



# The Villager

The Official Newsletter of the Plasticville Collectors Association

Volume 11

May 2012

Number 2

## A Visit to Bachmann's Philadelphia Office

By John Niehaus



Joe Kutza, left and John Niehaus standing in front of the former customer Service & Repair entrance

Can you imagine my excitement when Doug Blaine, Bachmann's Vice President of Marketing, invited me to visit the Bachmann Corporate offices in Philadelphia. His offer was extended while attending the Spring York meet in 2010!

Well, now that it has happened, I intend to share that visit with you.

PCA founder, Joe Kutza, member Chris Niehaus, and I were the afternoon guests of Bachmann Industries on Wednesday, April 11. This was probably the most unique opportunity I will ever have in my quest to better know, understand, and learn about Plasticville and

Bachmann Industries.

We had the pleasure of visiting with Lee Riley, Vice

President of Product Development and Doug Blaine, Vice President of Marketing. Not only did we have a lengthy conversation with Lee and Doug but also were also shown certain pieces of older Plasticville scheduled for re-release. Sorry, I cannot divulge the items as we were shown the pieces on a confidential basis.

Lee and Doug graciously allowed me to record our conversation. Because of their agreement to be recorded, the TCA will benefit as a transcription of our meeting will be given to the TCA as another piece in their oral history project.

Doug treated us to original artworks that were possible artist concept drawings for Plasticville boxes. One in particular resembles an opposite end view of the 2602 HO barn. The other piece seemed to be an artist's concept of a 2902 HO 2-Story House.

We also had a short tour of the factory - no production is performed there as all production has been moved overseas. The factory is still in use, though, as a warehouse and shipping facility.

Look for a continuing transcript of Joe's, Chris', and my conversation with Lee and Doug starting in the August newsletter.

## Bachmann to Issue Motel in New Color Combination

Bachmann has announced they issuing of the 45616 Motel with white walls and a medium blue roof and trim. It is illustrated in these colors on page 150 of the Bachmann Trains section of the 2012 combination Bachmann Trains and Williams by Bachmann

catalog.

When questioned as to whether it would also be issued in opposite colors the answer that the reverse color combination is not planned at this time.

It is scheduled to be in stores by August.



### The Villager

Published quarterly by the Plasticville Collectors Association.

**President:** Jim Dawes

**Vice President:** Doug Gilliatt

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

**Secretary/Treasurer:** John L Niehaus

**Webmaster:** Joe Kutza

**Newsletter editor:** John L Niehaus

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## From the President's Desk



Hello from Syracuse, NY. Just got back from the York Show. I had good sales of Plasticville at the Best Western bandit meet. We had our share of wind and rain for the two days but I won't complain as it could have been worse, I guess. Then for the last three days we had good weather for the Big Train Show at the Fairgrounds.

I have not unloaded my truck or trailer since I returned home from York so I do not know what all goodies I

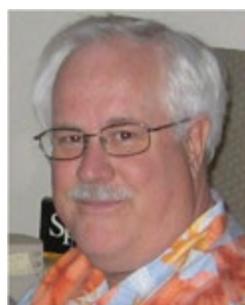
purchased there. I will have to get my wife to help unload and she will have figured out that I have a lot of parts and pieces (as usual) once we have it all unloaded. But it is a good hobby and it keeps me busy.

If you are looking for free Plasticville parts, contact John Niehaus (you will need to pay only the shipping). He was down to almost no pieces but again has a large assortment.

Hope to see you all at the next train show. Keep looking for that special & unusual piece.

Your President, Jim Dawes

## Vice President's Musings



Yet another summer has arrived in the Valley of the Sun. Actually it has not begun quite yet but we have already had our first few "toasty" 100's already this year. I hope that all the members are looking forward to a great summer of collecting and Model Railroading as well as good weather.

I hope that all of our members and their families will have a safe and happy summer and maybe a 'find' from a local garage sale/flea market or train show! So if you have bought something recently or received a gift or in the future pick up a 'goodie' and you believe that it would be of interest to all of us please write a short article and maybe a picture or two for publication in the Villager.

I will be attending the TCA convention this year in Atlanta. Since I lived there for 20 years my family has quite a few friends to visit with, as well as my son and I attending the trading pits etc. If other PCA members that do attend can possibly get together and swap some collecting stories and visit that would be great. For those that do attend please (if you can) send in a report so it can be shared with the rest of

the members in *The Villager* on what was available and prices.

Maybe a really rare piece shows up and one of our lucky members picks it up and shares the find with us. And remember to mention the PCA as you attend Train shows or anywhere else train "nuts" are found. I include myself in the "nut" group.

On another subject; which is that of On-line (e-mail) delivery of the PCA Villager. I continue to promote the delivery of the Villager to our members via e-mail in place of USPS delivery. If you are still receiving a paper copy please consider the online delivery system.

As I have said many times before please continue to contribute articles, stories or pictures that make *The Villager* the great publication that it is. We are always looking for material. If you have not done so, please consider submitting an article or tip that would be of interest to our members.

It is always with great interest that we all await the next issue to see what new things we can learn from fellow members. So everyone continue to support our organization by sending in articles/photos etc. of interest to our members.

And as always, I want to remind everyone please remember to patronize our advertisers that support the PCA.

PCA Vice-President,

Doug Gilliatt



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## Notes From the Editor



What an eventful Spring this has been for me! Not only did I have the opportunity to attend the Spring York but also spend an afternoon with not one, but two Vice Presidents of Bachmann Industries. Interspersed with those two trips was a business trip to my Corporate offices in Moline, Illinois, for two days and a ghost hunting trip to Mansfield, Ohio with my daughter. At this point I am ready to stay home for a while. I will be publishing a serialized transcript of our conversation with the Vice President of Product Development starting in the August newsletter.

You may have noticed that I mentioned a business trip. I am still a full time employee of a large yellow and green tractor manufacturing company. Oh, we do make other things in yellow and green as well. I mention my being an active employee only so that when you do not receive a timely response to your emails or letters to me or to the other Association officers you are aware of the reason. All of your offices are still full time employees except for our Vice President - luck guy. This means we must respond to you after our "normal" working hours.

Speaking of our Vice President: If you have not noticed, the title of the Vice President's column has changed from Vice Presidential Ponderings to Vice President's Musings. He and I thought it time for him to stop "pondering" and start "musing".

A subtle change has been made to your newsletter. I have reduced the spacing between the columns in the articles. I hope that this change will make for easier reading. Other changes are in the planning stages. Some of them involve our advertisers and those will take a bit longer to implement.

The Plasticville Collectors Association name is popping up in some places I would not have considered. The latest place to find not only our Association name but also a link to our website is in Wikipedia. We are mentioned in the "Collecting" section of an article on Plasticville.

As you will note in the April Executive Committee meeting minutes there was a discussion regarding using photos on the PCA website for purposes other than reference on the website. A request was received by the Association to use some of the photos in a commercial manner. The photos, as with all other content on the website, are copyrighted by the person who submitted them as well as the Plasticville Collectors

Association. Permission to use any materials on the website must be obtained in writing (email counts) from the Association. Requests are reviewed by the Secretary or in some instances by the Executive Committee and a response made to the request.

The Executive Committee also addressed a question from a major model railroad magazine as to the possibility of renting the current member mailing list. The request was denied. From its founding, it has been the philosophy of the Association to allow only members in good standing access to member information. That information can be obtained through the on line membership roster or by a written request to the Secretary. The information in your membership record will not be shared outside the Association.

I am hearing comments again regarding offering lifetime memberships. The Executive Committee has agreed to investigate how other organizations handle lifetime memberships. Once an investigation has been completed there will most likely need changes made to the bylaws. We will keep you posted as to our progress on this subject.

Many of you are of the age where you remember sitting in front of the black and white television and watching Rod Serling introduce a new episode of *The Twilight Zone* every week. It seems that at least one of the episodes included model trains. The title of that episode is, "Stopover in a Quiet Town". There are clips of the episode on YouTube although some now seem to be blocked but I did find one that was active when I wrote this. Open the YouTube home page and search on CSorickOmaha then scroll down about twelve selections and, if luck is with you, a short segment of the episode will be available for selection. The trains show up, as well as what may be some Plasticville buildings at about the one minute mark.

### **Pardon my slips**

You may have noticed that I repeated an article on the pale yellow traffic signs by Anthony Rudgers. What should have been published was another follow-up article by Anthony regarding another Littleton Freight Station color variation. My apologies to Anthony. Look for his article on the station on page 21 of this issue.

