



The Villager

The Official Newsletter of the Plasticville Collectors Association

Volume 11

February 2012

Number 1

Officers for 2012/2013

The Executive Committee is pleased to announce the officers for the year 2012 and 2013. There were contested positions this year for both President and Vice-President.

Candidates for President were sitting President Jim Dawes and challenger Thomas Friesner. Candidates for Vice-President were Vice-President pro tem Doug Gilliat and challenger Charles Swanson. Our thanks to Tom, Charles and Doug for accepting nominations.

The officers for the year 2012 and 2013 are:

President: Jim Dawes who will serve a second term as President.

Vice-President: Doug Gilliat who will serve again as Vice-President.

Secretary/Treasurer: John Niehaus who will continue as Secretary/Treasurer. This will be his eleventh 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.

Call for Assistant Webmaster Answered

Due to a greater emphasis being put on adding photos, documents and other helpful information on the PCA website, webmaster Joe Kutza asked for a volunteer to assist him in cropping and resizing photos in preparation for adding them to the website.

An email was sent to all active members with an email address listed in their membership record on January 31 asking for a volunteer.

Joe had enough volunteers by February 4 that he requested that a second email be sent informing members that his goal of an assistant webmaster had been fulfilled

fivefold.

The Executive Committee wishes to thank Ray Frederick, Matthew Harvazinski, Don House, Dennis Palazzolo, and Charles Wilbur for volunteering to assist Joe.

(If you have an active email account and did not receive the emails it is possible that the email address in your membership record is no longer current. I received over ten undeliverable messages after sending both messages. Please send an email to secretary@plasticvilleusa.org if you did not receive one or both of these email. Editor)

Info On German Trees Requested

PCA member Dennis Palazzolo is requesting help in identifying the manufacturer of the trees in the accompanying photo. He writes, "I was wondering if you could help identify these trees for me. I got them when I was a child and would like to find more. They stand about 3" tall and have a tiny circle on the bottom, Made in West Germany."

Contact him by email at dpalazzo@cpicorp.com or by mail at 9810 Grantview Forest Dr, St Louis, MO 63123-3954.



The Villager

Published quarterly by the Plasticville Collectors Association.

President: Jim Dawes

Vice President: Doug Gilliat

www.plasticvilleusa.org

Secretary/Treasurer: John L Niehaus

Webmaster: Joe Kutza

Newsletter editor: John Niehaus

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From the President's Desk



"Hello" from Syracuse, NY. A lot has happened since I last wrote. First, I would like to thank all who took part in the election of officers in December and thank all who had faith in all the old officers by re-electing us.

On a personal note our family has experienced some health problems since the week of Thanksgiving when we learned our daughter has breast cancer and started chemotherapy immediately and will continue treatment for a year along with surgery. Asking prayers for Yvonne from all and thank you.

Our youngest daughter blessed us with a new Grandson (Carter) on December 3rd he joined an eight year old brother, Maxwell. What a great addition and joy to the

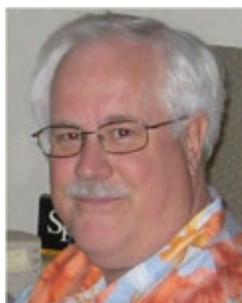
family .

Then on Dec. 11 I experienced a light stroke and am recuperating quite well. Still have numbness to my left hand and fingers. I will have Vascular Surgery on February 1 on a clogged artery on the left side of my neck. I thank all for your prayers.

I am so thankful for my Plasticville hobby as I have been busy cleaning and sorting a huge lot of Plasticville I purchased in York in October. I truly enjoy spending time sorting parts and finding surprises such as a complete dark blue ranch house in excellent condition and a light green roofed barn. I do not have boxes for either of these so I will be on the lookout for them.

I will be displaying and selling Plasticville on February 26 at a train show here in Syracuse. Hoping to see you all at the show in York, PA the week of April 16th. Jim

Vice Presidential Insights



I want to say congratulations to the new officers and to thank everyone for voting in the election. Another new year is upon us and I hope everyone and their families had a great holiday season. Did anyone get a unique or interesting piece over the holidays? If so perhaps you would share it with the membership in the Villager? Send in some pictures of the piece. I am

sure all the members would appreciate seeing your new treasure.

In most of the country this time of the year it is time for indoor activities (i.e. Model Railroading) so; did any members place their 10th Anniversary PCA barn on their layout? Send in a picture so we can see what it looks like on your layout.

I want to wish everyone good hunting in their quest for that unique piece. There is surely something to be found in Garage Sales/Antique shows etc. that is waiting to be discovered.

Again I want to remind everyone to consider switching

to the On-line delivery (e-PCA) of the PCA Villager in place of a mailed black and white or color copy. We have almost reached 50% e-PCA delivery to our members but would like to get that percentage up higher. It is really great to see the articles in color on your computer and save it for future reference, and of course there is the money you would be saving by receiving the On-Line version. If you are still receiving a paper copy and have a computer at home then please consider the online delivery system.

I continue to say and have said many many times before in the Villager, it is the hope of all of us that our organization continues to grow and attract new members which will allow us to be as vibrant and interesting as it is today into the future. While new membership is essential to the continuation and expansion of our organization we must all continue to be a source of interest/learning to our existing membership.

And as always, I want to remind everyone please remember to patronize our advertisers that support the PCA as we have lost some of our advertisers due to our members not patronizing them. Try and mention the PCA when you purchase from them.

PCA Vice-President, Doug Gilliatt

Are You A Collector of Marx Buildings?

If you are collector of Marx plastic buildings why not consider sharing your collecting experiences with your fellow PCA members.

Contact villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org for more information on how you can become a contributing editor of *The Villager*.

Notes From the Editor



Where has time gone? It seems like only a few years ago - two or three - that we were incorporated as a non-Profit Organization in the State of Iowa. I reviewed some of our first newsletters and am surprised at how the size and quality of articles submitted by the

members over the years have improved.

I may be the editor of the newsletter but it would not be of the current quality without the continued contributions of you, the members. Whether your contribution is one article or a containing series of articles that is what makes *The Villager* the publication it is.

I am hoping to continue receiving contributions for the *My Other Interests* column. This column is intended to highlight the other collecting interests of members or their other hobbies. Most of us have more than one interest. I have an interest in photography and postage stamps as well as antique autos. I am looking forward to printing articles in this column on members who collect Cracker Jack train related prizes, a one man band, a docent at a large metropolitan aquarium, and hopefully one on a member who is involved in the restoration and preservation of the Miss Bardahl hydroplane.

What are your *Other Interests*? Between the two of us I am certain that we can put together an article that will highlight your *Other Interests*.

We are, sadly, losing a regular contributor to *The Villager*. It is saddening that the articles submitted by former railroad engineer Gordon C Kelley will no longer appear in the newsletter. Gordon's Railfan Antics, Non-Railfan Antics, and subsequent railroad employee articles were a staple of *The Villager* starting in 2006 through his last article in the November, 2011 edition. His articles will definitely be missed by me.

Does anyone in the Association have experiences as a railroad employee and would like to step in and fill this void? Let's keep up the tradition of a real railroader writing about real life experiences on the job a part of *The Villager*.

You don't have to be an award winning author, just have anecdotal stories related to your time with the railroad. Send an email to villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org if you would like to continue this series of articles.

WOW. Ask and you shall receive! I wish to extend my personal thanks to the five members who responded to webmaster Joe Kutza's request for an assistant webmaster to help in formatting and sizing photos and scans for the website.

Now what we need is for all members with unique or even common pieces of plastic village pieces not displayed

on the website to send their photos to Joe at: webmaster@plasticvilleusa.org. You may want to contact him at that email address first for info on size and format information.

Related to the plea for help from Joe, the PCA received an anonymous donation of \$200 from a member, in addition to that their employer matched that donation dollar for dollar. The Executive Committee voted to use the money donated by the member to update and add photos as well as add additional information to the PCA website. We can only do this if someone will step forward and become the Assistant Webmaster.

We also received a second anonymous donation. It was an "in kind" donation of nearly \$100 in unused postage stamps, prepaid postal cards, prepaid envelopes. Don't be surprised if you receive an "old" envelope or an envelope with "old" postage stamps on it.

I do ask that if you receive old stamps on an envelope from me that you cut the stamps off the envelope, with about a quarter inch margin around them, and then send them back to me when you next send me your dues renewal or any other letter.

Any stamps you send to me are sent off either to people who are involved with presenting stamp collecting as a hobby to youngsters or to the American Philatelic Society. The APS either uses the stamps in their programs or send them to veterans organizations for use in their rehabilitation programs.

While we are on the subject of postage stamps, I wish to most graciously thank all of the members who have saved their stamps, regardless from whence they came, and sent them to me with their 2012 dues renewal. I believe that the total weight of all the stamps received this year was is over one pound. That is a lot of stamps for the youngsters to add to their collections. Thanks again.

