



The Villager

The official newsletter of the Plasticville Collectors Association

Volume 10

February 2011

Number 1

Officers for 2011

The Executive Committee is pleased to announce the officers for the year 2011. The only nominations were for the current presiding officers. Because of this, the Executive Committee invoked bylaws Article III.7 which reads, "The Executive Committee, upon a unanimous vote by said committee, may suspend the creation and distribution of ballots provided the sole nominations for all positions are incumbent officers."

The officers for the year 2011 are:

President: Glenn Bowman who will serve a third term as President.

Vice-President: James Dawes who will serve his second term as Vice-President.

Secretary/Treasurer: John Niehaus who will continue as Secretary/Treasurer. This will be his tenth term in that office.

John Niehaus has also agreed to continue in the role of newsletter editor. This is a volunteer position, not an elected position.

Joe Kutza, the club founder, has graciously agreed to continue in his volunteer role as webmaster.

Needed: Member Feedback

A discussion was held during the January Executive Committee meeting regarding how many times a person should be consecutively elected to the same office.

An additional discussion was held in regard to the frequency of officer elections. Elections are currently held every year.

Setting the number of times a person may be consecutively elected to the same office or the frequency of elections would require a revision of the bylaws. In addition, per section VII.2 of the bylaws, it requires that the changes be voted upon by the membership.

The Executive Committee is asking for member input in regard to the following questions:

- How many times may a person be consecutively elected to the same office? There is no limit at the present time.
- How often should officer elections be held? Elections are currently held every year. Should elections be every two or three years?

Please address your comments via email to PCA@netins.net or send them by mail to the address in the box at the bottom of this page.

Last Chance to Order 10th Anniversary Barn

This is the last call for ordering the special edition 10th anniversary barn. All orders must be received by March 10. Orders received after that date will be returned.

The quantity of barns ordered will be enough to satisfy only those that have been pre-ordered or 200 pieces, whichever is greater. There is a limit of two barns per member.

You may download the order form from the PCA website. You may also send an email request for a printed copy to PCA@netins.net or drop a request for a printed form in the mail to the address listed in the box at the bottom of the page.

There is still an anticipated September delivery date.

The Villager

Published quarterly by the Plasticville Collectors Association.

www.plasticvilleusa.org

President: Glenn Bowman

Vice President: James Dawes

Secretary/Treasurer: John L Niehaus

Webmaster: Joe Kutza

Newsletter editor: John Niehaus

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**CLASSIC TOY
TRAINS** MAGAZINE

From the President's Desk



Well, I hope everyone survived the Christmas Holiday. I was surprised at all of the Plasticville offered on Ebay this year. There had to be twice as many listings as last year. I think the rarest item was the Canadian made Plasticville master unit #D14. It was made in the early 1950's by

the Frank Martin Company LTD in Ontario Canada. The buildings were the typical colors for Canadian PV, which is different from USA made, but the oddity was the red trees with the very dark brown marbled bases. The box itself was white with the D14 and the Martin Company information in red lettering that almost looked as if it was rubber stamped. A great find that now is living in a house other than ours! I am jealous.

About a year ago, I had a Email from a gentleman who was just starting to collect Plasticville. He asked if there was a way to tell if a kit is made up out of spare pieces and thrown into a box to sell, or a genuine issue. I told him IF he was not able to check the PCA website to see the variations, he may remember a few easy rules. First, the early kits were made of plastic that shine when they were clean. After the early 1960's, when clean, the plastic normally has a satin finish. The early kits have parts with a higher degree of color density than the later ones. So if you see a Ranch House with dull blue walls and a shiny dark gray roof, it is probably not the real deal. Also, early boxes have a dull finish and later boxes are shiny. The early white plastic is yellow base and the later white is gray base. And finally, the early reds are darker and they got lighter through the years. I hope this can help others from buying an unmatched kit.

I made a New Year's Resolution this year to get my

office organized. I had a 'path' through the stacks of boxes containing kits in various degrees of completeness waiting to be boxed and listed for sale. I have been making great progress with my task and have unearthed some things I can't remember seeing before. I found 13 early Factory kits and 5 of the later Scenic Classic Factory kits. The interesting thing about the Scenic kits is the number of color differences. There are two different shades of tan walls that I did not notice before, and there is the normal satin brown roof and trim and a satin taupe color roof and trim. I found 1 kit with gray doors and pieces of another kit with medium gray water tank cap and brackets. As I said before, Bachmann was making 'toys', not exact duplicate works of art. Several years ago I was asked if I had any extra doors for the #1906 factory. I replied that I had extras of the green doors. The questioner emailed me to tell me he needed a white door, not green. I told him I didn't know of a factory with white doors but sent him a white one as requested. I figured someone substituted doors to sell the kit. Well, in my pile I found the walls to a factory with white doors. The side door has this antique, hard as a rock, dark brown tape holding it in the door opening because of a broken pivot pin. It definitely has been several decades since the tape was applied. Is this any kind of confirmation as to the legitimacy of the white doors? At this point in time, no because the PCA's policy is to confirm previously uncatalogued, unpublished variations to ensure that accurate information is available to our Members. I am of the opinion that this is a real Bachmann-produced variation. Sorry, if it walks like a duck and looks like a duck, then it IS a duck. I don't need it to quack for me to believe it.

Thanks to everyone for listening.

Glenn Bowman

Vice Presidential Insights



Hello from snowy and frosty Syracuse, NY. Not many shows this winter. I missed the one in Utica, January 16, due to weather. The next show is February 27 in Eastwood, Syracuse, NY.

I have found some good Plasticville in boxes and at the right price. Also, had some inquiries for parts and pieces from some new customers.

I still see Plasticville mislabeled on EBay. Some people think every piece of plastic is Plasticville. Maybe

someday, through our Association and others, people will learn.

The price of shipping is out of sight and seems to be all over the board. I have learned that if the ad states " if it fits it ships at one low price", is not always the best way. So, what if it takes another day to arrive at its destination.

(The phrase to which Jim refers is the marketing phrase the USPS is currently using to promote the use of their Flat Rate Priority Mail service. In many instances the Standard Priority Mail service is cheaper as it is calculated on the combination of the weight of the package and the distance the package is to be shipped. editor)

Notes from the Editor



Wow! Here we are into our tenth year as an incorporated organization and our tenth year of quarterly newsletters. For those of you who are charter members I am confident that you have seen changes over the years.

Here are some facts regarding our first year as an organization: We had 82 members, of which over 70% are still members. Volume 1, number 1 of *The Villager* was a mere twelve pages. It contained one article related to Plasticville and it was a fantasy trip to Plasticville. There were a total of six advertisers in that newsletter. How things have changed.

One of the goals of the PCA is to enhance the collecting of plastic village pieces through the sharing of information. I would hope that if you see an article on a piece for which you have additional information that you will share that information with the membership.

There was an article in the August, 2010 edition of the newsletter regarding a front wall of an HO firehouse with a hole over the service door. It was presumed that it was for the insertion of a light. We have yet to get any feedback from members as to what color of light was included in the kits. If you have one of the firehouses and can verify the color of the light fixture please drop me an email at pca@netins.net.

I am also still waiting for someone to send me a picture of a BN-1 barn box with a label attached to it with the wording DARK GRN/WHITE, DK GRN/WHT or some other variation referencing dark green in order to confirm that it did come with a dark green, not the semi-translucent or lighter green roof. This piece will be listed in the new Unconfirmed Variations of the PCA website until we have that combination of colors confirmed.

