



The Villager

The Official Newsletter of the Plasticville Collectors Association

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A Visit With Lee Riley



As reported in the May issue of The Villager, Joe Kutza, and Christine and John Niehaus had an opportunity to visit with Lee Riley, Vice President of Product Development for Bachmann Industries in April of this year. The below is the first part of a serialization of that visit. Editor

There have been several programs that I have done over the years. Did one on PBS which was on All Things Considered twelve years ago and went live all over the country. All over the world actually. And I have done several others. Did one in Hong Kong for the BBC which went International on short wave and everything, around the world, so it's kinda neat. Heard from somebody in Zimbabwe

But I have been around model railroading and trains, prototype all my life and the hold narrow gauge hall of fame. In 2004 I was inducted onto the MFGRS hall of fame which is also AC Gilbert, Lionel Cowen, Herb Athearn, Clarence Menteer. The only way you can get into this is not just because he was head of Lionel but because he created not just product but innovative marketing ways and so on and so forth and the growth of model railroading with patents and so on and so forth

I own or have had numerous patents over the years that have now expired. I hold the NMRA Pioneer award. Very, very few people have been awarded that. Not even A. C. Gilbert or Lionel Cowen have that. These are people in model railroading that have done things over the years not just in scale but in all. It is voted by your peers in industry. It did it for introducing ON30 and the first economical way to make track roadbed with Easy-Track. Other people have done roadbed track for a hundred years but no one has done it economically to a point where you could produce it at

seventeen seconds and have it come out of a one piece mold, an open and shut mold. It's gotta to be sub-assembled and very cost prohibitive.

The Plasticville line. I grew up with it. I used to buy it at Woolworth's. We had it on the layouts in the very beginning. I have been here 26 years. And when George Hagerty was living and different people here at Bachmann who were here in the very beginning, I literally worked with them day by day. They're dead now. There was an article that was in Classic Toy Trains. I was the one that set up the interviews and got everybody together to do that.

I've got some stuff in the car that I've had in my collection. I doubt anybody has ever seen these. I've been collecting Plasticville since the day it came out. And by the way; I want to correct one thing when Bachmann was producing plastics, Bachmann Plastics, and right in this building right here right across the way where my office is was where the drafting room was. It was still there.

I used to work for General Hobby Corp which was over on Tioga St and being in the industry a lot of the companies would work together. If Bachmann needed track for train sets to get a hot order out or you were doing train sets and you were running short and you couldn't get your production up. What you did was you picked up the phone and you called one of the people in the industry and said, "Hey Charlie, I need... Hey Clarence, Steve up at Atlas "I need 40,000 pieces of curves and 20,000 pieces of straights, and I need connectors, and I need them next week. Cause I gotta meet a contract next week with JC Penney. Can you help me out. "Sure we'll put molds on a machine and run a second shift". Kachunk, kachunk, kachunk. Truck comes down next week and here it is. You know, that's how it worked. Everybody still does that today.

See RILEY - page 25

The Villager

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From the President's Desk



Hello from Syracuse, NY. It has been very hot and steamy in Plasticville Town (AKA Syracuse, NY). It has been ninety-four to ninety-six degrees every day for quite some time now. We are so thankful for air conditioning.

I have not had much time to look for Plasticville. I have checked out a few yard sales but found nothing.

Partly because I have been putting in new steps and sidewalks at my house, in addition to going back to work at

Sears on a part time basis on July 1st.

I will be setting up at meets in upstate New York and other areas in the Northeast this summer. Hopefully, I will see you at one of the meets. Send an email to me at president@plasticvilleusa.org and I will reply to you with a schedule of the shows where I will be set up this summer.

Enjoy your summer and stay cool.

Your President, Jim Dawes

President Dawes had been off work for quite some time due to a health issue. It is heartening to know that he is back at work, even on a part time basis. Editor

Vice President's Musings



My family and I attended the TCA convention this year in Atlanta. As usual there was a fair amount of Plasticville from several dealers (members) but no Marx buildings. I did pick up a few nuggets and parts but not much else in Plasticville. There was also a few Littletown pieces but pricey.

Also, as I said in the last Villager, I lived and worked in Atlanta for 20 years so we did get to catch up and have dinner with my old friends one evening.

If other PCA members attended please 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 rare piece showed up and I missed it and one of our members snagged it!

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.

Yet another summer has arrived in the Valley of the Sun. It has begun to be quite toasty already as we have had a few 100's plus 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. 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*. In this issue is the pictures of the wonderful 1949 Plasticville standup store ad I received from my son this year for a combination Birthday/Father's day gift.

On another subject; which is that of On-line (e-mail) delivery of *The Villager*. I continue to promote the delivery of *The Villager* to our members via e-mail in place of 'snail mail' 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 it is as we are always looking for material. If you have not done so then 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

Notes From the Editor



It is difficult to believe that Summer is already here. Well, maybe not with the record setting temperatures in Des Moines, Iowa the last weeks of June and the first week of July. If I am not mistaken, Des Moines and its environs broke the record for high temperatures at least three times during that time.

With temperatures 95 and higher my Nash and Mustang have not seen pavement the majority of this classic car season. Both have 4-60 air conditioning only. That is, four windows down and drive at sixty MPH.

I received a nice letter from a new member who is a K-Line collector. He offered to share his knowledge of K-Line buildings with the membership starting in the November newsletter. Look for the new column, *The Other Line - K-Line*, beginning in the November newsletter by our new contributing editor, Ken Honick.

We now have a K-Line contributing editor but who's going to write columns on Marx, Littletown, Beemak, and some of the other smaller manufacturers?

We had a nice series, compliments to Geraldine Scott and a few others, on the Commonwealth Plastics' lamp posts but I know there are more of these smaller manufacturers to

research and write about. Your articles need not be lengthy or Pulitzer Prize quality. Just put down your thoughts and we will work together to make a great article.

The November newsletter is already in the planning stages and I would like to publish photos of our 10th anniversary barn on layouts. Maybe both the barn and the 5th anniversary house together. Send me pictures of your layouts even if you don't have the house and barn. I will do my best, space permitting, to publish all or some of your photos in the November newsletter.

Do any of you have a *My Dolly's House* neighborhood on your layout? Send me a photo or two as I feel those ranch houses are very much compatible with at least the larger Plasticville buildings. I will print them in a future newsletter also as space permits.

Speaking of "as space permits". You may have noticed that *The Villager* is generally thirty-two pages in size or a page count evenly divisible by four (4). This is necessary due to the printing and binding format. The newsletter is printed on seventeen wide by eleven high paper then folded and what is called "saddle" stapled. Thus the need for the evenly divisible by four page count. This is the same format utilized by the TCA's magazine, the *TCA Quarterly*.

Please be aware that the classified ad form now contains criteria for submitting ads. The criteria requires all For Sale and Wanted ads be plastic village related. A For Trade ad may include non-plastic village items as long as one side of the trade is plastic village related. This was decided by the Executive Committee as it was felt that the PCA needed to

maintain its focus as a plastic village orientated association and not another toy train association. Please be sure to read the criteria before submitting your next classified ad to prevent publication delays.

I frequently receive suggestions from a member to publish an article they read in another publication. Because the article has been published in another publication it is automatically copyrighted. Permission must be obtained from the publisher before the article can be printed in *The Villager*. Sometimes obtaining that permission is difficult or comes with strings attached. A recent request for permission to publish a very nice article on Plasticville was approved as long as the publisher was paid a fee. In another instance I could not determine, after two months of effort, how to make contact with the publisher. That article was one that would have been of interest to us as it was related to the plastic autos that were included as premiums in breakfast cereal boxes. So do not be offended if I do not publish an article you suggest or even a page or part of a page from another magazine or a book. I probably could not get permission to use it.

And just when I thought it was safe to wrap up this column: I received a Large Flat Rate box chock full of Plasticville! This donation even included some boxes although they are in very sad shape. Check out the new additions to the Free Parts list on page 23!