Have you ever been to a train meet at the York fairgrounds, colloquially know as a York Meet. These meets are open only to members of the Train Collectors Association (TCA) and their guests. A TCA member can sponsor a person as a guest on a one-time basis. Please let me know if you are not a TCA member but may have an interest in attending one of the future meets. I will gladly sponsor you or will find another member who will do the same. The charge to attend as a guest is \$12.00 and that allows you access to the entire venue for all three days. The dates of the York Meets for 2012 through 2014 are published in this newsletter on page 26.

As the club ages, so do we, the members. I have been informed by his wife that Roger L Miller, member 04-284 has passed away. No further information was available.

January 2012 Executive Committee Minutes

The January, 2012 Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 8:00, Eastern time, on January 11 by President Jim Dawes.

Those in attendance were; President Jim Dawes, Vice-President Doug Gilliatt, Secretary/Treasurer John Niehaus Immediate Past President Fred Ruby, and founder Joe Kutza.

Old business:

10th anniversary piece

Secretary Niehaus reported that he has shipped all ordered barns.

Unconfirmed Variations section on website

Secretary Niehaus reported that the Unconfirmed Variations section is now an option on the website but that it is not populated with any photos and the information required to confirm a piece at this time.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to add the dark green roof with white wall barn to the section with a request for a photo of a label reading, "Dark Green/White, Dk Grn/White, or any other wording specifically noting the color combination no later than February 15.

PayPal

Secretary Niehaus reported that a PayPal account has been set up but due to scheduling issues with the web developer a button to pay dues was not available for the 2012 dues renewal period.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved that a button or buttons to pay dues be added to the website by no later than February 28.

Commonwealth Plastics addition to Other Manufacturers section of website

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to add Commonwealth Plastics to the Miscellaneous > Other Manufacturers section of the PCA website.

An additional motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to include photos of all known colors of the lamp posts with mailboxes to that new section no later than February 28.

Register.com banner on new plasticville.org website

Joe Kutza reported that he and the web developer are working towards a solution to remove the banner.

Advertising in O Gauge Railroading magazine

Secretary Niehaus reported that he has worked a no cost advertising trade with O Gauge Railroading magazine.

The PCA will have a one sixth ad in all of the 2012 editions of O Gauge Railroading magazine in exchange for running a full page O Gauge Railroading ad in *The Villager* for all of 2012.

Membership application revision

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to rescind the decision to revise the current membership application to allow an applicant to remit up to three years dues with their application. The application will retain the current one year options.

Gift to the Secretary

A motion was made, seconded, and approved, with Secretary Niehaus abstaining, to give Secretary Niehaus a \$200 gift card in appreciation for his twelve years of service to the Association.

New Business:

Anonymous cash donation

Secretary Niehaus reported that he has received an anonymous donation of \$200.

He also reported that he received a matching amount from the donor's employer.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to earmark one half of the total donation for adding additional photos to the PCA website.

Unused postage donation

Secretary Niehaus reported that he has received an anonymous donation of nearly \$90 in older, unused postage stamps, postpaid envelopes and postal cards.

Loss of advertisers

Secretary Niehaus reported that there has been a loss of advertisers this year constituting a 20% loss in advertising revenues. He stated that the reason given by most advertisers for not renewing was that their ads in the newsletter had not generated any business.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM, Eastern Time

Respectfully submitted; John L Niehaus
Secretary/Treasurer

Approved by the Executive Committee, January 14, 2012

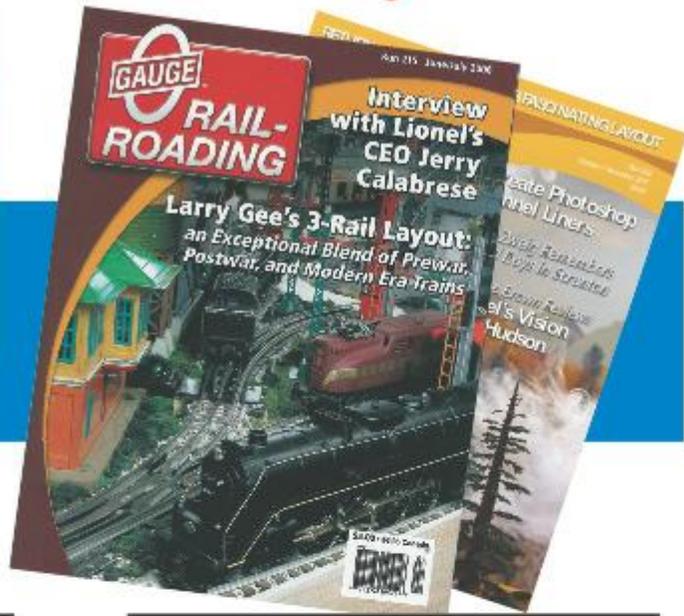
Resource People Needed

We are in need of resource people for the following manufacturers. This is an easy position to fill as you will only be called upon when we need your expertise to verify a piece or offer historical information as the need arises. Please consider volunteering. Your name will be listed on the 2012/2013 Officers information page of the roster.

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Along the "HO" Line

CRASH of the Hard Drive

By Todd Hendrickson



It was an act of the hard drive demons that have prevented me from submitting an article for this issue. The editor notified me in plenty of time for me to submit an article. I had started on my quarterly offering when the hard drive in my computer decided to fail. It failed in such a manner that I had to restore it to its original, as purchased, state which meant my article for this issue was gone along

with many other files! I hope to have my computer up and totally functional so that I you will see an article from me in the May issue of *The Villager*.

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

Commonwealth Lamp Posts - A Definitive Answer to Their Use

As Discovered by Geraldine Scott

Geraldine Scott has furnished us with definitive information as to the actual use of the lamp posts with mailbox. It seems that they were to be used as a combination party favor and place card. The original 'tag' attached to the red lamp post/mailbox has the words: "Main St. U.S.A. - Toy & Party Favor - Lamp Glows In Dark - Use Other Side As Place Card" on the back.

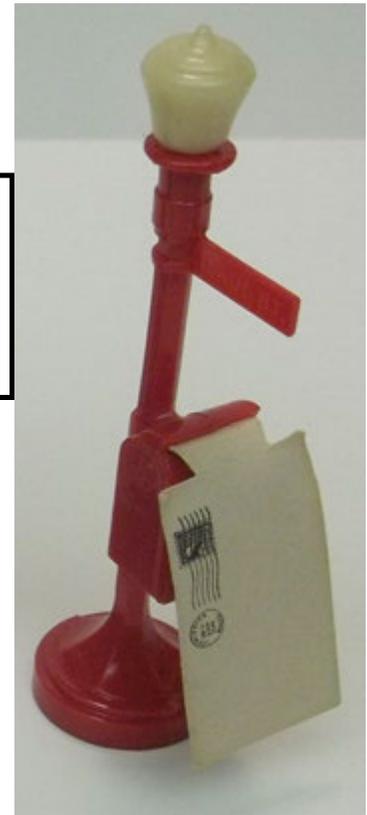


A close-up of the simulated cancellation on the postcard. It definitely simulates a circular date with five killer bars cancellation for Leominster, Mass, the home of Commonwealth Plastics. Although difficult to read the date seems to possibly be June 11, 1948..



The four lamp posts shown here are extremely nice examples of an item now used on toy train layouts that was never created with that intent.

Look for historical information on Commonwealth Plastics in future editions of *The Villager*.



A complete Commonwealth Plastics Lamp Post with the almost always missing simulated postcard

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Creative Use of Damaged Parts

Rap\$callion Bank



As our readers know, my supply of used and abused parts was practically depleted. I completed one of my past projects by resorting to using egg crate covers and salvaged shards of Plasticville. However, recently I received a quantity of reinforcements for my parts box. Among the parts was the front fascia of the Hospital plus the back and sidewalls of the Bank. Looking over those pieces it seemed they could reasonably be combined into a bank model. Join me as I describe the steps to create what will become the first branch office of *Rap\$callion Bank*



I do not have a permanent train layout. My future hope is to build an O Scale layout that will have a medium sized city called Metropolis. The denizens of Metropolis would need a bank to provide financial services. To address that need the *Rap\$callion Bank* (left) was constructed by combining two Plasticville Banks into a large bank building, the *Rap\$callion Bank* headquarters.

Eventually Metropolis will expand and one bank may not be adequate to address customers' needs. Competing banks could satisfy customers' needs.

However, in Metropolis only *Rap\$callion Bank* is allowed! So the Directors of the bank decided to build their first branch office.



The preliminary plan for the branch would use the four pieces previously mentioned. The photo at the right shows the four wall parts laid out in a preliminary scheme for the design. It's obvious the Hospital fascia is wider than the Bank rear wall.

To keep the walls straight there were two solutions. Make the rear wall wider or trim down the front fascia. Trimming down the front fascia seemed to be the more attractive alternative. The center portion of the fascia was trimmed away from its sides. Then the windows were separated from their sides. The parts were then rearranged in another scheme.



The photo at right shows the side windows rearranged vertically. Similarly to the fascia of the main office. The bottom pieces from the Hospital match the large block design on the Bank's walls. The green pieces are leftovers from the previous bank project.

So the upper portion of the fascia wall matches the upper portion of the sides.

There is still a lot of cutting and filing to be done. The interior of this bank will also be detailed.

