and rushed through the mall. When I returned home, I found the latest issue of the Villager in my email. As I read the President's column about rare Plasticville pieces, I realized that I had let one get away. I told my wife that I should have purchased the house. Fast forward a few weeks. It is Christmas and one of the boxes I unwrapped holds the dark blue Plasticville ranch house. My wife told my daughter about it and she and her fiancé spent a couple of hours searching the antique mall until they found it. What a great family and what a great Christmas. I am going to read my copy of Bill Nole's guide to Plasticville more carefully, so this does not happen again. Brian Nichols (*One of the long range goals of the PCA is to add a rarity indicator to all of the Plasticville and other manufacturer's pieces on the website. Editor*)

*The Villager* brings me lots of moments of pleasure. The Zippy Frosty Bar cartoon was particularly fun. I also

appreciate the advertisers and am happy to see Bill Nole's ad return. Mike Denuty

Reading through the February issue of *The Villager*, I was impressed with John Gottcent's article *Moving Through Time* on construction phases of a house combining the House Under Construction with the Cape Cod house. I did a similar scene on y train layout years ago, but didn't photograph the phases of construction. However, I did use parts from the House Under Construction kit to detail other construction scenes (I hope Bachmann makes this kit available again.)

Regarding John's Cape Cod house construction scene, I see the neighbor and his dog visit the site every day and the postman is as regular as clockwork! I also note that there is a Ford Mustang parked in front of the adjacent Plasticville Hardware/Pharmacy. The car must be broken down because it hasn't moved in months! I'm surprised that the store owner didn't have it towed away. (I like to poke fun when I can and I enjoy the humor in other PCA members' writings.) Mike Denuty

*(The author responds: Actually, the car belongs to the store owner! He parks it there every day since it's so convenient. I think I referred to the constant presence of the neighbor, dog, and postman in the original article.)*

Please let members know that this gentleman, Charles Schmitt, of Anapolis, MD, phone 410 974-4736, has a 30-plus page catalog with just about anything you may need in the way of train parts, bulbs, etc. The parts listed are component parts listed in the Lionel service manual ...O gauge. Nan Cashour

Hi John, Looks like another new member. You seem to be getting record traffic to the site recently - normally the monthly page totals are around 3-4,000 but last month it hit 10,126! All the best. Gordon (*Although not a member I felt it may be of interest to members to see numbers relating to how many times our website is visited. Gordon is our web developer. Editor*)

I would like to suggest a very useful train layout item - - a vehicle such as a delivery truck, bus, taxi cab, etc. with the PCA logo on it. Nan Cashour (*I have been pursuing this suggestion for a while and am finding most companies do not prefer to produce an imprinted vehicle in small quantities. They want a minimum of over 500 pieces. I am still looking for a company that will imprint less than that and at a cost such that they can be offered to the members at a reasonable price. John Niehaus.*)

## Welcome New Members

The following individuals' names have been added to the Plasticville Collectors Association membership roster as of January 1, 2010. Their names are now permanently listed in the on line roster.

Paul E Parizo, Rouses Point, NY  
Helen S Atwell, Ozark, AL  
Harold Moskowitz, Toledo, OH  
Joseph J Koman III, Arlington, VA  
Ronald J Cortese, Greenville, SC  
Kenneth D German, Baltimore, MD  
Nancy J Leonard, Bethel Island, CA  
John J Bower, Milton, PA  
Peter M Robinson, Lincoln Park, NJ  
Bryant Bennett, Palm Bay, FL  
Kenneth F Beliveau, East Granby, CT  
Ken D Honick, Buena-Vista, PA  
Harold D Corbin, Mount Gilead, OH  
Joseph Angrisani, Brooklyn, NY

## Proposed Members

The following have applied for membership in the Plasticville Collectors Association. The names of all proposed members must be published for the review of the general membership before being accepted as 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, 2010.

Mary McGinley, Renfrew, PA  
John A Wapshott, Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
Harvey A Marks, Metheun, NJ  
Henry A Switaj, Spanish Fort, AL  
Michael C Marmer, Germantown, MD  
Paul J Alioto, Norton, MA  
Doc Babic, New York, NY  
Mark E High, New Kensington, PA  
David L Risvold, Des Moines, IA  
Rebecca J Risvold, Des Moines, IA  
Emerson S Lynn, Stillwater, PA  
Thomas L Staley, Cary, NC  
Eugene V Sankowski, Charlotte, NC  
Richard H Krieg, Surfside Beach, Sc  
Michael Leone, Pocono Lake, PA  
Winifred H Stang, Cherry Hill, NJ  
Albert E Hebry, Shreveport, LA  
Thurman C Heintzelman, St Helen, MI  
Theodore R Walton, Annandale, VA  
Paul H Phlanz, Syracuse, NY  
James A Lyle, Gap, PA  
Cliff Saxton, Des Peres, MO  
Nancy Beadle, New Hope, PA