There was also a yellow and gray phone booth illustrated in the August, 2010 edition of the newsletter. I am still hoping that someone knows who manufactured it and will send me that information. It is my hope to add pieces such as this to a Miscellaneous section under the Other Manufacturers section of the website once we identify the manufacturer.

Are you new to the computer scene? Did you get a computer as a holiday gift? If you did and are having difficulty accessing the PCA website, please let me know either by email at PCA@netins.net or send me a letter. It would be a shame for you not to enjoy one of the benefits of the PCA, that being able to access the vast information on our website. I will be more than happy to help you if you are having access issues.

There are many times when members send me photos of their layouts or of items to be included in future articles. What I do not know, on many occasions, is whether you want them returned. Please include a note in with your photos if you wish them returned.

I cannot stress how much valuable information is on our website. Additional reference material is being added almost on a daily basis. I would recommend that you make it your first stop in researching any item, Plasticville or otherwise. You can also refer back to previous - actually all of them - issues of *The Villager* as well as access a member roster.

My thanks to David Allen for a suggestion that I will pass on to you. If you have a website why not add a link to the PCA website or note that you are a member of the PCA along with the plasticvilleusa.org link? I can attest to the fact that I have received more than one membership application with a note that they became aware of the PCA due to the link on Dave's site. Check out his site at <http://plasticvillekitsforsale.webs.com>.

It's time for kudos to members Tim Price and Jim Steed. A photo of Tim's layout appeared in the February, 2011 edition of *Classic Toy Trains*. Jim's layout is a featured article in the same issue. In addition to that article, elsewhere in this newsletter you will find a reprint of an article by Jim that was published in the December, 2010 edition of the Lionel Train Operating Society's newsletter, *Switcher*.

Department of corrections: It seems that I incorrectly captioned the photo of the white house in the Misty Mountain Railroad as being the Biltmore Estate when in fact it is a model of the home of the layout owner, Charles Griffin. I am pleased to report, though, that we "scooped" *Classic Toy Trains* magazine as their article on Charles' layout was not published until the March, 2011 edition of the magazine.

Does anyone know member Paul Parizo of Swanton, Vermont? His November newsletter was returned to me with an "unable to forward" notation. If you know where Paul may be, please send me an email with his new address to pca@netins.net.

One of the things I have always done early in the new year is make telephone contact with members who have not renewed their membership. Obviously, my main reason is to remind them that they have not renewed membership. The other reason is to determine why they have chosen not to continue their membership.

I am sad to report that I was informed during my calling campaign this year that Kevin Corbett - #05-364 and Ronald Frame - #08-555 have passed away.

January 2011 Executive Committee Minutes

The January, 2011 Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM, Eastern Time, on January 16 by President Glenn Bowman.

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

Old business:

10th anniversary piece

Secretary Niehaus reported that he has received orders for a total of 164 pieces.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved that all orders were to be received by the Secretary no later than March 10, 2011

Advertising in CTT and TCA

Secretary Niehaus reported that of the publications he solicited for display ad prices that none of these accept classified advertising or classified ads are limited to organization members only.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to hold in abeyance additional research and discussion regarding advertising.

What else do I collect column

Secretary Niehaus reported that he has a contributor for the first insertion of the My Other Interests column.

Unconfirmed Variations sections on website

Webmaster Kutza reported that the sections should be completed and populated with unconfirmed color variations by the next Executive Committee meeting.

Revision of bylaws article L1 to reflect the current dues structure.

Secretary Niehaus reported that the change has been made and is reflected in the bylaws currently available online and in print.

Deletion of bylaws article L.3

Secretary Niehaus reported that the deletion has been made and is reflected in the bylaws currently available on line and in print.

Handouts for York Meet tables

Secretary Niehaus reported that he has not received any applications that were on the handout tables at Fall York.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to continue placing handouts at future meets.

President Bowman offered that he will suggest to members who are taking tables at meets to contact the Secretary and request that he send them information packets for placing on their tables.

A discussion was held regarding the passing out of pens with the PCA name and website on them at York and

other meets. Secretary Niehaus will investigate unit costs and report back to the committee.

PCA Facebook presence

Joe Kutza reported that he has established a PCA presence on Facebook.

New Business:

PayPal

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to set up a PayPal account.

Webmaster Kutza and Secretary Niehaus will work with the website developer to initially allow dues renewal payments to be made via PayPal. They will then proceed to allow on line purchases from The Corner Store and special edition items.

MissionFish (donations through eBay/PayPal)

It was requested that Secretary Niehaus send additional information to the Executive Committee members for their review. Discussion of this item will be continued during the April Executive Committee meeting.

IRS form 990-N

Secretary Niehaus reported that he has filed the annual IRS form 990-N form the year 2011.

State of Iowa biennial report

Secretary Niehaus reported that he has filed the Iowa 2011 Biennial Report for an Iowa Nonprofit Corporation.

Adding an illustration of the carcinogen label on current Plasticville kits to the PCA home page

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to include an illustration of the carcinogen label on current production buildings on the PCA website's home page. The motion further specified that a hyperlink is to be included that would open an email to Bachmann for a response to inquiries regarding the label.

Multi-year membership payments

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to revise the membership renewal cards mailed to members to allow for the payment of up to three years dues at one time.

Terms of office for elected officers

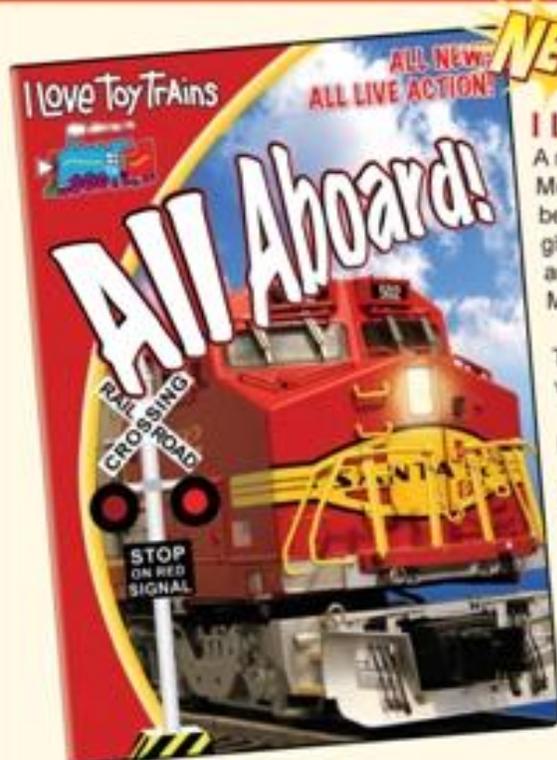
A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to seek member input regarding extending the terms of elected officers from the current one year to two years.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM, Eastern Time

Respectfully submitted; John L Niehaus,
Secretary/Treasurer

Approved by the Executive Committee, January 22, 2011

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My Other Interests

by Michael Frank

One of my other interests is visiting graves of the famous. I started with baseball Hall of Famers around New York, then I gradually expanded to US presidents, all baseball Hall of Famers outside of Cuba, football, and all people of interest. I have a photo taken of me at each gravesite that I visit.



Here I am at the grave of Zachary Taylor, the 12th President of the United States

The website, www.findagrave.com is very helpful in locating graves of famous people. One can search on this site by individual name, a cemetery, or a county. On all but the smallest of cemeteries, additional information is available.

