



# The Villager

The official newsletter of the Plasticville Collectors Association

Volume 9

August 2010

Number 3

## Call for Nominations

Nominations are now open for the offices of President, Vice President, and Secretary-Treasurer for the year 2011. Send your nomination to: [president@plasticvilleusa.org](mailto:president@plasticvilleusa.org). Mailed nominations will also be accepted. Send them to him at: PCA Officer Nominations, Attn: Glenn Bowman,

301 Buffalo Creek Road, Newport, PA 17074.

Self-nomination is encouraged so feel free to nominate yourself for any of the offices.

Nominations must be received no later than October 15, 2010.

## More on Dark Green and White BN-1 Barn

by John Niehaus

The photo accompanying this article was sent in by Kevin Ray #08-565. A label with the words GREEN - WHITE is definitely visible in the photo. One can also see the text BN-1 in the upper left corner of the photo verifying that the label is on a BN-1 box.

The label in the picture definitely validates that the BN-1 barn did come with white walls and a green roof. We are aware that the barn does come with a green roof but a much lighter and semi-translucent green. Thus the still outstanding question is whether the BN-1 came with a dark green roof? We still need a documented instance of where the label reads DK, DARK, or some variation thereof along with GREEN. That is the only way that we will be able to positively identify the piece in question as a true Bachmann emission.

If you have additional information or a BN-1 box that can help positively identify the barn as a Bachmann emission please send photos of your piece and the label on the box to [villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org](mailto:villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org).



We now have documented proof of a GREEN - WHITE label on a BN-1 box. What we still need is a label indicating that the roof is a dark green. Can anyone supply a photo of that type of label?

### The Villager

Published quarterly by the Plasticville Collectors Association.

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

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**Vice President:** James Dawes

**Secretary/Treasurer:** John L Niehaus

**Webmaster:** Joe Kutza

**Newsletter editor:** John Niehaus

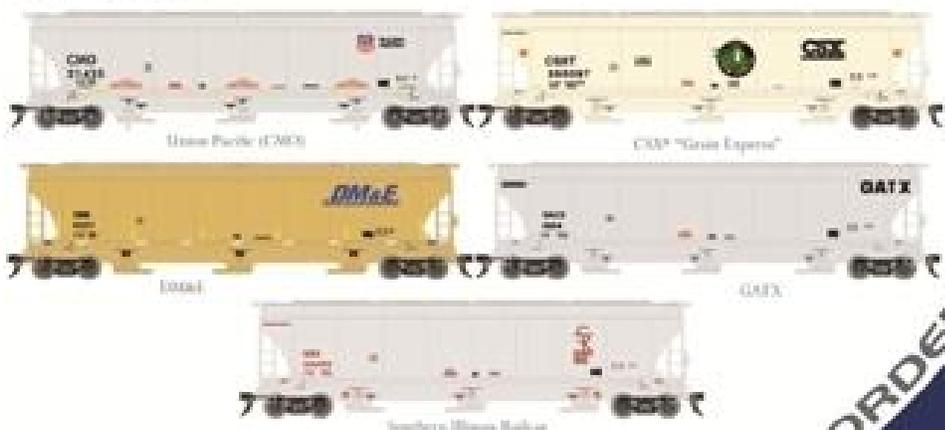
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## From the President's Desk



The question of the day is when is original NOT original? Thru the years, Plasticville offered for sale or trade, has been advertised noting that all of the parts are 'original'. I always understood that to mean that the parts were made by Bachmann and in the same era as the item

offered. It seems that some people are of the opinion that as long as Bachmann produced the item, it is original. I do not feel that way.

I think to be original, replacing a damaged or missing part requires using a part that matches the original part AND was made around the same era. It can also be said that to offer a kit in the original box for sale or trade, the kit and the box MUST also be from the same era and when appropriate, have the correct color name stamped on the box.

With Bachmann reissuing original 1950's and 1960's era kits thru the years there is a source for some of the often needed replacement parts. I remembering seeing a blue roof hangar with red doors that a seller had taken the 4 walls and the windsock from the reissued kit made several years ago. I knew the white color was incorrect for a 1950's kit, but I am afraid the seller found a buyer who was unaware of a difference. This is just one example and sadly there are so many more!

I think a bigger problem is putting later reissued kits into early boxes. I see the Union Station with the sticker on the upper front wall, instead of a molded clock, being put into the 1950's boxes and proclaiming it as a 'RARE' variation. One often sees the King issued corner store in the early Plasticville box.

I often think these scenarios are motivated by greed. A seller knows the vintage PV is far more in demand than the later reissues, and can get a more money from a vintage boxed kit. The same holds true for the Littleton Southern Mansion being offered in a Plasticville Colonial Mansion box.

I remember the old days when you bought an item from a seller, you asked if he was TCA and later PCA because you knew he was honest and the item was as represented. I know those days are gone and in some cases you can no longer trust that to be a good way to assure you are buying the real deal.

The following is being offered as useful information if you are confronted with the same situation.

I recently had 2 packages delivered to the house with 'postage due' written on stickers and affixed to the boxes. It seems the 2 differed sellers on eBay used click and ship labels but failed to pay the Post Office the correct amount of money to ship the packages.

The sellers used 'flat rate' Priority Mail boxes but treated them as regular, cheaper Priority Mail boxes. The USPS carrier told my wife she could pay the \$8.55 owed for the 2 boxes or send them back. My wife paid the money knowing I probably would like to have the items that had been shipped.

When she told me of the situation, I really got upset. Here were 2 boxes taken to 2 different Post Offices to ship, 1 in Pittsburgh and 1 in Florida, and NO employee at either Post Office bothered to see if the shipper paid the correct amount to ship them.

Why did I have to pay out even more money to cover some Postal employee not doing his job? I had already been overcharged the freight amount required to ship these. No wonder the USPS is losing money. I calmed down and searched the USPS website for the rules concerning postage due items.

It turns out that I had 2 choices. I could pay the extra money and take the packages OR have the packages shipped back to the original shippers who have to pay the postage due amount and then resend the package to me again. Had my wife known that, she would have shipped the items back to the 2 sellers, who by the way are PCA and TCA members. So if you find yourself in this same scenario, remember you can have the package returned to the seller to have him pay the postage due.

Until next time, Glenn Bowman

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## Vice Presidential Insights



Hello from Syracuse, NY. Searching for Plasticville has been a little slow. Found some nice pieces at auction.

Great meeting of the executive committee last month. Read more about it in this quarter's newsletter.

Steady growth in membership - keep those application coming!

Getting ready this July 17 for our oldest grandson's outdoor wedding. The weather looks "iffy" but should be okay, tents are up and ready for any kind of weather.

Always on the trail of that elusive piece of Plasticville.  
Jim Dawes, Vice President

## Notes from the Editor



Same ole, same ole: I am still return getting numerous undeliverable return email messages when I send out broadcast messages to the membership. This means that members, possibly you, are missing out on important organization information such as special meeting announcements, special item offers such as our upcoming 10th Anniversary limited edition dairy barn, and merchandise offers.

If you have not received an email from PCA@netins.net in the last three months, and have an email account, then it is very likely that the email address for you in the PCA member database is no longer current. It is either that or your ISP is blocking emails from PCA@netins.net, presuming that it is SPAM. If that is the issue then you need to set your email account to accept emails from PCA@netins.net.

I receive numerous emails via the PCA website from non-members. In some of these, the sender states that he is from a certain locale and that they have some Plasticville for sale. The question then asked is if I can give him the names, addresses, phone numbers, etc. of PCA members in their general area. The PCA policy is not to give out member information to non-members. There are no exceptions to this policy.