The ad in the previous issue of *The Villager* for Lantz's Hobby Shop contained their previous address. The ad in this issue reflects their new 3312 S Main Street address.

## **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](mailto:villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org) for more information on how you can become a contributing editor of *The Villager*.

## April 2012 Executive Committee Minutes

The April, 2012 Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 7:00PM, Eastern time, on April 23 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:**

#### **PayPal dues payment buttons on the website**

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to table this until the new web developer is more familiar with the website.

#### **Additional Commonwealth Plastics photos for Other Manufacturers section of website**

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to table this until the new web developer is more familiar with the website.

#### **Register.com banner on new plasticville.org website**

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to table this until the new web developer is more familiar with the website.

#### **Advertising in O Gauge Rail-Roading magazine**

Secretary Niehaus reported that a one-sixth page ad for the PCA was on page 33 of the June/July issue and that he has been assured that the same ad will appear in the remaining 2012 issues.

### **New Business:**

#### **Loss of longtime web developer**

Webmaster Joe Kutza reported that the web developer whose services we have used since using a professional developer has informed him that he can no longer provide services to the PCA.

Joe also reported that he has secured the services of another developer and that he, the current developer and the new developer will work together to ensure a seamless transition.

#### **Submission of articles to other publications that have been published in *The Villager***

Secretary Niehaus reported that one of the contributing editors has asked for an opinion as to whether he could submit articles of his that had been published in previous editions of *The Villager* to other publications.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to allow the submission of articles, as published in *The Villager*, to other publications as long as there was a notation with the article that stated "Previously published in *The*

*Villager*, the newsletter of the Plasticville Collectors Association".

#### **Securing photos on the website**

Secretary Niehaus brought up the subject of securing photos on the website to prevent them from being copied and used as illustrations outside the website. He reported that this was precipitated by a request to use an illustration in an eBay auction.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to table this until the new web developer is more familiar with the website.

#### **"Renting" the membership roster**

Secretary Niehaus reported he was approached by a model railroad related magazine asking whether it would be possible to "rent" the PCA membership roster for promotional purposes.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to deny all requests for member information unless it was a direct request from a member in good standing.

#### **Lifetime memberships**

Secretary Niehaus reported that the subject of lifetime memberships had been brought up again.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved that the Secretary investigate how other organizations set up lifetime memberships.

#### **Plasticville Construction Company pickup truck**

Secretary Niehaus had sent a mockup of proposed Plasticville Construction Company pad printing on a blue, 1:43 scale, 1953 Ford, F-100 pickup truck.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to proceed with the purchase of 200 pieces with the price set at \$20 for members and \$30, with an electronic membership for the remainder of the calendar year for non-members.

A request was made to also investigate the possibility of creating a similar vehicle in 1:64 scale.

#### **Free Parts program**

Secretary Niehaus reported that as of mid-April every piece available through the Free Parts program had been taken.

He also reported that he had received a few pieces of coaling tower as well as an extremely large donation of parts from another person.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 PM, Eastern Time

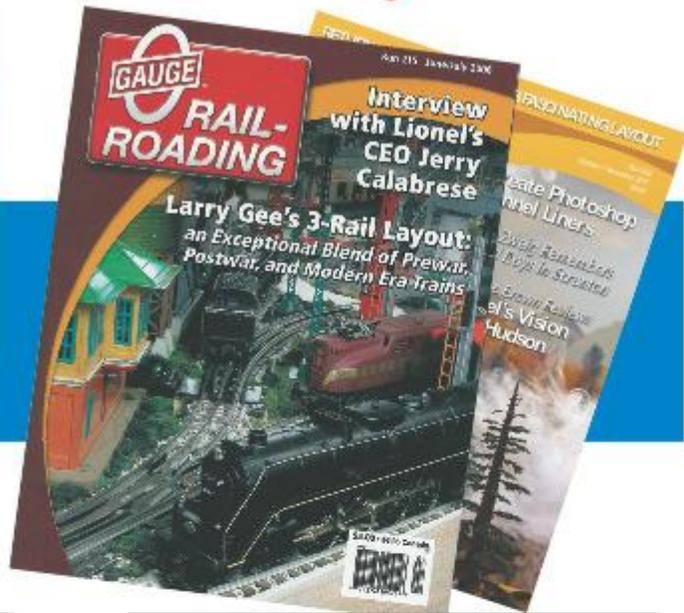
Respectfully submitted; John L Niehaus  
Secretary/Treasurer

## **Are You a Boxed Set Collector?**

We are looking for a member who has a good knowledge of the larger Plasticville boxed sets. We need an associate editor for both the O/S and HO sets. If either of these sets is your area of expertise, please consider sharing your knowledge of the sets with fellow members through articles in *The Villager*.

Contact [villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org](mailto:villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org) for more information on how you can become a contributing editor of *The Villager*.

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# York Report

By Joe Kutza

Another spring and another trip to York, PA for the TCA Eastern Division's train meet. I once again missed the bandit meets, which reminds me, maybe there's a volunteer out there willing to write a brief summary of the bandit meets as it's been about 5 years since I've been able to attend more than one day per York meet. Contact me if you're interested.

The weather was beautiful and the drive up from Maryland uneventful. I'm always afraid that I will be late for the 9:00 am opening of the meet, but I made it with plenty of time to spare.

The morning went well enough and I was able to get through the Silver, Blue, and Red Halls relatively easily. It's always nice to run into PCA members along the way and hear about their finds. Before I knew it, there was an announcement over the fairground loudspeakers that the PCA luncheon would be at the cafeteria at noon. Of course I knew that, but it was really fun to hear it broadcast all over the fairgrounds. I arrived a little early to lunch and had a chance to chat with President Jim Dawes and his wife who were holding a couple of tables for the group in our usual spot in the back of the cafeteria. The turnout was pretty good once again with not only the usual suspects, but also some new faces.

The show and share session is always the best part. John Niehaus was happy to show us the Jr. Fire Chief set that he found, Robert Spivey brought a "perfect set" of citizens in different colors from the Master Unit boxed set, Peter Slowick, the brother of PCA member Paul Slowick brought a very interesting early Plasticville dealer display (see the photo), and I brought along an assortment of Bachmann cookie cutters and the Plasticville Interceptor Squadron that I picked up earlier in the day. Thanks to all who brought something to share, whether it was an item or a story, it was interesting and fun for all who were there.



A "perfect set" of colored figures as would have been contained in the various master sets. Although the colors may have varied this is a representation of the actual figures in each set.

Ahhh, then lunch ended and I went to the White and Orange Halls. That's when things went downhill for me, personally. I was still finding Plasticville, but I didn't feel well at all. Like being sick on a Saturday, this wasn't good at all. I dragged myself very slowly through at least most of the Orange Hall, but it was clear that my day was going to be over earlier than planned. I canceled dinner plans and headed on home. I made it home and spent most of the weekend in bed. To make up

for this travesty, I plan to attend York for two days in the fall!

Because my day was cut short, I have fewer items in my list of prices this time around. Sorry about that. But here they are anyway. This list represents prices as marked - virtually everyone gives a break on their marked prices. I did not have the time to grade these items according to the PCA standards. My comments are based on a brief look as I walked around the halls. 1805 Covered Bridge with tan roadway; complete with Ex box, \$25; Noma Church, complete with G box, \$15; 1908 Split Level Salmon color, complete with VG 1908 version 1 box, \$20; 1804 Greenhouse, complete, VG box, \$45; 1804 Greenhouse, complete, VG box, \$65; Marx Chicken Coop, complete, G box, \$75; SU-5 Shopping Unit, complete with G box, \$95; Plasticville Interceptor Squadron, complete with G box and all inserts, excellent runway, orange roof hangar, \$200, Dealer box of FG-10 Fence, \$15.



Peter Slowick, the brother of PCA member Paul Slowick brought the pictured piece to the luncheon. It was presumed to be a dealer display. Look for an article on this piece in the next edition of *The Villager* as it is a very early Plasticville consumer item.

My completely subjective opinion of all the prices that I saw at the April, 2012 York meet (not just those listed above) leads me to give a rating of 2.5 gold bars to the fall meet. That's down from the 3.0 rating that I assigned to the Fall, 2011 York meet. Most everyone seemed to be either setting prices about right, or at least were very willing to negotiate on the prices.