There are also reference books available, as I'm not the only person who visits the graves of famous people as a hobby.

I generally find myself alone at the graves of the likes of John Kennedy,

Babe Ruth or Bing Crosby unless I'm with a fellow visitor. Exceptions are the graves of Lyndon B Johnson, Bela Lugosi, Thomas Jefferson and some others. Their graves are highly popular.

Another of my interests is the fan club for a pioneer children's TV show, Howdy Doody. A website dedicated to the show has been run for 32 years by the same person, JTJudson@embarqmail.com. The monthly Times gives media excerpts old and new involving Howdy, Mr. Bluster, Chief Thunderthud, and the gang. There is also some buying and selling.

There have been conventions every few years. The one I went to in White Plains had a puppet show, flea market, games, and more. Sadly, many of the people who were involved with the show are among the departed. Yes, I've visited the grave of Judy Tyler (Princess Summerfall Winterspring).



Will the real Clarabell Clown please stand up? Did you know that Bob (Captain Kangaroo) Keeshan was the first Clarabell Clown?

(I wish to thank Michael for stepping up to the plate, no baseball pun intended, and being the first to offer information related to his Other Interests article for a column intended to learn more about the interests outside of collecting plastic village buildings)

Looking Back at the Old Town

By Mike Denuty

Greetings and happy new year from the snowy north country. I hope you were suitably tied up with the holiday season and will turn back to important things such as snap-together plastic walls and unpainted plastic people. Did you have a Christmas village or train set?

I always liked to decorate my village with O/S sized Santa and Sleigh and a Manger scene, plus little stars and bells hanging from colored pipe cleaners strung from building to building across downtown streets.

[I would look for this stuff in notions departments all year around. You never know what you'll find. How to make it snow without damage was always a problem.

My Lionel O layout has been out of service for quite some time. Most of my Plasticville is packed away but I hope to rebuild a town in the future. The Bachman, K-Line and Marx construction companies are standing by and the trains are ready to arrive.

My last town had lodging space for 200+ people, plus stores, a bank, hospital, school, post office, police station and a city park with veterans' monument but no city hall. [City council must have met in the diner.]

I had two gas stations - there were a lot of plastic vehicles. A suburban lane led motorists to a Frosty Bar, TV station, fruit stand and a farm with plastic implements and Marx row crops. The old log "home place" rested under the trees nearby. There even was an old "jitney" school bus out by the end of the road.

One railroad skirted the town and had a suburban depot with platforms, freight house, water tower, cattle pen, a crossing watchman and a trestle. Steam must have been gone since the coaling tower was falling apart.

The hobo village didn't look like it had been hassled by the railroad bulls, but there was some street construction nearby.

Greenberg's 2011 Pocket Price Guides

By John Niehaus



The 2011 editions of Greenberg's Pocket Price Guides are now available. The Lionel guide is 343 pages. The American Flyer edition is 111 pages. They are in the same 4 x 8 1/2 format as in previous years.

With this year's guides I made comparisons between

the values in this year's issue and last year's for both Lionel and American Flyer. The changes this year were not what I had hoped of seeing. It seems that the toy train values are still in a recession.

The values for every Lionel item I reviewed this year remained the same as last year or lost value, especially in the excellent category. The only bright spot was that the 746 with the long stripe tender gained approximately 6% in excellent condition. But even there, the good condition value dropped 6%.

The greatest drop in value was for the 8702 Southern 4-6-4 in excellent condition. Its value dropped a whopping 15% from \$470 to \$398 although the value in good condition remained the same as last year.

The values for American Flyer pieces fared worse. Of the items I reviewed all but one lost up to 15% of their value in excellent condition. The drops were from a

miniscule 1% up to nearly 20%. The values for all items in good condition remained the same as last year.

The only bright spot was the #342 0-8-8 Nickel Plate switcher. The value in excellent condition remained at \$500 and \$1750, respectively for good and excellent condition.

If the downturn in prices are an indication I am presuming that all collectors and even operators are not willing to spend more on pieces than last year and even less in some instances.

In my review of last year I stated, "If you are a collector/investor it may be wise to hold onto your trains a bit longer.", depending upon your outlook for a future rebound of the toy train market that may still be good advice.

Both guides carry the same list price as last year. The Lionel guide is priced at \$18.95. The American Flyer guide is priced at \$15.95.

They are available from Kalmbach Books, 21027 Crossroads Circle, Waukesha, WI, 53186. www.kalmbachbooks.com. Their U.S. toll free number is 800-533-6644 Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Central Time. The phone number if you are calling from Canada or outside the U.S. is 262-796-8776 Ext. 421. The guides are also available on the Amazon website as well as both Borders Books and Barnes & Noble's websites.

Be a "Friend" of the PCA on Facebook

from the Webmaster

The PCA recently joined "Facebook" and is looking to gather as many friends as possible. For those not familiar with Facebook, it is a social networking site where friends exchange messages and join common interest user groups such as the PCA page. Facebook has over 600 million active users! In order to friend the PCA, you need to open a free account with Facebook. It's easy to do, and like me, you may find yourself reconnecting with a lot of friends and family. In addition to other PCA members, I found

friends from high school, college, graduate school, as well as my current and previous jobs. Very cool.

Check out the PCA website at www.plasticvilleusa.org for a link to the PCA Facebook page, or you can get to Facebook directly at www.facebook.com and search for the Plasticville Collectors Association from there. Once you friend the PCA, be sure to leave a message on the PCA wall! I'll see you on-line.

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45986 LCCA Air Hanger (Blue/Orange) Sealed \$25

0550 King Add-A-Floor (Red or Brown) MT \$10 ea – With 3 WHITE shrubs \$15 ea

0400 King Mobile Home (Blue or Buff walls) \$20 ea – 2/\$30

FH-4 Fire House (Grey Siren) \$75

1809 Loading Platform, Mint \$20

1923 Roadside Stand Mint, Sealed \$75

1913 Motel, No Cars \$15

1908 Split Level House, Mint \$60

1816 Watchman Shanty, Mint \$25

1611 Hardware & Pharmacy, Hard Box # \$95

BN-1 Barn (Chrome Trim) \$40

1630 Telephone Poles, Mint \$15.

PH-1 Plasticville Hall, Mint \$95

1900 Turnpike, Mint \$90

1807 Two Story House, Mint \$65

PF-4 Citizens (painted) \$10

AD-4 Air Admin. Bldg. Mint \$90

Complete Kits, Without Box

Railroad Work Car \$10

Motel \$10

Fire Department, no logo, black letters \$15

Supermarket (small) \$15

King Add-A-Floor (red or brown) \$8 ea or 3/\$19

Mobile Homes (8 different colors) \$15 ea or 8/\$95

Suburban Station \$10

Hobo Shacks \$15

Diner (red or yellow roof) \$15

Colonial Mansion (red roof) \$25

NE Ranch (white/tan windows/black roof) \$25

Barn \$10

School \$15

Bank \$25

Single Items

1026 Boulevard lights 12/\$10

SS-5 Street Corner signs with original tag \$2 ea - no tag \$1 ea

1090 Telephone Booth (blue) 5/\$25 or (white) 6/\$30

Fire Trucks, red (1 pumper, 1 ladder truck) \$10/set

Fire Trucks (new), yellow (1 pumper, 1 ladder truck) \$15/set

Jeep, Tractor, Plow, Harrow \$4 ea or 4/\$12

1025 Street lights 12/\$8

1050 Outhouse (brown) \$5 ea or 3/\$12

Ambulance (yellow or green) \$5 ea

Bus (yellow or green) \$5 ea

Pickup Truck \$8 ea

BBQs \$2.50 ea or 5/\$9.50

Shrub Assortment (48 total) 6 each of green, blue, red, yellow, buff, flesh, chocolate & WHITE - \$50.