President Bowman mentions in his column that he has received packages from senders with postage due because they used Flat Rate Priority Mail boxes and added postage as if the boxes were regular Priority Mail boxes. Please be aware of whether you are using a Flat Rate Priority Mail box - which requires a specific amount of postage - or a standard Priority Mail box - which requires postage dependent upon the weight and distance to be sent. All Flat Rate Priority Mail boxes have the words "Flat Rate" prominently printed on them in blue ink as well as their size to enable a person to add correct postage.

While we are on the subject of Priority Mail boxes. Are you aware that these can be ordered directly from the US Postal Service and delivered directly to your door for free! Free boxes and free delivery, what more could you

ask for? All you need to do is to go to USPS.COM and place your order. My only caution is that you be careful not to order the APO/FPO flat rate boxes unless you intend to send packages to an APO or FPO address.

I recently had an extended email conversation with an eBay seller who is not a member regarding his sale on eBay of what he believed was an original 1958 Storytown catalog. As the PCA is becoming the definitive source for such questions, I did some research for him and found that his catalog was, indeed, a reproduction. In this instance, the PCA was able to help this seller retain a 100% feedback rating.

Some of these reproduction catalogs do not have any markings denoting that they are reproductions. Some editions do have a rubber stamp on the back page stating it is a reproduction. The most definitive way to identify a catalog as a reproduction is that the reproductions do not have any of the holes and cutouts on the bound side as with the original. Information regarding this reproduction and other known reproductions will soon be posted on the PCA website.

I wish to express my most gracious thanks to Tarla Wilber, the wife of PCA member Charles Wilber, for making changes to the Member Classified Ad form. Tarla modified the form so that it can now be sent to me electronically as well as being mailed. With her modifications, you can open the form, fill in the blanks, save it to your desktop or other destination, and then send it to me as an email attachment. It is my hope that with this simplified manner of submitting classified ads that I will be inundated with new ads. Her revised form will include instructions on how to fill out the form and send it to me.

You may have noticed that this newsletter is 32 instead of the customary 28 pages. The last two pages are your order form for the limited edition PCA 10th anniversary dairy barn. The last two pages are set so that, if you are a hard copy member, you may "cut along the dotted line" and still maintain the integrity of your stapled newsletter. If you are an ePCA member, simply print the order blank page found in the members section of the website.

## **July 2010 Executive Committee Minutes**

The July, 2010 Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 11:00AM, Eastern Time, on June 26 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:**

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

Site is backed up to an off-site location for safekeeping. Joe will save it to a physical drive. Joe will find a backup developer if that need should arrive but he is able to take care of minimal changes in the interim.

#### **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. His stated in his last communication that he wished to know the unit cost to the club before this meeting so that the Executive Committee could set a member price and thus allow him to create an order form to be included in the August edition of *The Villager*. He has not received that information as of this meeting.

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

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to table researching advertising in various hobby publications until such time as the Secretary has the time to pursue this option.

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

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved that a link to the PCA Mission Statement, Vision Statement, and Statement of Purpose be added to the home page immediately above the "Plasticville needs YOU" phrase as one link to all three or as three separate links.

#### **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 the PCA for photo submission information.

Joe and Glenn Bowman are still working to develop photo guidelines as well as a photo agreement document to be posting to a public section of the PCA website.

#### **Newsletter prices**

Secretary Niehaus reported that he has received prices from the newsletter publisher but will defer a breakdown on membership level costs until the October Executive Committee meeting.

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

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to not purchase the portable studio due to the impracticality of shipping it to members.

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

Secretary Niehaus reported that he contacted Krause Publications after the ad expired and they noted that they did have a "reasonable" response to the ad. He also stated that he suggested that as they were not current advertisers that future offers for them would not be broadcast to members but could be either advertised as a paid non-member classified ad in the Classified section of the newsletter or, if they preferred, as a paid display ad.

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

Secretary Niehaus reported that he has spent a total of \$97.90 on two software applications.

He also reported that he does not believe that there will be any additional upgrades needed.

### **New Business:**

#### **Payment to web developer**

Secretary Niehaus reported that a payment of \$250 had been paid to the web developer for his services from Nov 2009 through June 2010.

#### **Reprinting of previous reproduction parts identification article**

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to reprint the article on identifying reproduction parts as previously published in the July 2002 edition of *The Villager*.

#### **Reproduction catalogs.**

Secretary Niehaus reported that he had been contacted by an eBay seller regarding whether a Storytown catalog he sold as an original was an original or a reproduction as the buyer had contacted him and stated it was a reproduction. Investigation by the Secretary determined that the catalog was a reproduction.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approve that where reproduction catalogs are know that they should be noted on the PCA website. The motion further stated that these notations should be added to the website during the next regular quarterly website maintenance.

#### **Purchase of Bob Brooke's Plasticville Article**

A motion was made, to publishing the Plasticville article by Bob Brooke on his website or as was recently published in the S Gaugian magazine. The motion failed to be seconded.

#### **Update O and HO on website sections at same time**

It was decided that it would be somewhat impractical to attempt to update the HO website using the same process as for the O photos due to a lack of HO photos.

Buddy Meade has submitted a list of HO pieces in his collection and has offered to submit photos. Joe will contact Buddy in the near future and start the process of acquiring photos from him.

### York info packets

Secretary Niehaus reported that he had been contacted by the York train meet committee inviting the PCA to place organization information on tables in the Silver and Orange halls.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to take 60 membership applications to the October York meet.

### York Train Meet breakfast meetings

Discussion was held as to the very low attendance at the breakfast meetings held on the Thursday mornings before the meet opened. The consensus of those who regularly attended is that they were sparsely attended and should be discontinued.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to discontinue the York breakfast meetings beginning with

the April, 2011 meet as the announcement for the October 2010 meet had been submitted for publication in the meet notice booklet. Fred Ruby and Joe Kutza abstained from voting as neither have attended these breakfasts.

### PCA logo in sticker format

President Bowman suggested that a small self-adhesive, weatherproof label of the PCA logo be created to promote the Association. Secretary Niehaus will investigate the cost to produce a label.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 PM, Eastern Time

Respectfully submitted; John L. Niehaus  
Secretary/Treasurer

Approved by the Executive Committee, July 1, 2010.

## Unique Color Telephone Booth

by Louis Leppert



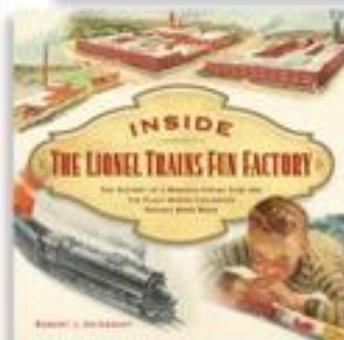
I have this telephone booth in my Plasticville collection. It is yellow with a gray base and roof. The telephone in the interior is gray as well. The word "telephone" is painted gray on raised letters above the door. Can anyone give me a positive identification as to who may have been the manufacturer. Please send me an email me at [leppfam@insightbb.com](mailto:leppfam@insightbb.com)

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# Why I Collect Plasticville

by Paul Bruemmer

I suppose like many of us in the PCA, my love for Plasticville began as a kid growing up in the 1950's. I grew up in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, population at the time 42,000; it was home to three 5 & 10 stores, four movie theaters and thousands of baby-boom kids.

The boy next door, four or five years older than I, had a layout in his basement, complete with train, a dozen or so buildings and of course, the white (Christmas tree) lights! I was mesmerized and would often nag him to run the train and turn on the lights for me. When he grew out of the train I inherited a few of his buildings.

I remember his layout. It was a simple "T" street plan, with a Cape Cod, Ranch house, diner, hospital, small supermarket and gas station, suburban train station, fire station, police station and church. That got me going.

I would get buildings at Christmas, for birthdays and sometimes my father would bring one home for no reason other than to please me. I had between 18 and 20 buildings set up on a board in the basement.