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

*(Look for an article in the next edition of The Villager on Peter Slowick's piece as it is a very early Plasticville consumer item. Editor)*



# Along the "HO" Line

## Green House & Garden and Vegetable Garden Landscaping Kits

By Todd Hendrickson



Happy spring everyone. I hope your gardens and flowers are doing well.



New for 1979 were the Scenic Classic kits that included a Green House & Garden and a Vegetable Garden.

When I was a child I remember most houses having a vegetable garden in their back yards or growing on their porches. Even to this day I still grow tomatoes on my back porch. Which brings me to the two subject kits.

The fun part about the Vegetable Garden, kit #2555, was that it came with everything shown on the box. The kit contains several bags of different types of foliage, colored Styrofoam balls and a bundle of wooden pieces.

You can cut the wooden pieces 7/8 long for tomato plant stakes and pole beans. You can cut up the foliage into small pieces to make different types of plants and vegetables. The colored Styrofoam balls add to the effect of growing vegetables. It is only limited to your imagination.

What I also like about this kit is that you do not have to make one big garden. You can make several small victory gardens for houses on your layout.

The Green House & Garden, kit #2553, is interesting to me because of the new sticker on the box. I looked at the old catalogs and found it and the #2555 listed as new items in the 1979 catalog.

This kit came with fewer materials than the Vegetable Garden but with similar materials. You were to use the wooden pieces and lichen to make raised garden beds. You can also use the lichen to add a more realistic look to the Green House kit.

Both kits came with unpainted farmer figures to finish the scene. If you were to buy all the materials in the kits separately it would cost far more than what I paid for them on eBay, which makes them a great value.

I also feel that the Roadside Stand, kit #2923, would make



Landscaping materials for the Green House & Garden kit contained a grass mat, a bag each of green and brown foliage, lichen, and small wooden sticks to use in creating a raised bed garden.

a nice complement to these two kits.

If you have a favorite kit that I have not covered yet and would like to see it in this column, send me information and photos. I will see what I can come up with. Remember this is your newsletter. Even if you don't have an email address we can work something out.

I am getting to the limit of my collection and enjoy writing for you. Don't be shy. All information and photos are welcome and appreciated.

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

## Pen Tips

by Chris Rossbach

A PCA pen is on its way to Chris for this tip. It may have been helpful to Joseph Gabuzda in his quest to remove paint from a dark blue Ranch House chimney.

I was looking through some of the painted Plasticville the other night and found a broken barn (red in color) that someone had painted the trim on the outside of the windows in white (robably Testors plastic paint). It looked very nice

but wasn't professionally done. The "tip" is for a Micro Mark product. It is called ELO. It will lift the paint right off the plastic pieces and decals if that is the case. Cost is \$12.75 for 8 ounces. This stuff WORKS.

*(ELO is short for Easy Lift-Off Paint and Decal remover. Micro Mark's website is [www.micromark.com](http://www.micromark.com) Editor)*

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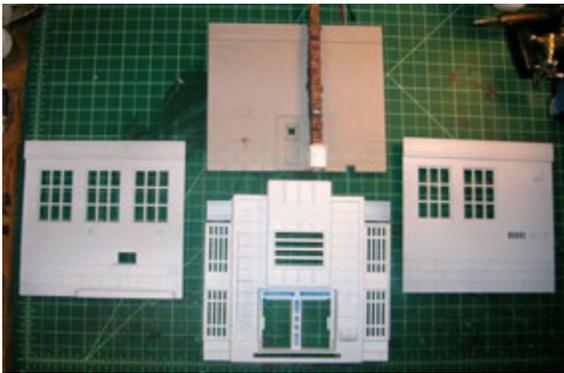
# Creative Use of Damaged Parts

## *Rap\$callion Bank (Part 2)*

By Edward L Johnson



Our previous discussion was focused on two photos. One photo showed the left, right and back walls of the Plasticville Bank and the front fascia of the Plasticville Hospital. These are the parts to be used in this project. A second photo showed the proposed layout of the parts. We noted that the horizontal windows of the Hospital and been cut away and were aligned vertically to create the long front windows similar to the first model. However, after cutting fitting and gluing the new vertical windows in place the front fascia was about three eights wider than the rear wall.



Since the front fascia could not be trimmed down any further it was obvious the rear wall would have to be extended. The solution was to add a chimney from foundation to roof. Placing the chimney on a corner could cause the roof line of a rear wall and back wall to be out of alignment. A better solution was to place the chimney to one side of the rear door. The rear wall was cut into two pieces. Then they were glued to the chimney made from Plastruct square tubing. In the picture at left we see the chimney in place and covered with brick paper.

Next, let's turn our attention to the side walls. One of the small grills on the right wall was broken. A piece of scrap plastic was glued behind the opening and the space filled with Squadron Green Putty. The left wall had lettering for a drive through. The lettering was removed and the small window will become the ATM. The fascia shows the windows in place. Some foundation pieces from the hospital match the blocks on the side wall foundations and are glued under the windows.

The Night Deposit Vault to the right of the front door was salvaged from the first project and glued in place; the supports for the awning are removed. The roof pieces are also salvaged from the first project but need some adjustment. To cover the green putty, the front and side walls were painted flat white. Eventually the exterior will be painted and the large windows painted in a contrasting color.



The plan calls for the interior of the bank to be detailed. To start interior detailing the right and left walls have quarter inch square basswood glued to them to simulate large supporting columns. The voids inside the fascia have been covered with card stock. The front and side walls have also been painted flat white. The rear wall is not painted as it will be supporting a balcony and a vault. A small window has been cut into the rear door. Next will come interior painting, a vault, an office on the balcony, teller windows and an ATM. But that will be the subject of the next installment.

*Till next time: Eddie J*

*PS: The construction of this model would not have been possible without the Free Parts offer in The Villager.*



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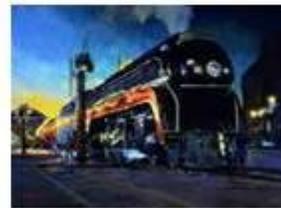
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# Plasticville on the Boards

## Mixing Scales

By John Gottcent



For years Bachmann has made Plasticville buildings in O/S, HO, and N scales. Usually, modelers stick to one scale or another, but there are times when mixing and matching can be not only OK, but advantageous.

As an O-scaler, I must admit to occasional bouts of envy for those whose eyesight and dexterity allow them to work in the smaller scales. Bachmann not only made several buildings at those levels that they never manufactured in O/S, but they also often added extra details to their smaller structures to appeal to those hobbyists' emphasis on "realism."

Nonetheless, now and again I find myself using items from the smaller scales. Here are several ways in which they can be incorporated.



Photo One

First, some small scale items can be used on O/S layouts with no alterations at all. Trees come in all sizes in the natural world, for example, so different versions of them can be used almost anywhere. The same can be said for light fixtures. The floodlight tower in Photo One is an HO model, for example, but it blends nicely into its O scale surroundings.

Another item for which size doesn't much matter is a billboard. The one atop the Dewey, Cheetum, and Howe building in Photo Two is also an HO structure. But since billboards come in various sizes in the real world, this one does not seem out of place in its O/S environment.

In other cases one can use smaller items to help force perspective. Since the Renaissance, artists have known that you can enhance a sense of depth in a scene by placing smaller items in the background, making them seem further away. Stage designers do the same to enhance depth in a theater.

Photo Three shows how this can work on model village layouts. The water tower in the distance with a light on top is again an HO structure. But placing it off in the corner, especially against a painted backdrop, makes it seem further



Photo Two

away and thus suggests the layout is larger than it actually is.

If all else fails, you can raise the height of a smaller building by adding a foundation. Photo Four shows a Wabash Valley freight depot that, in O scale, would be only eight feet tall. By adding a one-half inch Styrofoam foundation, however, I've added two scale feet to the structure, making it a reasonable ten-foot ceiling, appropriate for a small warehouse.

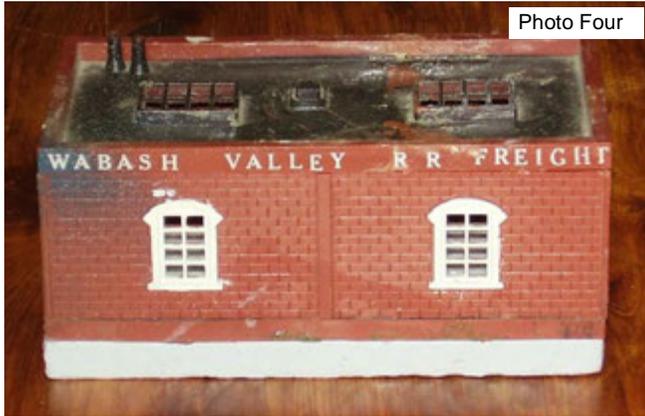


Photo Three

There are times when a smaller building is just what you want. When I added a second story to my motel a while back (see the November 2009 *Villager*), I looked around for something to suggest a motel office. Eventually I found the

HO building you see in Photo Five.