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Bank red light*, large canopy, small canopy

House Under Construction shovel, rake, hoe, bucket, or sawhorse

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

Oar (red, yellow) Cattle Pen crossbars (with 2 holes or slot)

Hospital siren Jack & Jill pail or shrub (red, yellow, blue)

Straight chair Clothesline (red, yellow, green)

Desk chair Log Cabin chimney

Airport wind sock School white light*

COMPLETE BOXED LITTLETOWN KITS

303 Street Lights \$25

#304 Fence \$15

#306, #307, #308, #310, #311, #312, #313 - \$65/kit

KING PLASTICVILLE – Covered Bridge (grey roof) Mint \$35

KING PLASTICVILLE ERTL TRACTOR TRAILER WITH BANK \$15

PLASTIC VILLAGE GAZETTE – Issues 1, 5 & 6 - \$2.50 ea; other issues \$5 ea

Many empty Plasticville boxes available.

Want lists welcomed

Dealer inquiries welcome for Plasticville Guides and Plasticville parts listed above.

Shipping:

Books \$5

Kits or ERTL truck \$6

Parts \$3.50

Non-Plasticville Bachmann Brothers Items

by Geraldine Scott

Any information or comments on this grouping? I purchased them together - but don't know if they belong together. I was readying some items for our club's newsletter.....and when I took these "long-had-in-my-collection" items out of the baggie, I was pleasantly surprised.

The boxes, when closed are 2 1/2" x 1 1/4". The plastic laundry basket is 3" long. It is always nice to be surprised -- at least once a week would be great!

The laundry basket is not hallmarked. I am not really sure these items were marketed together, as they were not found in original packaging.

The clothes pins look newer to me. Anyway, I think the boxes are very neat.

(As usual, Geraldine presented me with a bit of a puzzle but this one was fairly easy to solve. After viewing the boxes for a short while I decided to perform a Google search on the word kiddypliance. That search returned a slightly over 500 "hits".

The red box is definitely part of an electric Washer - Dryer set from the early 60's that Bachmann Brothers marketed under the product name kiddypliance. The blue box is not illustrated in the photo below so it may or may not have come with this particular set. I am fairly confident that the tub is also part of the set based upon the shape and its simulated woven pattern when compared to the basket in the set. The clothespins and clothesline are probably not since the appliance in the set is a washer-dryer.

I also found a reference to Kiddypliances on page 101 of the November 1963 Popular Mechanics. It read, "Kiddypliances. Regular household appliances scaled down for 5 to 11-year old fingers. Basic kit starts off with a vacuum cleaner and battery holder. Other sets include a washing machine, rotisserie, hair dryer and dishwasher. Bachmann Bros.". Editor)



The two boxes, laundry basket, clothesline, and clothespins were recently rediscovered. Bachmann Brothers Inc is printed on the bottom flap of each. A bit of research discovered that the red box and tub were part of an electric toy marketed by Bachmann Brothers in the early 1960's under the kiddypliance product name.



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I Love Toy Trains - Confessions of a True Train Lover

by Jim Steed

For Christmas 2009 here in the mountains of North Georgia we had one of our biggest snows of the season. It reminded me of a Christmas Eve during my childhood and the anticipation of a Lionel train or accessory on Christmas morning. I got to thinking, "why" do I love trains so much? I love all trains. Full size, museum trains, model trains, toy trains. I love 'em all.

I got my first Lionel set in 1946, a postwar steamer number 224, a 250 watt Z transformer, four cars, three of which were tin plate, as the whole set was really a prewar design, and put into production at World War II's end. I've still got every piece of that set including the uncoupling track section and the original Lockon. Somewhere along the way I lost one of the four barrels that rode in the black Pennsylvania gondola car. Since then I have amassed a huge collection and operating postwar layout which many of you saw on the "Blairsville" layout tours during LOTS 30th Annual Convention in Chattanooga, Tennessee, back in 2009.

My layout is 36 sheets of plywood and fills the whole basement area of our home. But "why" do I have so many trains? I keep asking myself that question (as does my wife, Gayle). When we go on vacation, I try to stop by the local hobby shop in that town. If I see a train store en route, I say, "Gayle, can we stop here?" It's amazing. It's mind boggling how I'm infected by seeing, holding, smelling, and running 0-Gauge trains.

I confess I'm an addict. But, then again, no, I'm not an addict. I finally figured it out. Why do I have so many trains? The answer is simple. I "rescue" trains. It finally hit me when my local train club President called me one day. He said he had a friend whose husband had died and

left Lionel trains. She didn't know what to do with the trains: whether to sell them, give them away, what their value was, or who to call. Then there was another call from a woman who had her husband's trains in the basement. She apologized because of the smoke damage the trains had endured all those years due to her wood-fired furnace in the basement. Need I say more? And on and on. More calls, similar stories. Bottom line, the trains were going to waste, rotting and rusting in some basement, attic, or so forth. You know the story.

Now, as I said, "Yes, I'll be glad to handle your trains. I would love to care for them, fix them, sell them for you, buy them from you. You name it." And that's when I figured it out "who" I actually am as a train nut. No, not a nut, not even an addict. All I really "want" to do is "RESCUE" the trains. I really don't want the trains as much as I just want to "rescue" them. I can't stand to know that those Lionels are just lying there, gathering smoke, dust, rust and decay. I want to rescue them and give them a good home. It's kind 'a like seeing a dog, lost, on the freeway. You want to rescue the dog from all the ills of being out there alone on the freeway. You really don't want the dog; you just don't want it to be lost or to get hit. You want to get him away from that situation and into a good home.

So, there it is. I finally know my true identity. I'm a "train rescuer". I simply cannot resist any stray train that comes along. Buy it, fix it, nurture it, but most of all, "rescue" the trains and "give them a good home". That's what I love to do! (*Reprinted with permission from the December, 2010 edition of SWITCHER, the newsletter of the Lionel Operating Train Society*)

A Littleton Unconfirmed Variation

by Wayne Beachy



This Littleton Freight Station is unique in that the shed is green and the platform floor is smooth. It will be added to the Unconfirmed Variations section of the website until identical pieces are discovered. Do you have one of the same colors?

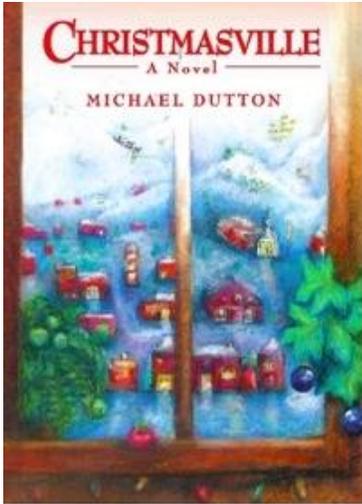
I picked up a freight station at a train show last weekend. I spied it in the back of a group of buildings. I recognized immediately that it was not a Plasticville, but the Littleton version.

It had the red platform and roof and green shed. The platform had no planking on the floor, it is smooth.

I looked in the 20 year old book I have and could not find where Littleton ever did a green shed. I am sure it is not painted.

The only drawback is that it is glued, but glued very well. I will use it on my Christmas layout. The colors are appropriate.

