



# The Villager

The official newsletter of the Plasticville Collectors Association

Volume 9

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Number 4

## Dues for 2011 Are Now Due

The Executive Committee is pleased to announce that the dues for 2011 will remain at the current \$8.00, \$10.00, and \$40.00 for an ePCA membership (you download the newsletter from the PCA website), a mailed black and white hard copy membership, and a mailed color hard copy membership, respectively. Please remember that even if you opt for either mailed hard copy that you still have full access to the Members section of the PCA website.

You can thank the Postal Rate Commission for allowing the Executive Committee to maintain the current dues structure. The Postal Rate Commission must approve any Postal rate changed. The Commission denied the current Emergency Rate Increase request sought by the United States Postal Service. The requested rate increase would have taken effect the first of next year and would have definitely had an effect on our mailing costs.

The process for submitting your dues will be as has been used the past few years. Included with this issue of the newsletter is an envelope with a label addressed to the

PCA. All you need to do is enclose your dues payment, based upon the type of membership you wish in the envelope, put a return address label and a stamp on it, and drop it in the mailbox.

If you are an ePCA member you will receive a dues renewal notice in a separate mailing but only if you need to renew your membership.

Be sure to first check the mailing label on the envelope in which you received this newsletter to determine if you are already paid for 2011. Your member number and dues expiration year are on the bottom of the mailing label.

Please include your member number on your check or on the envelope under your return address label to ensure proper credit. We are nearly 425 active members so it is now more important than ever to include your member number when sending in your dues.

If you cannot find your member number send an email to [secretary@plasticvilleusa.org](mailto:secretary@plasticvilleusa.org) and I will reply with your member number.

## New Column Needs Member Input

by John Niehaus

It is always interesting to know what one's interests are outside of collecting plastic village buildings. It is fairly well known that if one is a collector of items of one subject they quite have additional collecting interests or even unrelated hobbies. Not only do I have an interest in plastic village buildings but also in stamp collecting and antique autos.

The Executive Committee discussed adding a continuing column in *The Villager* with the title, *My Other Interests*, during their October Executive

Committee meeting. It was unanimously approved that the column should be instituted with the February, 2011 issue.

The Committee wants to stress that the interests do not have to be plastic village or train related. Are you a member of a band? Do you raise horses? Do you visit "off the beaten path" museums?

I know of one member who is a professional chef and I believe works for one of the major spice companies.

### The Villager

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

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**Vice President:** James Dawes

**Secretary/Treasurer:** John L Niehaus

**Webmaster:** Joe Kutza

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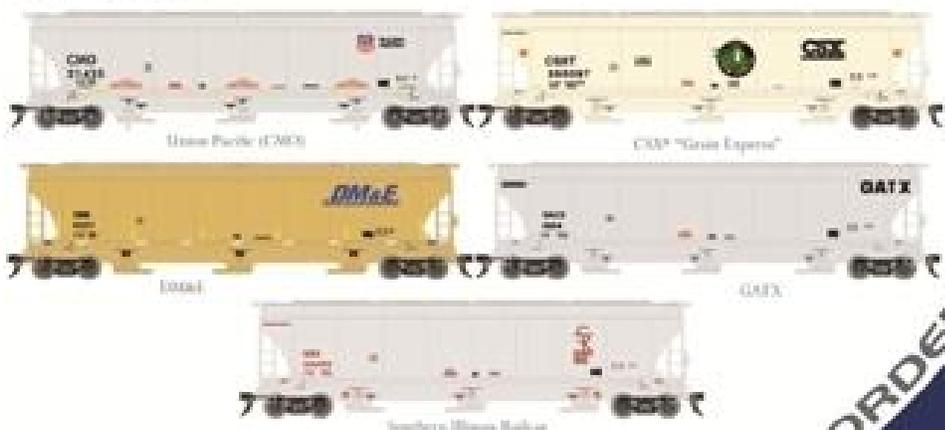
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## From the President's Desk



Here we are again nearing the Holiday Season. A great time to find Plasticville that has been hiding in the attics and basements for who knows how long. Maybe that rare gem will come to the surface and end up in your collection, we can all hope! Keep your eyes open and the cash

at the ready.

Last month my wife Kris and I made our twice a year journey to York. On rainy Thursday, there were less buyers than I can remember for decades. It was possible to walk down the aisles of the non-dealer halls and actually have an unobstructed view of the tables even as far as 2 aisles on either side. I cannot remember being able to do that on the first day, forever. Looking at the Plasticville and Lionel offered, I could see some bargains did exist. It was a buyer's market for sure.

Friday brought much better weather and more buyers traveling through the halls. At noon we had our PCA get together. For me, the highlight was having Sheldon Wotring showing the group both versions of the marbled Railroad Work Car #1625.

Talk about rare birds! Finding one of the variations is all but impossible but having the reverse color one too is unheard of. Thanks Sheldon for offering what are

probably one of the top five Plasticville Holy Grails.

It is always a treat talking with some of the most knowledgeable collectors and seeing some seldom seen pieces. Everyone into trains and the related items, like Plasticville, MUST get to York at least once in their lives.

I recently received some Littleton from England made by Kleeware. Included was their version of the Colonial Mansion, called a Manor House, and their version of the Bungalow, called a Cornish Cottage. Both had mismatched color walls. This is not a case of a dealer substituting any old wall regardless of color to complete a kit, because having had many of these kits in the past, they usually had the same problem.

I am wondering if Kleeware had problems when walls being made that they were not useable, or if they packed kits by grabbing one of each of a part out of a large tub of pieces. Either way, they do not look right when all of the pieces do not match. Truth is, most of the other Littleton kits by Kleeware, did not have the mismatched problems.

I have 3 or 4 of the Mansion kits here, each in need of a correct shade wall. I know I don't want to put one of these kits out into the world without making the complete kit match. Anyone with info on the cause of the mismatching, please let me know.

Everyone have a safe and Happy Holiday.

Glenn Bowman

## Vice Presidential Insights



I just returned from my semi-annual trip to York, Pa for the TCA train show. There were a lot of exhibitor's at both of the hotels and the fire house, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. I set up at the Best Western Inn on Kenneth Road those days.

Then it is on to the York fairgrounds Thursday thru Saturday hunting for those additions to my collection. There are nine buildings of trains and all related items including Plasticville on the York fairgrounds.

I found some pieces at the right prices and some pieces whose asking price were "off the planet"; such as, a Plasticville airport set for \$300. It was missing the landing strip and most of the airport building. The exhibitor did offer it to me for \$275 but "no thanks". I did find some good parts that I needed to finish some sets I have.

We have a big train show November 6 and 7 here in Syracuse, NY. Exhibitors set up in two large buildings at the Fairgrounds. I am looking forward to exhibiting

there. If you are in the area I hope you will stop by my tables and introduce yourself.

I will be setting up my trains and Plasticville right after Thanksgiving for the Christmas Holidays. This has become a holiday tradition at my home.

Oh almost forgot, I will be leaving the Sunday after Thanksgiving to go deer hunting in PA. for a couple days - kind of important also! Happy Thanksgiving to all of you. Jim Dawes, Vice President

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## Notes from the Editor



There is still plenty of time to place your order for a 10th anniversary barn . Unfortunately the first edition of the order form stated that the pieces would be delivered in September but did not state what year. The anticipated delivery date for the pieces is September, 2011.

As with the August issue of the newsletter, you will find the form as the last two pages of this newsletter. If you did not previously order, thinking that the time to place your order had expired, please use the form in the newsletter or download and print it from the PCA website. There is plenty of time yet to place your order.

Geez, one would suppose that I could get a proposed, now new, member's state correct the second time and not need a third. Well, suppose again. With hat in hand I must state, beyond a doubt, that Harvey M Marks lives in Methuen, MA, zip code 01844-2690 and not in Methuen, NJ.

Are you receiving email messages from PCA@NETINS.NET? Many email programs as well as Internet service providers attempt to protect the user or their clients from spammers by blocking what it/they presume is SPAM.

I recently received email refusal replies when sending broadcast (suspected SPAM) emails from the PCA to members. If you have not been receiving emails from pca@netins.net - the official PCA email address - it may be because of a setting in your email program or a setting at your Internet email service provider. Please be sure to set pca@netins.net as an approved sender in your email application and/or your Internet email service provider.