That's it for now. If you have suggestions, comments, or wish to become a contributing editor of *The Villager* please contact me at villagereditor@netins.net.

July 2012 Executive Committee Minutes

The July, 2012 Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM, Eastern time, on July 5 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

Tabled

Additional Commonwealth Plastics photos for Other Manufacturers section of website

Tabled

Register.com banner on new plasticville.org website

Tabled

Advertising in O Gauge Rail-Roading magazine

Secretary Niehaus reported that there has been a satisfactory response to requests for information due to the ad in the magazine.

He indicated that he will pursue additional advertising exchanges for the 2013 advertising year.

Securing photos on the website

Tabled

Lifetime memberships

Secretary Niehaus reported that he has not had the time to investigate how other organizations set up lifetime memberships.

Plasticville Construction Company pickup truck

Secretary Niehaus reported that he has not, at his point in time, ordered the trucks nor found a suitable vehicle in 1:64 scale for the members who model in S .

Free Parts program

Secretary Niehaus reported that the Free Parts program, due to the influx of many parts, has kept him busy and hopefully helped members complete or repair their pieces.

New Business:

Revisions to the classified ad forms and the related note preceding the classified section of the newsletter

A motion was made and unanimously approved to add the text to all classified ad forms as well as to the Notes of the Classified Ads section of *The Villager* to read, "Ads in the For Sale or Wanted categories must be plastic village related. Items other than plastic village pieces such as trains or non-plastic accessories are not allowed.

Ads in the For Trade category may contain toy trains or

other items, providing plastic village pieces are being traded or sought as one side of the trade. (Plasticville for trains or Department 56 for Plasticville.)

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM, Eastern Time

Respectfully submitted; John L Niehaus
Secretary/Treasurer

Approved by the Executive Committee, July 7, 2012

The Doomed Lionel 1950 Anniversary Set

**by Ken Honick #10-628
Buena-Vista, PA**

In 1950 Lionel trains celebrated their 50th year in business. They came out with two Union Pacific Yellow & Gray Diesel sets, a freight set and a passenger set, both very nice.

Well my older brother, Joe, right before Christmas passed by the local hobby shop in McKeesport, PA. Something caught his eye. He was about 9 or 10 at the time. It was the Lionel 1950 Anniversary freight set. He fell in love with it. It was as many boys do who are train lovers as many are still to this day. He got the love for Lionel trains from my step grandfather who set up the very nice platform under the Christmas tree every year for us to enjoy.

My dear grandmother Nancy would walk all my bothers and sisters to town 2 or 3 times a week. My brother Joe made sure they walked past the hobby store up and down to and from town making sure grandma stopped to see the 1950 Anniversary set in the window. He told her "grandma I love that freight set I just got to have it". She said "If you are a good boy and ask dear old Santa you never know? " Well my parents had other mouths to feed at that time and the price of that train set was out of the question.

My dad who was a steel worker worked very hard to put bread on the table. My mother cooked and baked to stretch a buck. My grandmother being the great lady that she was saw the love in my brother's eyes. She had to pick one grandchild to do something special for, not that she did not share her love for all of them. She decided to take on a Christmas miracle. She was going to get that train set for her little Joey so she took on jobs from other people like sewing, ironing, baking whatever to try and raise that grand total of \$90 or \$80 dollars that the train set cost which was a lot of money in 1950. Somehow someway my dear grandmother with the help of my dear mother raised the money to buy that train set that Santa was to bring that Christmas.

Christmas finally came, well when it was my bother's turn to open his gifts that Santa brought that Christmas Eve, to his amazement he got his wish. Santa by some miracle brought his 1950 Union Pacific freight set. He was so happy that he almost burst with happiness, he went nuts. He put up the train set with my other brother Teddy and played with it to no end.

Well as we know boys grow into men he still loved the train set but cars and girls started to catch a young mans eye. One day Uncle Sam sent my brother, a young adult now, a special letter he was drafted into the U.S. Army. He served his 2 years in Germany like a good soldier. Came home in 1960. Fell in love with his wife to be and got married, He got a job driving bus for the big bus company in the Pittsburgh area. After a couple years he put money down on a house nearby my parents home in which I still live to this day.

He gave the 1950 Lionel train set to my other bother and me. We loved that train set; we set it up on a platform in the basement. Being the baby brother I could not wait until the Christmas season came. I loved running it with the assistance of my older bother. We would run the train set for hours and hours. That double diesel with those great freight cars and that red caboose. We set it up different every year. We made most of our buildings and water tower out of canned milk cans, tunnels out of paper Mache. That train had a diesel horn that was great.

If you are wondering why we built our own buildings, there was no extra money in those days. We had a few Plasticville buildings, it was tough to get your hands on money to buy those things. Mom and Gram did the best they could, I mean it was a big deal when we were kids to get your hands on stuff like that. Kids today have it made compared to growing up in the 50s and 60s.

After a couple years, he, my bother found out he was going to be a dad, so he showed up here at home and asked for his train set. My other brother said "What! You gave the train set up, you want it back? No my older brother said I loaned it to you". In protest we gave it back to my brother and said to him as he walked out the door 'Indian Giver'. We were both very upset.

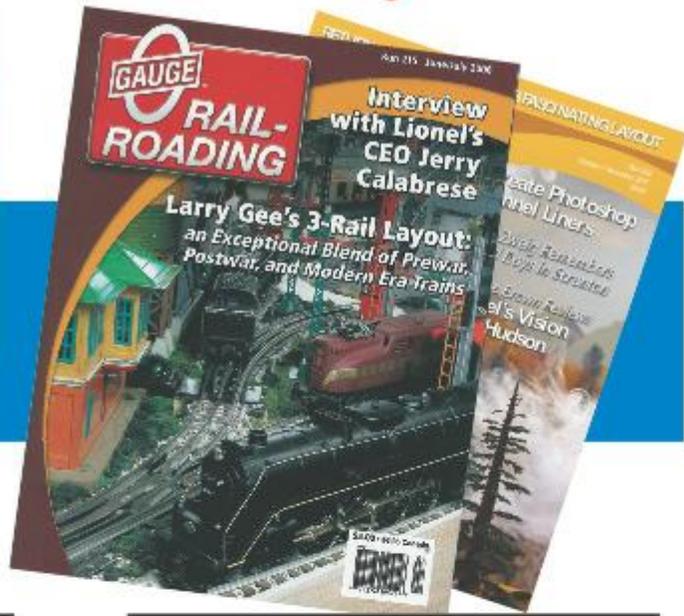
When he got to his house he called and said to my mother where is the engine? The engine was taken to the electric shop at the mill where my dad and adopted uncle both worked. It was in the electric shop to redo the brushes and armature.

When it came back home we had it and my other brother said lets hold onto it for awhile. As my brother's life went on day by day, he and his wife started not to see eye to eye. The happy couple turned into an un-happy couple. I know the story is long, but is very sad, as the heat turned up in the unhappy marriage, my brother was driving bus all over the Pittsburgh area.

One day his wife took on garbage day one of the nicest Lionel anniversary train sets ever made, minus the engine. He, my brother went nuts about the train set being thrown away. When the marriage ended the train set my grandmother worked so hard to get for her grandson was gone, except the engine that my other brother held onto. He still has it to this day. My brother Joey did not tell us for a long time but when we found out he was sick to his stomach. Well that is the story of the doomed 1950 Lionel Train set. I still wonder to this day if that train set is still out there somewhere.

Although this is not a story of melted down or "in the trash can" Plasticville pieces it was decided to print this story as an introduction to Ken's articles on K-Line buildings to be published in future editions of The Villager. Editor

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A Rare Find

CU-6 Christmas Platform Unit

By John Niehaus
Photos by Peter Slowick

One of the pieces brought to the Friday luncheon at Spring York was brought by Peter Slowick the brother of PCA member Paul Slowick. Peter brought the item in the hope that someone could tell him what it was and its approximate age. As I was unfamiliar with the piece and those at the luncheon all tended towards the piece being a dealer display. I asked Peter to send me some photos so that I could research the item.