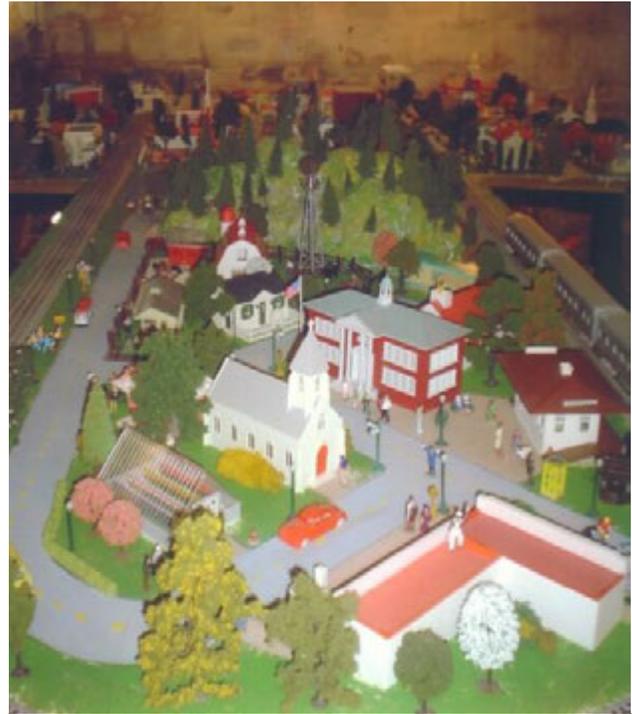
Unfortunately, the occasional bump against the board caused an "earthquake", hence some of the smaller pieces (antennas, lights, crosses on churches etc.) broke or disappeared with time. The fragile sliding walls of the parish church and cathedral also took a hit at those moments. Eventually, the buildings got packed away and stored in the attic, and then forgotten.

When I was in my late twenties I remember asking my mother what had happened to those buildings. In her eagerness to clean the house (basement and attic included), she had given them away. For a brief moment, my heart sank.



My layout is a Plasticville layout. The train was added only because I had the Union station and suburban station that needed a train for a more realistic setting.

A few years ago, in my desire to feed my nostalgia for the good ol' times, I asked the people who had gotten the buildings from my mother if they still had them. Only my brother had the ones he was given — five of them. The



A view of the town on the other side of the mountain. Note the suburban station with the brown roof to the right in the photo as well as a K-Line school to its left.

Independence Hall and apartment building were in good shape; the 5 & 10 was missing a few window panels; the cathedral had missing parts and the bank was a disaster. I decided to add to the collection by buying on eBay. My goal was to acquire at least one of each building or set made by Bachmann. I have not yet reached my goal, but I am only seven or eight buildings away from my objective. I still need a coaling station, trestle bridge, road racing components and a few other items. The problem is that they won't fit on the board in the basement. I'm sure my sister-in-law who lives in the unit below us would like that space for her home-based business, so that precludes adding space onto the board.

Mind you, I am not a train collector. I set up the Plasticville on the board in the basement so that it would look like a real city as much as I could make it. I added the train because the suburban station and the Union station needed a train!

The pieces I have are not anything a collector would want as they are common colors, but they are all in good shape and all the pieces are there! I do have a Colonial church with the black roof (part of the Scenic Classics Series) and a hardware-pharmacy with the beige front, but that's it for anything a collector might even be slightly interested in.

The board measures approximately 8 ft. by 14 ft. and is meant to look like a city I would not mind living in. The log cabin needed a country setting, so there is a mountain, wooded area and a lake. The Covered bridge crosses the lake at its narrowest point. The airport needed a runway, so there is a likeness of a runway in the corner of the layout. The mountain separates two communities, each served by the train and a train station. I added a movie theater (Walther's), a Skyline house and a K- Line school. Everything else is pure Plasticville.

What's next? Lights!! Someday.

I never tire looking at the set-up — it reminds me of simpler and more innocent times. No road rage, no high speed computers, no iPods, no cell phones, no financial crises —just life. The 1950's for me were simple and innocent. Plasticville makes that feeling real.



The lake was created to give the log a country setting. It is visible at the base of the mountain that separates my two "towns".

## Ideal Diner Restoration

by Tim Price



Careful cleaning and the use of denatured alcohol allowed me to restore this Ideal Diner to a very presentable piece.

Illustrated here is an Ideal Diner that I just recently purchased. It was loaded with spider webs, dirty and had a 1 inch strip of white paint completely across the white base. However, after I removed the paint and cleaned it up, it actually looks to be in very good condition.

I used Klean-Strip, S-L-X Denatured Alcohol, an all purpose cleaning solvent. If you want to remove all of the paint on an item, soak it in the alcohol a few minutes to dissolve and loosen up the paint, and use a toothbrush, toothpick and your finger nails to remove the paint. I did not soak the Diner as all I wanted to remove was the strip of white paint. I used a rag with alcohol on it, but only scrubbed the painted area in which I was looking to remove the paint, keeping the solvent away from other painted areas on the unit.

*(Use denatured alcohol only in a well ventilated area and away from sources of combustion as it is highly flammable. Editor)*

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## HO Firehouse Front With a Hole Over the Service Door

by John Niehaus with Winnie Stang and "The Bach Man"

As the PCA Secretary, I received an email from Winnie Stang, member #10-646, asking if I could provide information regarding an HO firehouse with a hole over the personnel door that she recently acquired. She felt it may have been for a light fixture over the door.

Instead of my attempting to encapsulate our emails of the subsequent 10 days. I thought it would be fun to share with you an example of a somewhat typical email conversation that I have with members who contact the PCA with questions.

As a third party is involved in the below conversation, I have noted each conversation entry below as from whom and to whom each message was sent for clarity.

Changes have made to the conversation to remove the name and title of the person actually responding as the Bach Man. I have substituted (Bach Man) in place of their actual name. Winnie's and my salutations have also been removed due to space considerations.



Bachmann has verified that the hole over the service door on this HO firehouse (see arrow) was for a light fixture, similar to other buildings in their HO line.

The question now is, "What color was the light fixture?" Does anyone have a sealed firehouse kit with the light? That would help verify the color.

### **Winnie to John:**

John, I've recently purchased a "glued", HO Firehouse, (no box). This Firehouse clearly has a "punched" hole - directly above the door, for a "lamp". I'll assume that it is probably a red lamp, as roof and doors, plus chimney cap, are all red. Per the boxes shown on the website, there is "nothing" shown above the door, on the HO Firehouse.

This "house" is shown as - PAT. June 17, 1952 - NO. 2,600,900, and has all of the additional Plasticville logo, B&B, etc.

I am sending over a picture of the piece for verification. Perhaps someone has seen this before. Please advise.

### **Winnie to John:**

John, FYI: I send this pic over as a **reference** to the size of the punched hole above the door of the HO Mfg. Co. (factory). This size hole is identical in size, to the one that appears in the earlier picture that I had sent, of the **HO Firehouse**. I'm more convinced than ever, that the Firehouse piece is either a mistake in manufacturing at Bachmann, or was issued in a later set.

### **John to Winnie:**

Does the canopy that goes over the door of the factory have a corresponding pin? Or is there a canopy? I am not HO literate enough to know whether the hole was for a light or the locator pin for a canopy.

### **Winnie to John:**

Yes, the canopy for the factory door does have a corresponding pin; and Yes I do have the canopy! (I will send you over a copy of the canopy, but this set is incomplete). Like you, my feelings are now mixed, as to whether the Firehouse opening above the door is for a light - or for a canopy. However, there isn't much room for a canopy of any size. Plus, I still do not see anything showing above the door, on any of the Firehouse pictures that are up on the website.

### **Winnie to John:**

John, This is the canopy for the HO Factory. It has a slight "round" knob on its end, and it is 9/16" wide, (not including "pin"), and is 1 5/8" in length.