I have received order forms for the 10th anniversary barn of various text sizes. My guess is that a setting when printing the PDF file from the website is the reason.

When you click on the Print icon to print any PDF document the print routine will use the default settings unless you have made changes. The default for Page Scaling, how the document fits itself to a page, is set to Print To Printable Area. This setting generally will increase the margins thus creating a physically smaller printed area.

My preference is to click on File in the menu then on Print to bring up the print dialogue box. I then select None for Page Scaling. Now, when the document is printed it should have approximately the same margins as the document from which the PDF was created. The setting will remain as the default until you again change it. For those of you who may download and print the newsletter this change will make a visible difference in the size of the printed area.

Congratulations to Dennis Palazollo, member 04-326. A photo of his layout was published in the Photo Album section of the September, 2010 issue of Classic Toy Trains on page 15. If you would like to see his layout in action try this YouTube link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T7YbYCA3clk>.

A tip of the hat to Charles "Chuck" Neumann, member 08-528. His layout is one chosen to be included in the 2011 TCA calendar, specifically, the month of December.

Congratulations to Joe Mania 04-294. A selection of four of his Lionel reproductions are featured in a Lionel calendar by CalendarsInk.

For those of you who may have known him, I regret to inform you that Joseph Orobello, member 06-411, passed away on June 7. I have also learned that Wilfred Kus II, member 04-297, passed away on August 24.

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## **October 2010 Executive Committee Minutes**

The October, 2010 Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM, Eastern Time, on October 15 by President Glenn Bowman. The meeting was held during the Fall York train meet due to logistics issues with the usually scheduled Executive Committee meetings.

Those in attendance were; President Glenn Bowman, Vice-President Jim Dawes, Secretary/Treasurer John Niehaus, and founder Joe Kutza.

### **Old business:**

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

Secretary Niehaus reported that he had revised the order form to reflect that members may order two pieces. He also reported that he has received orders for a total of 113 pieces.

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

A discussion was held based upon the advertising rate schedule Secretary/Treasurer Niehaus had previously provided to the Executive Committee. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to solicit classified ad prices from the businesses and organizations listed in the schedule previously provided to the Executive Committee.

#### **Photo guidelines on the website for public viewing**

Joe Kutza reported that there is a hyperlink on the website home page that navigates a person to a page containing photo submission guidelines. He also reported that this page is scheduled for an update.

#### **Newsletter prices**

Secretary/Treasurer Niehaus reported that the cost of newsletters for 2011 will not increase provided that the US Postal Service does not win, on appeal, the denial of their proposed rate increase for 2011.

#### **Add to website that there are reproduction Plasticville catalogs for 50 & 53**

Joe Kutza reported that the information regarding reproduction catalogs has been added to the appropriate section of the website.

#### **Add to website that there is a known 1954 Littletown catalog reproduction**

Joe Kutza reported that the information regarding reproduction catalogs has been added to the appropriate section of the website.

#### **Add to website that there is a known 1958 Storytown reproduction catalog**

Joe Kutza reported that the information regarding reproduction catalogs has been added to the appropriate section of the website.

### **New Business:**

#### **What else do I collect column**

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to solicit member contributions to a column dedicated to their interests in things other than plastic villages. President Bowman suggested the title My Other Interests.

#### **Undocumented Pieces sections on website**

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to include an Unconfirmed Variations section on the website under each manufacturer where unconfirmed items are known to exist.

The motion also included the stipulation that available photos of all pieces that are presumed to be emissions of the manufacturer, but that have not been positively proven as such, will be added until positive verification is made.

#### **Revise membership info in the bylaws to state that memberships are individual, not family**

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved not to revise Section II.2 of the bylaws text as that section reads, "an Active Member is any person", thus clarifying that membership is on an individual membership basis rather a family basis.

#### **Revision of bylaws article I.1 to reflect the current dues structure.**

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to revise sections I.1 of the bylaws to state, "the annual dues shall be set by the Executive Committee and will be as scheduled on the current membership application".

#### **Deletion of bylaws article I.3**

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to delete section I.3 of the bylaws as the change in section I.1 makes section I.3 moot.

#### **Handouts for York Meet tables**

Secretary Niehaus reported that he created thirty (30) handouts of two pages consisting of the "Invitation to Join" and a specially marked membership application and placed them on the information tables in the Orange and Silver hall prior to the start of the meet.

#### **PCA Facebook presence**

A motion was made by President Bowman and unanimously approved to create a PCA presence on Facebook. Joe Kutza will work to have the presence created prior to the next Executive Committee meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 PM, Eastern Time

Respectfully submitted; John L Niehaus  
Secretary/Treasurer

Approved by the Executive Committee, November 5, 2010

# York Report

by Joe Kutza

I really needed a day off from work, and the Fall York meet came at just the right time. Friday was a beautiful, sunny day – making up for a very rainy and stormy Thursday. If you've read my York Reports before you know I usually start in the Blue Hall, then Silver, then Red, White, Purple, etc ending up in the Orange Hall. This time I decided to mix it up and start at the Red Hall. I had a few minutes before the meet opened to catch up with John Niehaus and his son, David, who once again made the trip in from Iowa.

I eagerly started roaming the Red Hall with visions of red-roofed Post Office's dancing in my head... I ended up quite disappointed that I didn't find anything at all. While taking the short walk to the White Hall, I ran into PCA Vice-President Jim Dawes and we chatted for a bit. He had just finished in the White Hall and let me know that there wasn't much in there either. However, as you just never know, I decided to walk through anyway.

It was in the White Hall that I found my catch of the day/show/year. I was walking fairly quickly as I needed to leave a bit earlier than usual but while stopped at a table looking at a few Plasticville items and waiting for the owner to finish with another customer, I just happened to glance at a shelf and noticed a clear plastic produce bag. I couldn't see anything in the bag, it was rolled up and over itself.



PCA founder Joe Kutza found these pieces in the white hall. All of the pieces are molded in clear plastic.

Once I picked it up, I knew why I couldn't see anything in the clear plastic bag – it contained clear plastic Plasticville pieces! I was in shock; I couldn't believe what I was seeing. I held onto the bag tightly, my heart beating quickly, and as calmly as possible said "I'll take this". The price was very reasonable, a steal really, even though the person knew they had something unusual. The bag contained the following items, all in clear plastic: a cow, a sheep, a swing set, a chase lounge, a straight chair, and two bases for a merry-go-round from the Playground Equipment set. See the accompanying picture.

Plasticville items are found from time to time in odd colors. There's the famous black Greenhouse on the cover of Bill Nole's latest price guide, and *The Villager*

previously reported some interesting off-color items in Sheldon Wotring's collection.

Items in off colors, such as clear or black are mainly considered to be either test shots used to assess the integrity of the molds, or shots ran through to clear other colors out of the molds. Either way, they are extremely rare as they were never sold and were most often just thrown out after they served their purpose. I don't think there's any need for me to say that I'm really happy to have these items in my collection.

The rest of the day went very well, even though I didn't find too much else.

We had another great PCA luncheon in the cafeteria and once again filled two long tables with Members (see the related photo). It's always a pleasure to catch up with fellow members and hear about their collecting experiences. After lunch, the four of five PCA Executive Committee members met for a brief business meeting and then it was back to the halls in search of more plastic village items.

Now it's time to get your finger on the pulse of plastic village pricing at this Fall's York meet. Remember, these are just a few of the many, many items at the meet and represent prices as marked. My assessment of quality is not based on the PCA Guideline, just a quick look: 1406 Pine Trees, complete, VG box, \$24; Police Station, dark gray, red roof, not complete, poor condition, no box, \$18; yellow Ranch House, nice with VG box, \$9; BY-4 animals, complete in VG box, \$20; Factory, complete, no box, Ex, \$20; HY-6, complete, fair box, \$35; TA-3 in a poor box, complete, \$50; House Under Construction, light gray, complete, Excellent box, \$75; AD-4, complete, Excellent box, \$30; Fire Department, no box, complete, \$5; red telephone poles, \$5 each; white telephone poles, \$5 each; Britain's HO scale greenhouse, good box, \$5; Skyline K-10 house in Maroon, poor box, missing chimney, \$7.

My completely subjective opinion of all the prices that I saw at the October 2010 York meet (not just those listed above) leads me to give a rating of 2.5 gold bars to the fall meet. That's down from the 3.0 rating that I assigned to the Spring, 2010 York meet. There were noticeably better prices or at the very least sellers were more willing to listen to, and accept, offers.