Pictured is a rare CU-6 Christmas Platform Unit only offered in the 1950 Plasticville catalog at the price of \$2.50.

My 1950 Plasticville catalog illustrates this piece as a CU-6 Christmas Platform Unit on page six. A similar unit with the same name but with a CC-7 Church instead of the Log Cabin is illustrated on the same page.

The text regarding the unit in that catalog reads, "Size 13" X 20". 1 to shipping carton. Window and counter display



The base of the CU-6 unit notes in small text where each piece included in the set is to be placed.

to help sell more of numbers shown, Weight 34 ounces per unit RETAIL \$2.50" This makes me tend to believe that the CU-6 unit was intended as a dealer display, but if a customer wanted one it could purchased for \$2.50

The CU-6 Unit contained: 1 Cape Cod house, 1 Log Cabin, 1 Trellis, 1 Birdbath, 2 telephone poles, 1 piece Rustic Gate, 2 pieces Rustic Fence, 3 Evergreen Trees.



The CU-6 Christmas Platform Unit as illustrated in the 1950 Plasticville catalog

Peter's unit matches the colors of birds on the birdbath and trellis. The illustration in the catalog shows a red Cape Cod, a log cabin with a chimney, and the early telephone poles with the angled braces. I am going to presume that Bachmann did not take care to include the exact pieces illustrated in the catalog as long as each piece in the catalog was represented. If anyone has this set in their collection, it would be interesting to know if the colors of their items as well as the log cabin and telephone poles match the catalog illustration.

The photos of the box that Peter sent showed a rubber stamp of CU-9. I did not find that item number in any of my Plasticville catalogs so I asked "the mayor" (Bill Nole) for help. Bill informed me that the CU-9 unit was offered in the 1951 catalog for \$2.50. His reply was that it came with 1 Cape Cod house, 1 Barn, 2 Telephone Poles, 1 Maple Tree, 1 Outhouse, 1 BBQ, 1 Pump and 1 Birdbath. My Thanks to Bill for filling in the information I did not have due to not



Where does the hunt begin or end? The photos show a 1950 CU-6 Christmas Platform Unit but the box in which it was acquired should contain a 1951 CU-9 unit.

having a 1951 Plasticville catalog in my reference collection.

Does anyone in the Association have a CU-9 unit in their collection. I am certain that the members would enjoy seeing photos of it in a future newsletter.

Along the "HO" Line

Strip Mall - Post Office, 5&10 Store, Super Market, Hardware Store

By Todd Hendrickson



We got a new super Wal-Mart in my town last year to which I have never gone to until this summer. They had NASCARs parked in front of the store. Being a big NASCAR fan I thought I would give the store a try. I hated it and only saved a few dollars. It must have been nice back in the day to go to small Mom and Pop owned stores.

why I think they still make these kits today.

All the kits have colored cardboard inserts for the windows. Maybe on the PCA web site one day we can have printable



Top: 2644 Post Office
 Middle left: 2642 5&10 Store
 Middle right: 2641 Super Market
 Left: 45143 Hardware Store



The side walls, and back wall are white and identical in all four kits. The roof and windows are black and identical in all four kits as well.

The reason why I grouped these four kits together is because they are pretty much the same kit as can be seen in the photo showing three of the kits and the 45143 by itself. The 45143 Hardware Store is pictured by itself as I have not yet won it on eBay but was able to obtain permission to use another person's photo.

version of these for members who lost or wore out the original.

The Post Office reminded me of my Marine days because I wrote a lot of letters. We had no internet yet and were stationed in Hawaii where phone calls to the mainland cost a lot of money. It just made me think of a slower and simpler time.

When I set up my all Bachmann layout, I am going to group these together as if they were built at the same time. This will give the grouping that strip mall feel.

When I opened these kits I noticed that all the parts are the same. The rear and side walls came packaged together and are white. The roof and doors are the same also. The only difference is the front wall which is a yellowish color. I thought this information would be useful for members trying to find parts for the older version of these kits. Having so many of the same parts is

I have many kits to win on eBay before I can start this project. I am not even sure I am going to have room for a train because I want to use every Bachmann kit they made, within reason.



Inserts for the Post Office, left. The 5&10, top. The Hardware Store, right.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and stay cool. I will see you all in November.

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

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Creative Use of Damaged Parts

Rap\$callion Bank (Part 3)

By Edward L Johnson



We concluded part 2 with a photo of the bank's four walls primed and ready for painting. Rather than assemble the bank I decided it would be easier to paint the walls separately and then touch up the seams later.

For paints I used the following **Testors Model Master** paints: *Interior Green* for the window and roof trim, *Earth Red* for the foundation, *Light Sea Gray* for the interior and mortar lines on the foundation, Gold and Clear Blue for the front doors and entrance. Additionally *Tamiya Red X-7* was used on part of the front fascia.

The exterior surfaces of the outside walls were painted with **Citadel Iyanden Darksun** my son gave me this paint. The exterior walls need a second coat but unfortunately this paint was discontinued. I really like the color and reluctant to look for a different color so I'm hunting for a bottle of it on e-Bay.

This picture shows the exterior of the walls all painted. The ATM has been built into the former drive in window. The front doors are in place. To simulate clear glass blocks Clear Blue was used in the spaces around the doors. All of the windows have been glazed with clear plastic. The roofs trim on the front fascia still needs to be "adjusted".



The following picture shows the interior of the bank. The interior walls and window trim were painted with the Testors colors previously mentioned. A wood frame has been placed around the big window over the entrance. A space was cut out of the rear door to accommodate a small window. The silver-gray object on the left panel is the ATM. One time I saw the back of the ATM location at my bank. My version is what I remember it sort of looked like.



The picture at the left shows the left, back, and right walls in position. Here we also see the ATM. It will be behind the teller windows. A valut will be on the right side. Aan elevated platform will span across the walls. The floor is printed from a graphics program and divided into squares with a felt tip pen.

The next installment will have the interior completed.

The final installment will be the completed model.

Till next time: Eddie J



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Plasticville on the Boards

Trees, Trees, Trees

By John Gottcent



In Dr. Seuss' *The Lorax*, the title character claims to "speak for the trees." He lives in a world where real trees have been replaced by plastic ones. After all, the plastic variety need no care or water, never shed messy leaves or gumballs, and stay the same all year round. What could be neater?

The only problem is, those trees are not real. They absorb no carbon dioxide, emit no oxygen, and contribute nothing to the cycle of nature. They're stagnant.

We who play with plastic villages are used to having most of our structures made out of that chemical material. That's no problem when it comes to houses, train stations, or commercial buildings. But when it comes to trees, I want to argue that we should listen to the Lorax and look for something better.



Bachmann, Marx, and other manufacturers have been making plastic trees for decades. Some, especially odd colors in original boxes, are quite valuable to collectors. But in this column we're talking about displays on layouts, and there, I think, we have many much better options.

Other vendors, like Walthers and the appropriately-named Life-Like (now actually a division of Walthers) offer trees that appear much more, well, life-like. Photo One shows three such trees on the right, accompanied by a plastic version on the left. Even a quick glance reveals the artificiality of the latter.



Trees in autumn colors produce the same effects, as Photo Two makes clear.

Smaller bushes are not much different. A look at Photo

Three shows how the plastic versions stand out immediately as artificial and out of place with the rest of the landscape, even in a world filled with plastic buildings and accessories.

Another advantage to "natural" trees is creativity. You can gather twigs in your backyard, turn them into miniature tree trunks, and glue on foliage from the same yard. Some folks have even saved "empty" grape stems, which come in a variety of tree-like shapes, for the same purpose.