### **Winnie to the Bach Man:**

Dear Sir: I have recently purchased a Plasticville, HO Firehouse. And I cannot identify the number or year etc., of the piece. Also, I have never seen pictures of the Firehouse with a "hole" over the front red door.

Can you please give me some help? I will try to send a picture via my scanner.

### **Bach Man to Winnie:**

You definitely have a Firehouse from the 1950's, possibly into the early 1960's. The hole was made for one of the lamps that were standard on some of the Plasticville items. The hole was closed up in the late 1950's, early 1960's.

The same molds are being used today to make the Plasticville Firehouse, just the colors have been changed over the years to make it interesting.

We have no plans and cannot go back and add the hole since these were welded up years ago and the pins removed from the mold (long before I ever got here).

Our molds were sent to our factory in China about eight years ago since our molding machines are gone and worn out and parts were no longer available.

We have the very best and modern molding machines available at our factory in southern China. They are in good hands and well taken care of.

Best regards, (Bach Man)

**Winnie to John:**

John, This response is directly from Bachmann; it is the answer to the Firehouse question. The only lamps, (that I have seen), on some of the HO Plasticville items were usually "black" - but in this case, I believe that "red" would've been the color. It proves that the piece is in fact "authentic".

Hopefully, this little Firehouse will be a welcomed addition to your website. I'll have to check my records to see if I have forwarded the "scan" to the webmaster.

**John to Winnie:**

You could not have received an answer from a more authoritative person. (Bach Man) is a long-time Bachmann employee, probably 30++ years. He was one of the people that our founder and I communicated with at the outset of establishing the PCA.

The odd thing about the hole is that in none of my catalogs illustrating HO pieces is the lamp shown on the firehouse. I will use all of your emails and the picture in the August newsletter.

**Winnie to John:**

**WOW!** I'm so happy to have the info about "(Bach Man)", as it adds even more credence to this piece of Plasticville history.

The question now becomes, what "color" lamp do you think came with the set?? My guess is still "red".

**Winnie to the Bach Man:**

It's me again, with one last question. Can you please ask (Bach Man) if he possibly knows what "color" the lamp would've been on the HO Firehouse in question. Myself, I have only ever seen the tiny black lamp, (on the split level kit). I know that it is asking a lot. But I would really like to know what color to, "search the haystacks", for. Thank you once again for your help.

**Bach Man to Winnie:**

I checked with (Bach Man), but there was no specific color for the lamp – it was whatever the production worker who was on the line put into the box.

**Winnie to John:**

**The "quest" and the haystack just got bigger!**

**End of email string**

I cannot dispute the last comment from the Bach Man but am also aware that in the vast majority of instances the same color pieces were put into boxes of the same stock number, although there seems to be some rare exceptions.

Does anyone have this HO firehouse with a hole over the door in a sealed package with the light fixture. If you do please contact me so that I may make arrangements to view your piece as well as document on the PCA website any known colors of light fixtures.

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\*Police Department, Bank, and School lights are not reproductions.

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# Creative Use of Damaged Parts

## Brooklyn Plastic Modelers Society Membership Application

By Edward Johnson



Well, fellow travelers through the world of Plasticville I'm saddened to report my supply of used and abused parts is exhausted. All I have left is a station front, half of a firehouse roof and some miscellaneous odd parts. Those remaining parts would not make a decent representation of an outhouse.

However, I have not been an idle modeler. I recently was admitted to the Brooklyn Plastic Modelers Society. The admission process is not an application. A prospective member must submit samples of their work for peer review at three successive meetings. Armored force models are a big interest with club members. Therefore, I decided it was a good time to repair, rebuild and build my collection of 1/48 scale armored force



Another of my submissions for membership consideration was a Porter switcher made by Northwestern Models in the 50's.



A sampling of the tank models submitted for membership consideration in the Brooklyn Plastic Modelers Society. From left to right, top photo: British Chieftain, French AMX30, United States M-60, German WWII JagdPanther, German WWII King Tiger. Bottom photo: Russian WWII T-34, Russian WWII Su-85, United States Sherman, Swedish S-Tank, German Service Su-85

vehicles. These models, some of which are motorized, have been accumulated for over twenty years.

My submitted models were a British Chieftain tank, a French AMX30 tank, a United States M-60 tank, a German WWII JagdPanther tank, a German WWII King Tiger tank, a Russian WWII T-34 tank, a Russian WWII

Su-85 tank, a United States Sherman tank, a Swedish S-Tank, and German Service Su-85 tank. (Above photo)

Not all my submissions were armored vehicles. I also submitted a recently assembled 1950 vintage Northwestern Models Porter switcher locomotive. (Above photo)



Although a bit whimsical and not submitted to the Society for consideration, this piece was created after being cajoled by my wife for not creating a "girls Tank"!

My wife would occasionally watch me painting the tank models. One evening she said "I'm tired of seeing, green, dark brown, gray and black. I want to see colors, pink, purple, red. I want a girl tank! What were my choices? With age I have acquired some wisdom. I built a Girl Tank. (Photo at left)

*(See the online color version of*

*this article to really appreciate the colors and craftsmanship involved in creating these models. The Brooklyn Plastic Modelers Society's website is <http://bpmsclub.blogspot.com/Editor>)*

*That's all folks, Eddie J*

# Plasticville on the Board

## People

By John Gottcent



People are the heart of any community. That might seem true in our plastic villages too, except that there, they are often the bane of the community.

I'm talking about our plastic or metal citizens who, despite great technological advances in building construction and accessories, unfortunately remain the static giveaway clues that our villages are not "real".

Each issue of *Classic Toy Trains* contains a set of layout photos sent in by readers. Many of these are hi-rail layouts that look as though they could be photos of the real thing. With the obvious exception of that third rail running down the middle of most track arrangements, though, it's the people who let us know we're looking at a model.

This is not for want of trying on the part of "people manufacturers". Companies such as Artista and even Lionel have made great strides in depicting citizens in various poses and modes of dress. But no one yet has found a way to make those people spring to life. Even the



Photo 1

An unpainted, a water-colored painted, and an oil-base painted young man from left to right. Notice how the gloss type oil-based figure looks artificial while the center, water-colored figure looks more lifelike. Always use flat rather than gloss paints to make your figures look more lifelike.

figures who appear in operating accessories move as if totally paralyzed by arthritis.

Fortunately, there are things we can do to minimize the frozen states of our people. The first involves color. While most modern people products arrive fully painted and ready to set up, original Plasticville citizens were boxed in plain "flesh" color. They were usually accompanied by a palette of watercolors to be administered by the purchaser. Alas, these colors were muted to begin with and often faded with time. A better

solution is to apply oil-based or acrylic paints, almost always in flat rather than glossy colors. (Glossy hues simply accentuate the artificiality of the figures.) Photo One shows the difference among unpainted, water-colored, and oil-based folk.



Photo 2

The young girl in the middle is almost as large as the full grown man to her right, and towers over the full grown woman to her left. Yet all are sold as "O scale" people.

A second issue involves size. Different manufacturers have very different ideas about what constitutes scale for plastic citizens, as a glance at Photo Two reveals. Older figures produced by Lionel and Marx are even more extreme examples; the famous Gateman who emerged from his shack each time your postwar steam engine rode by was a gargantuan ten feet tall in O scale (1/4 inch = 1 foot—see Photo Three.)

A good solution is to group figures of similar height near one another, with the larger figures up front to force perspective. You also might want to consider the size of your buildings. Newer products from Walthers and MTH tend toward scale size and can accommodate larger citizens. Smaller buildings, like original Plasticville, can make those same people look



Photo 3

Lionel's famous gateman, at a scale 10 feet tall towers over his more scale-sized Plasticville comrade.

out of place. Nothing seems more phony than to have a 1 1/2" person (who should be about 6 feet tall in O scale) standing before a door that is shorter than he.