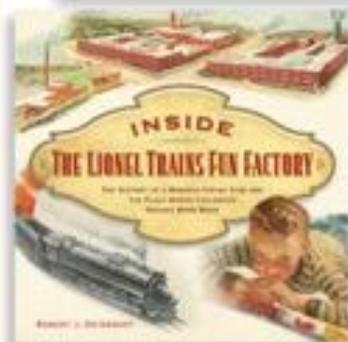
The Gold Bar rating (from 1 to 5 bars) is meant to provide an assessment of how much people generally think their plastic village items are worth. A high rating means people think the items they have for sale are worth their weight in gold. The Gold Bar rating represents my opinion only!



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# Plasticville on the Board

## ODDS AND ENDS

By John Gottcent



It may be that never before have plastic village hobbyists had so many options in the marketplace. There are several quality manufacturers putting out snap-together kits, glue-together kits, and even ready-made built-ups in a wide variety of building styles and formats. And this doesn't count ceramic pieces like Department 56 or building facades from AmeriTowne and others.

Given all these choices, it's easy to overlook a number of items already lying about the house, not originally intended for plastic villages, which nonetheless make fine additions to our layouts. I call these items "odds and ends."

The log building in Photo One, for example, began life as a jewelry box—one that even played music if you wound up the mill wheel. Add a few accoutrements, however, like a Plasticville trellis and a waiting mailman, and it fits right into your country scene as a restaurant or B&B.



Photo 1

A musical jewelry box can fit right into your country scene as a restaurant or B&B with the addition of a few accessories.

Need a reflecting pool to set off your Town Hall? How about an inexpensive shaving mirror? The one in Photo Two was purchased by my father in the 1950's and still has its original price (39 cents) written in pencil on the back. Never meant to be a "pool," it nonetheless makes a neat addition to the scene. In winter it can even turn to "ice" and serve as a mecca for skaters. The fact that the glass has become a bit pitted on this 60-year-old item simply adds to the realism, suggesting natural patches in the water.



Photo 2

A shaving mirror that once belonged to my father is now a reflecting pool in front of the Town Hall.

Lots of household toss-aways make great freight loads for your train or station platform. For example, many packages today come with small plastic cylindrical inserts



Photo 3

The box in which a replacement vacuum tube for my wife's 60's era jukebox was packed is now a load for my gondola.

designed to keep moisture down. They usually contain a warning: DO NOT EAT! Remove that label, or better yet, cover it with a sticker from a piece of supermarket fruit,



Photo 4

Even the wire bail from a champagne bottle can be used as a load for a crane.

and it makes a great load for your freight haulers.

A while back, my wife had her 1960's-era jukebox repaired, and the fix-it man replaced an old vacuum tube, leaving the discarded tube in the box he had for its replacement. Soon after, I had something different for my gondola to carry, as you can see in Photo Three.

The item being lifted by a crane car in Photo Four was originally part of the cap to a champagne bottle. It makes a great crane item because given its shape and arrangement, it can easily be lifted from almost any position and replaced somewhere else on the layout.



Photo 5

A no longer used digital clock can be set on the rooftop of a building to add more realism to your layout.

same purpose. (Photo Five.) The fact that it may actually tell the right time, as the one in the picture does, is not lost on visitors who admire your modeling skills.

Finally, odds and ends can include items from a different scale than yours, items from your junk box, and things given as freebies by local stores and agencies. Photo Six shows a cemetery usually hidden behind my

originally part of the cap to a champagne bottle. It makes a great crane item because given its shape and arrangement, it can easily be lifted from almost any position and replaced somewhere else on the layout.

Many real world structures, such as banks or office buildings, kindly tell us the time (and sometimes temperature too) from large signs atop their roofs. You can duplicate this by taking a small travel alarm clock that you no longer need and making it serve the

Plasticville Cathedral, at the foot of a small mountain. (The church has been temporarily removed in the picture to make the cemetery more visible.)

Included here on my 0-scale layout are HO tombstones (the fact that some have fallen over is no problem, as this happens in real graveyards), a steeple from a damaged Plasticville church, and flags that once adorned a sandwich from my local deli. I also found a use for a



Photo 6

The tombstones are HO but fit quite well into this scene. The flags once adorned a sandwich from a local deli. The statue was one my mother got from her church.

small plastic statue of St. Francis that my mother got from her church.

All this is another reminder of Rule # 1: Never throw anything away. You never know when it may turn out to be just the thing to set off your latest plastic village project.

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

## Lil House Wonderful, an Inventory of Small Parts

by Glenn Bowman



I have found a production date on the Galoob Lil House Wonderful set! It is 1981 and it was made in Hong Kong.

A complete piece includes 19 pieces of furniture and 4 figures.

Here is a list of the furniture and figures that a complete set should include:

- 4 – Dining room barrel chairs
- 1 – Dining room table
- 1 – Console television
- 2 – Bedroom armoires
- 1 – Bedroom double bed
- 4 – Living room overstuffed chairs

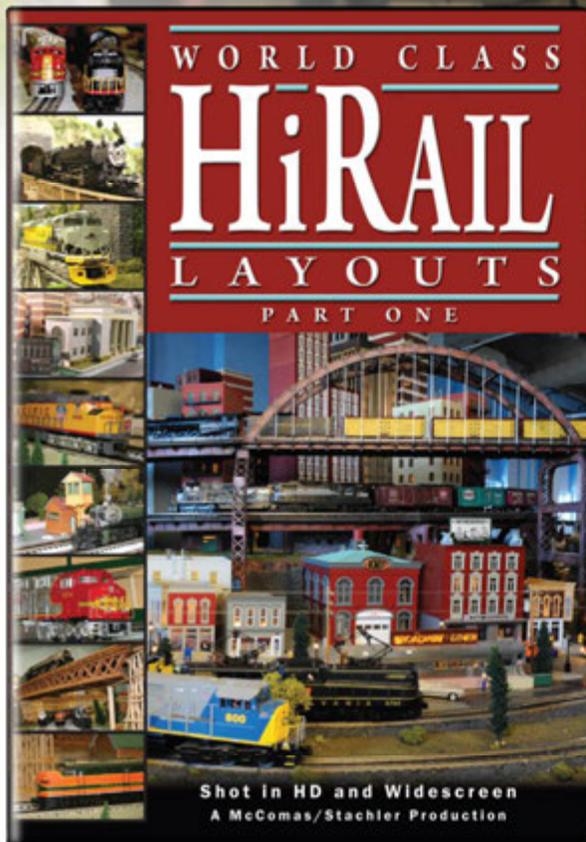
- 1 – Living room sofa
- 2 – Living room coffee tables
- 1 – refrigerator glued in place
- 1 – floor cabinet – glued in place
- 1 – over the counter cabinet glued in place
- 1 – adult male figure
- 1 – adult female figure
- 1 – juvenile male figure
- 1 – juvenile female figure

You should also be aware that the colors of the pieces in this set vary. Also the furniture illustrated on the box does not accurately reflect the pieces actually included in the toy - the pieces in the toy are much less detailed.

*(Many Plasticville collectors, including myself, seek out this piece for their collection as it seems as if Galoob copied the configuration of the Plasticville Colonial Mansion for this product. Editor)*

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## Along the "HO" line

### School and Playground Scenic Classic Kit

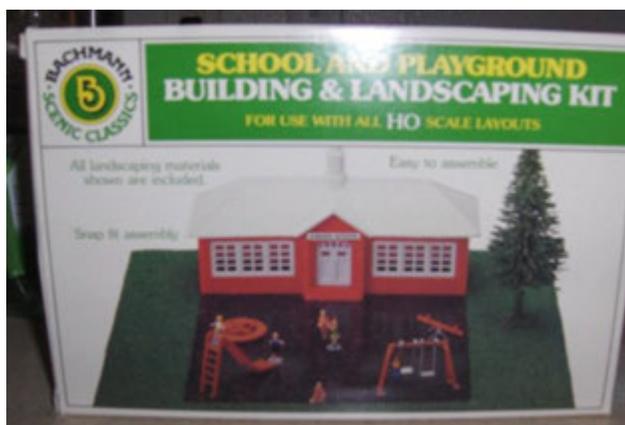
By Todd Hendrickson



I was looking through all of my Bachmann kits to come up with an idea to write about for the November newsletter. Then I came across # 49-2567 School House and Play Ground kit.