The problem was, its windows and doors were too small for my O scale people. I fixed that by adding an O/S motel



door, which has the effect of transforming the windows, meant to be full size in HO, into transoms, appropriate for a small office. The addition of an OFFICE sign and a few other details, including the taxi driver waiting to see if he can pick up a fare, make the building fit well into its surroundings.

Finally, what can you do with small scale people? Easy: turn them into children!

The young men on the right in each of the pairings seen in Photo Six are full size adults in HO, dwarfed by their O scale colleagues. But by pairing them off as seen, the guy with the camera becomes an (admittedly nerdy) little kid, complete with short pants, accompanying his mother. And the "small"

farmer in the other pairing becomes a ten-year-old son learning the ropes from his rope-wielding dad.



These are just some of the ways in which modelers working in different scales can learn to live together in harmony. If you've got other ideas, or suggestions for future columns, send me a line at [jandjgott@gmail.com](mailto:jandjgott@gmail.com). Meanwhile, happy villaging!



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# My Other Interests

By Geraldine Scott



One of my display boxes of CRACKER JACK prizes. This box includes the yellow street signs. Toy train prizes are to the right of the signs.

In addition to Plasticville and vintage plastic dollhouse miniatures, I also collect CRACKER JACK® prizes.

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I am a member of the CJCA - Cracker Jack Collectors Association, <http://www.crackerjackcollectors.com>, having just joined this last Spring.

My first experience with the Association was their awesome-fun "Sweet Sixteen" convention in Bloomington, Minnesota. The 2012 convention is there this year, the weekend of June 14 thru 16.

(Historical information taken from the Cracker Jack Collectors Association website.)



This is probably one of the largest Cracker Jack prizes. It is vintage hard plastic and 1-1/2 inches long. It is hallmarked with both CRACKER JACK on the tender and KerChoo below the cab window. I hope you can see both markings in the picture at right.

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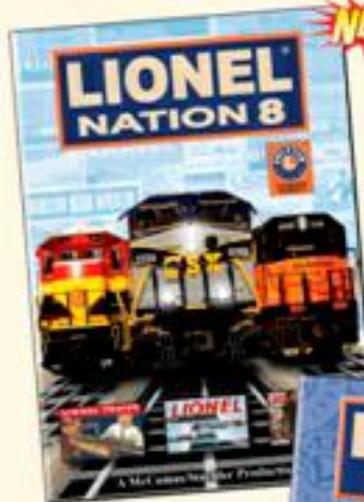
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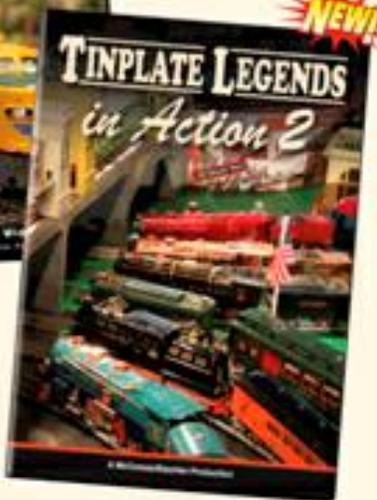
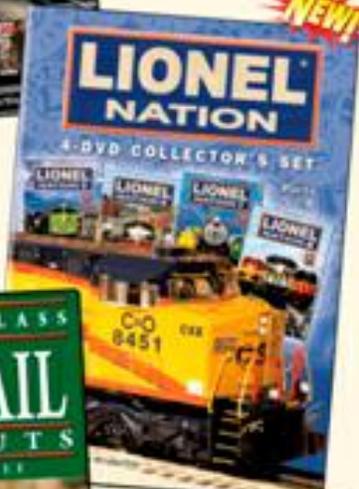
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## The Saving of a Dark Blue Chimney

By Joe Gabuzda, 07-467  
New Castle, DE

A while back, I was fortunate enough to obtain a dark blue ranch house in the box missing the chimney. I got it in a box of other stuff at a bid board auction in Frackville PA. I put out an APB to the PCA to see if anyone would happen to have a dark blue chimney to complete my house. As luck would have it, Joe Kutza said he had one but it was painted red. We agreed on a price and he shipped it.

Now previous to this, a few years ago, I bought a Littletown cottage painted green. I soaked it for 2 months in water and Mr. Clean. The paint came right off and it looks great.

This time I had no Mr Clean so I added a little Pine Sol to the water to soak. Well....that night in bed I was thinking about that chimney (now that's weird I know but you collectors can understand). It dawned on me that pine oil is also in turpentine!!!!!! No friend of plastic. I jumped out of bed and ran down the basement to get the chimney out of

the soak.

All the paint was loose. I thought "wow, that was quick". Well when I rinsed it, the pine oil already started to eat at the plastic. I thought damn, I ruined my "needle in a haystack" purchase.

As I was pondering what to do, I nicked the plastic and found it to be soft. Trouble. I thought "what is in plastic that I can try to restore to it" the answer was OIL!

I thought "what the hey", it's almost ruined now so I may as well try something. I put LaBelle light oil on it and it took away the light soft spots. I soaked a paper towel in the oil and wrapped the chimney in it for a few days. When I unwrapped it the chimney was all dark blue and restored!!!

Who would have ever thought that something like that would restore the plastic and color.



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## Is This a Pre-Production 45973 Sample?

### Not Really

By John Niehaus

Victor Bodek, #11-722 and Fred Ruby, #01-9 have both supplied interesting information regarding what I presumed was a possible pre-production sample of what we know as the 45973 Large Switch Tower. (See a photo of the kit on page 16 of the February 2012 newsletter, Volume 11, Number 2)

Victor wrote, "In answer to part of your question regarding the switch tower I have the following thought: I think the two tan triangle pieces are to be glued under the larger roof sections to give it some type of rigidness in constructing the roof. They look like they have the same slope of the finished roof." Fred's comments substantiate Victor's comments.

Fred wrote, "The two tan triangles are to be glued inside the roof to act as stiffening parts, to help hold the structure in alignment. I built one of these given out at the TCA National in 1999.... I recall there were slots molded into the bottom of

the two long roof sections to hold those triangles, in turn, the triangles helped hold the roof.

They were passed out in plastic bags. No box. It came with a printed page showing assembly instructions, monochromatic only. I recognized it as a Heljan kit, but was amused that it was being distributed by Bachman. When I saw it re-issued a few years ago by Bachman, I was also amused. I think that Atlas was also issuing them for a time.

*(Atlas still offers the kit on their website as #2009004, Trainman Switch Tower and note that it is a Heljan product. They also offer a Trainman Rural Station and Trainman Two Story House that are nearly identical versions of the Plasticville 50th Anniversary buildings of the same name but do require gluing. A review of the Atlas pieces was printed in Volume 7, Number 2 of The Villager. Editor)*

## Rescuing Building Roofs from Electrical Tape Residue

By Salvatore Cerchiaro Jr, 11-691



I recently acquired some Cape Cod houses through the Free Parts Program. These came to me with black residue that seemed to be from each building's pieces being wrapped with black electrical tape. I know they had residue but still pondered how to remove it.

Good old rubbing alcohol, an old toothbrush, and a little elbow grease worked to clean them up. After that, a soak in a solution of a mild detergent such as Murphy's Oil Soap or everyday dish liquid and the pieces look like new.