If you prefer compromise, you can purchase tree making kits that supply plastic trunks but allow you to add your own greenery in whatever shades or combinations you like. Even without the greenery, you can do things like add a tire swing to some bare branches, as Photo Four reveals.

The leftover foliage from either your yard or tree kit makes excellent ground cover or even a vegetable garden, as you can see in Photo Five. Trying the same thing with an all-plastic tree would not be very attractive.

This is not to say that plastic trees and shrubs have no place on a village layout. Sometimes you need greenery in tight spaces where full-fledged trees or plants either wouldn't fit or wouldn't look very nice. An example is the narrow patios



on the Plasticville apartment building. As Photo Six shows, plastic shrubs fit nicely there whereas other varieties might seem overgrown.

In the movie *The Graduate*, young Ben Braddock is given a famous piece of advice from a friend of his parents, summed up in the single word "Plastic." Our villages may be named for that substance, and most of our buildings may be made from it. But when it comes to trees, I think we can, and should,



Photo Five



Photo Six

do better.

If you've got other ideas, or suggestions for future columns, send me a line at jandjgott@gmail.com. Meanwhile, happy villaging!

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Are You a Boxed or Master Set Collector?

We are looking for a member who has a knowledge of the larger Plasticville boxed and master sets.

We need an associate editor for both the O/S and HO sets. If either of these sets are your area of expertise, please consider sharing your knowledge of the sets with fellow members through articles in *The Villager*.

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

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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What Does a Funeral Director Have on His Train Layout? Transportation for the Deceased, of Course

by Richard Wedekindt

If you read the *My Other Interests* column in the May, 2011 edition of *The Villager* you know that I am a retired fourth generation funeral director. As one would expect, I have funeral related scenes and accessories on my layout. I thought you might like to see, in a picture story, four of those scenes.



Scene one: Picking up the deceased at the airport



Scene two: Paying the toll on the way to the funeral home



Scene three: The funeral procession leaving for the cemetery



Scene four: Arrival at the cemetery

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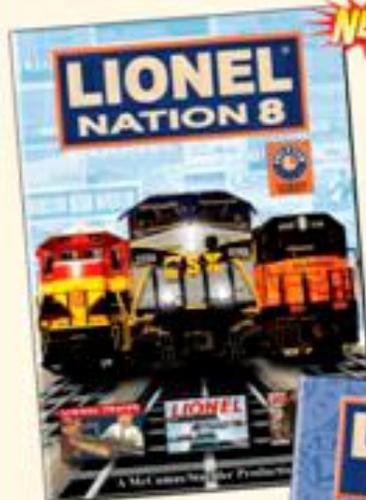
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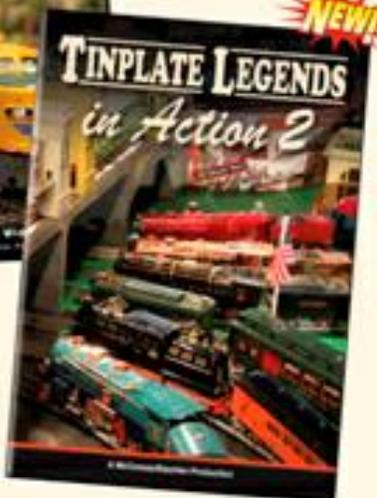
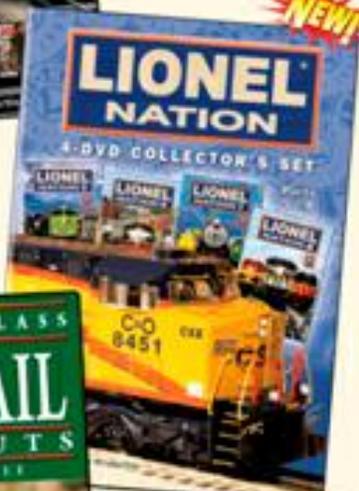
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New from TM Books & Video!

3 DVDs and the Lionel Nation Boxed Set, Parts 5-8



"TM's Lionel Nation series is a great look at all things Lionel - layouts, collections, history, maintenance and operating tips, and more - and it's done in such an entertaining and accessible style that the entire family can truly enjoy." Jenna Egan, Lionel Trains Marketing Manager



NEW! Lionel Nation, Part 8

The Lionel Railroad Club - Milwaukee where the big attraction is an eye-popping multi-level layout, topped off with a 28-foot long replica of the Hellgate Bridge. Lionel's Postwar dealer displays are rare, and collector Bill Stowers has an all-original D-191.

Part Three of Lionel's Action & Animated cars features dump cars designed for use with operating accessories. Ken Klotz runs Modern Lionel and one-of-a-kind animations he designed and built himself. The Tomasi's Christmas layout is a layout for all seasons. Plus operating tips and Railscenes featuring Lionel's latest modern diesels in action - the AC6000, Genset switcher, SD-70, DD35A, and more. **65 min. \$19.99**

NEW! World Class Hi-Rail Layouts, Part 3

Brothers Armando and Dan Vargas created two magnificent Hi-Rail layouts. Incredibly detailed scenery and scratch-built models of famous USA landmarks, a perfect environment for the SP Daylight, Pennsy's Congressional, UP Alcos, and mixed freights headed by modern Heritage decorated diesels. The Vargas brothers raise the bar for lifelike vistas and prototypical train operation.

The Ocean County Society of Model Railroaders of Long Island offer plenty of train action amidst realistic scenery in a club setting where each member contributes. We visit the National New York Central Railroad Museum in Elkhart, IN where a real Mohawk and streamlined EB are proudly on display plus a giant U-shaped, scale-detailed, multi-level layout where up to seven trains run at one time.

If you want magnificently detailed scenery, scale trains, and museum-quality, scratch-built scale models - this video is most definitely for you.

Bonus - Slide Show.
65 min. \$19.99

NEW! Tinplate Legends in Action 2

If you love colorful, classic tinplate trains in action on elaborate layouts - this DVD is for you.

We visit Chuck Brasher in Grass Valley, CA to get an update on his fine layout and collection. Chuck is adamant about his trains being original, and he has some of the finest examples of tinplate trains and accessories on the planet - the State Set, Blue Comet, President's Special, the Ives Circus Set, Lionel Airplane, Lionel Race Cars, and many more.

Dave Corbett started collecting Postwar Lionel - then he fell in love with American Flyer Standard Gauge. Dave built a fabulous layout, and he is not shy about telling us why he loves American Flyer Standard Gauge.

Then to Reno to see Jim McCarthy's layout featuring the Brute, National Limited, Olympian, Black Diamond, and other reproductions of Standard Gauge classics.

We also show, from start-to-finish, the building of our 46-foot long tinplate layout built right here at TM. Prepare to be amazed - you've never seen a layout like this.

Plus more highly entertaining and informative Talking Tinplate segments with Ron and John. **Bonus - Slide Show of Standard Gauge Classics.**
70 min. \$14.99

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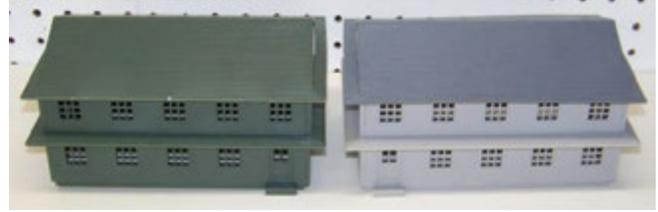
Marx Green and Gray Barracks

by Raymond Scanland, 02-174
Baltimore, MD

Here are pictures of Marx Barracks in green and gray that I have in my collection. Perhaps someone can tell us more about them.



(It is fairly common knowledge that this mold and the log cabin mold were not acquired by K-Line when Marx filed bankruptcy. Information I have uncovered indicates that this mold and the log cabin mold were not in the States but in



Mexico when Marx was liquidated. That would explain why K-Line never produced either this piece or the log cabin under their trade name.