I thought to myself, "I don't remember too many school house kits being out there". I broke out my

Walthers HO Scale Model Railroad Reference Book. Looking through the Structures section I found that very few companies make a school kit. Why is that, then I thought when I was a child the last thing I wanted to be reminded of was school.



The HO Scenic Classic version of the School House included playground equipment, a tree, and figures.

I went to the PCA web site, looked up the School house kit and it has to be one the longest running kits that Bachmann has made as it is still available today. #49-2567 is the same as all the other school house kits but a Scenic Classics kit it come with landscaping materials and a play ground set. The kit comes in two colors; red walls and a white roof . This color combination has not changed in its long run.

While serving in the Marines in the mid 90s I was stationed with a guy from a little town in Texas. He told stories of small town life. One story that stuck out to me

the most was how he went to a one room school house. From first grade to his senior year with a graduation class of six people.

Four years ago I went back to college for welding. I drove 1965 Chevy pick-up with a hungry 350 small block and 3:73 rear gears. I took the back rural roads to save on gas. On one long stretch of road between grape fields and farm houses sat an old school house similar to kit # 49-2567. The teacher's aide for the welding class told me he lived in that area his whole life and hated walking to that school when he was a child. He is not much older than my father,

I have started to realize that this kit will fit in well on most small town layouts. Maybe even some of you went to a small school house when you where a child and would find this to be a good personal history addition to your layouts.



Notice the black and gray piece to the left in this picture. It is both the "blacktop" playground as well as the "tile" floor inside the school house. It is a separate sheet in order to allow the modeler to place the building as desired on the "grass" mat.

To my fellow Veterans, "Happy Veterans Day" and thank you for your service. I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season. Until next time.

Any comments or questions contact me at [Mortemobire@yahoo.com](mailto:Mortemobire@yahoo.com) please put PCA in the subject as I get lots of E-mail.

## COULD YOU BE A CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

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

**Why not share your knowledge with your over 400 fellow PCA members. That's what Todd is doing.**

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

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

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## Creative Use of Damaged Parts

By Edward Johnson



Due to pressing family matters, Eddie was not able to contribute one of his usual fine articles for this issue.

He has informed me that he will have an article ready for the February, 2011 issue. Editor

## Postal Service "Nice to Knows"

by John Niehaus

Are you aware of the term "Contract Post Office"? Literally, this means any non-United States Postal Service entity, such as a grocery store or hardware store, that is authorized by the United States Postal Service to act as a Post Office on behalf of the United States Postal Service.

The people staffing these contract stations are the same people who check your groceries or sell you a new electric drill. They are not Postal Service personnel. Unfortunately that they do not receive the same intense training given a Post Office window clerk. Because of this they do not know every little nuance when it comes to assessing correct postage charges. One of the most often overlooked charge is the additional charge for a non-machineable mail piece, a piece that cannot be processed through the automatic cancelling machines.

One instance of this is when an envelope, bubble mailer, etc. is over 1/4 inch thick. These "fat" pieces will be assessed an additional amount, generally equal to the Parcel Post rate per Postal Service regulations. You may be able to send a door or a window from a Cape Cod or Ranch House chimney you should be charged the additional postage since the piece is over 1/4 inch thick. You may want to keep that fact in mind the next time you decide to use the service counter at your local grocery or hardware store. If the person who serves you at the grocery or hardware store fails to assess the additional postage then the person to whom you send the item will be expected to pay the additional postage as postage due. My suggestion is to use your local Post Office rather than

a contract offices if it is at all possible to add a greater assurance that the postage you pay is correct.

Here is another Postal Service issue. There are three, yes three, basic types of Priority Mail boxes: Standard, Flat Rate, and Military Flat Rate. Each type of box has a different postage structure. Issues with these boxes seem to arise with individuals who print postage labels on their personal computer and then attach the label to the wrong box. Postage due will be demanded of the recipient if you attach a label to a Flat Rate Priority Mail box and the label bears only enough postage to cover the Standard Priority Mail rate. Be sure if you are a sender that you are attaching your postage label to the appropriate box. Never use a Military Flat Rate box as it is designated only for mailing packages to APO/FPO addresses. The fee for its use is currently \$12.50.

A little known fact: You do have the right to refuse any item on which you are assessed postage due. The Postal Service must then return it to the sender who will be required to pay the postage due fee.

One last Postal Service note. Old Plasticville catalogs CANNOT be sent as media mail. The Postal Service is putting greater emphasis on ensuring that materials sent as media mail meet that criteria as published in the Domestic Mail Manual, the "bible" of what is what. Any publication that has prices listed in it does not qualify as media mail - regardless of its age. The general rule is that if it is bound, printed matter, and educational in content then it qualifies as media mail. If you wish to know more specifics, send an email to me at [villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org](mailto:villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org).

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## Non-Railfan Antics

### A View from the Other Side

By John Niehaus (filling in this time only for Gordon C Kelley)



Gordon has promised me that he has many more stories from his days working for various railroads. He has hinted that his next set of articles will be focused on how trains and autos do not mix.

While Gordon is putting the finishing touches on his stories I felt in the meantime you might like to know some railroad crossings statistics.

- There are approximately 160,000 miles of track operated in the United States

- There are over 260,000 grade crossings including public and private in the United States
- Texas has the highest number of grade crossings at nearly 17,000
- Illinois is second at slightly over 15,000
- Approximately every three hours a person or vehicle is hit by a train
- In 2009 there were 1,916 collisions resulting in 246 fatalities and 721 injuries a marked reduction from 1981 when the numbers were 9,461, 728, and 3,293 respectively.
- There were 248 pedestrian deaths in 2009. That number includes suicides with California leading with 57.
- The vast majority of train and vehicle crashes are the fault of the vehicle driver

Sources: US Department of Transportation, Federal Railway Administration, Operation Lifesaver, Association of American Railroads

## Cape Cod Walls with "Curtains"

By John Niehaus

The Cape Cod walls below were shown to me at Fall York by Jim Dawes. He has two red and one blue examples.

Take a good look at the two photos and you will see that both the red and blue window frames look more like curtains.

I do not believe it was caused by a Christmas tree bulb melting the window frames. One would expect to see melting of the walls as well if that were the case.

My uneducated guess is that there was not enough plastic injected into the mold to fill the cavities. Maybe it was the beginning or the end of a color run.

It may also be that the pieces were removed from the mold before they had time to cool properly.

Is there a club member with injection molding of small pieces who can give us a more positive answer as to how these occurred?

Whatever the cause, Jim has some unique pieces.



These maybe the only Cape Cod walls with curtains instead of windows. Is there a PCA member with injection molding knowledge can give us a definitive answer as to how this may have occurred.

## More Plasticville and Others Brand Churches

by John Niehaus

The November issue seems to be the right time to publish photos of all the responses I have received regarding churches, Plasticville or otherwise.



Photo 1

Gary Connor submitted this photo of either a K-5 or S-1 Skyline church. The S-1 model was assembled.

Photo 1 is a Skyline church from Gary Connor. Gary did not say whether it was in kit form therefore I cannot be certain whether it is a K-5 kit or a preassembled S-1 model.

Photo 2 is from Bob Stout. Bob writes, "About 20 years ago I bought an assembled CC-9 church that was used as a bank. That is, there was a slot put in the top of the roof for deposition coins and a cardboard

floor was installed at the factory apparently. It appeared to be a custom run for some company.

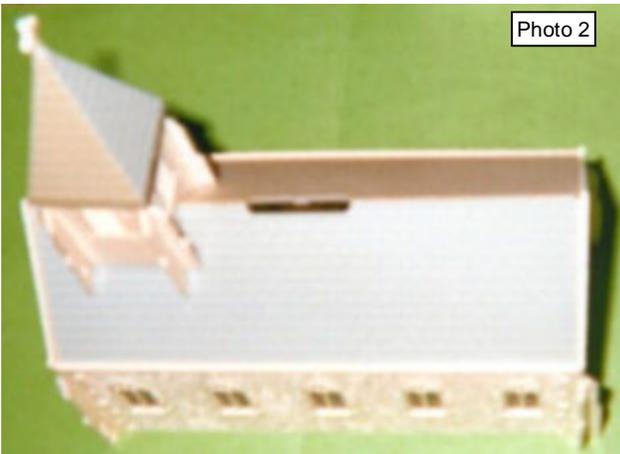


Photo 2

Bob Stout has this church with a slot in the roof as well as a cardboard floor presumably for use as a bank.