My next article will report on the progress of construction. Till next time: *Eddie J*

(It should be noted that some of the damaged parts used in this project came from the Free Parts offer in The Villager. Editor)



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Plasticville on the Boards

The Appeal of Plasticville

By John Gottcent



Younger people entering our hobby sometimes wonder about the appeal of traditional Plasticville. They are used to model buildings which are highly realistic, to scale, already built-up, and supplied with ready-to-hook-up lights and other amenities.



Compared to these more recent structures, vintage Plasticville buildings tend to be unrealistic, toy-like, and not really to scale. (See Photo One.) They come with no lights and have to be assembled by hand. After years of wear, their interlocking walls don't always stay together well. And the use of glue is considered a mortal sin by many collectors.

Why, then, are so many of us drawn to these out-of-date houses, churches, and commercial buildings?



Photo Two

One answer has to be nostalgia. My father started buying Plasticville for our Christmas train layout almost as soon as Bachmann started producing it in the early 1950's. I honestly cannot recall a holiday season without at least a few of those buildings making an appearance. (See Photo Two.)

I still have all of them today. Among my collection are many items I've owned continuously for over fifty years. On my train table right now, I still see the same log cabin, brown-roofed Cape Cod, and green-roofed suburban station with matching freight platform that I had as a kid. Many more "originals" are boxed under the table, awaiting their turn to be cycled in and out of the community.

Size itself is another factor. The fact that PV structures are usually smaller than O scale, for instance, means more of them can be set up in a limited space. That was important in the small house in which I grew up back in Brooklyn,

and it's still significant in the small room I have for my train layout here in Indiana. I do use some larger buildings today,



Photo Three

but if I were restricted to only that size my plastic village would be much less populated than it is.

Flexibility plays a role here as well. I like the fact that vintage Plasticville items are not built-up, because it makes for much easier storage. If I want to temporarily replace a police station with a fire house, for instance, I can dismantle the former, store it in a small box, and set up the latter



Photo Four

(which has the same footprint) with a minimal disruption to the rest of the town. (See Photo Three.)

Small boxes also take up much less room under the train table than the monstrous ones (complete with oodles of non-bendable Styrofoam) in which today's ready-made buildings arrive. And I suspect one reason so many of us still have original boxes from vintage PV is the fact that we did dismantle the buildings (usually after New Years) and store them in the same cartons in which they were sold, meaning we were not tempted to discard that cardboard as we would have been if the buildings always stayed in one piece. (See Photo Four.)

No lights? True, but every Plasticville building has a convenient notch carved out of the bottom of one wall through which you can run a wire from your own light supply. Better still, drill a hole beneath your building (which almost never has a floor) and run your light wire under the display where visitors can't see it. (See Photo Five.)

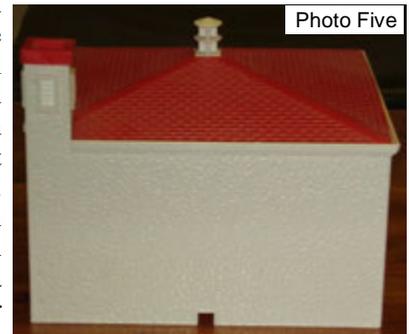


Photo Five

Finally, the very simplicity of Plasticville allows for easy modifications, at least to the most common and therefore less valuable pieces.

In past columns I've shown how I could turn a large super market into a movie theater, for instance, or adapt a mobile home trailer into an office for an automobile dealership. More recent buildings tend to be so specifically detailed that it's hard to imagine them as anything other than what they are.

Whatever the reasons, Plasticville still seems to be going strong, more than sixty years since that first terribly oversized white picket fence (see Photo Six) or that significantly undersized brown log cabin saw the light of day. Here's hoping it stays with us well into the twenty-first century.



Photo Six

If you have related thoughts or suggestions for future columns, let me know at jandjgott@gmail.com. Otherwise, happy villaging.

PCA Member Wins Train Set in Lionel Coca-Cola 125th Anniversary Sweepstakes

by Dan Palaschak



Below is the email I received after registering for the new Lionel website and the 125th anniversary Coca-Cola sweepstakes. Attached is a picture of me being the proud recipient of the set, one of only 5 winners, receiving it tonight when I came home from work. The box was waiting for me delivered to the house.

It is a really cool set with "train sounds". I will put it to good use this Christmas on the little layout in the train room see pictures attached.

I know I look like Santa Claus but I really like the beard! I will play him this weekend at our Christmas in the Park for the Civic League this Sunday.

Regards ...!

Congratulations! You are one of only five grand prize winners who has won a Coca-Cola 125th Anniversary Limited Edition train set. The address below is where your prize will be shipped within 6-8 weeks.

Dan Palaschak
2328 North Wolfsnare Dr
Virginia Beach, VA 23454

To claim your prize, please e-mail LionelStore.com at directsales@lionel.com.

Thank you for participating in the Coca-Cola 125th Anniversary Sweepstakes. We hope you enjoy your prize.

Sincerely,
The Lionel team



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My Other Interests

By Gary Connor



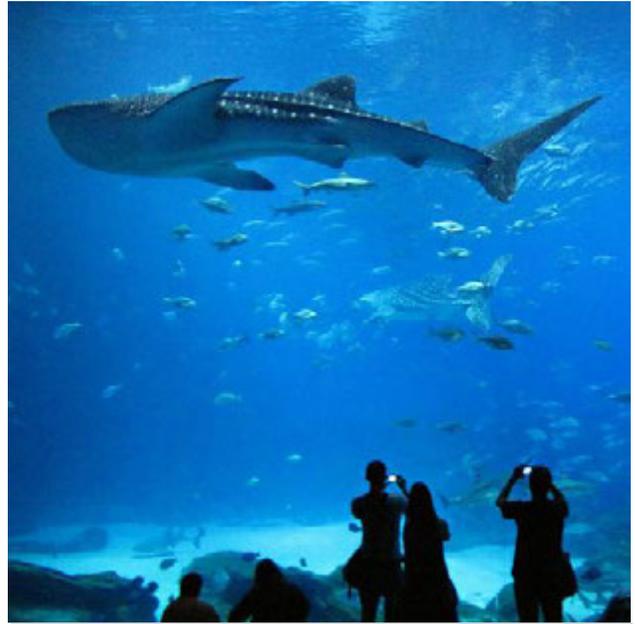
My friend Deepo, the Aquarium mascot and I out for a tour of the Aquarium.

When not working on Plasticville, I work in the Guest Programs department of the Georgia Aquarium in Atlanta, Georgia. It is the largest in the world and contains over 10 million gallons of water.

I interact with the guests who visit the aquarium. That includes narrating some of the exhibits, giving behind-the-scenes tours, working special events and escorting our mascot, Deepo (shown with me in the photo above).

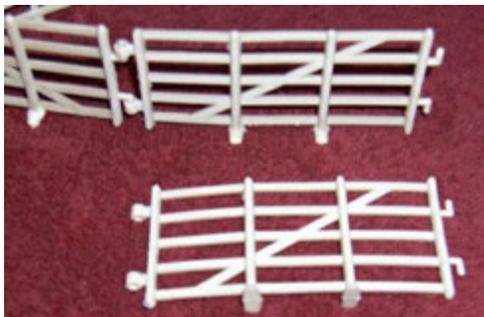
In the photo below you see one of my co-workers, Alice. She is one of our four whale sharks and currently is about 24' long... and still growing! She will be about 32 ft when full grown.

If any member of the PCA visits the Aquarium, please contact me ahead of time. I'd love to meet you!



One of the highlights of the Aquarium is Alice our 24 foot long whale shark. She should grow to 32 feet as a full grown adult.

Another HO Manufacturer Built-up buildings by Hoffman



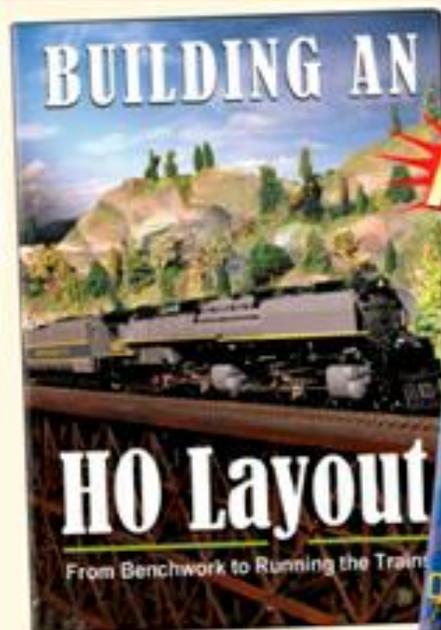
Dave Brandel offers these two nicely detailed HO buildings and fence for your viewing pleasure. Notice the printed window graphics on the house on the left. There is also curtain graphics on the window to the left of the chimney on the house on the right.

The houses are marked Hoffman and Made in Austria on the undersides.

If you have information on Hoffman of Austria please send it to villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org or by mail to the address on the front page of this newsletter.

New from TM Books & Video!