What can members tell us about these pieces? When were they created. In what Marx sets, if any were they included? Are they still being produced?

Please send your comment by email to editor@plasticvilleusa.org or mail them to the address on the front page of this newsletter. editor)

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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*.

Bill Nole PLASTICVILLE for Sale
570-343-2236 (Bill or Kim)

319 Oak St., Dunmore PA 18512
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Bill Nole's CLASSIC GUIDE TO VINTAGE "O" PLASTICVILLE, 116 pages, 95 color photos
THE ONLY FULL COLOR GUIDE PUBLISHED - \$30 each

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LCCA Air Terminal & Hanger (Blue/Orange) Mint \$40 set

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

Ambulance (green) \$5 ea

Pickup Truck \$8 ea

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

PLASTICVILLE PARTS - \$2 ea OR buy any combination of 25 or more parts for \$1.50 ea

WINDSOCK, LOG CABIN CHIMNEY, FIRE DEPARTMENT SIREN, CHIMNEY CAP, POLICE
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

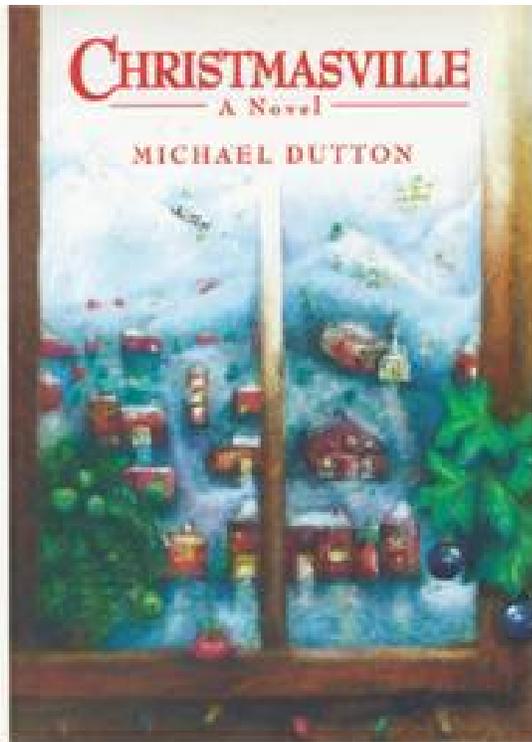
KING PLASTICVILLE - Covered Bridge (grey roof) Mint \$35

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



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!

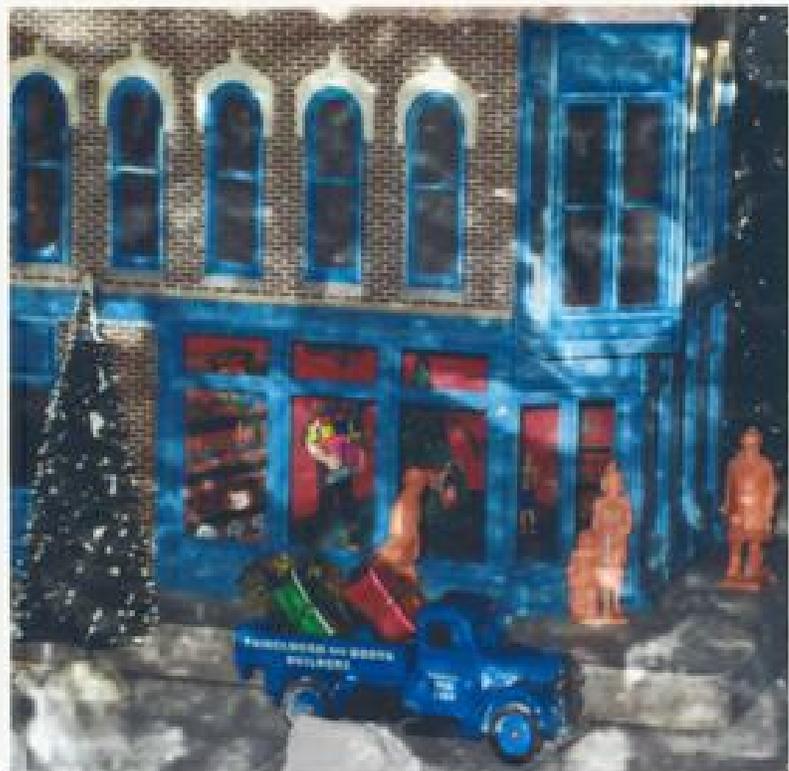
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Christmasville by Michael Dutton

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My Other Interests

By Frank Ross, 04-285
Centennial, CO



As a teenager, my high school years were surrounded by the Doo Wop culture. Although I was never interested in becoming a harmony singer, I was passionate about playing the guitar and joining a band.

After a brief stint with taking guitar lessons at a professional music school, I broke away and started picking up rhythm guitar techniques from some neighborhood guitar players. A musician friend of mine recommended a teacher in a small neighborhood music studio that was aggressive, and specialized in jazz. That advice turned out to be beneficial because this teacher constantly challenged me to become more proficient with my chord fingering technique, and exposed me to a wide vocabulary of jazz chords.

During my military service in the Air Force I performed with various bands on base, and started experimenting with singing while playing rhythm guitar. I became proficient enough to compete in a base wide talent contest, and took first place in that category. I then competed in the annual nationwide and placed fifth out of ten contestants. That experience further fueled my desire to pursue performing as a solo entertainer.

While overseas on leave in Japan I came upon a music store

in the Ginza that was demonstrating a new gadget called a drum machine. This box could simulate various drums, as well as other sounds. I wondered if it could be an effective tool for a single performer.

I had also heard about another instrument called a Guitorgan which is an electric guitar that is also capable of providing a sustained note as long as the string remains depressed to the neck. The additional organ effect behind the strumming guitar provided a unique performance for a single entertainer. This soon became my "signature sound".

In 1972, I auditioned for "Parents Without Partners" in the basement of a small restaurant and that was the real start of my career. I performed at "The Forum" for private club functions including Parents Without Partners, Beyond Divorce and The Fagowee Ski Club. I also performed at the Denver Playboy Club, and private functions throughout the Midwest, including State Fairs. I then took a hiatus as a solo entertainer in early 1985 to concentrate on my career as an electronics engineer at Lockheed Martin.

Upon my retirement in 2006, I returned to the stage as a single performer, playing the electric guitar and singing. I utilize the current state of the art computerized music background to provide the sounds of a dynamic full live band.

I perform a high energy show including a wide range of dance music. These include ballroom, foxtrots, waltzes, swing, cha-chas, polkas, rock and roll, classic country, and line dancing.

A Fantastic Father's Day/Birthday Gift

By Doug Gilliatt



Here are a couple of pictures of the wonderful surprise I received this year from my son as a combination Birthday/Father's day present.

The copyright is 1949 on the top of the display and it shows what buildings were available. Also one of the sticker on back (hard to read) but it lists the items available. The size is about 16 X 20 inches and does have a few pin holes.

I just wonder how many of these still exist?

Item	Price
101 - Telephone Kiosk	1.00
102 - Fuel Pump	.50
103 - Service Post	.50
104 - Pharmacy	.50
105 - Post Office	.50
106 - Railroad Crossing	.50
107 - Restaurant	.50
108 - Gas Station	.50
109 - News Stand & Soda Kiosk	.50
110 - Lot of Road Signs	.50
111 - Red Fire & Water Unit	.50
112 - Bridge & Road Unit	.50
113 - Freight Station	.50
114 - Police Station & Fire Bell	.75
115 - Pharmacy Store & Soda Kiosk	.50
116 - Parking Sign	.50
117 - Bank Drive Kiosk	.50
118 - Super Market Kiosk	.50
119 - Log Cabin Kiosk	.50
120 - Hotel Cafe and Room	.50
121 - Hotel Cafe and Room	.50
122 - Hotel Cafe and Room	.50
123 - Street Accessory Unit	.50
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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

AN UPDATED LIST!