Over the years I noticed that the white plastic has yellowed to an off white color. The yellow color isn't glue stains. What I was wondering is perhaps the yellowing is due to being exposed to sun light and artificial light? As a result, I no longer put my vintage Plasticville buildings on y layout but rather the present day ones made overseas. I don't care if they fade. I also wonder if the CC-9 church has any value since it is a custom run item?"

It is also possible that this and others were created for a church to spur youngsters or maybe even families on to save for a certain church favored charity.

I can remember being given a cardboard box that the nuns called a poor box into which we were to put part of our allowance and ultimately donate it to the church.



Photo 3

Photo 4

These photos of a Raylite church were submitted by Jim Steed. Notice hoe the light shines through the walls.

Photos 3 and 4 were taken by John Barker of Blairsville, Georgia and submitted by Jim Steed. It is interesting that the plastic on this church is thin enough that the light shines through the walls.

It was made by Raylite Electric Corporation of New York. It seems that Raylite made various models of this church - lighted, lighted with a music box, simulated stained glass windows, and plain molded in windows.

Jim's seems to be one of the higher end pieces with simulated stained glass windows.

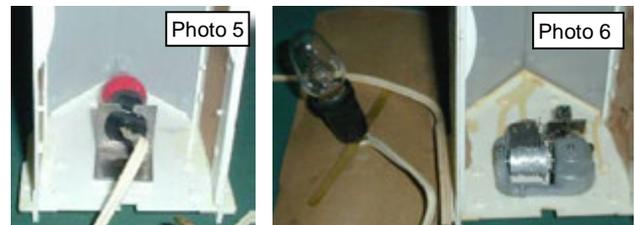


Photo 5

Photo 6

A lighted church interior, photo 6 and a lighted church interior with an added wind up music box, photo 7. Both are CC-9 type churches

Photos 5 & 6 are interior views of Bachmann CC-9 style churches but with one being lighted and the other both lighted and with a wind up music box. If the person who sent me these photos will identify themselves I will note their contribution in the February newsletter.

## Another Unconfirmed Color Combination

by Glenn Bowman

Here is another odd item from Bachmann. It is an RH1 with pink walls and white roof and doors. It is as found in a collection I bought. It spent most of its life on a layout.

The strange part is that the color stamp is a single color; PINK. I have never seen a pink only stamp.

*(If you have a similarly marked box we would like to know in order to confirm that this is an actual Bachmann color combination.)*

*This piece will be added to the Unconfirmed Variations section under Plasticville until we can positively confirm it was actually a Bachmann factory production item.*



The RH-1 box in which the pictured house was received with the single rubber stamped color of PINK. The usual rubber stamping would be GRAY/PINK.

*It is known that when a needed color piece was unavailable that another color would be substituted as the people assembling the kits were on piecework. Editor)*



The Ranch House pictured has pink walls but a white instead of the usual gray roof. The box in which it is reported to have been packed does not have the usual GRAY/PINK rubber stamp marking but only the word PINK.

## Bachmann's December 1952 Holiday Gift for Christmas

by Joseph B Kmetz

Growing up in a middle class neighborhood in Queens, LI, NY (as it was called back then) in the 1940's and 1950's was one of the better life experiences.

As we grew up however, a strained financial family status added responsibility and burden far beyond our years. My brother Mike, 4 years older than I, assisted in this endeavor as did I. Being altar boys, we did weddings, funerals, and many other jobs just to keep the family solvent. It was he and not my Mom, I found out recently, who got me my first American Flyer train set for my tenth birthday (Atlantic #300) in March 1952 — thanks Mike.

We were first generation from Slovakia and steeped with “old country” traditions which meant toys were not Christmas gifts (St. Nicholas Day was toy day, I think) which made it difficult to adjust to America. But Mom broke with tradition in 1952 and got me my first Plasticville building, the Parish Church. The church proudly went under the tree next to the manger that Christmas.

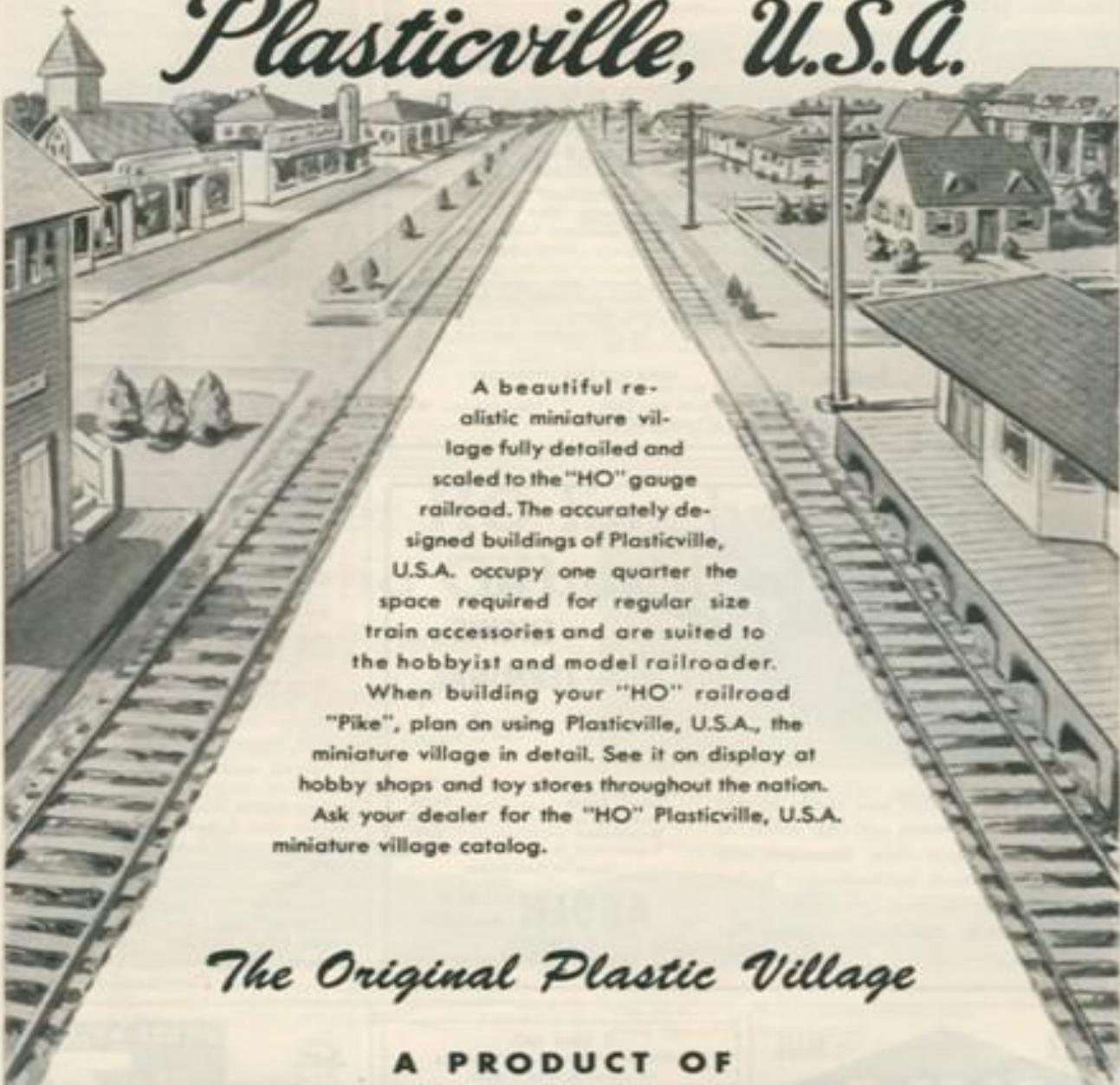
Our Mom was a very proper and social lady, and made visiting neighbors during holidays an “event” not to be missed. In this vein, she dragged my young butt over to a

new family who had moved in directly across from us and after finding out the kid had a train set, up we went for a visit. He had a three rail Lionel set and several buildings including what appeared to be a Parish Church except his church had a Star of David. I did not think it strange because the synagogue on the next block from our parish had very colorful stained windows, similar to our church except for the Star of David, and when I asked our parish priest about it, he said it was our old church building before moving to our new location.