An oft overlooked issue is "standability". Plasticville folk were made with a plastic base molded to their feet, making them easy to set up. Unfortunately, that base is often the clearest clue that the person is a model. You can minimize this problem by painting the base the same color as the ground on which you plan to place your figure: green for grassy lawns, brown for dirt roads, gray



Photo 4

Paint the bases of your figures to match the surface on which they will be placed.

The gentleman with the gray base would fit best on a concrete-colored street, while his brown-based twin would fit best on brown cobblestone walkway or a dirt road.

for city streets, etc. (See Photos Four and Five.)

Other manufacturers have tried to eliminate this problem by doing away with the base, asking their people to literally stand on their own two feet. Alas, many of these folks tip over as soon as you place them on even the flattest surface. This tends to be especially true for Artista figures, who otherwise are highly detailed and



Photo 5

Notice how the different colored bases on these two women, light gray and dark gray, blend into the different colored surfaces on which they are "walking."

presented in a wide variety of interesting poses and occupations. The fact that they're made of metal and thus heavier than plastic figures only makes things worse.

I've found the best solution to tumbling townspeople is to glue a small clear plastic base onto the soles of their feet. I use Elmer's white glue for plastic people since it dries clear. Metal folks may need a stronger adhesive. You can cut your own bases to size if you save flat sections of plastic from the hard wrap that seems to surround every package you buy these days.

Finally, don't forget to adjust your people to terrain and seasons. A man dressed in a formal business suit would probably not be found hiking along a country path. A woman in a bathing suit fits well into your summer diorama, but come winter you'd best replace her with someone more warmly dressed.

If you have other tips for making the most of your population, let me know at [jandjgott@gmail.com](mailto:jandjgott@gmail.com). Otherwise, as always, 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 Auto-Body Repair Shop

By Todd Hendrickson



Sometimes while searching for new kits to buy, you come across one that you didn't even know was offered by Bachmann. During one of my daily hunts on eBay, I came across a #2915 Auto-Body Repair Shop. I went to the PCA website and found it listed and that Bachmann only offered this kit two times.

Being a car guy and an auto body guy, I had to have this kit. It was still in the shrink wrap and the price was good.

I want to add that I have very good luck with eBay. I have only had problems two times. We have to remember that not everyone is a train buff like us and the sellers just didn't know.

When I got the kit in the mail I looked at the box and it



As can be seen, the autos included in the #2915 Auto-Body Repair Shop are definitely in need of repair.

illustrated the cars being damaged. When I opened it I was surprised that the cars were molded as if they had been in an accident.

It reminded me of when I was a youngster and put telephones pole on my lay-out and wanted a crashed car against one of them. My Dad put a lighter to an auto and made it look crashed.

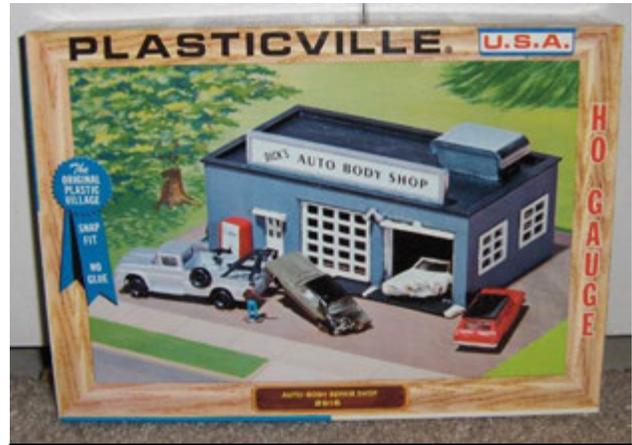
The damage on the cars in this kit looked as if someone pressed them to a hot iron or Bachmann found a way to use factory defects.

What I also noticed was that the mechanic, truck, cars and even the Coke machine were painted. When I was

young I mostly got the orange box kits, and nothing in them came painted.

As my collection grows, I prefer kits in the wooden frame boxes and every time I open one I can't believe how much is painted.

The illustration on the box showed the kit being molded



Although the illustration on this picture frame box gives the impression that the kit contains a plastic base in which the building is to set it actually contains a more typical cardboard base.

in blue, but the one in the box was gray, like the one in the orange # 45-2933 box. I am not sure if this kit ever came in blue. If anyone knows please send me an email me and even a photo if possible.

Also the box showed the kit being on a plastic base. One can tell by the raised curbs. The one in my kit came with a cardboard base, again like #45-2933 kit.

I am not complaining about the detail of this kit, just pointing out the differences. As we all know it is not what we get in our kits. It is what we do with our kits to make them ours.

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

## Pen Tips

### Helpful Hints from Fellow Members

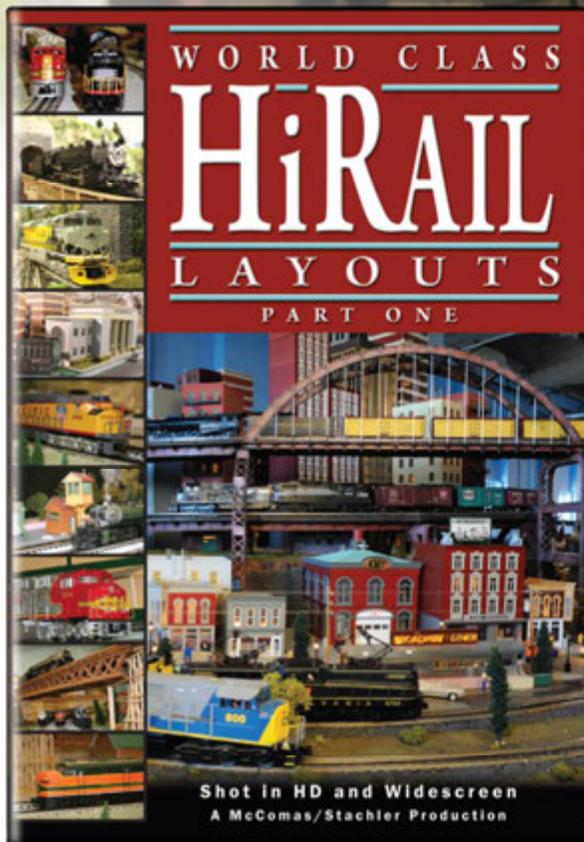
A PCA pen goes to George Caravas for his pen tip below.

Paint stripping: We often find plastic walls and pieces brush painted for that "improved appearance". My remedy is hot water soaking with strong liquid detergent.

Periodic checks and toothbrush action helps loosen most paint. Careful scraping with various sharp and pointed implements will get the rest. Infinite patience and a skillful touch is mandatory. Your reward will be a hobo shack that is no longer red with green trim..

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## Littletown Super Market Color Mystery Deepens

By John Niehaus

Ray Scanland, #02-174, has responded, stating that he had an identically colored piece but with a slight difference, in response to the article in the last issue asking if anyone had a Littletown Super Market in the same unique color combination as the one owned by Dave Brandel.

Ray wrote, "I have a Littletown Super Market in the same colors. Green roof and doors dark blue



Ray Scanland submitted this photo of an identically colored Littletown Super Market but with one exception. The vertical sign is unpainted.

lettering. The only difference I can see is the lettering on the Market sign is not painted. I picked this one up at York this April. It came in the original box 101 and still had the waxed bag which held the doors.

In a second email Ray brings up the question of a color combination on the Littletown Gas Station of which neither he nor I can find no documentation.

Ray wrote, "... a Littletown Gas Station that I cannot find any reference to. I purchased both from



Can anyone submit a photo of an identically configured Littletown Gas Station as Ray had not been able to find this color combination in any references, either on line or in print.