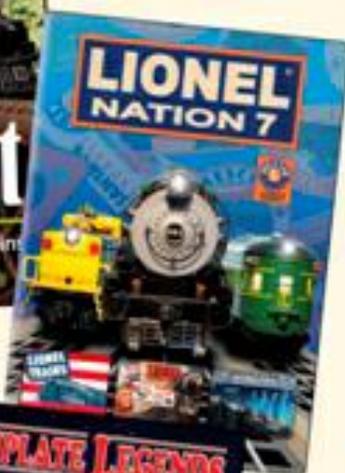
4 DVDs and an American Flyer Price & Rarity Guide



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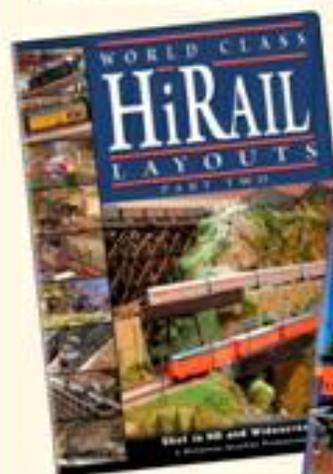
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Everything you need to know to get started in HO. From the producers of over 100 model train and toy train videos, this all-new DVD covers every facet of building a scale, realistic HO layout. Techniques demonstrated on video are much easier to learn and carry-out than reading text and looking at pictures in a book. Buy this DVD and get started. 70 min. **\$14.99**



Lionel Nation, Part 7

We visit the new home of the Lionel Visitors Center layout, action shots of the 700E Vision Hudson and the first steam engines to operate in America. Alaska NW2 sets, Part 2 of Lionel's Action and Animated cars, tips on improving performance, and two layouts, one for fun and one for prototypical operation. 60-plus minutes of Lionel action and adventure. **\$19.99**



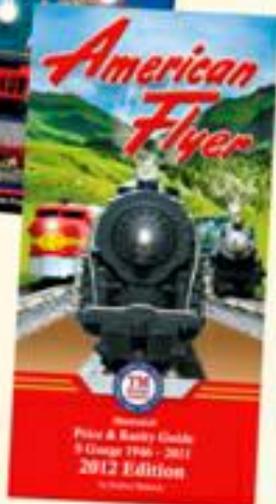
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Help in Identifying Production Year of HU-6 Box

An Inquiry by Jon Polinski



I recently came across an empty Plasticville box, House Unit H-6. Unlike all the other Plasticville kits I have, this one does not list the contents on the box. Who would I ask in the club what the contents are suppose to be. All the dividers are there.

(The HU-6 seems to have been offered only in 1950 and 1951 based upon my Plasticville catalogs. The contents were different each year, though.

In 1950 it contained: 5 HP-8 Cape Cods in assorted colors, 4 maple trees, 2 lamp posts, 1 bag of shrubs, and 2 boxes of house fence and gate. My 1950 catalog shows the contents but not the box.

In 1951 it contained: 4 Cape Cods (probably still HP-8's), 4 maple trees, 2 boulevard lights, 1 billboard, 4 telephone poles, 4 street signs, 1 box of house fence. I do not have a 1951 catalog to determine if it was illustrated with the box.

Jon's and my collective questions to the members are: Were the illustrations on the 1950 and 1951 boxes different? If the illustrations were different from what year is Jon's box?

If the illustrations were the same, were the inserts different for each year? If the illustration was the same but the inserts different from what year is Jon's box?

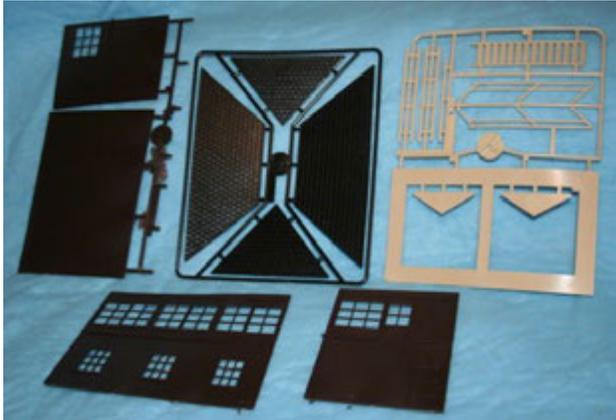
Were the 1950 and 1951 boxes of different sizes?

Send any information you can provide to villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org or the the address on the front page of this newsletter. Editor)

Is This a Pre-Production 45973 Sample?

By John Niehaus

Is the building shown in the photos below a pre-production sample of the 45973 Two Story Switch tower? Is it a sample of the proposed Switch Tower before production molds were made to turn it into a true Plasticville piece?



The 45973 Switch Tower was first catalogued in 1997. It was part of a four item series commemorating the 50th anniversary of Plasticville - we collectors are still intrigued as to why 1997 was chosen as the 50th anniversary year as the earliest know Plasticville dealer catalog is from 1950. The other three pieces in the series were the Rural Two Story House, the Rural Station, and the Pedestrian Bridge.

The colors of this kit very closely match the brown, black, and cream colors of the issued tower. The 45973 tower came with a tan base as well as a tan piece that fits between the walls and the roof. This kit does not seem to have one or the other of these pieces as there is only one tan piece of the needed size. I am uncertain as to whether the provided piece would be placed between the walls and the roof or the bottom of the walls. My feeling is that it is to be used as the base of the building in order to afford a more finished look.



The walls are identical in openings to the issued tower but do not have the tabs that are inserted into the base and roof piece as on the 45973.

The stairs and handrails are three pieces while the stairs and handrails are one piece on the production tower.

It does not seem as if an allowance was made in the design of this piece to include a chimney. There is no hole in the roof nor chimney parts included in the kit. The 45973 does have a two-piece tan chimney. It fits in the peak of its roof.

This building definitely requires gluing. There are none of the patented lugs on any of the walls. This can be seen in the photo of the single wall. This, again, leads me to believe that it may have been an early proposal piece. Why go to the expense of creating a mold for a piece that may be rejected when a representative sample could be produced from a current mold? The walls would probably be the most defining factor in choosing it for production.

There are five short straight pieces on the tan tree for which I cannot determine a use. They do not seem to be of adequate length to be used as downspouts and there are no gutters to which they would be attached.

A more perplexing question is, "What is the use of the two tan triangles?". They seem to not have a use either.

There are a few, what seem to be, mold cavity markings on the pieces. There are no markings to identify the manufacturer. It is with relative certainty that all four of the 50th anniversary pieces were made in Denmark by Heljan. It is my presumption that this kit was molded by them as well.

The building was sent to me as you see it as a gift from a friend at Bachmann in late 2007 or early 2008. Unfortunately no documentation was included as to its pedigree. I also cannot say with certainty that it is complete due to that lack of documentation. I can only surmise. All in all, it is an intriguing piece considering from whom it was received.

Bill Nole PLASTICVILLE for Sale
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Boxed Kits, Complete

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

1611 Hardware & Pharmacy, Hard Box # \$75.00

BN-1 Barn (Chrome Trim) \$40

1504 Trailer \$45

PH-1 Plasticville Hall, Mint \$95

1617 Farm Bldg. & Animals \$30

AD-4 Air Admin. Bldg. \$45

1900 Turnpike \$45

1624 House under Construction \$45

1804 Greenhouse \$45

PF-4 Citizens (painted) \$10

1920 Covered Bridge \$20

No Box Kits, Complete

Fire Department RARE, Grey siren with black letters \$50, Railroad Work Car \$10, Bank \$25,
HOBOSHACKS (dark grey/brown) \$15, Supermarket (small) \$15, Barn \$10, Motel \$10,
Add-A-Floor (red or brown) \$8 ea or 3/\$19, SUB Station \$10, School \$15,
Colonial Mansion (red roof) \$25, Mobile Homes (8 different colors) \$12 ea or 8/\$75

1090 Telephone Booth, Blue and White available, 4/\$20

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

Fire Trucks (red, 1 pumper, 1 ladder truck) \$10 set - New, black autos \$6 each

SS-5 Street Corner signs, no tag \$1 ea

BBQs \$2.50 ea or 5/\$9.50

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

PLASTIC VILLAGE GAZETTE - Issues 1, 5 & 6 - \$2.50 ea. Other issues \$5 ea

Bus (yellow or green) \$5 ea

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Pickup Truck \$8 ea

Jeep, Tractor, Plow, Harrow \$4 ea or 4/\$12. - WHITE SHRUBS 10/\$25

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DEPARTMENT CHIMNEY CAP, HOSPITAL SIREN, ST CHAIR, DESK CHAIR, CATTLE PEN
CROSS BARS (with 2 holes or slot), BANK, LARGE CANOPY, SMALL CANOPY, HOUSE
UNDER CONSTRUCTION SHOVEL, RAKE, HOE, BUCKET, SAWHORSE, GINGERBREAD
HOUSE BRICK (white, tan, choc), JACK & JILL PAIL, SHRUB (red, yellow, blue), OAR RED OR
YELLOW, CLOTHESLINE (red, yellow, green), CASTLE FLAG OR CHAIN (red, yellow, blue,
white).