(*A photo of this piece, along with the white wall and dark green roof barn will be placed in the new Unconfirmed Variations section of the PCA website until additional pieces are discovered. editor*)



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Along the "HO" line Citizens

By Todd Hendrickson



I hope everyone had a great holiday season and your New year is off to a good start. I am going nuts without my NASCAR, me not being a football fan.

In this newsletter I am going to talk about #2809-149 Citizens. I'm sure most all of us have these little pink citizens on our layouts. Bachmann made 24 different citizens ranging from railroad workers, to policemen, to farmers, and children.



The top of the 2809-149 CITIZENS illustrating the 24 different figures contained inside. The 149 in the item number referred to Bachmann's suggested retail price.

What I found to be fun with these kits is that they came with paint sets. The paint set contained a plastic palette which had 6 or 8 color pellets, Bachmann Styrene Paint Fluid and Glue, and a brush. You simply dipped the brush into the painting fluid and stirred it onto the pigment until it was a workable consistency then applied it to the figure. What a brilliant way to put a paint set in a small kit. The #2715 Roadside Stand also came with the same paint set to paint the fruits and vegetables. The later kits of the 80s had a small potted paint set.



Item 2809-149 contained two each of the 24 figures illustrated on the box lid in addition to a paint brush, a bottle of thinner, and a circular pallet of eight different colors.

As I look at a citizen now, there are lots of detail in these little figures.

I know a lot of you would love to get rid of the pink citizen and add "life" and detail to your layout. So maybe next time you find yourself looking at your layout and wondering how you can add a little more personality to it, you might consider those little pink citizens. You also might find yourself enjoying a new aspect of the hobby .

Any comments or questions contact me at 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?

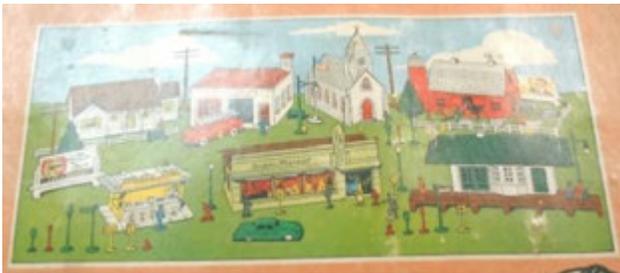
Why not share your knowledge with your over 400 fellow PCA members. That's what Todd is doing.

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.

MU-2 Master Village Figures of Various Colors



Fourteen of the sixteen figures of various colors that were included in the 1954 MU-2 Master Village set. All were standing figures except for two that were sitting. The colors of the figures on the box illustration were not necessarily the actual color of the included figures.



The MU-2 box top illustration of the contents with the figures illustrated in various colors.

These figures came out of a Master Village, MU-2 set I believe from 1955. The set sat on my shelf for at least 20 years before I looked inside. I do the displays at the Atlantic Division of the TCA meet shows. We were doing different items in box sets for a recent meet. I was looking through my Plasticville sets and in the last box found the illustrated figures.

(The photos in this article were sent along with a member's 2011 dues. I have since returned the photos to that member but failed to note who sent them. I will gladly give credit to him in the next newsletter if he will contact me and accept my apology for this oversight. editor)

Whistlin' Dixie

by Geraldine Scott

I'm whistlin' because I found a neat old toy. I didn't find it in Dixie. I just added that word because it kinda goes with Whistlin', and because my friend George just asked me about Dixie Cups - but that is another story.

During our summer trek in our RV, we happened upon a neat antique mall in the historic town of Salamanca, NY.

The mall was so large that took me two separate visits to get through it. Most of the merchandise was in display cases.

On my second visit, I found a display case with a baggie filled with our favorite Plasticville. I couldn't see everything thru the glass, but I could see that there was something green and blue behind the bag. When I got someone to open the case and got the bag out, what was behind it was most intriguing.

It was a little boat, actually a boat whistle. It was kinda neat. When I looked at it closer looking for a possible hallmark, it got neater yet.

It was hallmarked "LIONAL, PAT. PEND, MADE IN U.S.A.". I was thrilled. I have been collecting 40's/50's plastic dollhouse furniture and toys for about 35 years and I did not have one piece hallmarked LIONAL.

Of course, my mindset at that moment was that it was LIONEL. I was holding a toy hallmarked LIONAL but

was thinking LIONEL. Hmmmm, I thought?

It was a neat piece, 4 1/2" long, and a definite "have-to-have". Especially since my friend Chuck collects vintage plastic whistles and I was excited about showing it to him. It is now a proud member of my collection.

I am hoping that someone out there in PCA-ville will know more about the Lional name. You may email me at geraldine@collector.org if you have more information on this cute little whistle or the Lional name.

I also found some 3" yellow plastic road signs that are not hallmarked. The signs bases are round with a rectangular hole into which the signpost is inserted.



The hallmark on the underside this boat whistle reads LIONAL/PAT PEND/MADE IN U.S.A. The author is requesting information regarding this company

(The road signs that Geraldine found were cereal box premiums. An article on them is part of this newsletter. editor)

Creative Use of Damaged Parts Superdetailing a Lionel Drawbridge

By Edward Johnson



This model was built a while ago and is intended to accompany the new 14137 Lionel draw bridge. The Lionel model is excellent in detail and operation but unlike real world draw bridges it lacks a control tower. In my inventory of used and abused Plasticville parts I had the remains of two incomplete Plasticville switch towers.

I assembled the sides and then built a platform to wrap around the upper section. A railing wraps around the platform. The platform has a railing, two life rings hang

on the railing. The railing with those rings would be the side to face the "water". The roof has a fog horn which indicates this control tower doubles as a navigation reference.

Since there are windows on three sides some interior detail was placed inside. Finally to convey the seaside location of the tower three seagulls roost on or around the roof.

That's all folks
Eddie J



The Lionel #14137, as produced by Lionel, is nice and a reliable operating accessory but is missing something every drawbridge needs - a control tower. The photos to the right show how I added one with a few damaged Plasticville switch tower pieces.



Damaged pieces of two switch towers add the needed control tower to an otherwise bare Lionel drawbridge.



The addition of life rings with hovering and perched seagulls indicates that this drawbridge is near the ocean.

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Plasticville on the Board

Odds and Ends

By John Gottcent



It's time once again to dip into my note file and share some items not long enough for a full column but still, perhaps, worthy of your attention.

Several issues ago (August 2008), I wrote a fictional account of Plasticville's reaction to a real earthquake that took place here in southern Indiana. Accompanying photos showed minor damage to my layout actually produced by the tremors. (See Photo One.)

Two years later (August 2010), PCA members Mike

disaster. I'm talking about a wayward elbow.

Photo Two shows what happened recently when I accidentally bumped my elbow into a highway bridge supported by trestles on my layout. The entire bridge and all its contents went crashing down onto the buildings and unsuspecting citizens below, doing damage which, as you can see, was much worse than anything delivered (yet) by nature. I was reminded of a sign in our local zoo asking which animal is the most dangerous creature on earth. Answer: humans.

Some may ask why I don't have the bridge firmly secured to the layout via screws or glue. My answer is that I like the freedom to move things around now and then. Besides, if the bridge had been rigid, I might well have cracked it or done some other permanent damage. As it is, my only penance was to painstakingly put everything back into place (Photo Three), which, all things considered, wasn't that bad of a job after all.