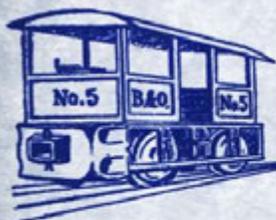
the same person at York this spring.

It seems that the question posed by Dave regarding his piece has not been answered but instead has generated two additional questions. Are Dave and Ray's Super Markets each unique and authentic Littletown emissions and is Ray's Gas Station an authentic but undocumented color combination for that piece?

See the May, 2010 issue of *The Villager* for a color comparison between Dave I Ray's Super markets.

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## Non-Railfan Antics

### A View from the Other Side

By Gordon C Kelley



When I was pulled for running - became an engineer - I dropped from the top of the firemen roster to the bottom of the engineer roster. That meant you now worked the "extra list" or worked make up days with little chance of weekends off for years to come.

A lot of the younger engineers watched the caller's board like hawks. It was their

Ouija board. If an old engineer got sick they watched hospital reports. If he died they would go into the caller's office and pull the wooden block with his name and seniority numbers off the board and throw the block in the trash. They would then tell the caller to push everyone's seniority up one space. They sometimes knew of the deaths before the railroad had been notified.

Now comes the "weekend off" problem. I was serving in the Coast Guard Reserves and had to have one weekend a month off for military duty. I would work

Friday nights and make sure I got off by 6:30AM so that I could make the 7:00AM muster. I would contact the caller and lay off for military service. The younger engineers wanted me penalized 24 hours for each day I was at reserve duty.

The union steward for the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers was a master chief petty officer in the Milwaukee Naval Reserve unit. When the question of my being penalized came up before at a union meeting the steward walked to the front of the room and opened up the contract book.

He then read the section on Military Reserve service: 1 - That I could not be penalized and 2 - That I could lay off on the Friday before and the Monday after. I never did lay off on the Monday after.

The young engineers were "educated" - they should have read the contract - and had to put up with my "messaging up" their Ouija board for years to come.

*(The photo included with this article is that of the author boarding his assigned engine - "going to work" - for the last day of his railroading career. It was also the end of 150 years of Kelley family railroading starting with the author's grandfather who spent 60 years on the railroad, followed by his father who spent 50 years. If you did not notice, the engine's livery is that of the Canadian National Railway. Editor)*

## An Author's Response to a Recent Book Review in *The Villager*

by John Niehaus

It is the practice of the PCA to send a complimentary copy of the newsletter in which a product review appears to the company that provided the product. The newsletter is usually addressed to the person who submitted the product for review.

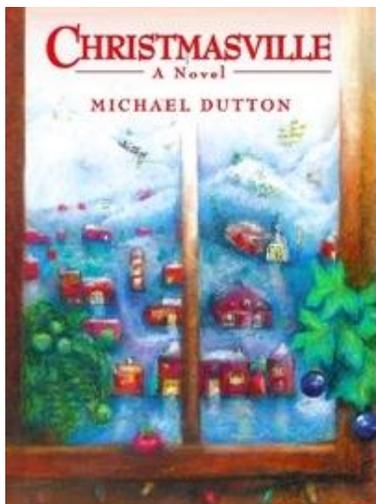
It is rare that the PCA receives a comment regarding the review from the provider thus you can imagine my pleasure when we received not only a response but also a photo of his childhood layout from the David Trinidad, the author of the book of poems entitled *Plasticville*.

David wrote, " Thank you very much for reviewing my book *Plasticville*. It is very nice! Thought you might enjoy the attached (vintage) photo. It's the model village my father built for me and my brother one Christmas in the 60s. As an adult, I collected all those pieces: school, church, barn, etc. Still have them!"

It was great to know that even now he is acquiring the Plasticville buildings that he had as a boy.



A view of the HO layout David Trinidad and brother had in the 60's. Every piece seems to be Plasticville except for the red and yellow building which David identified as a garage/gas station.



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# Earthquake Rocks Germantown, MD on Friday, July 16, at 5:04 AM

## It Really Happened!

by Mike Marmer and Joe Kutza

PCA Founder Joe Kutza, his wife and two young sons were jolted awake by an extremely rare Maryland earthquake measuring a “whopping” 3.6 on the Richter scale (don’t laugh Californians!). The epicenter was right in his home town of Germantown less than 2 miles from their home. “I thought it was a gas explosion, or a train collision at the nearby Germantown Station” said Kutza.

After confirming the lack of carnage by walking around his house and conferring with an equally stunned neighbor, Kutza went back to bed.

The news at PCA Member Mike Marmer’s house, also in Germantown wasn’t as good. As reported by John Kelly in the Washington Post on July 21 – You might have read that there was no damage from the quake, but, Mike says, don’t believe it.

The tragic consequences of the temblor were all too apparent at his house. No, it didn’t affect his collection of more than 300 antique milk bottles.

However, not so lucky was Mike’s S gauge train layout in his basement. While assessing the state of things, Mike’s wife, Linda, exclaimed “Look! A cow fell over!”

Indeed, one of the 15 plastic cows in his barnyard scene had fallen over, unable to withstand the force of the earthquake. This was confirmed by the fact that Mike had just taken pictures of his layout the night before,

confirming that the cow was upright at the time.

Look for photos of Mike’s layout in an upcoming issue of Classic Toy Trains.

Although Post reporter John Kelly was unable to secure a front page spot for the story, he does note that future seismologists will now have a record that during the rare Maryland earthquake, at least one plastic cow was moooved.



## Markings on Bob Persing’s Reproduction Parts

Originally published in Volume 1, Number 3 of *The Villager*

Bob Persing sent us the list of reproduction pieces he sells with the notation as to where these markings can be found on each piece. It is hoped that the text and illustrations below will assist you in determining reproduction parts from the original. Thanks to Bob also for supplying samples of his parts for the photos.

**Barn ventilators** – on the inside bottom in one corner.

**Cape Cod and Suburban Station chimney** – Centered on the bottom.

**Colonial mansion chimney half** – centered at the top on the back side.

**Frosty bar stool** – on the round part of the end that fits into the base.

**Frosty Bar sign** – on the back below the R in bar.

**Watchman’s shanty light** – on the small diameter just above the shade.

**Hayrack stake** – on one side that goes into the wagon slot.

**Loading platform chimney** – on the round end that inserts into the roof.

**New England rancher chimney side** – centered at the bottom on the back.

**Police Station antenna base** – on the inside in one corner.

**Ranch house chimney** – on the bottom left side of the flange that sits on the roof and on the longer of the two sides.

**Switch tower chimney** – on the round on the end that inserts into the roof and just below the chimney cap.

**2 story Colonial porch post** – on one end on one of the flat sides that fit into the porch floor.

**2 story Colonial chimney half** – centered at the bottom on the back.

**Turnpike traffic cone** – Hole is off-center in the bottom. The hole in an original cone is centered.

**Turnpike light holder** – centered at the top on the back between the holes for the lenses.

**Watchman’s shanty chimney** – on the round of the end that fits into the hole in the rear wall

**Watchman’s shanty chimney** – on the round of the end that fits into the hole in the rear wall.



*(The membership of the PCA has grown from less than 70 members to over 400 since this article was first published.. As a service to the newer members, it is being*

*reprinted so that you can be more aware of how to determine if a small Plasticville part is an original or a reproduction. At least one purchased from by either Bob Persing or Bill Nole. Editor)*

**A Comparison of Another Reproduction Part to an Original**

by Glenn Bowman



The weathervane on the left is an original while the one on the right is a reproduction.  
 The most striking difference is that the original has pins sticking out on the left side of the horse and the lower ball. The reproduction does not.  
 You can also see that the reproduction does not have the same amount of detail especially in the mane as the original.  
*(It is always a good practice when purchasing loose small parts to ask the seller if they are original parts or reproduction parts. Editor)*