LITTLE TOWN, BOXED, COMPLETE

303 ST lights, \$25; #304 fence \$15; #306, #307, #308, #310, #311, #312, #313 - \$65. each kit

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

KING PLASTICVILLE ERTL TRACTOR TRAILER WITH BANK - \$15

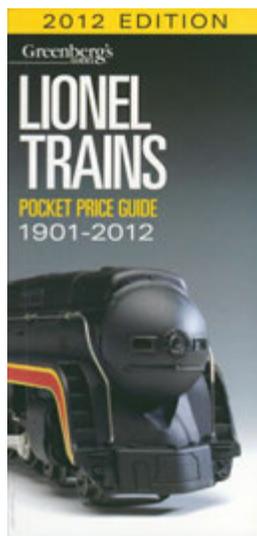
Many empty Plasticville boxes available. Please send your want list.

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

Shipping: \$5 for books, \$6 for kits and ERTL truck, \$3.50 for parts, \$8 for LCCA Set

Greenberg's 2012 Pocket Price Guides

By John Niehaus



The 2012 editions of Greenberg's Lionel Pocket Price Guide has been available for some time.

There will not be a 2012 American Flyer guide.

There is a 9th edition Marx guide instead. Kalmbach Books has opted to alternate between publishing the American Flyer guide and the Marx guide. This is the year for the Marx guide.

Both the Lionel guide and the Marx guide are in the customary 4 x 8 1/2 format. The Lionel guide is becoming thick enough that even though it is still called a pocket guide it would take a

pocket of some size in which to carry it at just over 350 pages. The Marx guide is 80 pages. I am pleased to see that the Marx guide includes the Marx trains created between 1993 and 2004 by James and Debby Flynn.

As I do not have an American Flyer guide for this year nor a previous Marx guide, I am unable to make a comparison as to value changes this year. My comparison of the prices of the same Lionel pieces as in the past is included.

My unscientific list of Lionel pieces includes prewar, postwar, and modern era up to about 1980. All of the items in the list are power units of some type.

The values in the 2012 guide are definitely a mixed bag. Six out of the ten retained their 2011 values for both good and excellent condition.

Surprisingly, though, both the 2343 A and B units went up approximately 20% in excellent condition but lost a few

dollars in Good condition. The A unit went from \$170 to \$167 in good condition and from \$322 to \$463 in excellent condition.

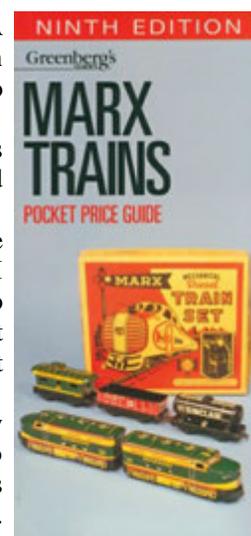
The most surprising change was in the 2360 green GG-1. The good condition value increased by \$11 to \$474 while the excellent value dropped a whopping \$220. I would attribute that drop to leftover effects of the recession but the 700E maintained its excellent value at \$2950.

I feel that, as I have stated in my last two reviews, it may be wise to hold onto your trains until there is again some stability in the values.

The Lionel guide is priced at \$18.95 as was last year's edition. The Marx guide is priced at \$12.95.

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 listed at somewhat of a discount on the Amazon website.

(In order for me to be able to make comparisons of the Marx trains in future editions of the newsletter I need a list of sought after Marx trains. If you are a Marx collector and knowledgeable of the more sought after pieces please contact me at villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org. I need a list of five or six pieces, minimum, in order to make price comparisons against future guides.)



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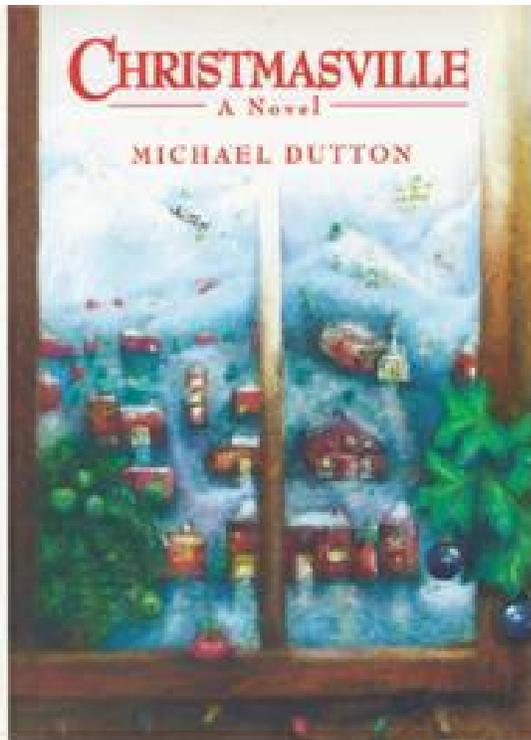
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David Allen: TCA 80-15069 PCA 02-121



The Christmasville Trilogy:

Book One: "Christmasville" (available in hard cover , soft cover in June, 2012)

Book Two: "Finding Christmasville"
(available in June, 2012)

Book Three: "Saving Christmasville"
(available in June, 2014)

Recommended Readership: Young Adult to Adult

Mary Jane Higgins suspects there is more to Christmasville than what meets the eye. What the reader discovers at the beginning of the novel is that Mary Jane resides on a 4 x 8 model train platform!

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Christmasville by Michael Dutton

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For reviews and excerpts, "rare photographs" of the fictional town of Christmasville, "Ten Fun Facts" and "Christmasville TRIVIA" visit us at: www.authorsden.com



Help Needed Identifying Street Sign, Follow-UP

By Anthony J Rudgers
PCA # 02-139, Orlando, FL

The article, *Help Needed in Identifying Street Sign*, by David Allen, appeared on p. 17 of the August, 2011 issue of *The Villager* (Vol. 10, No. 3). In spite of the “light lemon-yellow” color, and the absence of the BB logo on its base, I believe the “WATCH CHILDREN” sign in question may well be a Bachmann Bros. Plasticville product for the following reason.



I have in my collection several sets of boxed and unboxed Plasticville that include street signs (Nos. 12-A, Nos. 1405, and No. ST-1 (unboxed)). All sets with street signs that I have, save one, contain the usual chrome-yellow colored signs, marked on their bases with the BB logo. However, I have one (partial) set of street signs (9 ea. of 12 ea., likely from an unboxed 12-A set), including a “WATCH CHILDREN” sign, that is molded in light lemon-yellow plastic such as is described in David Allen's article. All of the 9 signs in my lemon-yellow set, however, have the usual BB logo in the center base declivity. Also, my signs all have black-highlighted lettering and borders (with lettering and borders even more boldly stamped than on any of my chrome-yellow black-stamped signs). So there is no doubt that Bachmann Bros. manufactured lemon-yellow street signs.

I bought this set of light lemon-yellow signs some years ago, probably at a train show, precisely because I thought, at that time, they were of an uncommon color. I have not seen another such lemon yellow Plasticville street sign or sign set since then, although I have certainly been on the lookout for any or all such less-common Plasticville

items.

On the other hand, it could be that, since Mr. Allen's unidentified sign lacks the BB logo on its base, it is a “knockoff” of the Bachmann Bros. item by some unknown manufacturer, possibly Japanese. In this connection, I purchased, at a 2005 train show an assortment of 21 lemon-yellow plastic street signs with black “stamped(?)” lettering and borders. The yellow is of a significantly darker hue than my lemon-yellow Plasticville signs.

These signs appear to be what could be called a “double knockoff”-- the signs have characteristics of both Plasticville street signs and Marx small Rite-O-Way railroad signs. Without going into detail here, I have concluded both, that these signs were likely made in Japan, possibly in the immediate postwar period or in the early 1950s, and that they might also have been sold in sets without the black lettering applied. While Mr. Allen's sign may have been “Made in Japan,” it is not from a set such as is described here. My plastic Japanese signs all have square bases, whereas Plasticville street signs, Mr. Allen's sign, and, indeed, Marx Rite-O-Way signs all have round bases.

If Mr. Allen's sign is of Japanese manufacture, it is unlikely that its particular maker will ever be identified, owing to the structure and practices of the Japanese toy industry. However, if Mr. Allen's sign was “Made in U.S.A.,” and if it can be established that it is not a Plasticville item, then there is still hope that its manufacturer will eventually become known.

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A Puzzling Little Station

By Geraldine Scott



... came upon a train show in Minnesota in our travels. It was the day before the opening day and they were setting up.

I wandered in and said "Hi" to the people that were there.

To the few people I talked to, I mentioned the PCA - but oddly no one seemed to be aware of it - and there weren't too many that had any Plasticville for sale.

I bought one little plastic piece. I am wondering what it is and what company made it. Does anyone know what this is? It is 2" across the front and 2 1/4" front-to-back.

The tiny light fixture that was attached to the outside top broke off and there was one on both sides.