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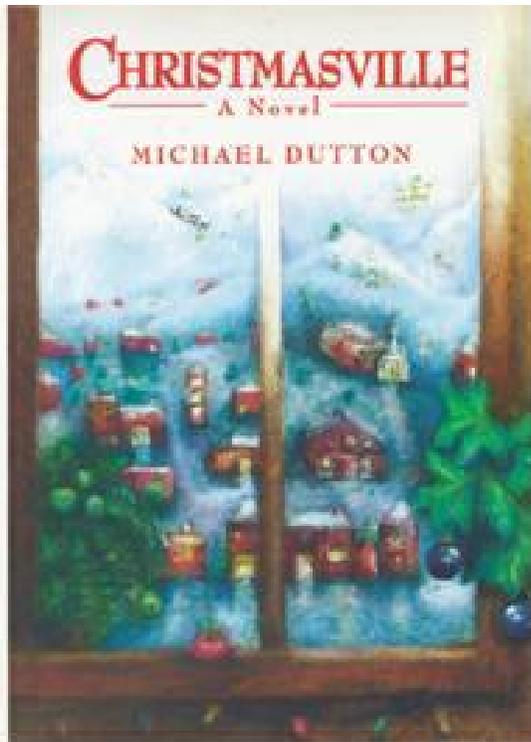
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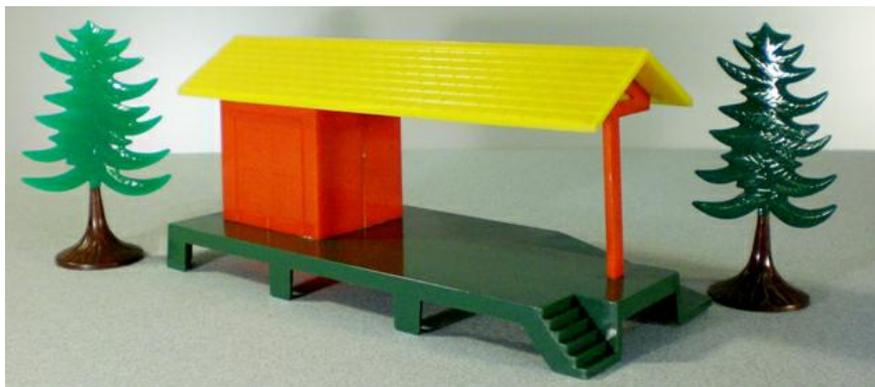


## Another Littletown Freight Station Variation

by Anthony J Rudgers, 02-139

Orlando, FL

Wayne Beachy describes a Littletown Freight Station with a red platform and a red roof and with a green shed in the article, "A Littletown Unconfirmed Variation," in the February, 2011 issue of *The Villager* (Vol. 10, No. 1). Mr. Beachy's station has a smooth



platform surface, without molded-in "planking," and its parts have been glued together ("but glued very well" in Mr. Beachy's words). I note from the picture in *The Villager* that Mr. Beachy's station does not have a chimney, nor is it indicated in his article that there is evidence that the station ever had a chimney.

A little more than a year ago, I bought a similar, but not identical, Littletown Freight Station at a local train show. My station, however, has a medium dark green platform with a smooth top surface. Its roof is bright yellow, and its shed is bright red. The roof-support post opposite the shed is also bright red. My station is made without a chimney.

Just as Mr. Beachy's station is not listed among the variations described in the old Iron Horse Productions reference (*Plasticville, An Illustrated Price Guide*, 1989 edition), my station is not listed there either. Nowhere on my station can I find a "Unlimited Plastics, Inc.," marking, but there is no doubt in my mind that it is a Littletown piece. My station is shown in the photo here.

I have included in this photo the two common green variants of Plasticville No. CT-6 Christmas Trees, the tree at the right rear of the station being dark green, and the tree at its front left corner being (bright) green. The trees in the picture are intended to help one in perceiving the color of the dark-green station base. In non-technical terms, I would say that the green color found in the station base is about as dark as the foliage on the dark-green Plasticville tree, but the shade of the green on the Station base has a somewhat more "grayish-brownish-yellowish" cast to it. That is to say, the dark green of the Plasticville tree is noticeably purer and more vibrant than is the dark green of the station base.

(Village Collectors, who also have toy-train interests and who also can reference the book, *Lionel Trains, Standard of the World, 1900-1943*, Second Edition, by The Lionel Book Committee (published by The Train Collectors Association, 1989), will find, in the supplemental included Color Chart to this book, a color "chip" labeled "medium green." This chip more nearly matches the color of the station base than does the Plasticville tree foliage, except that the station-base color

still has a slightly more yellow, gray, and brown cast to it.)

As with Mr. Beachy's station, my station has been glued together, "but glued very well" by application of just a few neat dabs of clear

adhesive. Unfortunately, however, in gluing the roof on my station, the original "gluer" misaligned the roof above the shed by 3/16 in., so that, while the station looks OK to the eye, the roof-support post leans slightly inward toward the station shed because of the lateral shift of the roof. Moreover, I observe that, when the station was assembled, the roof-support post was put in backwards. The roof-support post has a shallow U-shaped cross-section. The post is installed in my station with the concavity in the "U" facing inward toward the station shed, rather than outward toward the end of the station platform, where the molding detail of the post would be visible when viewing the station..

Recounting all the details regarding our two Littletown stations might appear as a sort of pedestrian exercise, but I think the facts that both Mr. Beachy's station and my station have been found glued together and that both our stations display uncommon color variations, are important in suggesting how these stations and others like them (when and if these come to light) might have originated.

When I examined my station at length and in detail after purchase, I concluded that, in spite of the roof misalignment and the faulty installation of the roof-support post (or, in fact, partially because these assembly flaws are present), the gluing-together of the station parts probably took place in a commercial setting, rather than on some previous owner's workbench.

That is to say, it is my opinion that my station and Mr. Beachy's station were long-ago glued together at the Unlimited Plastics, Inc., factory and that this company must have once produced a number of such assembled (i.e., glued-together) Littletown Freight Stations in various bright colors (and perhaps all of them without protruding chimneys) for sale, in addition to their producing such unassembled station kits as are described in the Iron Horse reference. If this speculation that Unlimited Plastics, Inc., produced assembled structures in addition to their kits proves to be correct, then there are likely new Littletown variations yet to be discovered.

## A Puzzling Little Station - Puzzle Solved

By Joseph Koman, 09-620, Arlington, VA

While I was reading the latest edition of *The Villager* this morning, I came across the article entitled "A Puzzling Little Station." I believe I have solved this puzzle.

This is a HO Life-Like train station. It is currently available as part of a three part kit entitled "Trackside Shanties." The current color scheme can be found on walthers.com. Enter "433-1348" in the search box to view this kit.

Life-Like used to be an independent company based in Baltimore, Maryland. It was bought out by Walthers in 2005.

The pictured trash can and some other accessories do come with this station. The trash can is the same trash can that is included in the HO Life-Like Kentucky Fried Chicken kit.

I am not sure if these buildings are currently available in a Life-Like train set. I bought a Life-Like train set in the late 1970's or early 1980's and these buildings were included in that set in the color scheme Geraldine Scott purchased.

This mini-station could be used next to a train track or as a rural school bus stop elsewhere on a layout.

*(After receiving the above information from Joseph, I felt that it might be interesting to see the differences between Geraldine's station and the current piece in the set referenced by Joseph. A quick call to Walthers and I had the set in my hands.*

*Walthers calls this piece of the set a whistle stop in the*

*instructions that were included with the kit.*

*There are some definite color differences between this kit and Geraldine's station. The yellow on the walls of the current model seem to be a bit brighter. The orange pieces in Geraldine's photos, which are noted as bulletin boards, station signs, and lamps in the current instructions are not quite as vibrant an orange. More on the order of a butterscotch color.*

*The trash can, which is definitely part of the set, is still the same two piece white base with red painted over white top. The top is the only pre-painted piece in the kit.*

*The current kit, and I am presuming the previous kit, came with printed signs reading PIKESVILLE and NOTICE.*

*PIKESVILLE is to be placed on the small horizontal piece immediately below the lights on each side of the station.*

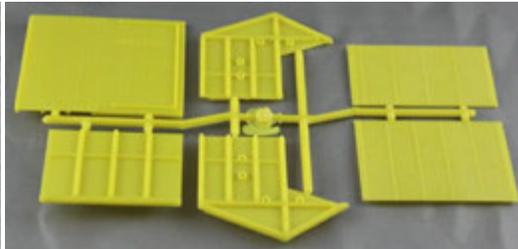
*NOTICE is to be placed at the top of the larger orange piece which is a bulletin board.*

*The set also contains a baggage cart, duffel bags, suitcases in three sizes, a grouping of boxes, a shovel, a sledgehammer, a railroad tie pile, two barrels, an axe, a lumber stack, a firewood pile, and a long and narrow package.*

*I agree with Joseph that adding this piece, with some customization, would make a great school bus stop on any O/S scale layout. Editor)*



The red and white piece in Geraldine's station is a two piece trash can that is still included in the current kit. The red top is the only pre-painted piece in the current kit.



The current model of the whistle stop station is a much brighter yellow than the older version while the orange pieces are more of a butterscotch color.