Check Out the Listings in Bold, They're NEW!

BN-1 barn end wall - white - open door side
BN-1 barn roof half - white - rt side if looking from silo end
Coaling Tower pieces - request by letter on part
Suburban Station - platform, roof - green, white w/green wall
Motel - fronts - specify pink or white and w or w/o doors & windows
Motel - side and rear walls - specify pink or white, w or w/o doors & windows, and side needed
Motel - roofs - specify pink or white
Motel - front walks - specify pink or white
Small Gas Station - front walls - no paper insert
Small Super Market - front walls - no paper inserts
Small Super Market or Small Gas Station - side & rear walls - specify side needed
Small Super Market or Small Gas Station - roofs - red
Hospital - red letters, steps missing 1 pin, walls, A/C unit - specify by wording on wall
Cape Cod - walls - yellow - specify side needed
Cape Cod - walls - white - specify trim color and side needed - red, green, lt blue, yellos, brown, dk blue
Cape Cod - roofs w/reversed R & L on underside - lt red, dk red, green, lt blue, green, white - specify color

Bridge & Pond - specify light, medium, or dark green
Station Platform - platforms, roofs - specify light or dark brown
School House - all walls - red - white lettering
School House - roofs - light gray - note that the color is not consistent from one piece to the next
School House - cupola - white
Telephone Poles - w/angle bracing
Flagpole - 48 star, free standing
Diner - gray w/red front and rear wall
MH-2 NE Ranch - tan sides, brown roof, red trim
MH-2 NE Ranch - box - in bad shape - could be mailed flat
PO-1 - Post Office - walls, gray roof - no inserts or flag
PO-1 - Post Office - box - in bad shape - could mail flat
AD-4 Airport Admin Bldg - walls, roofs
AD-4 - Airport Admin Bldg - box - in bad shape - could mail flat
CC-7 Church - complete belfry w/cross
CC-7 Church - walls, brown trim
CC-7 Church - roof, brown
Marx - Fire House roof
Marx - telephone poles

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

I am writing to you in regards to the Feb PCA newsletter. I just want to let you know that I enjoy every copy. I find it very informative and very well put together. I have been a PCA member now for 2 years. If I knew about the club sooner I would have joined sooner.

At this time I receive the B&W copy. I read it from front to back, back to front. I like the hard copy as I am always on the go. I also enjoy looking at it on line.

I enjoy John Gottcent's write ups and all who make up the PCA newsletter. Please keep up the good work. Anything I can do to contribute to the newsletter, please let me know.

I have been collecting Plasticville since I was a preteen. I turned 55 years young in April. I always went to the local hobby store or 5 & 10 store for Plasticville. I have a very nice collection. I also have 2 sons; who are grown up now. They loved going with me to the local hobby stores here in western PA mostly at Christmas time. We built up a very nice collection.

When I moved in 1963 into my current house my dear brother gave us his 1950 Union Pacific Lionel 50th Anniversary freight set but took back a couple of years later. Indian giver! It is a sad story what happened to the train set.

We had some Plasticville but we built our own buildings and water tower. My dear mother bought me HO trains thru the years as well as Plasticville buildings after my brother took back the Lionel set. I took over the house with the trains.

I told my dear wife that I wanted to go back to Lionel trains so one Christmas she bought me a Lionel Lines steam engine set. I was in love with O gauge once again.

She also bought me a K-Line train station and every time we went to a hobby store, I bought more and more Plasticville O gauge, K-Line buildings, and accessories. Many very nice classic cars, truck, and people also.

I am now the proud owner of four Lionel trains and a great collection of K-Line, Plasticville, and ceramic houses. Plasticville is like no other. It is in a class of its own.

I have the PCA barn on a little setup in my game room and will try to send in a photo. Ken Honick #10-628

(When Ken noted that he had a large collection of K-Line buildings I emailed him, asking if he would consider being our K-Line contributing editor. His reply is below. editor)

I got your email about my letter I sent and about printing it in the August newsletter. I am looking forward to it and I will gladly contribute my part to help put together the great newsletter. I will describe all the K-Line buildings I have.

I will also write to you about the Lionel 50th anniversary set my grandmother bought my older brother.... What a sad story with a little light at the end of the tunnel - train tunnel that is. *(Thank you, Ken for stepping up and offering to be our K-Line contributing editor. editor)*

Thanks for another great reading of the May newsletter. I have a comment regarding lifetime memberships: I am **against this idea**. In the beginning it is nice to have the one

time cash influx. But that is the last income you will have from that member if you go that route. Take a look at the TCA situation with lifetime memberships. Every publication that the TCA publishes they are always asking for money. Please nix the notion of lifetime membership in a polite way. I have a friend who paid the TCA lifetime membership in the 60's. (I think he told me it was around \$150 at the time). Since then he has received all the publications from the TCA free. Thanks for your time in this matter. You guys keep up the good work.

Victor Bodek #11-722

I have a blue Colonial Mansion with a two piece box. According to Bill Nole's *Classic Guide to Vintage 'O' Plasticville*, if I am reading it correctly on page 22 it had a one-piece box until 1971 but I know I received it long before then. I think 1963.

Another thing I would like to know: on page 10 of the 1993 *Plasticville, An Illustrated Price Guide* it shows the Country Church with both the large and small doors and a three piece belfry. In Bill Nole's *Classic Guide to Vintage 'O' Plasticville* it shows the small door church with a two piece belfry and a big door church with three piece belfry. Just wondering which is correct. Doug McHan #09-572

(Colonial Mansion question: The illustration on the 1703 box shows only the mansion and the item number is on the larger sides of the box. The illustration on the 1850 box shows a city scene and the item number is printed in the upper right hand corner of the box top . If you have a two-piece 1703 box, I would like a photo of it to publish in a future edition of the newsletter as I am unaware of its existence.

Country Church question: The church in the illustration on page 30 of Bill Nole's is the CC8 small door church and should have the three piece bell tower. The center church, with the bell tower, is also a CC8 as illustrated. It is possible that when the buildings were set up to be photographed that the towers were inadvertently switched and that the center church was actually intended to represent the CC7 church as it is the same as the large door CC8 but did not come with the bell tower section. editor)

I liked your article in the May 2012 Villager regarding your visit at Bachmann. I sent the company a letter over a year ago whereby I suggest they reissue #1975 Autumn Tree Assortment as this is an highly sought after collector's item. I hope this is one of the items the company plans on re-releasing. Bob Stout #08-543 (*#1975 is an assortment of three trees in colors other than green, numbers 1628, 1409, and 1404. I can tell you that it is probably not one of the items to be re-released as from what I can determine, Bachmann no longer has the mold for the Shade Trees, 1628. In addition, Bachmann has been very careful recently not to offer any of the vintage buildings in their original color except for the most recent motel. Editor)*

What Members Are Saying (continued)

Here's my suggestions for reproduction boxes: 1605/1619 - citizens. 1611 - drug and hardware store, 1614 - police station, 1975 -coaling station, and 1500 - diner. Salvatore Cerchiaro. #11-691 (OK, we now have suggestions for reproduction boxes is there anyone with printing experience who can give us an idea as to what it may cost to reproduce one or all of the suggested boxes?)

I just wanted to thank you for my membership card which I received in the post. I look forward to following how the site develops and possibly picking up some ideas long the way.

Gordon Low #12-760 (Gordon was our web developer for the past ten years and is now a member. Editor)

Going thru my PV collection and find box from BB dated Dec 97 containing 3 ends from cover bridge. 2 red 1 rust the 2 reds. I think were replacement parts. To my question we call rust sides red of the older ones. Why ? My 1920 looks rust or Tuscan,45992 in blue picture box is red (replacement ends) 45992 China is brown in green painted picture box. Thanks for any comment. Wesley Kidd #09-584

RILEY

John: You state that you have been with Bachmann 26 years. Officially.