This looks like a train stop waiting booth and has (what looks like) a trash receptacle and a bench - that are both attached inside. I was hoping for an ID --- hope that someone in the club knows who made this. Thanks for any

info. *(It is my impression that this may be as you surmise a stop station as would have been seen along an interurban trolley line where a more formal station was not warranted. I am also going to presume that the piece did not originally have the red and white trash receptacle but was only the yellow building with the orange trim pieces.*



As far as people not knowing about the PCA: an easy way to raise awareness is to have a few membership applications with you when you go to train meets or, even better, complete prospective member packets. The Secretary will be more than happy to provide you with applications or the complete packets. You may contact him by email at secretary@plasticvilleusa.org or by regular mail at the address on the front page of this newsletter. Editor)

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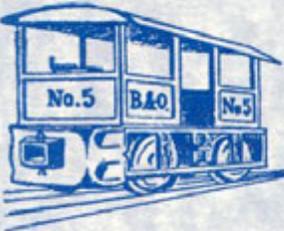
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What Do You Collect?

Do you collect plastic village pieces not made by the Bachmann or Marx? Are you a Storytown, Littletown, or Skyline plastic village collector? Why not consider sharing your collecting experiences with your fellow PCA members. Send an email to villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org for more information on how you can become a contributing editor of *The Villager*.

Matchbox Village by Beemak

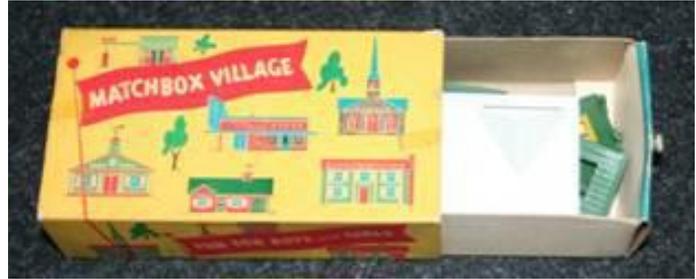
By Dan Gills

This is one of the very few pieces I have seen with the name Matchbox Village. The kit comes in a box similar to those of wooden stick matches.

It was made by Beemak Plastics of Los Angeles, California.

It is the general consensus that the makers of the Matchbox line of vehicles probably threatened legal action if Beemak continued to use the name Matchbox Village.

In order to prevent legal action against them, Beemak changed their product name to Beemak Village and their packaging to a greeting card type box.



FREE ITEMS

The following items are offered free to members on a first come first served basis
Your only cost is the packaging cost and postage to mail the items to you
Send an email to secretary@plasticvilleusa.org listing the pieces you wish
or send your list to the address on the front page of this newsletter
Please specify front, rear, left, or right walls in your request if applicable

Check Out the New Additions!

Bank green roof - chip out of one corner	side
Cape Cod - green. Missing one long wall, no chimney, roof shows gluing on underside of roof	Police department walls - light gray non-chimney side, chimney side, rear
Cape Cod - red. Missing one long wall, no chimneys, black tape residue	Dairy barn walls - red - all 4 sides
Cape Cods, white w/red, green & brown roofs - black tape residue	Dairy barn silo - one missing pin
Fire Dept front w/doors - red letters	Littletown dairy barn roof - blue - black crayon blobs but will clean off
Marx Barn silo - red w/gray glued on cap	Littletown dairy barn silo cap - blue - black crayon stripes but will clean off
Split Level living room roof	Two Story Colonial? roof half - gray
Split Level walls - specify letter of wall needed	Beemak theater or grocery store large roof - white
BN-1 type barn walls - white	Suburban Station side wall
Dutch door side, double door side, non silo	

Donations to the FREE ITEMS column are a Win-Win proposition!

Donors receive an in kind receipt from the PCA for the parts they donate.

Members have the opportunity to acquire needed parts.

Let's keep it going! What is in your "junk" box just taking up space that another member may need?

What Members Are Saying

Has anybody been in contact with Bachmann about possible future production? We can't expect every item to be available every year, but it would be nice to know if they are working on a few new re-releases. I know the market is too tiny for anything new, but it would be neat if Bachmann could locate and repair the tooling for one of the long-discontinued downtown buildings. Mike Denuty (*I am in contact quite often with people at Bachmann and express sentiments such as yours to them. As you note the O/S Plasticville line is not perceived as being a large market therefore we see few reissues of buildings and no new buildings. As a side note the "new" buildings for the 50th anniversary of Plasticville were presumably made by Heljan and three have been part of the Atlas O Trainman product line since 2008. Editor*)

Now that I've had time to look through Issue 10-4, I'm declaring it a winner! Lots of interesting ideas and variety. Extra pages. The Christmas layouts are especially fun. I spent time looking at them in color on the PCA website, but I also note that the quality of the printed black & white version is improved, too. Good job, John and crew! Mike Denuty (*You have a sharp eye, Mike. My printer has upgraded his equipment which seems to help especially with photos sent to me with little contrast. Editor*)

... If you can, switch me over to the ePCA newsletter program. I initially signed up for the mailed copy, but the on line version is great for me. Thanks a lot. Victor Bodek

... my secretary may have mailed my dues without a stamp. If you don't receive it within a week or so I will send another check I wanted to pay for 3 years. The website is such a wonder and awesome. Can one pay dues online? If not it should be configured to do that. Bobby Abrams (*The PCA now has a PayPal account. We are working on allowing members to pay dues and purchase items from The Corner Store through PayPal.*)

Hello - thank you so much for interceding for me , concerning this issue - all's well that ends well and I was able to read the latest PCA newsletter with ease by opening the below underlined violet [http--](http://www.pca.org) I mailed in my dues and ballot but did not know my PCA membership number at the time-- thanks to you, I got it posted above my computer #11-660 – your courtesy is much appreciated to be sure-- Will mail in some photos of my displayed Plasticville in a bit-- please keep my want ad in the PCA newsletter as is 'till further notice-- you are doing a terrific job-- and it is appreciated – sincerely Hal Seitz TCA , TTOS , LCCA, PCA (*Hal was having access issues with the Members section of the website. I called him and walked him through gaining access. Don't hesitate to contact secreatry@plasticvilleusa.org or an early evening phone call if you experience access issues. Editor*)

Hi John. Just got my VILLAGER today. Great!! Lots of pictures. You do a great job. And THANKS to you and the "Board" for giving me a "color" copy!!!!

Ref. the street lamps / mail boxes. Just got "3" of them. Red, green and BLUE. They are missing the mail "flap" at the bottom of the box. I used cardboard stock to replace the mail 'flap', painted to match the color of the lamp post, glued in place,, and presto, can't tell the difference,,,,except the flap won't open,,and that's OK, not being a purest,, but they look good on the layout. I put them at / near the "giant" Lionel 116 tinplate / prewar passenger station. They really look good there, not oversized at all. Got all three for \$1.

... I continue to appreciate the VILLAGER as a great nostalgia magazine, and look forward to EVERY issue. Jim Steed

I got the barns, very nice. Joe Kutza

... I just wanted to take a minute to thank you and your family and all the other persons involved in putting this great club together. I love the RALPHIE cut out house ,IT IS GREAT. Jon Polinski (*For those of you who may have missed it: the Yahoo Paperville group had a recent posting for a cardstock replica to Ralphie's house from the movie Christmas Story. It can be downloaded at no cost in HO and 1/60 scale. Editor*)

Just a quick note to let you know all is well with my password and user ID. I'm able to log on and downloaded the November news letter. Quite an impressive newsletter. You and your group are to be congratulated. I am not thru it yet, and am reading every word to learn more. I am visually handicapped and read slowly with an electronic magnifier. Wife drops me off at Dunkin doughnuts and I sip coffee and munch on a doughnut as I read thru your publication! I foundationally have a good HP printer that I printed it out in color on both sides of the paper. It came out nice and clear. Thanks for your help. Paul Lansing

To the members of the PCA, a question. What would you think of Bachman placing a yearly ad in the PCA newsletter offering to design a " special color structure", their choice , (house, barn, government building) for members of the PCA to purchase. Dennis Bartley 06-397 (*I would like to hear from members regarding Dennis' suggestion. Please send your comments to secreatry@plasticvilleusa.org or by mail to the address on the front of this newsletter. I will compile the replies and report back in the May issue of The Villager. Editor*)

My Barn arrived on 11-10-11. Many Thanks, it was worth the wait. Mike Lennon

By the way, I just ordered the *Rails Across Canada* book that was mentioned in the newsletter. You probably saw my mentions of this book on the TCA list a few times, as the book is very good.

I got the book from the website you mentioned for it in your review on the PCA newsletter, as it was on sale for 22 down from 30.

It is also on Amazon for \$20 and any order over \$25 in total gets free shipping, but I am fine with the 22 and shipping from the book company.

I am up to page 100 or so and I am learning a lot about the CP and RR things in general. Plus the CP is my wife's second favorite line, after the C&O, due to the beaver logo and we love Canada. We listen to the CBC for music all the time and follow many music groups from Canada.

I would highly recommend the book to anyone, and thanks for the review in the newsletter and making us aware of it. Not sure if anyone else got the book, but it is worth the money. Nice pictures too. Mike Marmer

I "talk up" the PCA in our area. On occasion I get someone to actually join. I was on the phone this morning with a BSG member who finally joined the PCA. He was really enthused with the newsletters.