Last year Bachmann's line of Williams O-gauge trains



Photo One

As reported in the August, 2008 edition of *The Villager* there was some minor damage to the layout caused by an actual earthquake of that year in southern Indiana.

Marmer and Joe Kutza shared a similar story about a quake in Maryland which produced no damage to Joe's collection and only one fallen cow on Mike's layout..

Today, however, I can tell you there is a force that can do much more serious damage to your plastic village, and that is just as difficult to predict and control, as a natural



Photo Three

The damage from the wayward elbow has been restored and all is well again. Notice the Burma Shave signs along the side of the roadway.



Photo Two

What is worse than an earthquake? How about an wayward elbow, such as mine, that toppled a highway bridge that was supported by trestles.

sponsored a Platinum Club whose special offer was a tank car specially decorated for Plasticville Petroleum Products. I immediately signed up and (though it took almost a year) finally received my car (Photo Four), which now holds a place of prominence in my village.

I bring this up because, several years ago, Allied Model Trains in California offered a boxcar decorated for Plasticville. I hemmed and hawed about ordering one, only to find I'd waited too long. Over the years I've looked for that car at train shows and flea markets, but to no avail. The moral: when you see something offered that's likely to be a limited run, snap it up as soon as you can.



Photo Four

The 2009 Williams by Bachmann Platinum Club member car was a Plasticville Petroleum Products triple dome tank car. It holds a prominent place on my layout.

Speaking of items decorated for Plasticville, a while back a model car company (I think it was Eastwood Automobilia) offered a moving van with the name of our favorite village on the side. What a great idea, I thought, except for one thing: it came only in 1:32 scale. Bachmann makes Plasticville in N, HO, and O/S scales, but this van would be grossly oversized next to even the largest of those buildings. Why the Eastwood company went to the trouble of marketing the item and then making it unusable for its obvious customers remains a mystery.

Finally, I found myself pondering a philosophical question recently: how many changes can your “original” model undergo and still remain “your original”?

This came up in relation to my very first train engine, a Lionel 2025 steamer which my father bought for me as part of a Christmas set in 1947 (Photo Five). It’s now over 63 years old, but I still bring it out every December to remind me of Christmases past.

The problem is that over the years, I’ve had to replace the boiler front (twice), a main driver, and several internal parts. If these renovations continue, at what point does the train cease to be “the same one I’ve had since I was three”?

Notice that this is a different question from the usual one asked by collectors, which is “does it still have ALL its original parts?” To the extent that this question must be answered “no,” the collectible value of the item obviously goes down.

The question I’m asking is not one of collectability, but of nostalgia. It’s a version of the old question about your grandfather’s axe: if you’ve changed the handle twice and the blade three times, can it still be considered your granddad’s? And it obviously applies to our plastic villages too.



Photo Five

This 2025 engine was given to me for Christmas in 1947. It has had numerous pieces replaced with original pieces yet can it still be called original?

I still have my “original” log cabin from 1950, for instance. But over the years, I lost the accompanying fence and chimney. Fortunately, I’ve been able to replace both with original (not reproduction) parts. So is it still the same old cabin it’s always been? If so, how many more parts can I replace, even with originals, and still consider it “my own”?

This problem is starting to sound like the medieval question of how many angels can dance on the head of a pin, so I’d best stop here. If you’ve got some thoughts, or ideas for future columns, give me a holler at jandjgott@gmail.com.

Meanwhile, happy villaging!

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Cereal Box Road Sign Premiums

by John Niehaus

Photos courtesy Geraldine Scott and Dan Goodsell

PCA member Geraldine Scott sent me a photo of some two-piece road signs that she acquired last summer. Along with the photo came an inquiry as to whether I knew the company who manufactured them. That question may never be answered. But I can tell you who made them available to the public and how.



A sample of the 12 different road signs packed inside boxes of 40% Bran Flakes in 1957.

I noticed that the bases of the signs looked very much like the bases of the street signs included in Kellogg's Frosted Flakes and Pep Wheat cereal boxes of 1956.

I sent Geraldine's photo off to my cereal box collector associate with a question as to whether he had any cereal boxes illustrating road signs that looked like those in her

picture. In his usual fine fashion he responded to me with not only a confirmation that the signs were part of a Kellogg's cereal box premium promotion of 1957, but also included two scans of the boxes in which they were included.



Two versions of the 40% Bran Flakes box fronts in which the road signs were packed.

Thanks to the scans that he sent me we know that there were a total of twelve signs, one per box, and that the signs were only included in 40% Bran Flakes. The signs with only text read: soft shoulder, slippery when wet, hill, narrow bridge, stop ahead, stop ahead, men working, and school. The other five signs had graphics for: railroad crossing, intersection, left curve ahead, winding road, and sharp right turn. I wonder how many fathers ate numerous boxes of cereal so that their son could acquire all twelve signs for use on their train layout.

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What Members Are Saying

... you and your staff are doing an excellent job. Robert W Johnson

When I joined PCA in 2002, I did not own a computer. Now I do. Today, I attempted to log on to the celebrated PCA website for the 1st time, only to find that there is no way for members such as me to have access to "members only" items. There is no provision that I can determine to allow me to establish a member account w/ a password. This situation appears absurd to me. Why is the PCA website no more accessible to me than to any "Joe Browser" on the web? It should be a PCA site option for PCA members, who have not previously logged on, to do so w/o any difficulty. AR *(The PCA data is not stored on a server as is the case with a commercial site such as Amazon, Sears, etc. The cost to have the data hosted on a commercial site and allow for a user to set up a user name and password would be cost prohibitive with the small size of our organization. It would also entail either the development of or the purchase of software to automatically respond to a request for information. I will ask our webmaster to check with our website developer and see if there is an economical way to set up the retrieval of a user name and password by a member. I set up the user name and password when I process a membership application and include that information in the new member welcome letter that I send along with the new member's membership card. The most expeditious way, at this point in time, to be given your user name and password is to send an email to secretary@plasticvilleusa.org requesting that information. You will generally receive a reply the same day you send the email or the next. secretary)*

Thanks for your work for the PCA, Joseph Mace

I was recently surfing the web for Plasticville and I came across this blog: <http://www.duetsblog.com/2010/06/articles/trademarks/welcome-to-the-world-of-plasticville-usa/>. In it, the writer talks about growing up with model trains, but how he only recently discovered Plasticville at a train store. He seems to have done a small amount of research on Plasticville and he even mentions the PCA! (Hope he joins) There is also a good reply by Charles Wilber of Tandem Associates pointing out the difference between the classic collectible Plasticville and the more recent Chinese Plasticville. Wilber states, "Today, most collectors are not interested in any of these kits that were produced after 1979." Implying that this is when Chinese production started. My research shows that it started in 1998 - the second season of the 50th anniversary issues. From a post on the Plasticville Yahoo website.

... Thanks also for everything you and the other officers do throughout the year for the organization. John Gottcent

Just a few items and ideas I have. Would it be easier to offer along with the yearly membership a 2 and/or a 3 year membership? It would be less work for you and the members could save a few dollars with an extended membership.