# CLASSIC TOY TRAINS MAGAZINE

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## What Members Are Saying

Hi John, A few weeks ago, I received my membership card signed by you and spelled correctly: Paul H. Pflanz. However, I recently received my May 2010 Villager and was surprised to see my name on the Proposed Members list as Paul H Phlanz. Maybe we should correct this? I guess if the membership card is spelled correctly, I must be on the books as a "Pflanz". So maybe this is much ado about nothing. Have a nice day. Paul (*Your last name has been changed and printed correctly in this issue. I apologize for the error. Editor*)

Hi John, I am a proposed member, listed in the May 2010 newsletter. Thank you for the great job you are doing as the editor of the Villager. I am hoping that you can make a change to my name and state as listed in the May newsletter. My correct name is Harvey M. Marks and I live in Methuen, MA. Not that there is anything wrong with New Jersey but I prefer MA. Thanks for your help. Harvey M. Marks (*You are now listed in the roster as living in NJ rather than MA. I apologize for the error. Editor*)

Has anyone found out the full story on the new Atlas buildings that originally appeared as new Plasticville (Bachmann Industries) buildings in the 1990's? I think I have one of each of these issues in Plasticville USA modern boxes (large blue ones). Mike Denuty (*I am hoping that we can get the full story from Bachmann in the very near future. Nothing firm on this but I feel it is a very distinct possibility. Editor*)

Keep up the good work with The Villager, I enjoy reading it. Thank you, Richard Woelkers

I would like to see Bachmann issue a better vehicle set that includes the long car, the short car, the ambulance, the pickup truck, the jeep, the bus, and one fire truck. All of those except the fire truck should come in at least two colors - that way you can get two sets to get more versions, plus both fire trucks. Mike Denuty

I have an idea for a future article or section in the PCA web site. I would like to see larger photos someday of all the different figures and accessories that came with the older (40's, 50's and 60's) Littletown, Marx, Ideal and other Plastic Village sets. I am also interested in seeing larger pictures of the Plasticville Road Racing accessories and sitting people. If I knew what the older figures and accessories looked like, I would be more inclined to buy them instead of passing them over when I run across them at train shows. Just a thought that crossed my mind. Tim Price

As usual, what an excellent newsletter! I sent you some pictures of my layout a while back and I also sent you some pictures of an Ideal Diner that I had recently purchased. Do I need to forward these photos to someone else or do you forward them if you think they are noteworthy of being included in a newsletter or on the PCA web site some day? I thought you might be able to use the photos that I sent you of the diner to get the Ideal section of the PCA web site started. Again, keep up the great work with the newsletter and web site! Tim Price

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**NOW WITH IT'S OWN APPLICATOR!**

## Welcome New Members

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

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 Pflanz, Syracuse, NY  
James A Lyle, Gap, PA  
Cliff Saxton, Des Peres, MO  
Nancy Beadle, New Hope, PA

## 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 October 1, 2010.

Paul Guaraglia, Foster City, CA  
Richard D Orr, Seville, OH  
Bob Pearson, Fall River, MA  
George W Middleton, Caledonia, NY

## Member Info Corrections:

Your editor made two errors in the previous Proposed Members section. My apologies for these errors.

Paul H Pflanz, Syracuse, NY  
Harvey A Marks, Metheun, NJ

## 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.

### **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



AtlasO O  
Through Plate  
Girder Bridge Kit,  
#6918, \$109.95,  
single track. Die  
cast girders and

track support and plastic deck. A UV additive has been added to the plastic deck for outdoor use. This piece came to me for review "out of the blue". Since many of the members not only collect Plasticville but also have layouts I am guessing that it was presumed that this may be of interest to those members.

This piece is no slouch when it comes to its weight. It weighs in at a bit under five pounds when assembled. The weight is due to the fact that all but the bridge deck is cast metal. A total of 16 screws are all that need to be installed to assemble the bridge. The girders are 15 inches in length. The supplied track, which must be manually, and gently, slid into place under simulated spikes molded into the roadbed are 18 1/4 inches in length. There are two bright rails for the outer rails and a darkened rail for the center. The bridge deck ends are designed to connect directly to the Atlas 21st Century Track System.

The cast pieces are painted flat black. There are no road markings or other markings on the pieces. I believe that is consistent with prototype bridges. The bridge deck

is the same color as the ties of the 21st Century Track system.

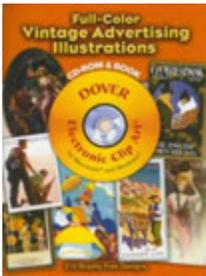
Assembly of the bridge is simply as there are pins and indents in all pieces to allow for ease of assembly. My one error, but an easy fix, was in not reading the supplied diagram carefully enough and installing the bridge decks incorrectly. Assembly of the bridge without the track took me less than an hour.

The kit is available in both 3 rail and 2 rail versions, #7918 for 2 rail. They also offer an Add-On kit to make the bridge a multiple line unit, #6919 for 3 rail and #7919 for 2 rail.

Either of the bridges or Add-On kits may be purchased at the AtlasO website at <http://atlaso.com>. Click on the Online Catalog link and then search on BRIDGE. You may also want to check with your local hobby shop for availability.

If you have a high rail layout or an outdoor layout with a moderate sized creek to cross this may be the bridge to use.

Included in the package with the bridge was a piece of 21st Century Track with a gently curve. The chord on the inner rail measured approximately 21 inches. The wrapping paper had a cryptic 6016 written on it. A quick check on the Atlas website divulged that this piece is a 108 inch (9 foot) radius curve. This is a new item in their 21st Century Track System line.



**Full-Color Vintage Advertising Illustrations**, CD-ROM and Book, Dover Publications, \$19.95, MAC and PC compatible.

The CD contains 210 Royalty-free designs. The designs range from simple female faces and heads to advertising that would quite possibly be something to put on the side of a building. The labels seem to range designs in the CD seem to range from very early turn of the century through mid to late twenties or early thirties. There are ads for printing companies. Ads for Lehigh Portland Cement as well as one for line shaft belts. There are also ads for

steamship lines promoting various exotic locations. And last but certainly not least there is a nice selection of what seem to be World War I patriotic posters.

Dover has additional CD-ROM books that may also be of interest that you may want to investigate. Three that may have illustrations for your buildings or billboards are: Full Color Old Time Label Art, Vintage Labels and Posters, and Old-Time Travel Posters and Luggage Labels. All three of these list for \$19.95 or less on their website at [doverpublications.com](http://doverpublications.com).

The Old-Time Travel Posters and Luggage Labels as well as a Vintage Label Art CD is listed on their site as available at Barnes and Noble bookstores.



**Atlas Industrial Rail Work Train 3 Pack**, \$94.95. Atlas

recently introduced a three piece work train set in Norfolk Southern, Union Pacific, Norfolk & Southern, Delaware & Hudson, and Chessie road names. Although the set is called a work train set all three pieces are very prominently marked with the typical Maintenance of Way (MW) lettering denoting such. The sets are part of Atlas'

Industrial Rail series of traditionally-sized O/O-27 cars. My review set was the Norfolk Southern.

The sets include a flatcar with fourteen stakes, a gondola, and a light duty maintenance crane/work caboose flatcar. The flatcar has a single brake wheel stand in addition to the stakes which the user must add on. The undersides of all three cars have nicely molded in details including brake lines and tanks. All three cars

have button type automatic operating couplers. They also ride on non-operational sprung trucks.

I would normally not comment any further on trucks but these seem to have three actual springs or coiled wires simulating springs on each truck! I do not believe that they are molded plastic. A very nice touch of realism.

The crane on the crane car can be manually raised up or down on a central shaft. It is not able to pivot up and down but only raised on the central shaft. It also has hand operated hook that can be locked at any height by pushing the hand crank in or out. The boom can be rotated horizontally approximately 270 degrees



**The Lionel Legend, An American Icon**, Robert Schleicher, published by Voyageur Press, \$40 US, \$43.95 Canada, 256 pages, 9 1/2 X 11, hardcover, color photos throughout.