## 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.

## **NEW ITEM!**

### **Coffee Mug with PCA logo**

**White ceramic 11 oz. ceramic mug. PCA blue or black logo. \$9.95 or two for \$13.95, postpaid.**

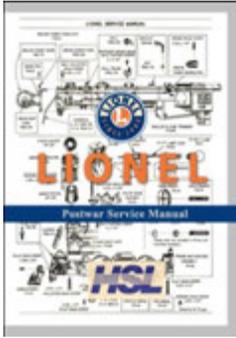
**Please specify your color choice when ordering.**

**Only 24 pieces of black logo mugs were produced.**

### **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.

## Product Reviews



**Lionel Postwar Service Manual**, CD ROM, Hybrid Systems Ltd, Inc., \$50. A digital archive of all primary Lionel consumer catalogs and other paper from 1925 through 1942. Compatible with MS-Windows and Macs.

The CD is designed to run automatically when you insert into the CD player. You will be

presented with a licensing agreement page. After clicking YES to accept the licensing agreement you are navigated to a page with a link to frequently asked questions. At the bottom of this page is a link to actually access the program. There is also a printed licensing agreement as well as operating instructions included in the package with the CD.

Clicking this link navigated me to a page containing two frames. The left frame lists the Introduction, Table of Contents, Regular Features and FAQs hyperlinks as well as an Exit button. Adding this page to your browser favorites should eliminate navigating through the licensing agreement and subsequent pages during future uses of the program.

The right hand frame contains six vertical bar hyperlinks. The leftmost three links navigate one to the locomotives and tenders, the operating and non-operating cars, and miscellaneous items such as switches, transformers, and lamps. The fourth link navigates one to the HO trains, race sets, phonographs, and Helios 21 items. For those of you who are wondering, Helios 21 was a user controlled spaceship.

For those who want to get down to work immediately the quickest way is to click on the fifth link. This is the Master Index link. It navigates one to a searchable listing

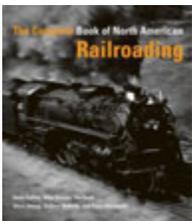
of every item included in the manual. One must use the search function of their browser to perform a search. I found this to in no way be an inconvenience. Even if you do not know the Lionel assigned number of a piece a quick search on part of the description, such as giraffe or bank, quickly navigates one to the that word in the index.

Each item in the index contains a hyperlink to the associated pages in the manual, the Lionel description of the item, and how many pages of information are available under the hyperlink. I soon discovered that every piece is not illustrated and that if the hyperlink contained a PL suffix then all I was going to be able to view was a Price List. Price lists seem to be what Lionel used instead of illustrations for common items such as cabooses and boxcars thus that is the only information contained in this manual.

The last link navigates one to Additional Service Station Material (bonus material). I found the included Lionel Parts Story interesting as it was probably written by a communications or marketing person and sounds like an extended advertisement. It is not dated but I am guessing it was from the mid-50's based upon the dresses of the women in the article. There are also many photos of Lenny Dean at a much younger age, probably his early 40's.

This is the fourth offering from Hybrid Systems Ltd that I have reviewed. The other three products were excellent and this piece is the same. If you need an easy way to access data for repairing your Lionel trains this CD should suit you fine.

Lionel Postwar Service Manual, CD ROM sells for \$50 plus \$5 shipping and handling. It can be purchased directly from Hybrid Systems Ltd, Inc., 200 University Park Drive, Edwardsville, Illinois 62025. Their toll free number is 800 799-2802.



**The Complete Book of North American Railroading**, various authors, published by Voyageur Press, \$40 US, \$43.95 Canada, 352 pages, 9 1/2 X 11, hardcover, large color and black & white photos throughout.

This book is a collaboration of six different authors: Kevin EuDaly, Mike Schafer, Jim Boyd, Steve Jessup, Andrew McBride, and Steve Glischinski. Each is listed as the author of one or more of the ten chapters in this book. My hat is off to the editorial staff as the writing style of chapters is consistent throughout the book.

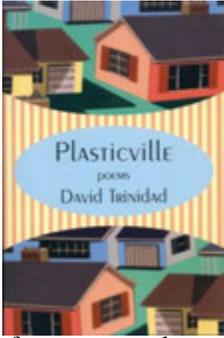
The first three chapters are an overview of railroading in North America, including Canada, from 1828 through 2005. The next three chapters are devoted to steam

locomotives, electric locomotives, and diesel and diesel-electric locomotives. There is a chapter on moving freight as well a moving people. Chapter nine covers infrastructure while the last chapter is a perspective on railroading today.

As this book is the work of multiple authors there are two paragraph biographies as well as photos of each contributor. Rounding out the book is an index which seems to contain just about every word in the book except for if, and, or but.

This book is well written as well as well illustrated. It is an easy read and I enjoyed my time with both the text and photos.

**The Complete Book of North American Railroading** can be purchased from Voyageur press on their website at [voyageurpress.com](http://voyageurpress.com) or by telephone order at 800 826-6600. Look for it at your favorite on line sites also.