The current kit contains signs to be cut from the instructions for the two orange signs on both sides of the station.

### **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](mailto:villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org) for more information on how you can become a contributing editor of *The Villager*.

## 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](mailto:secretary@plasticvilleusa.org) listing the pieces you wish  
or send your list to the address on the front page of this newsletter

## AN ALL NEW LIST!

Check Out these New Additions!

BN-1 type barn walls - white - open door side	Hospital - front
Coaling Tower pieces - request by letter on part	Hospital - side and rear walls - specify by wording on wall
Airport Hangar - roofs - blue	Cape Cod - walls - yellow - specify side needed
Suburban Station - roofs - green	Cape Cod - walls - white - specify trim color and side needed
Motel - fronts - specify pink or white and w or w/o doors & windows	Cape Cod - roofs w/reversed L & R on underside - red, green, blue - specify color
Motel - side and rear walls - specify pink or white, w or w/o doors & windows, and side needed	Station Platform - roofs
Motel - roofs - specify pink or white	Station platform - platforms - specify light or dark brown
Motel - front walks - specify pink or white	Bridge & Pond - specify light, medium, or dark green
Small Gas Station - front walls - no paper insert	School House - front walls - red - white lettering
Small Super Market - front walls - no paper inserts	School House - side and rear walls
Small Super Market or Small Gas Station - side & rear walls - specify side needed	School House - roofs - light gray - note that the color is not consistent from one piece to the next
Small Super Market or Small Gas Station - roofs - red	School House - cupolas - white
Hospital - front steps	Marx - Fire House roof

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 anyone given any thought to a lifetime membership fee, especially for the original charter members? Roger Petrella (*The suggestion had been brought up previously but was not acted upon as the Executive Committee felt that the Association needed to be a bit more established before making lifetime memberships an option. This option is now under consideration. Editor*)

GREAT NEWSLETTER!! Bob Drake

I did not have any problem downloading "The Villager" this time. Thanks for your guidance with the last issue. Larry Fachler

John, thanks for the help. I am now able to get into PCA. I am not a big time collector, but do enjoy collecting Plasticville. I have about 100 pieces, most with original boxes. Your web site is a great place to explore the world of Plasticville. Leonard Wendorf (*This was in response to my assisting Larry in accessing the Members section of the website. If you have access issues please let me know so that you can enjoy the full value of your membership. Editor*)

... with the newsletter. It is always interesting and informative. Victor Koenig

... Bob & I went into Jay Higgins' store, Amherst Depot, here in Englewood, FL. The building used to be owned many years ago by my husband's dad. It's in our Englewood historic area -- and a very nice train store. Jay collects Plasticville, trains, etc. We had a nice visit - and chatted a bit.

Jay is really interested in Plasticville and hoped that he would see more in depth info on particular Plasticville sets/buildings (w/colors made, boxes, accessories in particular, years made, etc.).

He has the Plasticville books -- but was hoping to see more detailed info on all the different sets and years made -w/colors, pieces, etc. I told him I would voice his interests on to you. (*As editor of The Villager I am constantly looking for new Associate Editors. I would gladly accept the offerings of any member who would like to write articles on specific pieces such as the large sets, accessory variations, or other manufacturers such as Marx. Editor*)

He showed me a neat item he recently acquired -maybe on ebay- don't remember where he said he acquired it. It is a mint, original carton of 12 Boxes of the 1600 Church. All 12 boxes are red/white/yellow - and are complete ----- only problem is the original cardboard window inserts disintegrated over the years. The big cardboard shipping box is hallmarked "Bachmann Bros. Inc. - 1400 E Erie Ave., Philadelphia, PA. ----- and the box was originally shipped to a: V. Levinsohn, 333 Starr St., Brooklyn, N.Y. Very neat original box with the 12 original Church sets in it. (*Items such as that are rare and*

*need photographic preservation. It is my hope that we can obtain a photo of the item from Jay. Editor*) Geraldine Scott

Has anyone ever suggested making available reproduction boxes? Has the association ever thought of reproducing the boxes. Or even just the tops? We could start with some of the most difficult to find. Salvatore Cerchiaro (*A great idea and one that could possibly be investigated further. We would first need an idea as to what box to reproduce. Members, here's your chance to suggest a box to be investigated. We will then need someone with a box manufacturing background to assist in investigating the cost to reproduce the box. Let's see if we get any suggestions on what box to reproduce. Editor*)

Has anyone tried to create an O scale item from an HO piece? Such as the Theatre or Freight Station which were never available in O Scale ? Salvatore Cerchiaro

I would like to have Bachmann make an annual product for our members only. Something is better than nothing. I appreciate the PCA anniversary products but they have come every 5 years. Thanks for your time. Dennis Bartley (*Bachmann's general production run of any Plasticville item is generally over 500 pieces. The 5th and 10th Anniversary pieces were both very limited runs of 360 and 240, respectively. During my recent visit at Bachmann, it was stated that they ran these very limited numbers as a courtesy to the Plasticville Collectors Association and that pieces other than anniversary pieces would have to be ordered in quantities closer to their normal production runs. Editor*)

Dennis Bartley's (06-397) suggestion to ask Bachmann to produce a yearly "special color structure" for members is a GREAT idea! Since I collect HO, O, and N Plasticville, it could be a structure of any size.

My dream would be for Bachmann to offer a new color variation for my favorite Plasticville structure: the O Ranch House; particularly, since this item is not currently available in any color.

I recall reading in a previous newsletter that Bachmann can produce only currently available items. A HO ranch house in a new color variation would look great too. However, if Bachmann agreed to do this, I would definitely purchase whatever item they produced. Please ADD me to your "yes" list. Joseph Koman (*I recently received a list from Bachmann of all the molds still in their inventory. If the O/S Ranch House molds are still available maybe we can persuade Bachmann to reintroduce the building to the general public in a new color combination. Barring that possibility, maybe they will consider it for our 15th or 20th Anniversary piece. Editor*)

I cannot wait to read if anyone can help with the German trees on the cover. I never saw them before but like them! Joseph Koman

## What Members Are Saying (contd.)

... since the PCA is getting bigger as the years go by, why hasn't PCA developed its own show featuring PCA member items and open to its members...it may be a source to obtain needed cash. Every time I open up *The Villager* it seems that everyone is running to YORK just to find some prize Plasticville piece. NOT ALL ARE TCA MEMBERS... I know if pca had shows in various sections of the country it would spread the word. If one was to be held in Syracuse, NY, by President Jim Dawes, I would attend. This would be a central location in this state. I am in trains for 31 years and remanufacture thousands of parts - I have some Plasticville,

but not a lot of it. Train shows seem to fall in the dead of winter when there are snowstorms or weather is below 14 degrees below zero.

I would like to see something like this (a show of Plasticville - kits, parts, other manufacturers). I don't know if trains should be combined...Chris Rossbach *(It would be great to have shows/meets sponsored by the PCA in various parts of the country. One of the issues we have, though, is that we are a relatively small Association at somewhere over 400 members. It is my feeling that if a member were to wish to conduct a PCA sponsored meet that the Executive Committee would more than likely be receptive to the idea. Editor)*



*Restoration Train Parts*

135 RICHWOOD DRIVE, GLOVERSVILLE, N.Y. 12078 (518) 725-4446

LIONEL - STANDARD AND "O"  
 IVES - STANDARD AND "O"  
 AMERICAN FLYER - BUDDY "L"

**NEW!**

STAMPINGS  
 CASTINGS  
 CUSTOM WORK

NEED PARTS FOR PRE AND POSTWAR  
 LIONEL, AMERICAN FLYER, IVES, DORFAN, MARX, A.M.T., NOMA STATION?  
**HUGE 1-1/2 INCH THICK PARTS CATALOG**  
 OVER 20,000 INDIVIDUAL PARTS. PLUS PAPER CATALOG INFORMATION  
 ITEMS STOCKED:  
 TRUCKS - PILOT, TRAILING, FREIGHT, AND PASSENGER, PARTS  
 WHEELS, GEARS, FIGURES, ROOFS, SCREWS, STEAM CHESTS, BULBS,  
 FRAMES, BODIES, CONTROLLERS, BELLS, DECALS, PLATES

---

**YES, I WOULD LIKE TO ORDER THIS PARTS CATALOG AT \$25.00 POSTPAID**

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

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

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form with your payment. You can copy it so as not to harm your newsletter.