For those of you who do not have enough books related to the history of Lionel, here is another one. If you have enough already, this one might just have a tidbit or two of information to add to your Lionel knowledge.

The book is formatted into eight parts, instead of chapters, plus an index. Each part is broken down into chapters from two to a maximum of four pages. The subject of each chapter is a different aspect of the Lionel philosophy, their marketing strategy, or a specific piece of equipment such as the Metropolitan Stations (#112 & 116), operating freight cars, and early coaling facilities. Every chapter is illustrated quite heavily with quarter, half, and full page color photos.

All cars are marked with the road name and asset number. The flatcar and gondola also have weight indicia. It is interesting to note that the flatcar is marked SOU while the gondola and crane cars carry the five-line NS logo. The printing is well-executed including the NS stallion logo on the side of the work caboose.

These cars would look good being pulled by a NC-2 switcher or just sitting on a siding awaiting their next call to duty.

With the play value in a stake sided flatcar, a gondola, and operating crane car they would also make a nice birthday or other occasion gift to a budding young engineer.

One part of most Lionel books that is conspicuously absent is the story of how it all started with a wooden cheese box in a store window. That timeworn tidbit is included on the inside front flap of the dustcover but not in the book itself.

If you have a friend who has his toy trains packed away and may need just a gentle nudge to bring them out and enjoy model railroading or collecting then this may be that nudge. It is doubtful that anyone reading this book who had toy trains will not see one of their pieces or one similar.

I found this book to be one of the easiest to read Lionel books in recent months. It is written in an almost a chatty style that works well with the format. It will definitely find a home on my bookshelf.

**The Lionel Legend, An American Icon** can be purchased from Voyageur press on their website at [voyageurpress.com](http://voyageurpress.com) or by telephone order at 800 826-6600. It was listed at the time this review was written on the Borders Books website at the publishers price of \$40 and on the Barnes and Noble website for \$34.20.

## Did You Ever Notice...

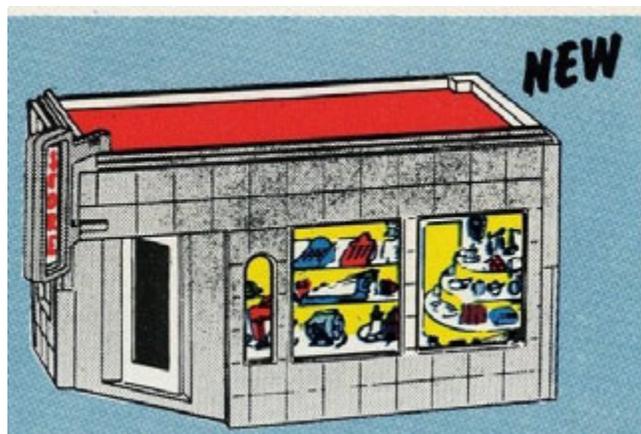
by Joe Kutza

I've been scanning Plasticville catalogs whenever I have the time.

In looking at the 1960 catalog, I came across the illustration shown here of the Corner Store.

Did you ever notice... that the illustration in the 1960 catalog shows the piece with a small window? When the item was released by Bachmann was without the small window?

I thought maybe Bachmann lifted the illustration from the Littletown catalog, but that's not true either.



Neither the 1954 or the 1956/57 Littletown catalogs have the same illustration. Odd. And interesting.

*(It is possible that the small window was omitted due to known manufacturing difficulties or that the window area was damaged and it was more economical to mill down the window opening area to match the rest of the wall. Editor)*

## 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. #09-580 David M Starre, 5105 Herman Ave, Cleveland OH 44102 starredm@gmail.com (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, Allan Becker, 1253 N Wayhi Cir., East Peoria, IL 61611 Phone (309) 698-2845 almjbecker@mchsi.com (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

### **For Trade**

I will trade some Plasticville parts of your choosing for original Union Station roofs to complete my model. #09-

### **Wanted**

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

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.) 01-55 Jim Steed. 123 Moon Shadow View, Blairsville, Ga. 30512. 706 745 0629. steedg@windstream.net (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. 01-55 Jim Steed. 123 Moon Shadow View, Blairsville, Ga. 30512. 706 745 0629. steedg@windstream.net (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. #02-87, Lawrence Fachler, 6 Bosko Drive, East Brunswick, NJ 08816-4542 factlf@juno.com (Feb 11)

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

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 Heine, 1718 P St NW, #301, Washington, DC 20036 Robert.J.Heine@irs.gov (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)

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. #01-55 Jim Steed. 123 Moon Shadow View, Blairsville, Ga. 30512. 706 745 0629. steedg@windstream.net (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. #00-3, John Niehaus, 601 SE Second St., Ankeny, IA 50021-3207 johnln@netins.net (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. #01-04, Thomas Fritsch, 630 Wyandot Ave, Akron, OH 44305-1832 tgfritsch.1@juno.com (Feb 11)

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

Littletown: General Store, Animals. Plasticville Parts: Shade tree - 1 top, Turnpike - 4 pylons, 1 light holder, 1 door. Mobile Home: Chimney/vent (white). Men's Store: front door (gray). Trees: loose pine, poplar. #03-202, John Rossi, 4107 Victory Blvd, Staten Island, NY 10314. fantumdrum@aol.com (May 11)



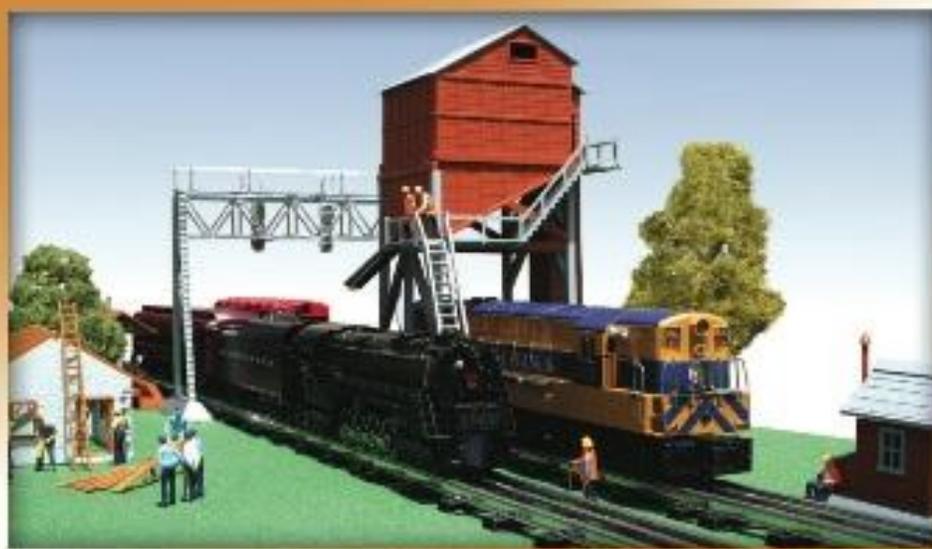
Isn't it great to know that others have adopted the PCA newsletter name for their publication. This masthead courtesy of Bob Stout.

## 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



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# ORDER FORM



## Plasticville Collectors Association 10th Anniversary Special Limited Edition Dairy Barn by Bachmann

----- CUT HERE -----

Yes, I would like to pre-order a Special Limited Edition 10th Anniversary Dairy Barn at \$21.00 including shipping.  
**There is a limit of one piece per member**

Member number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Detach this portion and mail with a check or money order in US Dollars payable to:  
Plasticville Collectors Association, 601 SE Second Street, Ankeny, Iowa 50021-3207

*(The expected shipping date is early September.)*

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