I belong to several train clubs. They are always offering special edition trains. How about Plasticville making a special edition building and offering it to members only of the club? Something unique like a 3 story house or a military setting that fires a rocket or even a cape cod or rancher in a wild color scheme. Dennis Bartley *(The option to renew memberships for more than one year was a topic of discussion at the January Executive Committee meeting and you will see an option to renew your membership for up to three years on the 2012 membership renewal form.*

You ask about a special edition piece. Bachmann created a special color 2-story house that was made available only to PCA members to commemorate the 5th anniversary of the founding of the PCA. We are now taking orders for a 10th anniversary barn in the same colors. This piece will include our logo, 10th Anniversary, and 1999 - 2009 painted on the milk house roof. Our choice of a commemorative piece is limited to whatever is current production. It is not too early to suggest a 15th anniversary piece. I have already received the suggestion of a four story apartment house in the same colors as the 2-story house and barn. editor)

Great newsletter. Keep up the good work. Paul Alioto

I do not get around the computer to well. So I will ask if we have a place to look up boxes? I have a frosty bar 1401 box with ALMON stamped in the color box. I have only seen salmon & yellow. Wesley Kidd *(The PCA is working towards documenting all color stampings or labels on all Plasticville boxes. The various houses have been our main focus at present. We have yet to document the rubber stampings on the Frosty Bars.*

The only colors for the 1401 Frosty Bars, to my knowledge and listed on the PCA website, are Salmon and Yellow. The colors were rubber stamped on the boxes, either by the packer or someone in the production line prior to the packer.

It is my guess that the box you have was either hurriedly rubber stamped and the letter S was not clearly stamped, the letter S of the stamp did not receive adequate ink and did not transfer to the box, or the letter S was worn on the stamp such that it did not accept ink and thus did not transfer to the box. Editor)

I enjoy the newsletter very much. Michael Lennon

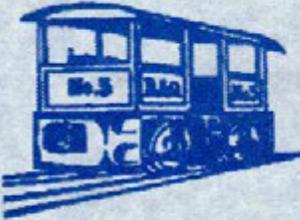
... I of course would like to get the issue in the mail ... but I know that it is easier for you all the \$8 way as we feel the same with my club newsletter, but we offer printed-out copies too for the members who are not online and who just want to open the envelope and read and enjoy!!
Geraldine Scott *(For members who wish to economize then the ePCA option is the way to go, provided that they are not using dial up access and wish to either read the newsletter in color on line or print it on their personal printer editor)*

I went to a train show at Edison, NJ. Obviously I was searching for those used, abused and broken P-ville parts

I love. There seemed to be a dearth of that stuff. One firehouse was definitely a candidate but \$15.00! At that price I could buy a new one and break it. Since last October I've been to three train shows in search of - well, you know - but found nothing. I've done e-bay searches for the same material but again came up empty handed. Is it possible that I have exhausted the available supply of "junk" leaving only the "collectible" stuff available? Edward Johnson

Thank you for the extra mile to keep me in the Organization. ... Ed Cedro *(Ed was a charter member to whom I placed a personal phone call inquiring as to whether he had forgotten to renew his membership. secretary)*

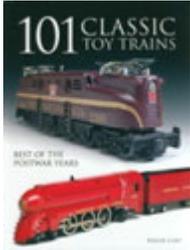
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ARE YOU A MARX BUILDING COLLECTOR?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO WRITE MARX FOR THE VILLAGER?
The Plasticville Collectors Association has a number of collectors who specialize in Marx buildings. If you are a collector of Marx buildings, how about sharing your knowledge with the members. You do not have to be concerned with the format or even the quality of writing. Put your thoughts down in electronic or paper form and send them to *The Villager* editor. No contribution is too small or insignificant.

Product Reviews



101 Classic Toy Trains, the best of the postwar years, Roger Carp, published by Kalmbach Books, \$24.95/28 pages, 8-1/2 X 11, perfect bound color photos throughout.

Roger Carp has probably authored the book that will generate more comments than any other book authored in the last ten years.

The pieces highlighted in this book are a distillation of over 200 pieces. They not only include Lionel, American Flyer, and Marx but other smaller companies. There are even two Plasticville entries although one was sold under the Lionel/Plasticville name.

The author used the acronym BRAINS to whittle down his list of over 200 choices to the 101 entries in this book. The acronym stands for Beauty (shape, form, color, graphics), Running (functional reliability), Acclaim (how well remembered), Innovation (was something new about it), Notable (widespread attention), and Story (fascinating, associated tale associated with the item).

Each selection in the book has a full page devoted to it although a few have garnered two pages. There is a small "Good to know" sidebar listed for each entry as well as a fairly in depth description of the article and why it is part of the book.

As I stated earlier, this book is sure generate comments, both pro and con, regarding the entries both in the book and what one perceives should have been. In fact, it already has. Lou Palumbo who pens the *Views from the Underground* page in *Classic Toy Trains* has hinted that he may write a book also but with the title *101 Classic Toy Trains, the WORST of the postwar years*.

I read this book from cover to cover and will probably go back and reread it again. I highly recommend it even if your favorite toy train item may not be included.

101 Classic Toy Trains can be purchased from Kalmbach Books via their website at <http://www.kalmbachbookstore.com> or by telephone order at 800 533-6644 . It is available on Amazon, Borders, Barnes & Noble's websites



Lionel Magazine Archive, Volume One, 1930 - 1936, CD, Hybrid Systems Ltd., \$50. What could be better than to read magazines that are over 75 years old and not be concerned about their being damaged? This is another compilation of Lionel paper in CD format offering by Hybrid Systems. This one being a complete graphic presentation of

the seven year run of *The Lionel Magazine*.

Hybrid Systems has conveniently included a file in the root of the CD with the name `double_click_this_file_to_start_the_archive.html` for use by those whose computers have settings that prevent the CD from starting automatically. My computer is a Windows 7 machine. I must confirm that I want to view the files on the CD and then click on the `double_click_this_file_to_start_the_archive.html` file. That file opens my web browser from where I can then navigate the entire CD. Printed instructions are also included which offer a total of three options for starting the CD.

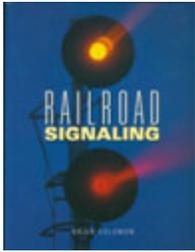
This edition includes an introduction by Bill Schmeelk, the co-author. It is very much worth reading as it highlights each year's publications. There is also a Bonus

Section which includes illustrations of papers and pins associated with the magazine. Of particular interest to me is the cross reference of the Lionel *Handbook of Model Engineers* book to the articles in the magazine as I was unaware that the handbook was nothing more than a compilation of articles from the magazine.

All illustrations on this CD are top notch. I believe that they may even be better than that on some of Hybrid's earlier Lionel related publications. The magazine pages opened up and more than filled my 19 inch monitor's screen. This is fine if you have no issue with scrolling through a given page. The printed instructions suggest to reduce the screen resolution in order to see a full two pages at one time. I found it simpler to just reduce the zoom using my browser.

All in all this is another fine product from Hybrid systems Ltd. And I recommend it if you have an interest in reading *The Lionel Magazine* publications but do not have the printed copies in your library.

The Lionel Magazine Archive, Volume One, 1930 - 1936, CD, sells for \$50 plus \$5 shipping. It can be purchased directly from Hybrid Systems Ltd, Inc., 200 University Park Drive, Edwardsville, Illinois 62025. Their toll free number is 800 799-2802. They have an order form on their website at <http://hsllinc.com> but it still entails a phone call to finalize your purchase as their sites is not able to accept electronic payments.



Railroad Signaling. Brian Solomon, published by Voyageur Press, \$24.99, 160 pages, 8-1/2 X 11, perfect bound, black & white and color photos throughout. This is a reprint of the 2003 hardback version.

Do you know the difference between a signal and an aspect? I didn't until I read this book. The term signal, as used in this book refers to the physical device, lights, sounds, etc. controlling railroad operations while the aspect is the information displayed by the signal.