## Welcome New Members

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

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

## 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 July 1, 2012.

Leonard A Wendorf, Lyndhurst, OH  
Pete Busby, Dauphin, PA  
Ron A Maidment, Colorado Springs, CO  
Douglas J Puz, Redford, MI  
Francis M Glowatski, Hazleton, PA  
Suzi I Green, Redlands, CA  
Howard I Green, Redlands, CA  
Dave B Hammack, Bartlett, IL  
John W Barnish, Hartland, WI  
Robert S McGrail-Peasley, Bellefonte, PA  
Patricia A Mills, Hellerton, PA  
Joe F Donato, Saint Cloud, FL  
David L Sammet, Evansville, IN  
William K Parsons, Great Falls, VA  
William J Scally, Pasadena, MD  
Dennis DeVito, Algonquin, IL  
Al A Kolis, Howell, MI  
Frederick W Heller, Ann Arbor, MI  
Larry D Myers, Muskogee, OK

## 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 20 cents per additional sheet over three.

#### **PCA T-shirt**

Navy blue 100% cotton, short sleeve shirt T-shirt with the PCA logo printed on the front in white. Sizes available are Small, Medium, Large, X-Large, XX-Large, and XXX-Large. The prices are \$18 for small through X-Large, \$19 for XX-Large and \$20 for XXX-Large, shipping included, for each shirt. Please order the next larger size if you are concerned with fit. An order form is available on the PCA website, or request a form from the Secretary at the address listed above.

#### **PCA ballpoint pen**

PCA dark blue barrel with black soft grip, black ink ballpoint pen with gold accents. The pen is imprinted in gold tone with three lines:

PLASTICVILLE COLLECTORS ASSN  
HTTP://WWW.PLASTICVILLEUSA.ORG  
FOUNDED 1999 - \$4.00, postpaid.

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

White ceramic 11 oz. ceramic mug. PCA blue or black logo. \$9.95 or two for \$13.95, postpaid. Please specify your color choice when ordering. Only 24 pieces of black logo mugs were produced.

#### **Additional items with the PCA logo**

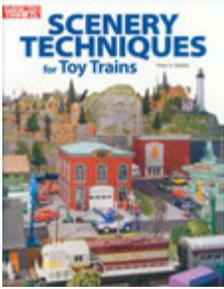
Do you have an idea for an item? Contact John Niehaus at secretary@plasticvilleusa.org or mail your suggestions to him at the address noted above.

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.

1950's Plasticville Construction Company Ford F100 pickup truck is in progress

## Product Reviews



**Scenery Techniques for Toy Trains**, Peter H Riddle, published by Kalmbach Books, 78 pages, softcover, 8 1/4 X 10 3/4 format, \$17.95. Full color enumerated photos throughout.

There are numerous toy train scenery books but this one is unique. The board for the layout illustrated throughout this book is not wood but pink rigid foam insulation boards, two inches thick.

The author makes a good case for using this four inch thick layout table by stating that the best benefit is that it deadens the sound of the trains better than a wooden board as well as making it easier to create below track level features. He also suggests using foam core illustration boards for creating inexpensive buildings, streets, and sidewalks.

The first two chapters make the case for using a light framework and insulation boards for the layout table as well as the basics of attaching the basic foam to the table and adding foam to risers for a multi-level layout.

Houses, creating sidewalks, and access hatches in areas not reached from the top side of the layout are the subject of another chapter. There is also a chapter on creating below-grade features. These chapters detail how to create sidewalks from gray illustration board as well as black illustration board

driveways and streets. There is a section detailing how to create a basement and then place a house moving crew, a house, and house mover's truck in the scene. With the insulation boards as a tabletop it is quite easy to sink the basement into the board.

There are seventeen pages on how to make city scenes more realistic. The author illustrates how to shim up black illustration board to raise a roadway to near the height of the bases on many built up structures. He also shows how to sink a large based street lamp and then place a sidewalk around it for a more realistic look.

The last chapter extols the virtue of creating a centerpiece that those viewing it will remember long after they have left the train room. A drive-in theater is the centerpiece of the layout built in this book.

This is an interesting book that is an easy two or three evening read. There are many tips throughout that make this book worth its price.

**Scenery Techniques for Toy Trains** can be purchased from Kalmbach Books via their website at <http://www.kalmbachstore.com> or by telephone order at 800 533-6644. If ordering on line; type Scenery Techniques in the Search field and click Go. It is currently on sale on their website for \$17.95, plus shipping. It is also available on Amazon and Barnes & Noble's websites.



**Track Whacker**, precision fixtures for cutting O, O-27, S, and Gargaves track. \$12.95 for the O/O-27/Gargaves track. \$11.95 for the S gauge track fixture. Jim Lyle's Toy Trains.

I had the pleasure of taking the O/O-27 fixture for a test run. The fixture is 11 3/4 inches long by 4 1/4 wide by

11/16 thick. The thickness is made up of 11 laminated layers. It is hardwood laminate to my untrained eye. Three routed grooves run the length of the piece. A groove to accept a cutting device is perpendicular to the routed grooves and at the midpoint of the long dimension. Four pieces of 1 inch by 2 1/4 inch marble or simulated marble flank the sides of the saw groove to act as saw guides.

A sheet of instructions was included with the fixture. First on the sheet was an admonition to wear eye protection and gloves when using the jig. I totally agree and understand why this admonition is in the largest typeface on the sheet.

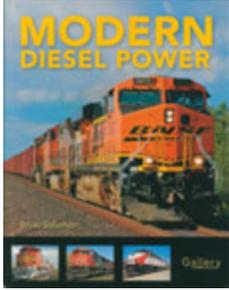
The instructions also suggest screwing the jig to a solid surface, such as a workbench, or clamp it in some manner. I used a couple of C-clamps to hold it to my workbench but found it easier to clamp it in my bench vise.

The instructions state to use a fine tooth hacksaw or hobby saw as the cutting instrument. My preference after a few experiments was to use a hacksaw. I received an email from Jim shortly after the fixture arrived suggesting that I use a 24 tooth hacksaw blade. I did as suggested and was satisfied with the cut but when I upped the tooth count to 32, the cut was perceptibly smoother and with almost no burr. There was a slight burr when I used the 24 tooth blade.

I made a cut on a full piece of track at midpoint between two ties. The jig held the rails as I would have expected and the cut was neat and clean. I then slid the track forward about 1 inch and made another cut, simulating a trim as if I had not measure correctly and cut the piece an inch too long. This cut, of course, did not have the benefit of a tie holding both ends of the rails. I was thoroughly please with how well the rails stayed stationary in the jig during this cut. The rails were squarely cut in both planes.

Where has this tool been hiding? It is surprising to me that after all the years of tubular track layouts and cutting pieces to fit that we only now have a relatively inexpensive tool for cutting the track. This jig should be in the toolbox of every tubular track modeler.

**Track Whacker** can be purchased directly from Jim Lyle's Toy Trains, P O Box 99, Dept P, GAP, PA 17527-0099. You can Jim at 717 278-6007 or email him at [WJJIM@AOL.COM](mailto:WJJIM@AOL.COM).



**Modern Diesel Power**, 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, and Railroad Rolling Stock. Two other books in the series

are the previously reviewed Vintage Diesel Power and Caboose.

As with the Caboose book in the series this volume contains four chapters. The first two chapters of this book are dedicated to General Electric and Electro-Motive Division engines, respectively. The subject of the third chapter is passenger locomotives while the last chapter describes is dedicated to switch engines. The first two chapters include more than two pages of a brief history of GE's and EMD's roles in manufacturing modern diesel engines. The two remaining chapters have a bit more than a page each describing the major players in the manufacturing of passenger and switching motive power. There is also a bibliography and index.

The bibliography contains references to books, periodicals, and other documents used in producing the book as well as websites of seven manufacturers. I randomly reviewed two of the listed sites and was surprised to learn that one, Brookville, also restored at least one of the streetcars in use by the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency while another, R. J. Corman, of Nicholasville, Kentucky offers 2 1/2 hour lunch or dinner train excursion most Saturdays and occasionally on

weekdays.

All photos in the book are of excellent quality and in full color. Each is captioned and includes the model of the engine as well as historically significant facts. In some instances the facts are related, not only to the engine, but also about the owning railroad. The majority of the photos are by the author but in all cases the photographer is noted.

The chapters related to the General Electric and the Electro-Motive units take up 64 and 58 pages, respectively. This can be expected due to their dominance in the motive power industry. The Passenger chapter covers 34 pages while the switchers have 14 pages of photos.