Has CTT even don an article on the PCA? They should. Ron Schlicht (*Sometimes it only takes getting an application into a prospective member's hands. The PCA has a prospective member packet and will send any quantity requested to members for distribution at a show or on a one by one basis. Send an email to secretary@plasticvilleusa.org or mail a request to the address on the front of this newsletter. As far as an article on the PCA that is a great idea and I will try speak*

with the CTT editor at the next York. Editor)

... I have written my check to renew my PCA membership and want to vote for the officers. I have looked through the latest edition of the FANTASTIC newsletter, but I cannot find any information about the candidates. I'd like to cast an informed vote, so could you direct me to a source of information on the candidates? Steve D'Ambrosia (*Yours truly completely blew it by not including candidate bios in the November newsletter. It is my hope that asking you to vote again using the blue ballots was not a great inconvenience. Editor)*

Joe, Your "York Report" in the November *Villager* reminds me that I have never been to a York meet, but would like to attend sometime. Since I am not a TCA member, I usually find out the date too late or not at all.

Maybe you could publish the dates in the February and August newsletters so that non TCA members know.

Also, I understand that one has to be a member to attend the official meet, but a non-member can come as a guest of a member. -Tom Fritsch (*The dates of the York Meets for this year, through 2014 as well as the 2012 Cal_Stewart meet can be found on page 26. Dates for the York meets and other non-commercial meets will now become a regular part of future newsletters.*

Send the dates of any additional non-commercial meets to me at villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org for publication in future editions of the newsletter. Editor)

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Welcome New Members

The following individuals' names have been added to the Plasticville Collectors Association membership roster as of January 1, 2012. Their names are now permanently listed in the on line roster.

Frank Basil, Pound Ridge, NY
Andrew A Buco, Woodland Paark, CO
Michael S Miller, Linthicum, MD
Kenneth W Welker, Ashland, PA
Mark S Varga, Nova, OH
Victor F Bodek, Sterling Heights, MI
Paul F Lansing, Punta Gorda, FL

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, 2012.

Karl E Holderle III, St Louis, MO
Kevin D Szafranski, Orchard Park, NY
Paul R Landis, Quakertown, PA
William K Crum, Bronx, NY
Harold R Immekus, Cedarburg, WI
William E Luta, Dillsburg, PA
David D Hunsley, Des Moines, IA
Derek A Hunsley, Des Moines, IA
Dennis J Pruni, Pittsburgh, PA
Gregory H Wulf, Winfield, WV
Walei-ed-din El-Saraf, Ancaster, Ontario, Canada
Matthew S Zyck, Warrington, PA
Grant Dougherty, Scarsdale, NY

Future Train Meet Dates

York Meets

2012: April 19, 20, 21 - October 18, 19, 20
2013: April 18, 19, 20 - October 17, 18, 19
2014: April 24, 25, 26 - October 16, 17, 18

Cal-Stewart Meets

2012: November 17, 18

Send us your non-commercial train meet dates and we will publish them in future newsletters.

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 \$1.50 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 milk truck.

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

We are investigating the production of a 1950's Plasticville Construction Company Ford F100 pickup truck.

Product Reviews



Hand-made pine trees by Dechant's Railroad Express. While browsing on eBay a while back, I happened across a seller by the name of railroaderal who was offering a selection of hand-made pine trees at what seemed to be an extremely reasonable price. When I say, "extremely reasonable price", I mean right around a buck apiece when purchased as a Buy It Now for \$32.99 for a lot of 35 trees. The lot, and it can still be found on eBay, consisted of 10 pieces each of 2, 3, and 5 inch trees and 5 pieces of 7 inch trees.

I contacted the seller as the trees looked much better than one would expect for their average price. Much to my surprise, the seller not only sold on eBay but also has a very nicely presented website at <http://www.mrtrain.com>.

As I was curious as to the quality of the trees, I asked the seller for a sample. Instead of one tree, the seller sent

me one each of their 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 inch trees.

The trunks of the trees are a double strand of twisted wire. All have approximately a half inch of wire at their base for insertion into your layout. That half inch is extra as all the trees measure almost exactly their advertised size from their top to the lowest branches. The branches on every one are extremely thick. They are nicely proportioned and with a nice darker green color. I found the trees to be quite realistic.

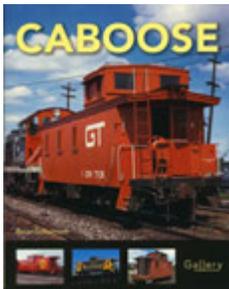
If you are working on a layout and require pine trees you may want to consider these from mrTRAIN. They may be just what you need. I would not hesitate to put them on my next layout.

The pine trees can be purchased on eBay through the seller name, railroaderal, or purchased directly from the seller's website at <http://www.mrtrain.com>. The website offers a buyer the option to create a customized package of trees at \$1.25 each.

Check out the website for other railroad items including chain link fence, tunnel portals, snow fence, trestles and other model railroad accessories as well as signs, mugs, puzzles, and other railroad related items.

You may contact them at Dechant's Railroad Express, 965 Buckhorn Road, Knox, PA 16232. Phone 814-782-3477. Their email address is sales@mrtrain.com.

(mrTRAIN is a full page advertiser in the our newsletter. Please let them know that you saw their ad on page 7 or this review when making a purchase. Editor)



Caboose, Brian Solomon, published by Quayside Press, 192 pages, softcover, 6 1/2 X 8 1/4 format, \$19.99 US, \$21.99 Canada.

This title is part of Quayside Press' Gallery Series of books. Other titles in the series include Steam Power, Rail Power, Railroad Rolling Stock, and the previously reviewed Vintage Diesel Power.

There are four chapters in the book. The chapter titles are: Classic, Bay-Window, Wide Vision and "Odds and Ends". Also included are an acknowledgement, an introduction, and an index. The index is a nice addition as it includes the names of the various railroad museums and societies mentioned throughout the book. This will make it easy for me to research museums that may be in an area that I may be visiting.

Each chapter contains black and white and color photos of the various cabooses. Each photo is captioned with a description of the caboose as well as additional information regarding the construction or history of the manufacturer or the line owning that particular unit. The photo captions

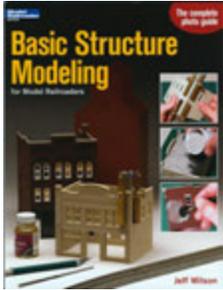
throughout the book are excellent. Each photo also lists the photographer or the collection in which it resides.

It was difficult for me to decide whether I liked the Classic or the "Odds and Ends" chapter better. The Classics chapter runs over 60 pages while the "Odds and Ends" chapter runs nearly 30 pages in length. Both are excellent but the early 1900's black and white photos of the four wheel (bobber) cabooses in the "Odds and Ends" chapter swayed me to towards that chapter.

I enjoyed reading this book and recommend it if you enjoy a good photo review of cabooses. I know that I did.

Caboose can be purchased directly from Voyageur press on their website at voyageurpress.com or by telephone order at 800 458-0454. An added feature on their website for this particular book is a listing of nine hyperlinks to E-Book sellers.

It is available directly from Barnes & Noble's website for \$14.07 in printed version of \$9.99 as a NOOK E-Book. It is available on Amazon's website for \$15.59 in printed version or \$9.89 as a Kindle E-Book. It can also be purchased from Border's Books' website at the list price of \$19.99 or as a U.S. only E-Book download for \$12.39.



Basic Structure Modeling for Model Railroaders, The Complete Photo Guide, Jeff Wilson, published by Model Railroader Books, a division of Kalmbach Books, 88 pages, softcover, 8 1/2 X 11 format, \$19.95.

A recent electronic edition of Classic Toy Trains listed six “basics” books as a package deal. I have been fortunate to be able to review three of the six books. This is the last review of three of those six books in Kalmbach’s “Basics” books series. It is hoped that I will have the opportunity to review the remaining three at a future date.

Reviews of the *Basic Scenery for Model Railroaders* and *Basic Structure Modeling* books in this series are in the August and November, 2011, editions of the newsletter, respectively.

This book was published in 2005 yet the information in it is as relevant today as it was back then. As with the other books, this book is written by an HO modeler, yet his techniques and ideas apply to any scale.

Chapters one and two discuss how to more accurately assemble plastic and wood structures. One of the gluing suggestions for plastic structures was to clamp the sides together and then add liquid glue to the hidden side of the joint with a paintbrush and allow capillary action pull the glue into the joint. He also suggests reinforcing building corners with a small piece of square strip styrene. There are also two full pages at the end of the chapter. One discusses basic tools for building any type of structure while the other lists the various types of adhesives.

Chapter three deals with kitbashing and takes the reader through the creation of a switch tower of which the prototype is in Portage, Illinois. The structure is made of styrene in this demonstration.

Most of us would think of the doors, windows, and face trims on a building when considering enhancing a model. Why not the roof? Many times the roofs of buildings on a layout are quite visible as well. Chapter four shows how to use leftover sprues as piping on a roof as well as how to create gravel, rolled roofing, shake shingle, and metal roofs.

The remaining three chapters discuss painting, detailing (adding people and small items), and signs (both street and building signs). The painting section has a full page dedicated to various paints as well as a full page on paintbrushes. A sidebar in the detailing section illustrates how to turn a small block of wood and brown paper similar to a grocery bag into a cardboard box. Have you ever thought of using part of a stir stick for a sign? That is just one suggestion chapter seven.