I don't know who the Jewish equivalent of the Knights are but I understand their purpose, like the “Knights” is to do good works. I also found out not too long ago, they were responsible for placing the Stars of David in all those Parish churches in the New York City area. All this time I thought it was folks at Plasticville!

Here it is 58 years later and I have all the pieces to my church except one, the Cross. I hope the kid across the street still has his Star of David, and despite the turmoil over these past 60 years, we can still at least thank Bachmann Brothers for that special Christmas and Holiday season of 1952. Thanks guys.

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The tradition continues. Here is my 2010 holiday gift. A Plasticville ad from the January, 1956, edition of Model Trains magazine. It would be interesting to know how many years this magazine was published as this edition is Volume 8, Number 11.

## The Misty Mountain Railroad

Jim Steed (01-55) Blairsville, GA  
photos by John Barker, Blairsville, GA

I'd like to tell you about a wonderful O-Gauge model railroad here in the beautiful north Georgia mountains. We are about 1 1/2 hours north of Atlanta in Blairsville, Ga. The railroad is owned and operated by Charles Griffin, who has been my friend for many years. Both of us have three rail O-Gauge layouts and visit together frequently.



Four additional floors were added to a four floor Plasticville Apartment House. A Factory water tank sits on top of the roof. Notice the "super detailing" of the windows in the picture on the right using different color "curtains" which give the impression of different rooms.

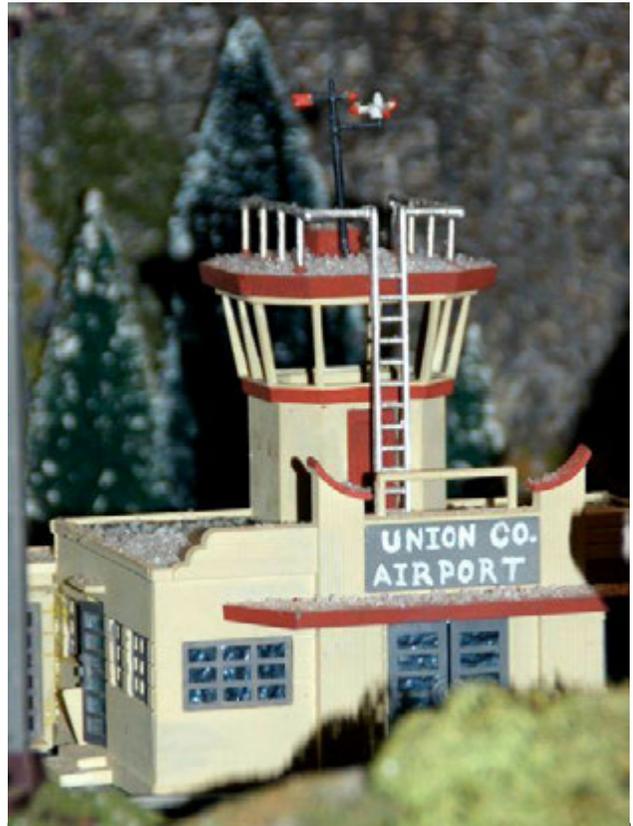
The Misty Mountain layout is 3,500 square feet with a mile of GarGraves track running through numerous tunnels and a dozen bridges. Mountains are ten feet high. Bridges are six feet high. It is a floor to ceiling layout that you actually walk around and through. In fact, you have to travel under some of the bridges just to traverse the layout.



A Marx or K-Line Fire House is all decked out for the Holiday season.

Charles operates twelve to fifteen trains in scale speed. One train is a Shay locomotive pulling a log train through the mountains and over a curved fifteen-foot long four-foot high "stick-built" trestle.

Featured in the layout are towns representing "North Georgia". Stone Mountain is even depicted in the Atlanta scene. Other features include the State Capitol building, the Atlanta Terminal Station, demolished in the early 70's, the Lowes Grand Theatre where the movie *Gone With the Wind* premiered in Atlanta in 1939, and of course a scale replica of "Tara".



The Georgia mountains may not get snow very often but when they do a kitbashed Airport Administration Building is still open to send passengers on their way.

If that's not enough of the old South, Charles has rigged up "The Great Locomotive Chase" wherein two MTH Generals, one running forward and one running in reverse actually race through the countryside, just as they did in 1862 in north Georgia.

Plasticville buildings populate the layout including the airport admin. building, Independence Hall, and a modified apartment house tower high-rise.

Charles and his son Ken, with electrician Don Morris assisting, all from Blairsville, spent seven years building

the layout. They worked five and six days a week for those seven years. No outside help or layout builders were used.



Charles spent over 250 hours building this 1/4 scale *Biltmore Estate/Vanderbilt* home in Ashville, North Carolina. It is a highlight up on one of the many mountains on the layout.

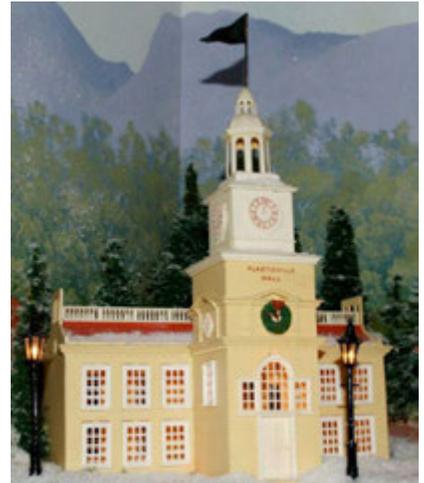
A highlight up on a mountain is the *Biltmore Estate/Vanderbilt* home in Ashville, N.C. It is an exact 1/4 inch replica. Ken, spent 250 hours building it. Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip are represented arriving as guests.

I really cannot say enough about this fantastic layout. Over 25,000 people visit the layout each year. That is

remarkable, as we are near no interstate, and are up in the mountains of north Georgia.

Another treat is Charles' collection room downstairs. You can see all the trains that run on the layout. There are 165 trains sets shelved along the walls.

Charles gives credit to his Uncle Fred for interesting him in trains. Uncle Fred was a Conductor, and worked for the Milwaukee Road for 50 years.



Part of the Holiday scene on the layout is a Plasticville Hall decked out for the upcoming Christmas

I have enjoyed telling you about The Misty Mountain RR. We hope you will come and visit it. For more information, contact Charles Griffin 706-745-9819.

You can visit the Misty Mountain Railroad on the web at <http://www.mistymountainmodelrailroad.com>.

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# Sharing the Love of Plasticville

by Dale Lopus

As a youngster growing up in the forties I always looked forward to seeing cardboard houses and churches positioned around the family's Christmas tree.

Then came the fifties and the scene beneath our tree would never be the same again. Early in the decade relatives owned a small country store here in Michigan which included a section for toys. While visiting the store, I became introduced to Plasticville.

Not long after that, an entire plastic village replaced the cardboard buildings. My new Plasticville buildings were lighted by Christmas tree bulbs. Yes, the type which melted plastic due to excessive heat.

Amongst my earliest acquisitions were the Cape Cods, Bermuda Ranch Houses, countryside barn, small gas station, supermarket, suburban train station, etc. My favorite, which may also possibly be my first original piece is the country church (with glue stains and burn marks). The village rested upon sheets of cotton "snow" with snow-laden fir trees scattered about.

Then my collecting was interrupted by high school, college, and marriage. However it was revived in the sixties when my wife, Judy, and I began to raise a family. As soon as I found them, I began to again add pieces to my collection. These pieces were discovered in flea markets, toy shows, auctions, and most recently at a York TCA meet.



Dale and Judy Lopus in front of the "Christmastime in Plasticville" display they set up in their village library in 2009.

My collection has grown extensively since then and includes variations and accessories. Without my wife's eagle eyes at shows, our collection would not have grown to its current extent.

In addition to the Plasticville buildings I display lead figures of skaters, skiers, and sledgers on hills; of course with the covered bridge nearby. Where appropriate, I also position some fine Plasticville people about. There were some sixty buildings beneath our tree for the 2008 holiday season.

We decided to share our collection with our community for the 2009 season. We set up a display in our village library entitled, "Christmastime in Plasticville". We did include a couple of Littletown and Marx buildings in the display.



A part of Dale and Judy Lopus' 2009 "Christmastime in Plasticville" display in their village library.