This book is chock full of very interesting and little-known facts such as how many engines of a certain model were purchased by a specific railroad, or who purchased the basic model as opposed to the safety enhanced version. As with the previous books in this series, I enjoyed reading it but am torn between whether I enjoyed more the captions for their trivia or the fantastic photos. I can pretty much guarantee that if you buy it and remember the little-known facts you will be able to impress everyone except maybe the most diehard railfan.

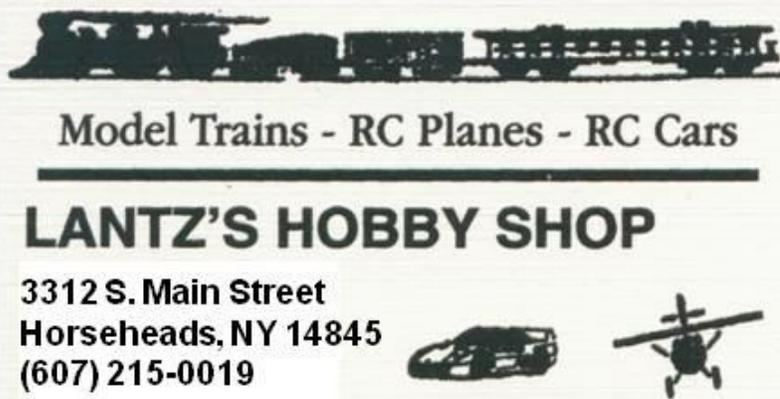
**Modern Diesel Power** can be purchased directly from Voyageur press on their website at [voyageurpress.com](http://voyageurpress.com) or by telephone order at 800 458-0454. It was on sale for \$14.99 at the time this review was written on the web page <http://www.qbookshop.com/products/149608/9780760337950/Vintage-Diesel-Power.html>.

In addition to ordering it directly the web page also has hyperlinks to purchase the book directly from four online retailers as well as nine hyperlinks to purchase an eBook for nine different eBook readers.

**Don't forget to mention you saw the review of their product in the newsletter of the Plasticville Collectors Association when placing an order.**

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**The Archives of Advertising**, a series of CDs containing advertising for Lionel (illustrated) and the following railroads: Santa Fe, Pennsylvania, New York Central, and Union Pacific.

There are certain facets common to all five CDs. It is suggested that they all be viewed at 800 X 600. I found them to be excellently displayed on my notebook set at 1440 X 900 and my home monitor at 1920 X 1200. They also include a Help hyperlink as well as an “About this Series” link listing additional advertising CDs in the series. They also all include a Checklist hyperlink which is a hyperlink listing of all ads on the CD in year order.

The Lionel archive includes the years 1946 through 1959. There are links to 21 different advertisers, the three major locomotive types; steam, diesel, and electric, and 37 different Lionel locomotive numbers comprising over 140 ads.

There are over 95 ads from 1940 through 1956 on the New York Central CD. It contains direct links to six different locomotive types and four named trains, including the 20th Century Limited and the Empire State Express.

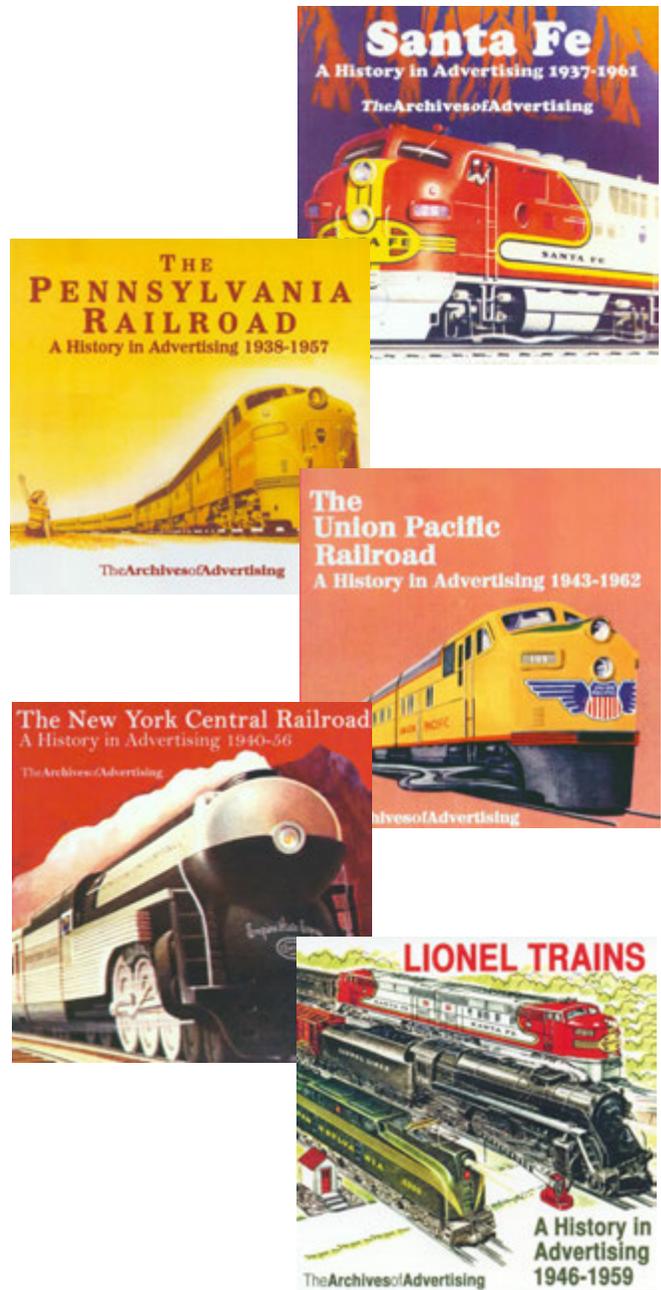
The hyperlinks links on the Pennsylvania CD navigate one to over 85 ads for the years 1938 through 1957. There are hyperlinks for nine locomotive types and seven named trains including the Broadway Limited.

Santa Fe’s 125 ads from 1937 through 1961 contains five locomotive manufacturer hyperlinks as well as four named trains.

The Union Pacific CD contains ads for the railroad only from 1943 through 1962. Yet it contains more ads than most all the others except for the Santa Fe archive.

It is quite evident that the content on these CDs are scans of actual ads. They are scanned at a high enough quality that I found that I could easily blow them up and print them on 8 1/2 X 11 paper. This would make them ideal for printing and displaying in a train room. I may even attempt to print them on a large format plotter.

**The Archives of Advertising** CDs are priced at \$19.95 each. They can be purchased directly from the The Archives of Advertising website at [www.archivesofadvertising.com](http://www.archivesofadvertising.com). Be sure to check out their seven other categories of advertising CDs.



- 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

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)

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)

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.

### 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 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)

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.

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)

Box for House Under Construction, No. 1624-100. Very good condition, all tabs and flaps present. No tears or holes, very square and crisp. Color and graphics excellent. One minor tape damage spot. Some minor glue and tape to restore. Great for display. \$6.00 firm. #01-55 Jim Steed, 123 Moon Shadow View, Blairsville, GA 30512. Phone 706-745-0629, gayleandjimsted@gmail.com (Feb 13)

Small collection and accumulation of Plasticville for sale. Prefer to sell as a lot rather than piece by piece. Send for list or request list by email at factlf@verizon.net. #02-87, Lawrence Fachler, 6 Bosko Dr, East Brunswick, NJ 08816-4542 (Feb 13)

### 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.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:tgfritsch.1@juno.com) (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](mailto: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, buildings from K-Line train sets. #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 (Nov12)

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 Jill ...their 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](mailto: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](mailto: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)

Charcoal cupola roof for 1806 Roadside Stand, #08-509, Neil Holcomb, 6408 Shamel Dr, Indianapolis, IN 46278. 317-872-0575. Please contact me at [wnholcomb@comcast.net](mailto:wnholcomb@comcast.net) (Feb 13)

Set of shrubbery for the Marx School House. Marx preferred, but K-Line OK. Cap for the Marx School House in light gray. #99-01, Joe Kutza, 13301 Pepper CT, Germantown, MD 20874 Phone 301 528-6679 (Feb 13)

Antenna for TV Station, side porch (right side) for the 2 Story House, pavement for pink Motel w/white roof, roof for Hospital, weathervane and top crown for Plasticville Town Hall, very top piece for factory water tower. #12-745, John Barnish, 1117 Marquette Rd, Hartland, WI 53029 Phone 262 367-3788 (Feb 13)

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