The remainder of the book contains four pages of photos to give you inspiration as well as a three page list of manufacturers referenced in the book.

As with the two previous books, I feel it is a bargain as the information, especially the list of manufacturers makes it a handy reference.

Basic Structure Modeling for Model Railroaders can be purchased from Kalmbach Books via their website at <http://www.kalmbachbookstore.com> or by telephone order at 800 533-6644. It is currently on sale on their website for \$19.95, plus shipping. It is also available on Amazon and Barnes & Noble’s websites.

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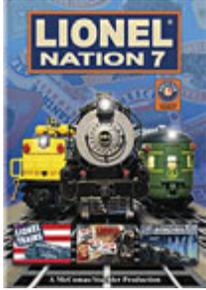
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Lionel Nation 7, DVD, 60-plus minutes, TM Books & Video, \$19.99. Just how large is the "Lionel Nation? Well, as the name implies, this is the seventh offering in the series with an announcement of Lionel Nation 8 at the conclusion of this edition. The format is the same as the previous editions. Although the package states 60-plus minutes, my DVD player displayed a time

of over 70 minutes. I believe that makes this the longest DVD in this series.

As with the other editions, there is an introduction that gives the viewer an overview of the contents disc. There are total of eight chapters if a short, narrative free, demonstration of the Vision Line 700E is considered a chapter.

The first chapter is probably the one that would be of greatest interest to older Lionel people as it describes how the last Lionel layout was moved from the visitor's center in Michigan to Railroad Museum of Long Island where it is preserved as an operating layout. It was interesting to find that the funds to bring the layout Long Island and put it back together were raised by selling special edition freight cars based upon businesses local to the museum including Entenmann's, who is well known for their donuts and other pastries.

The Alaska railroad section will clue you in to how many various Alaska railroad pieces there are in the blue and yellow color scheme. There's enough to make a nice length train using engines and rolling stock of only those two colors.

If you are interested in various postwar operating cars then that section as well as a section on how to use postwar parts in MPC era engines is a must.

I always like viewing these videos a second time. The first time is to hear what the modelers have to say about their layouts. The second time is to be more observant of the layouts. I observed things I missed on the first viewing on the two additional layouts highlighted included on this DVD when I took a second look.

Jim Suhling has a novel approach to creating a water effect. He used medium blue fish tank gravel to simulate water. His layout if a single level and that seems to have worked out well. He mentioned that for the ground cover he used very short pile Berber carpet in a light tan with brown specks and drawer liner for roadways.

Doug Spitler's layout is not complete as I saw in some scenes the ubiquitous pink styrofoam and he has been working on the layout since 1997. Maybe he is just changing it a bit instead of it not being completed.

There is also a chapter on the Heritage Series of Lionel engines. The narrator gives a brief history of each of the four engines while they are shown operating. Be sure to catch the fate of the passengers riding outside on the coaches.

I have enjoyed viewing every one of these DVDs as they seem to just get better and better.

Lionel Nation 7 can be purchased from TM Books & Videos, Box 279, New Buffalo, MI 49117. Their website is www.tmbv.com. I also found it listed on Amazon's website at www.amazon.com as well. It is also offered on Historic Rail's website at www.historicrail.com.

Do you have buildings that you would like to sell and without the hassle of Internet auction sites?
Do you have parts that you would like to sell and without the hassle of Internet auction sites?
Do you have buildings that you would like to trade?
Do you have parts that you would like to trade?
Do you have buildings that you want that don't seem to be available on Internet auction sites?
Do you have parts that you need that don't seem to be available on Internet auction sites?

As a member you may place up to a 50 word plastic village related classified ad in **each** of the three classified ad categories:

For Sale, For Trade, and Wanted, at **no charge!** The 50 word maximum does not include your contact information, but only the body of your classified ad.

The Villager Classified Ads

Note:

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

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

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

For Sale

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 (Feb 12)

CANNIBAL ATTACK! After combining several kits, I have leftover empty boxes: AU-6 condition 6, TA-2 Condition 6, 5608 condition 6 - all with dividers. AP-1 and ST-1 conditions 0. 1403 & 1603 conditions 3 to 5. PD-3 condition 7. PH-1 condition 9. \$43.00 for all. #02-154 Robert Spivey, PO Box 33484, Decatur, GA 30033. Phone 404 633-6777. r_spyv@hotmail.com (May 12)

#1304 Crossing Signals, mint in blister pack. Never opened. Bill Nole price: \$50. Your price: \$25 OBO, plus shipping. Photo available on request. #01-24, John Gottcent, 3912 West Oregon Street, Evansville, IN 47720. Phone 812-426-2989. Jandjgott@gmail.com (Aug 12)

For Trade

Have boxed Plasticville to trade from the 50's (Post Office, Large Supermarket, Police Station, Fire Station, Hardware/Pharmacy) for Fleischman Magic trains. Contact

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.

0400 Mobile home, cream/blue mint \$25. HS-6 Hospital, complete, missing one tab on steps, tattered box, \$30. Above prices plus shipping. #02-87, Lawrence Fachler, 6 Bosko Drive, East Brunswick, NJ 08816-4542 factlf@juno.com (Aug 12)

Two #45974 pedestrian bridges. One sealed other opened but never used. \$20 for both including USPS ground shipping. Lot misc. parts for the following buildings: Police station, Church, Cape Code, Barn. \$15 including shipping. Church seems complete but all others missing one or two parts. BONUS! Glued HO school house. #03-214 J Wayne Beachy, 3929 Coles Point Way, Glen Allen, VA 23060 beachy3929@comcast.net (Aug 12)

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 (Aug 12)

me for more information on the pieces I am seeking. #11-660 Harold (Hal) Seitz, 5141 NW 84th Ave, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33351. 954 749-1090 (Aug 12)

Wanted

Have boxed Plasticville to trade from the 50's (Post Office, Large Supermarket, Police Station, Fire Station, Hardware/Pharmacy) for Fleischman Magic trains. Contact me for more information on the pieces I am seeking. #11-660 Harold (Hal) Seitz, 5141 NW 84th Ave, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33351. 954 749-1090 (May 12)

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 (May 12)

SM-6 box in good 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 (May 12)

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 (May 12)

Bank front door, switch tower roof sign in brown . #05-351 Gordon Kelley, 5775 Alvin Howe Road, P.O.B. 141, Lyons, WI 53148. (May 12)

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 (Feb 12)#45972 Rural Station. Original box preferred but not essential. #01-24 John Gottcent, 3912 West Oregon Street, Evansville, IN 47720. Phone 812-426-2989. (Aug 12)

1993 edition of Plasticville guide by Iron Horse Productions. #05-550 Joseph M Ferry, 309 Brookline Blvd, Havertown, PA 19083 Phone 610 449-3679 (Aug 12)

Please call or send your sale list of any Marx/Littleton/Skyline buildings and/or any accessories, 1950's-60's cereal premiums - cars, trucks, signs, billboards, etc. Yellow disk base for cereal premium road signs. Marx/K-Line police station flag and flagpole. Diner side wall w/door and yellow curtain. #07-481 Nan Cashour, 6500 Schneider Dr, Middletown, MD 21769 Phone 301 371-7258 (Nov 12)

Wanted brown/black marbled water spout for 1615 Water Tank, 1951 Plasticville catalog. #01-03 John Niehaus, 601 SE Second St, Ankeny, IA 50021 515 771-6888 after 7:00PM (Nov 12)

I have a red school need front and roof. I have a red TV station need back and roof. I have two yellow buildings need fronts. I have a plink rand style house need fronts have all other parts. #11-728 Harold R Immekus, 108 High Forest Dr, Cedarburg, WI 53012 Phone 262 375-3775 (Nov 12)

White goose, Yellow Nursery Rhyme for "Goosey Goosey Gander's Castle" 5010, Boy with Baseball Glove for "The Old Woman in a Shoe" 5011, Cow, Yellow Nursery Rhyme for "Jack and Jilltheir Pail and Hill!" 5012, red "brick" for top of ice cream cone chimney for "Gingerbread House" 5013. #04-321, Geraldine Scott, 540 Viridian St, Englewood, FL 34223 Phone 941 474-8888 Geraldine@Collector.org(Nov 12)

Red-brown roof vent for 2602 HO Barn. #05-359, Mark Lembersky, 2175 Sunset Ave. SW, Seattle, WA 98116. Please contact me at mark290638-rail@yahoo.com (Nov 12)

End wall door for the K-Line/Marx Service Station, large first floor window and garage roof cupola for the Plasticville two story house, small front roof section for the Plasticville New England Rancher in gray. #11-711, James McClenin, 822 Ridge Rd, Ontario, NY 14519 (Nov 12)

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SCENE
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Item No. 45154 Ranch MSRP \$18.50

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Item No. 45608 Cape Cod (2/box) MSRP \$24.00

Item No. 45622 Two-Story MSRP \$26.50

HO Scale

Bulk Trees (4"-6"; 24 per bag) MSRP \$39.00



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Spruce Trees
Item No. 32158



Cedar Trees
Item No. 32160

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