**Plasticville, a book of poems by David Trinidad**, perfect bound, 101 pages, 6 X 9, published by Turtle Point Press, \$14.99.

I have seen this book offered on eBay at times as well as on the Barnes and Noble and Amazon websites. Obviously with the Plasticville title I was curious.

David Trinidad has taken many of our pop culture icons, both real and fictitious and created a very unique book of poems. Subjects include Marilyn Monroe, Elizabeth Taylor, Barbie dolls, the Mousetrap game, Chatty Cathy, Little Kiddles and many more, including Plasticville. In many cases two or more subjects are intertwined in one poem. One of the exceptions to this is the Plasticville poem which begins

with *"The train goes round and round our tiny little town"*.

Many of the poems not only address various pop culture icons but do it in an historical manner as with the Marilyn Monroe and Elizabeth Taylor offerings. I found all of the poems to be very entertaining.

I am curious as to whether the author is a toy train collector as the notes at the end of the book state, "Plasticville is the name of a model train village manufactured in the '50s and '60s by Bachmann Brothers Inc." This statement would make me tend to believe that he may have had some Plasticville buildings at one time but is unaware of their continued production.

Plasticville can be purchased on line at the Barnes & Noble website for the \$14.99 list price or on the Amazon website where prices range from a cent for a used copy to \$14.99 for a new copy.

## 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

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)

My childhood early 50's Plasticville. No boxes. Two story, on story, and ranch homes. Fire, police, and railroad station. Diner, gas station, hardware store. Supermarket, corner store, school, church. Assorted accessories. Best offer for entire lot. #09-602, almjbecker@mchsi.com Allan Becker, 1253 N Wayhi Cir., East Peoria, Il 61611 Phone (309) 698-2845 (Aug 10)

FOR SALE. Large assortment of HO Plasticville. Cathedral, School, Police Station, Colonial house, Esso station, Motel with mesh drive through and connecting office. Many 'unique' other pieces. All in very good condition. Some pieces have replacement or repro parts to make complete. All glued. Perfect for a 'layout'. All

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.

buildings \$5 or less. (Several N scale pieces too, but look good with HO.) steedg@windstream.net 01-55 Jim Steed. 123 Moon Shadow View, Blairsville, Ga. 30512. 706 745 0629. Nov 10)

HO kit no. 271 on bottom. Very rare, one of a kind "contemporary" two story, Calif. style, swim. pool, garage, two wings of home at 30 degree angle. Looks like a Hollywood star's home. Perfect for hilltop/cliff setting. Many colors, complete, glued. (Also good for O gauge "forced perspective".) Very unique piece, indeed. \$15. steedg@windstream.net 01-55 Jim Steed. 123 Moon Shadow View, Blairsville, Ga. 30512. 706 745 0629. Nov 10)

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 11)

## ***For Trade***

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

## ***Wanted***

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 (Feb 10)

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. (Feb 10)

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 (Feb 10)

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 (Feb 10)

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 (Feb 10)

Littletown 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)

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

Wanted: Set of Pine Trees, box not required. Wanted for "O" gauge layout. Good to very good condition desired. steedg@windstream.net 01-55 Jim Steed. 123 Moon Shadow View, Blairsville, Ga. 30512. 706 745 0629. Nov 10)

Porch roof and FLOOR for red w/dark grey roof LH4 2-story Colonial house. Porch floor for tan w/bright red roof 2-story Colonial house. K-Line buildings that were packed in train sets. 2 each green and white K-Line barn ventilators. johnln@netins.net #00-3, John Niehaus, 601 SE Second St., Ankeny, IA 50021-3207 (Feb 11)

Loading Platform - gray/black pillar and chimney; Watchman's Shanty - light gray tool box lid and front light; Airport Administration building - left wing door; Hobo Shacks - dark gray bent chimney and brown tin can chimney; NE Rancher - two buff windows. tgfritsch.1@juno.com #01-04, Thomas Fritsch, 630 Wyandot Ave, Akron, OH 44305-1832 (Feb 11)

Plasticville shrubs green, BS6 and 1030 reasonably priced. wedekindt2@verizon.net 06-440 Richard H Wedekindt, 16 Addison Ave, Amherst, NY 14226-2323 (Feb 11)

## **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.

# BUILD A CLASSIC LAYOUT



**Plasticville**  
U.S.A.

Every layout in the postwar period featured Plasticville® U.S.A. buildings and accessories and they are still a favorite of O gauge railroaders!



**Williams**  
BY BACHMANN

Williams by Bachmann™ offers a wide variety of O gauge trains representing memorable railroading icons from the past as well as exciting modern motive power and rolling stock.



**SCENE  
SCAPES**

Scenescapes™ by Bachmann has everything you need for landscaping and scenery. Grass Mats, trees, foliage, turf and more to bring your urban or countryside railroad to life. Also arriving soon - Scenescapes™ Miniature Figures!



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