John: What had you done prior to Bachmann?

Before that I did four years worth of consultant work in the industry for companies like Lionel, Tyco, West Side Models. MDC (Model Die Casting) with Clarence Menteer. He was my mentor. He is still living. I think he is 94 or 95. He's the man who really figured out how to do die cast with the amount of detail and everything in 1937 or 38 in California. He was really innovative. Lionel was doing it. The molds were made overseas. A lot of the molds were made in Italy because they were the top mold makers over there. That's where the people at Rivarossi came from which I dealt with.

I came from Baltimore, the home of the Kramer brothers, Life-Like. It's where VoltAmp started. VoltAmp goes way back.

I grew up in a family with Standard Gauge. The first Christmas, I was 5 months old, there was a Lionel Standard Gauge blue 2-4-2 with cars that the toilet seats went up and down. The thing is: those were State cars. Those were the only cars that were ever made with toilet seats that went up and down. I used

to take the roof off them when I was a little kid and play with them. Flip them up and down.

My whole life has been in model railroading. Worldwide, with all the companies. Not just toy trains but model railroading. I was also one who was involved with Pro-custom. We worked on the second development of the HO line. In 1970, 71, 72 there was several people around the country and we did the stuff for the American Freedom Train.

John: Why did you decide to produce a particular item or items?

It's where it would fit into the market. Where it was a niche. Where it was needed. Developing markets, that's the whole thing. You gotta look where the opportunity lies.

John: Are you self-taught, a college degree, high school?

Yes, high school, college. Went to but didn't get a degree in it in Baltimore at Engineering school. But I have been in the industry 49 years. Did mechanical engineering, industrial electronics. The thing is: product development deals with marketing and engineering. Deals with product concept.

To be continued ...



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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*.

Welcome New Members

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

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

Proposed Members

The following have applied for membership in the Plasticville Collectors Association. The names of all proposed members must be published for the review of the general membership before being accepted as members in accordance with the bylaws of the PCA. All names listed below will be permanently added to the Plasticville Collectors Association rolls if no objection to such action is received prior to October 1, 2012.

Joshua L Ferguson, Temecula, CA
James D Amato, Sewickley, PA
Ronald P Norris, Erie, PA
Justin J Nice, Perkiomenville, PA
Gordon Low, Monfieth, Angus Scotland, UK
Kenneth M Godek, Pittsburgh, PA
Donald R Cassell, Sykesville, MD
Stephen M Pinkosh, Minneapolis, MN
Thomas L Byrne, Poughkeepsie, NY
Mark J Reynolds, Philadelphia, PA

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

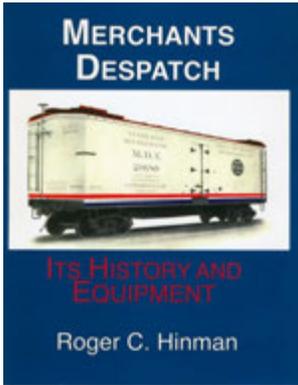
Do you have an idea for an item? Contact John Niehaus at secretary@plasticvilleusa.org or mail your suggestions to him at the address noted above.

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



Merchants Despatch Its History and Equipment, Roger C Hinman, published by Signature Press, 294 pages, hardcover, 8 1/2 X 11 format, \$65. Color and black and white photos throughout. It could almost be considered two books in one.

Part One contains eighty four pages that discuss the company history in great detail from its earliest days as Kasson's and

American Express up through the final chapter of the company's life as part of the Penn Central and then Conrail. This section is illustrated with portraits of the principals at various times in the history of the company as well as numerous charts, color maps, stock certificates, patent drawing, and other interesting artifacts.

Part Two carries the title of Rolling Stock and is fifteen chapters in length. The first seven chapters list the various lengths of the cars and other pertinent information. The next eight chapters are dedicated to the various reefer cars including Milk and Express, Steel Sheathed, and Dry Ice cars. Did you know that one of the earliest trailer on flat car (TOFC) configurations was designed to transport milk tank trailers? I am still puzzled by the photo on page 169 showing one of the milk tanks being unloaded from the flatcar.

Each chapter in part two contains detailed information regarding the design of the cars and production information. This includes the number of each type car built and the date of the builds.

Charts abound throughout these chapters. Some are production summaries while others list car characteristics per lot of cars produced. There are plenty of photos also. As an

example, chapter eighteen contains more than twenty photographs of rolling stock with each nicely captioned.

Just prior to my graduating from high school, my family moved onto an acreage just south of Peoria, Illinois that overlooked a heavily traveled set of Rock Island train tracks. I was always amazed to see how many autos in Auto-Rack cars were in a consist. These were the three level and open sided ones that looked more like oversized highway auto haulers. Little did I know that even though there were various road names on their sides that a good portion of them were actually leased from Merchants Despatch.

The appendix in this book is remarkable also. It is a compilation of all reporting marks used by Merchants Despatch. to whom the cars were leased, the type of car, and the years that the mark was in use. The bibliography is thirteen pages in length and unique in that it is segmented by the chapters in the book instead of merely an alphabetical listing. There is also an index that runs over four pages in length.

This book is probably one of the most highly researched books I have read in quite some time. It would be interesting to know how many years it took the author to perform his research.

I found this book to be quite interesting and recommend it to anyone interested in a very in depth history of Merchants Despatch.

Merchants Despatch Its History and Equipment is available from Signature Press, 11508 Green Rd, Wilton, CA 95693. It can be purchased directly from their website at <http://www.signaturepress.com> or by toll free phone at 800 305-7942. I did find the book on Amazon but suggest purchasing directly as the Amazon price was actually higher than list price. It does not seem to be available through Barnes & Noble.

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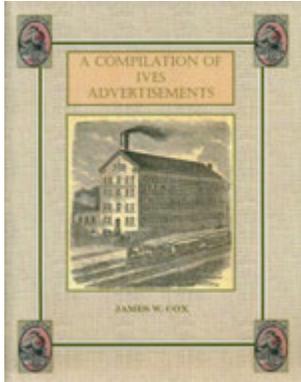
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A Compilation of Ives Advertisements, James W Cox, published by Instantpublisher.com, 50+ pages, softcover, 8 1/2 X 11 format, \$16.50. Black and white, and color illustrations' throughout.

This book is unique in that it has no chapters. The first part is an introduction of the author and why he decided to publish the book. A following page is

gives some background on Henry Schnibbe. Mr Schnibbe was the individual who created many of the Ives advertising phrases, the most famous being, "Ives Toys Make Happy Boys".

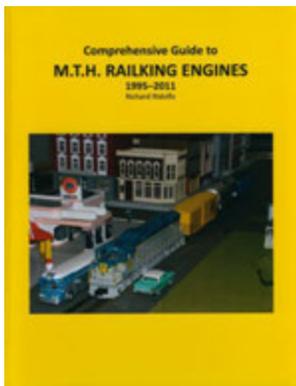
The next pages give an historical overview of the company as well as illustrates text only ads as found in period Bridgeport, Connecticut Business Directories. There are also

illustrations of correspondence on company stationery, pre-magazine advertisements, and views of the factories at their various locations.

Page fifteen is where the fun really begins. That is where the first 1911 ad is illustrated. Along with the illustration is an overhead caption explaining that 1911 was the first year that Ives started advertising in national publications such as Popular Mechanics and John Martin's Book. From then on until the end of the book is a chronological compilation of Ives ads from 1911 through 1927. Each ad is on its separate page with the year of publication as well as, in most instances, the publication in which the advertisement was printed.

I don't believe you can go wrong in owning this book if you have an interest in Ives advertising, toy train advertising of that era in general, or want to study the progression of advertising from black and white to multi color.

A Compilation of Ives Advertisements can be purchased directly from the author. The cost is \$16.50, shipping included. You can send a check or money order to James Cox, 6 Avoca Ave, Massapequa Pk, NY 11762.