The book is eight chapters in length. Every chapter is copiously illustrated with color or vintage black and white photos. Some chapters have additional charts showing the various aspects of signals where it makes the text more understandable.

The first two discuss early and late railroad history as well as an overview of the development of the various types of signals and their aspects.

Chapter three discusses manual block control and is followed by a chapter on towers and interlocking as towers were and, in some cases, still integral to manual

block control.

Of course as technology increased automatic block control became possible. This was followed by centralized traffic control. Each of these types of control has separate chapters.

The first six chapters round out the signals, aspects, and controls external to an engine. But so as to not leave anything out of the book the author includes a chapter on train control and cab signaling as well as on grade crossing signals.

The last pages of the book are relegated to a glossary, bibliography, and index. Reading this book definitely helped me increase my very limited knowledge of railroad signaling. Learning to recognize the myriad of devices used as signals and the aspects they display puts me in awe of the knowledge necessary to become a railroad engineer regarding signaling. It is my feeling that this book would be a great read for anyone interested in learning about railroad signaling.

Railroad Signaling can be purchased from the Voyageur Press website at <http://www.qbookshop.com/voyageurpress.com/> or by telephone order at 800 458-0454. It is available on Borders, Barnes & Noble's websites as well as Amazon.



Truck courtesy Athearn Precision Diecast

Truck Bed (Flat With Load), load for Athearn 1:50 Ford C Series Stakebed truck, laser cut kit, GCLaser, \$24.99. The kit comes as six sheets of approximately 3 X 5 inch laser cut micro-

plywood as well as two smaller sheets. The instructions are on one approximately 8-1/2 X 11 sheet, printed on one side. It illustrates the sheets with annotations as to the part numbers. The majority of the sheet illustrates each step in the assembly process. Pieces to be added in steps A through G are printed in red and the assemblies from the previous step in black.

The instructions state to use carpenter's yellow glue. I used a gap filling cyanoacrylate glue after consulting with the experts at my local hobby shop. It was the same type that radio controlled airplane modelers use on their projects. That seemed to work well and the time between steps was greatly reduced as the glue "dried" rather

rapidly. The only caution using cyanoacrylate as well as the handling precautions is that it dries rapidly so be certain that you have the pieces in their correct position.

The kit in the picture is not painted and is the one that I assembled. I left it unpainted so that you could see the color of the micro-plywood. The instructions state to pre-paint sub-assemblies.

I assembled the kit over a weekend. That is how simple the instructions are to follow. I am very pleased with how the kit turned and recommend it if you want to add a unique piece to your layout.

Although it is specifically designed to fit an Athearn truck I would presume that if the bed on your truck was smaller that you could modify the pieces to fit.

What would be more fitting than a truck in the driveway of a Plasticville House Under Construction with a load of lumber on it? You can have that option if you want to take but a few hours to assemble this kit.

The kit is available on line from GCLaser at <http://www.gclaser.com>.

Welcome New Members

The following individuals' names have been added to the Plasticville Collectors Association membership roster as of January 1, 2011. Their names are now permanently listed in the on line roster.

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 Yessionek, 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

Proposed Members

The following have applied for membership in the Plasticville Collectors Association. The names of all proposed members must be published for the review of the general membership before being accepted as members in accordance with the bylaws of the PCA. All names listed below will be permanently added to the Plasticville Collectors Association rolls if no objection to such action is received prior to April 1, 2011.

Jay S Higgins, Englewood, FL
Steve R Shank, Strasburg, PA
Jon X Polinski, Elma, NY
Frank J Bocek, Owego, NY
Steve Siegel, Los Angeles, CA
Sean F Pflug, Eatontown, NJ
Edward W Hubbard, Centreville, VA
Stanley J Okusewsky III, Youngstown, OH
Robert C Ott, Center Moriches, NY
Kenneth L West, Belleview, MO
Matthew E Harvazinski, West Lafayette, IN
Paul R Beavin, Suwanee, GA
Thomas P Virden, Weston, WV
Edward O Morgan, Wrentham, MA
Howard B Rock, Virginia Beach, VA
Lawrence W Knoch, Garden City, NY

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 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.

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

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 factf@juno.com (Feb 11)

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

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?

Wanted

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)

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.

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)

CH-9 Church & House Unit \$45, TA-1 Train Accessories unit \$50, SU-5 Shopping Unit \$80, Ru-3 Rural Unit \$90, 198 Jr Chief Fire Department missing helmet \$75. Plasticville HO assortment #4801 \$50. #10-626 Bryant Bennett, 759 Turj Ave NE, Palm Bay, FL 32907-1654 (Nov 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, 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)

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 (Aug 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)

1875 O Pit Stop like new with box. George Endress
Canada Plasticville HP-8 Cape Cod like new with box.
VU-4 Community set like new with box. Frank Martin

Canada Plasticville HP-8 Cape Cod like new with box.
SC-4 School with Canadian flag like new with box. Call anytime. #06-397 Dennis Bartley, 344 13th St So, Brigantine, NJ 08203 Phone 609 266-2379. expressmale@comcast.net (Nov11)

SM-6 box in god or better condition or box and kit if box is in good or better shape. #10-621 Ronald Cortese, 101 Beatrice St, Greenville, SC 29611 Phone 864 220-9404 (Nov 11)

Loading Platform - gray/black pillar and chimney; Cape Cod - pair of solid brown roofs; Corner Store - white roof and gray sign frame; Hospital - light gray steps. #01-04, Thomas Fritsch, 630 Wyandot Ave, Akron, OH 44305-1832 tgfritsch.1@juno.com (Nov 11)

Where is your free *For Sale, For Trade, or Wanted* classified ad?

Why not take advantage of more of your membership privileges? All members are allowed one free classified ad in each of the three classified ad categories per issue. The ad is free for up to 50 words. Your email address, membership number, name and address are not counted in the free 50 words either! Only the body of the ad is counted.

Download the ad form from the PCA website or contact the PCA Secretary for a copy if you don't have Internet access.



SOB! BOB'S GONE!! HE BROKE HIS BASE ... AND ALL THE SUPER GLUE
IN THE WORLD COULDN'T SAVE HIM!!

Plasticville
USA

SCENE
SCAPES™



Got Dairy?

Bachmann's classic Plasticville® U.S.A. Dairy Barn Building Kit (in O and HO scales) is an essential element for your countryside layout. Now you can add a herd of our contented black & white or brown & white SceneScapes™ cows to complete the scene. Visit your local hobby retailer to see all of our Plasticville U.S.A. building kits and miniature figures and get the perfect finishing touches for your collection.

SHIPPING NOW!

O Scale

Item No. 45602 DAIRY BARN MSRP \$21.50

Item No. 33152 COWS - BROWN & WHITE (6 pcs/pk) MSRP \$13.50

Item No. 33153 COWS - BLACK & WHITE (6 pcs/pk) MSRP \$13.50

HO Scale

Item No. 45151 BARN MSRP \$15.50

Item No. 33102 COWS - BROWN & WHITE (6 pcs/pk) MSRP \$9.50

Item No. 33103 COWS - BLACK & WHITE (6 pcs/pk) MSRP \$9.50

Bachmann Industries, Inc. • 1400 East Erie Avenue • Philadelphia, PA 19124 • www.bachmanntrains.com



LAST CHANCE TO ORDER

ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 10, 2011



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 two pieces 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, 2011)