The librarians mentioned that the display received numerous, positive comments as parents and grandparents related on the past half-century, plus. Many shared their childhood memories with their children. It was great fun for the little ones as they looked around the display for a windmill, an outhouse, and a corn crib.

Our display included a section of train related buildings, however a toy train has not been a part of the display as a toy train has not been a part of our home display since the children were young.

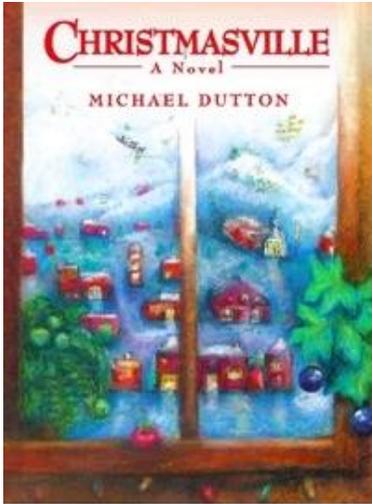
I feel as fulfilled as anyone with our collection and the

enjoyment which can be shared so easily with one's community. The display will not be a dust collector as it is merely stored away until next year.

Needless to say, the excitement of the search for something I have not yet acquired continues. There remains only one item I lack as well as variations of other buildings. I cannot imagine what it is out there waiting for me.



One has to wonder if this youngster found a train set and some Plasticville under the Christmas tree.



Two trains ...  
Two conductors ...  
Two months of the year ...  
Who would suspect that it all happens  
each year, every year, in a Christmas  
village on a model train platform?

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**Christmasville**  
by Michael Dutton

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Excerpts and Reviews at [www.lindenparkpublishers.com](http://www.lindenparkpublishers.com)

**(Coming Soon! -  
"Finding Christmasville")**



## What Members Are Saying

I just received the latest Villager. It is certainly a good one with a lot of fun information. I especially liked "Plasticville on the Board" by John Gottcent, regarding different sized 0 gauge figures, how to paint them realistically and using forced perspective (big ones up front, little ones farther back. This same idea can be expanded by using HO and N figures even further away.

The auto-body repair shop with dented autos shown in *Along the 'HO' Line* was an eye opener!

I hope Mike Marmer's earthquake victim cow was not injured fatally!

*Why I Collect Plasticville* was great fun to read. To the author, Paul Bruemmer: I don't think you are unique - a lot of us collect Plasticville by type of building; when something rare or in an early box comes along, that's just extra fun. ...

I once had a Plasticville town set up on a hard hospital bed. It had a straight track on one side to face the railroad buildings; the rest of the bed made a rectangular-shaped town with community and commercial buildings on one street, houses and the schoolhouse on the next, fire hall and park on the end. No town hall - I didn't own one then, but I did have an annex along one wall with a Frosty Bar, church, TV station and a farm with International Harvester red plastic implements.

*From the President's Desk* unfortunately depicts true

situations - brushes with greed and stupidity. Mike Denuty

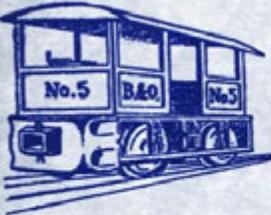
As always, The VILLAGER is a good read. (I wish it were monthly.) It and CTT are always my favorites. Jim Steed

Thanks to everyone on the committee that made this building possible for all members. Ron Dise (*Ron is referring to the 10th Anniversary special edition barn. Editor*)

John, Hope all is well. Picked up a ton of common kits recently but hard to sell. People are tight with \$. My show was last week and hope it is not a barometer as far as Plasticville. My good A.F. still sells.

I am enclosing a check for the newsletter ad. Thank your wife again for the format. Lud Spinelli (*My wife reworked Lud's display add to give it a border and a bit of color. This is a free service offered to any advertiser. Editor*)

Thanks for the message. No hurry at all; send it when you are able. I appreciate all that you do as secretary-treasurer for the association. Paul Fiumara



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## Welcome New Members

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

Paul Guaraglia, Foster City, CA  
Richard D Orr, Seville, OH  
Bob Pearson, Fall River, MA  
George W Middleton, Caledonia, 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 January 1, 2011.

Cynthia Friedberg, Los Angeles, CA  
George M Kristoff, Allison Park, PA  
Daniel J Wysocki, Erie, PA  
Jack R Hermle, Summerfield, FL  
Gary L Blankenship, Evansville, IN  
Lawrence Madaj, Mio, MI  
Clint E Baker, Chaparral, NM  
Henry E Yessioneck, Murraysville, PA  
Duane W Kaufhold, St Petersburg, FL  
Douglas S Foster, Dover, NH  
Justin A Deemer, Harrisburg, PA  
James Morrison, Paradise, PA  
David A Brown, Annandale, NJ  
Lawrence H Kalb, Maumelle, AR

## 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  
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**

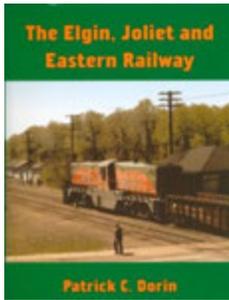
Do you have an idea for an item? Contact John Niehaus at [secretary@plasticvilleusa.org](mailto:secretary@plasticvilleusa.org) or mail your suggestions to him at the address noted above.

We are investigating the production of a "Plasticville Dairy" Divco truck milk truck.

We are investigating the production of a Plasticville Construction Company modern era pickup truck.



## Product Reviews



**The Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway**, Patrick C Dorin, published by Signature Press, \$60 US, 173 pages, 9 X 11, hardcover, black & white and color photos.

When I saw this book being advertised, I thought of all of the members of the PCA who live in the State of Illinois, especially those living in the Chicago area.

For those of you who are unaware, the slogan of the EJ&E as it is called was "Around – Not Through Chicago" and this is just what it did. Its nickname is "The J".

The book is broken into two parts: Train Operation and Service and Motive Power and Equipment. The chapters of the book begin with between one half of a page to a page and a half of text and a possibly a photo. The text is followed by numerous photos with sometimes lengthy captions. I found this made the book a very easy and pleasant read.

The first chapter of the book reviews how the EJ&E was formed. There are various black and white photos. One of the photos is that from the 1890's showing a station and people. One of the people in the picture has a crutch and seems to have lost a portion of his left leg. It makes one wonder if he lost the leg while working for the railroad. There are also four maps, three in color, showing the lines of the EJ&E at various times in its history.

The next three chapters are dedicated to freight service, coal trains, and ore trains. These are followed by a review of the East Joliet and Kirk switch yard and a chapter on passenger service. The chapter on the yards has black and white maps of both yards. The passenger



**Marx Trains, the Movie**, DVD, approximately 30 minutes, re-mastered from VHS by Barb Jones and narrated by Jim Tucker. Available exclusively through Toy and Train Publishing Company, \$21.95. The publicity information I

received with the DVD states that it was originally filmed and placed on VHS tape in the early 1990's. It also states that the VHS version was initially a fundraiser for the Toy Train Operating Society (TTOS). It has now been released in the now popular DVD format. Although the DVD is a re-mastered VHS format I found the content to be of excellent video and sound quality.

This video contains a vast array of Joy Line and early Marx trains and cars. They range from the earliest Joy Line pieces up to those made just prior to World War II. I counted comments (chapters) on over 20 different car or

service chapter has numerous reproductions of car drawings as well as photos of various pieces of equipment.

The chapters related to steam and diesel motive power contain rosters of the equipment. The roster for the steam engines includes the date a unit was added to the roster as well as the date it was removed. There are four rosters in the diesel chapter based upon the engine type - switcher, center cab, etc.

The last four chapters review the box cars, gondolas, hoppers, and cabooses as well as related equipment. Although there are no rosters included in these chapters the number of photos as well as the variety of cars in the included photos more than compensates.

There are two appendices. The first is a freight equipment roster which is actually five rosters for various decades, through the present. The second appendix contains over one dozen freight schedules for various years.

This is one book that you will want to read all the way to the page the precedes the Index. On that page are various black & white logos used by the EJ&E as well as a reproduction of a watercolor of an EJ&E center cab in the green and yellow livery in a rural setting.

This book was a very easy read and with all of the photos an excellent historical source. I recommend this book if you are interested in the history of the EJ&E or are looking for a source of photos for accurately modeling this railway.

The Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway can be purchased from Signature Press on their website at [signaturepress.com](http://signaturepress.com) or by telephone order at 800 305-7942. It does not seem to be listed on either the Borders Books or Barnes and Noble websites.

set types as well as various accessory subjects. An interesting piece in the video is a Popeye operating handcar. I was unaware of its existence. Almost every engine and car featured in the video is shown in operation on a multi-level layout as well as some of the accessories.

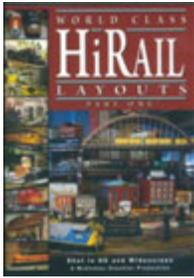
In addition to the engines and cars many of the accessories are commented upon in some detail. These include stations, block signals, and various railroad structures.

The instructions with the video state that it should be used in a television connected DVD player and that it would probably not play well through a computer. I found that the picture and sound were excellent even when I played it using the CD/DVD player in my fairly new computer.

If you are a Marx collector or operator I am sure you will enjoy the approximately 30 minutes you spend

watching the video and am guessing you will watch it more than once.

Marx Trains, the Movie, DVD, is available exclusively through Toy and Train Publishing Company, 5518 Willys



**World Class HiRail Layouts, Part One**, DVD, 60 minutes, TM Books & Video, \$19.95. TM Books & Video is offering PCA members a \$5 discount on this item.

This is the first of a new series of videos by TM Books & Video. It showcases visits to three different hi-rail layouts. Each of the layouts has a very unique story regarding its

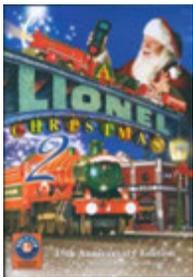
inception or other unique features.

The video begins with a short announcement of the next version of TM's Lionel Christmas video. It then defines the term hi-rail as coined in the 1940's by Lionel. It also includes a differentiation between the terms O scale and O gauge.

Each of the three segments show numerous views of the layout as well as operating equipment and accessories. In addition, numerous club give their views on their respective club's layout.

The first layout on the video is that of the Train Masters of Babylon in Lyndonhurst, New York. It was interesting to see vintage black and white movies of the original layout that was started in 1994. After a loss of lease and a the finding of a new place their layout is 50 X 60 feet and has five levels as of April 2005. One of the highlights of the layout is a hand built twelve foot long wood trestle bridge.

The second layout on the video is a visit to the New Jersey Hi-Railers Train Club. The club claims that this layout is the largest 3-rail layout in the world. With a layout of 185 X 40 feet it may be difficult to refute that claim. This layout can run up to 18 trains at once. It includes a ten bay engine shop with a transfer table. Probably the most unique feature of the layout is a helix that is one of the first things a visitor sees. Members can even store their trains on site in locked, glass faced



**Lionel Christmas, Part 2. 15th Anniversary Edition** DVD, 60 minutes, TM Books & Video, \$19.95

Just in time for Christmas and Christmas giving is the second edition of Lionel Christmas. It is difficult to believe that the first edition was published in 1995.

The Second edition is introduced by Tom McComas. Tom gives the viewer a nostalgic overview of toy trains and Christmas as well as what one will expect to see during the playing of the DVD.

Ave, Halethorpe, MD 21227. Phone 410 247-2220. The cost is \$21.95 plus \$2 shipping and handling. Email them at [info@toyandtrainguides.com](mailto:info@toyandtrainguides.com).

cabinets. The layout is also set up so that the electronic control by any manufacturer can be used on this layout. The venue is also probably one of the few that has a member kitchen where those members who come early and stay late can prepare their lunches and dinners.

The most unique aspect of this club, by far, is that they have one of the layouts used in the filming of a scene in the recent TV series *The Sopranos*. The scene was filmed at Trainland in Lynbrook, New York. It is interesting to hear how Ken Bianco describes the shoot, no pun intended, of the scene.

The last layout visited is definitely unique, at least in their name. That layout is of the Nassau Lionel Operators Engineers. It is the only club allowed to use Lionel in their club name. It is also most probably the only toy train layout to be located in the basement of a pool hall!

The layout is 85 X 35 feet. Although all of the track is in place it is still a work n progress regarding the scenery. As with the Train Masters of Babylon segment, this segment shows photos of the original layout at their original location. I spotted many Plasticville buildings in these photos.

The club decided that they needed to contract the design of their layout to a recognized layout designer rather than design it through input from club members. They contracted with Don Cardiff and contracted with him to design their layout. The layout design is an open grid type but built of 2 X 4s and larger which allows members to walk on over 90% of the layout without the fear of it collapsing.

World Class HiRail Layouts, Part One, can be purchased from TM Books & Videos, Box 279, New Buffalo, MI 49117.

You can order on line at [www.tmbv.com](http://www.tmbv.com). You may want to call and place your order to ensure you receive the PCA special discount of \$5.00. Their toll free order number is 800 892-2822.

The first two topics presented are the Lionel Train Store in mid-town Manhattan as well as views of the train layout used on the Today show.

These segments are followed by reminisces by seven different collectors and modelers. Some of the featured individuals are Ken Bianco of Trainland in Brooklyn, New York, Ban Bywaters whose layouts in the Northpark Center shopping center benefits the Dallas Ronald McDonald House, and Mike McClintock a member of a club who has the enviable position of operating a layout in the atrium of the Gaylord Texan Resort and convention Center in Grapevine, Texas - they even get to bring their own trains and run them on the layout!



## 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

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 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. Phone 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. Phone 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)

### For Trade

This is where you can put a classified ad offering to trade items you need for items you have that you no longer need. Why not give it a try? (Feb 11)

### Wanted

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)

Loading Platform - gray/black pillar and chimney; Watchman's Shanty - light gray tool box lid and front

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.

Plasticville for sale. Boxed and unboxed glued and pieces. I have too much to list. Send your wants to trainmanvb@msn.com and I will endeavor to meet your needs. I also have set boxes. Fair prices, honest dealer. See my website <http://danstrainsandtoys.webs.com/> Thanks. Dan #08-548, Dan Palaschak, 2328 N Wolfsnare Dr., Virginia Beach, VA 23454. Phone 757-412-4117 (May 11)

PO-1 red roof Post Office kit, complete, no glue or cracks, with OB - \$300. JC-3 Fence/Tree kit, 2 white trees, one set of fence, OB, good condition, \$100. 1852 dark blue Ranch House, mint condition, \$250. Davy Crockett Log Cabin kit in original bag w/header, \$300. 1607 grey siren Fire House kit, \$125. 1608 red Weathervane School House kit, \$200. #01-26 Louis Conway, 6984 Ely Rd, New Hope, PA 18938. Phone 215 862-5936 (Aug 11)

I have a large collection of Plasticville for sale. All in original boxes with original pieces. No repro parts in my collection. I will sell any amount whether it be one item or 10. I will sell below the competition. e-mail me with your want list. #09-580 David Starre, 5105 Herman Ave, Cleveland, OH 44102. Phone 216 631-6100. starredm@gmail.com (Aug 11)

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)

Look for my business card ad elsewhere in this newsletter. #02-121, David Allen, 318 Wheatsheaf Dr, New Castle. DE 19720 visit my website at plasticvillekitsforsale.webs.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)

Littleton: 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)

Wanted: Plasticville citizen "little girl" molded in any color: blue ,red, green, grey, brown, etc.( Please!,,no normal flesh color wanted! ) #01-21, Jonathan Morse, 48 Agawam Dr, E Wareham, MA 02538. Phone 508 291 2653 Sunday to Sunday 9-12 am or email me at ashemorse@comcast.net (May 11)

Plasticville Factory Roof and front Door Canopy in undamaged and not previously glued condition in any color. #04-307, Charles Wilber, P.O. Box 245 Whitmire SC 29178-0245. tandem@tandem-associates.com (May 11)

Wanted: Seeking an off-white two pin chimney for a Littleton Cape Cod. #05-375, Jim Deacon, 422 Circle Ave, Forest Park, IL 60130. Phone 708 692-7917. j61deacon@gmail.com (Aug 11)

I collect dollhouse furniture from the 40's/50's. Please check your extras/parts/misc. boxes/bins for dollhouse dishes, dustpans, stools, buckets, etc. Let me know what you find?

If you/your spouse also collect vintage dollhouse toys, I have a club of collectors -- let me know if interested. THANKS. #04-321 Geraldine Scott, 540 Viridian St. Englewood, FL 34223 Phone 941-474-8888. Geraldine@Collector.org

## 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.

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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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