Comprehensive Guide to M.T.H. Railking Engines, 1995-2011, Richard Rodolfo, published by Brentwood Antiques, 212 pages, softcover, 8 1/2 X 11 format, \$44.95. Full color illustrations throughout.

This is a unique publication in that it contains a photo or illustration of every MTH Railking engine as the title states. The book is nicely partitioned into chapters for

steam, diesel, and electric configurations. The diesel and steam topics are further broken down into whether the piece is a Railking or Rugged Rails item. Two additional chapters listing the Ready to Run sets and the Rugged Rails RTR sets brings the total number of chapters to seven.

The illustrations are of each engine as they appeared in the catalog. The pieces are listed in each chapter in numerical order by stock number. There are also notes indicating when a stock number was not used as a Railking number.

There number of illustrations vary from around eight to fourteen per page. The majority are of the engine only and large enough to see the details. Where a separate illustration

of the piece was not available, the author has included an image of the engine from an illustration of a set that the piece headed.

Each illustration is captioned with the following: The MTH stock number, description by road name and type (Santa Fe 4-4 0, UP A/A) and the original manufacturer's suggested retail price. The caption continues with the catalogs in which it first appeared, road number, operating features such as smoke and sound, minimum operating radius, and approximate dimensions.

This book is a fantastic historical document in that it chronicles all of the Railking engines, over 1800 of them, in a thorough manner. I hope that it and its companion book; Comprehensive Guide to MTH Premier Engines, 1993-2012 are in the TCA reference library. These have to be the ultimate guide to identifying in a granular manner any Railking engine marketed during the time period noted in the title of the book.

Comprehensive Guide to M.T.H. Railking Engines, 1995-2011 can be purchased directly from Brentwood Antiques via their website at <http://thetrainshop.com>. Both books are also listed on the Amazon website

Brentwood Antiques' mailing address is: 106 Lafayette Road (Route One), Hampton Falls, NH 03844. Their phone number is: 603-929-1441.

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

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*.



Lionel Consumer Publications Archive, 1937 – 1969, CD Rom, Hybrid Systems Ltd, Inc., \$35. A digital archive of Lionel Consumer pamphlets and booklets, the Lionel Handbook for Model Builders, the Lionel Wonder Book of Model Railroading, the Bantam Books Model Railroading book, and a bonus section containing

As with previous HSL products, the CD is designed to run automatically when you insert into

the CD player. For security reasons and optional settings I receive a pop up window when I insert any CD into the player. I do not believe it could have been any more intuitive for me than to double click the "double_click_on_this_file_to_start_the_archive.html" file after telling my CD that I wanted to view the files on the CD.

The actions I took are the first instructions after the ALL Types of Computers and Operating Systems heading in the printed Quick Reference and Licensing Agreement sheet included with the archive. It sure made it simple to open the archive.

You are presented with a licensing agreement page after launching the CD and clicking through a "click here" page. Clicking YES accepts the licensing agreement and navigates you to a page with a link to frequently asked questions. At the bottom of this page is a link to actually access the program as with the other volumes in this series. You are now on the Home page of the archive.

The format is the same as with previous archives from HSL in that it displays two frames. The left frame lists the Introduction, Table of Contents, Regular Features and FAQs hyperlinks as well as an Exit button.

Save this page as a favorite or bookmark in your browser and the next time you wish to view the archive you will merely have to click on the link in your Internet browser after loading the CD.

The right hand frame with its five vertical bars seemingly

representing books are hyperlinks to the Consumer Pamphlets and Booklets, the Lionel Handbook for Model Builders, the Wonder Book of Model Railroading, the Bantam Books Model Railroading book, and a bonus section, respectively from left to right.

There are thirteen consumer pamphlets dating from 1937 through 1954. The date of each publication can be determined by hovering the mouse over the image. I found this a pleasant way of knowing the publication year of each illustration without detracting from its appearance.

Each of the items are complete in that once you make a selection you are now able to view every page in a two page format.

The Lionel Handbook for Model Builders, the Wonder Book of Model Railroading, the Bantam Books Model Railroading book links navigate you to pages that display the cover or covers of all known editions of each publication.

Where there are more than one illustration, the text on the page displaying the covers informs you as to which cover to click on to view the entire publication.

The Lionel Wonder Book of Model Railroading has 52 pages, The Handbook for Model Builders is 190 pages, while the Bantam Book, sixth edition, is 385 pages. That's a lot of reading and a CD is much easier to carry, relative to the same books if you are traveling with a computer.

The Bonus items include a photo of the famous paper train, 50th Anniversary postcards, and two posters that would sure look good on my train room wall.

I am always amazed at the quality of the scans in HSL's products. The scans on this CD are, again, nothing short of flawless.

I recommend this CD if you are interested in the marketing publications presented by Lionel over the years or just want to curl up with any of the three books. It's another winner in my book from Hybrid Systems.

Lionel Consumer Publications Archive, 1937 – 1969, CD ROM sells for \$35 plus \$5 shipping. It can be purchased directly from Hybrid Systems Ltd, Inc., 200 University Park Drive, Edwardsville, Illinois 62025. Their toll free number is 800 799-2802.

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The Villager Classified Ads

Note:

Member name, address, email address, and member number should not be considered part of the word count.

The telephone number will be included in an ad only if it is 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.

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 in the For Sale or Wanted categories must be plastic village related. Items other than plastic village pieces such

as trains or non-plastic accessories are not allowed.

Ads in the For Trade category may contain toy trains or other items providing plastic village pieces are being traded or sought as one side of the trade. (Plasticville for trains or Department 56 for Plasticville.)

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.

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

For Sale

#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. 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)

ELECTION SPECIAL! Don't know who might win? Don't trust either one? Arrive at #5600 International Airport, \$235. Take the #5601 Turnpike Accessories, \$157, to the Grandstand from #1890 Road Racing Accessories, \$592. Direct it all from your PB-8 Public Buildings, \$280: including the 16 people of various colors (not pink) (whose vote you can take for granted.) #02-154 Robert Spivey, PO Box 33484, Decatur, GA 30033. Phone 404 633-6777. r_spyv@hotmail.com (Nov 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)

For Trade

Fits perfect with Plasticville or Dept 56. Fleischmann Magic Trains (Discontinued in 2008) Euro style 2 axle bogies. Locomotives 0-4-0. All in original boxes. Over 100 pieces. Runs on HO track similar to ON30 size. Will trade for plastic village pieces I desire. #11-660 Harold (Hal) Seitz, 5141 NW 84th Ave, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33351. hal5141@comcast.net (May 13)

Future Train Meet Dates

York Meets

2012: 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 2, 4, & 4, Ontario (CA) Convention Ctr

2013: March 8-10, Santa Clara

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

Wanted

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/Littletown/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 7:00 PM (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 pink ranch 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 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)

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 (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)

Set of shrubbery for the Marx School House. Marx preferred, but K-Line OK. Cap for the Marx School House in light gray. Five basic fence pieces for the Plasticville #1623 Cattle Loading Pen. #99-01, Joe Kutza, 13301 Pepper CT, Germantown, MD 20874 Phone 301 528-6679 (May 13)

Roof for Split Level House, roof for red and white barn silo, felt or paper church stained glass window inserts, roof for Ranch House. Items are for O scale buildings. #01-81, Chris Rossbach, 135 Richwood Dr, Gloversville NY 12078 Phone 518 725-4446 (May 13)

1640-100 Presidential kit that came with set 1640W Campaign Special passenger train. Need banners, Plasticville figures, and packaging including box. #12-757, James Amato, 601 Broad St, Box 333, Sewickley, PA 15143 (May 13)

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?
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Do you have buildings that you want that don't seem to be available on Internet auction sites?
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As a member you may place up to a 50 word plastic village related classified ad in **each** of the three classified ad categories:

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