

# The Villager

The Official Newsletter of the Plasticville Collectors Association

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## Plasticville on the Boards Columnist “Retiring”

By John Niehaus

I received an email from the *Plasticville on the Boards* columnist, John Gottcent, in late May that read in part, “*I’m really running out of ideas for the “Plasticville on the Boards” column. I think I’ve said everything I can think of about the subject, and so I’m going to make the February 2015 issue the last for which I will submit a column.*”

*Hopefully the new editor will find a new person with fresh ideas, or perhaps he will want to scrap the column in favor of something different entirely.”*

*I wanted to give you and the new editor some warning about this, and that’s why I’m writing now while I can promise three more columns before you need a replacement. Again, I’ve enjoyed writing for *The Villager* and working with you, and I look forward to reading each upcoming issue with great interest as always.”*

John’s email did not come as a complete shock to me as I was aware that he was going to “retire” due to a telephone conversation I had with him earlier this year.

His “retiring” will leave a big hole in our newsletter as he will have written a total of thirty nine consecutive articles when his February, 2015 article is published. That makes him the most published of all Contributing Editors.

John also provided an index to Mike Cedro’s 2001 *Plastic Village Gazette Pocket Price Guide* in addition to his thirty nine articles. His index was published in the April, 2002 edition of *The Villager*.

John’s articles will definitely be missed. I am sure we will miss him and all wish him well in all of his future endeavors.



## Whatzit From? - A Building Front? Mystery

By John Niehaus

Many times I receive items that I cannot positively identify as the common plastic village pieces when receiving a donation from a member. The majority of these I include in the photo section of *The Parts Bin* in the newsletters. The piece in the accompanying photo is different as I believe it is too close to being either a Littletown or a Kleeware piece for me to arbitrarily place it in the photo section of *The Pars Bin*.

The piece is a light yellow. The texture on the wall is what I would call slightly stucco, not very discernible in the photo. There are two opening dark green doors. It is 6 11/16 inch wide by 2 11/16 inches high. It has the “slot and tongue” assembly configuration as would be generally seen with Littletown or some Kleeware buildings.

I have reviewed all of my reference material and cannot find any building of which this piece would logically be a part. The Littletown Super Market is listed as 7 inches long with two

doors are separated by a mullion. The General Store is only 5 inches wide thus negating it as part of that building. Additionally, the front door on it is a single door that is inset from the front wall.

Is this the back wall of a Littletown Railroad Station? Possibly a back wall for a Littletown or Kleeware building?

If anyone can positively identify this piece please send an email to me at [villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org](mailto:villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org).



### The Villager

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

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**Secretary/Treasurer:** John L Niehaus

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P21069

A41C

## From the President's Desk



Summer is in full swing here in the Valley of the Sun, which means our AC has been working overtime (and repaired already). I do hope that all the members are having a great summer of collecting and Model Railroading. My summer will be spent tearing down my layout/displays in preparation for our move to our new home. I am getting a basement back so it

is not all bad (grin)!

I did attend the TCA convention this year in Philadelphia and enjoyed looking at all the great layouts and trains for sale. Not a whole lot of Plasticville from any dealers except for Scott and Dave Horner who had quite a spread of buildings and parts for sale. I did see a Marx church but no other Marx buildings. If any other PCA members attended 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 then I will know what I missed. Maybe a really rare piece was there and one of our lucky members picked it up?

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.

I hope that all of our members and their families are having a safe and happy summer and maybe finding a new item 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*. If you do send a photo (preferably on a green background), send to [villagereditor@netins.net](mailto:villagereditor@netins.net) and to [webmaster@netins.net](mailto:webmaster@netins.net) so that it can be placed on our website.

On another subject; I continue to support the 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 'snail mail' delivery. If you are still receiving a paper copy please consider the online delivery system.

I continue to be very proud at the number of members that stepped up and contribute articles to be published in *The Villager*. And 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 President  
Doug Gilliatt

## Vice President's Musings



Summer time and the living is easy. Or so goes the old cliché.

For the PCA membership, Summer is often seen as the slack period for trains and plastic village collecting /displaying /operating. But Summer vacations can bring vast new sources of pleasure for our hobby/passion.

As I wrote in my last column, take pictures of what you spot. Find new little "Junque" shops and antique malls to search for a wanted item or discover a hidden gem.

Heck, just finding amusement in the broken Cape Cod with a \$50 price tag on it, as I did when we were outside Sacramento at a resale mall recently. That brought us chuckles all the way back to our hosts' home. It was difficult to stifle the laughs and conversation until we left the store. After all, discretion is the better part of valor - and politeness.

Is there a train club swap meet you keep meaning to visit but Wintertime and weather has been keeping you away? Now's the chance for a road trip with a new destination.

And as written two issues ago, taking and recording an inventory list makes for a great relaxing weekend when the sun is too hot or the thunderstorms of late are bearing down. It also helps if you ever need to provide a list for insurance purposes.

Now is also a great time to relax after dinner by working on

that put off PV project; especially since you have hours of extra sunlight, more so in the Northern climes.

How about writing an article for *The Villager* especially since we are losing one of our longtime Contributing Editors? Something as easy as the anecdote behind finding that treasured item will be well received by the membership (and your overworked editor scrambling to fill space).

Why not describe what it took to create that one of a kind building or backdrop? Just photograph your display area and send the pictures in with a brief caption for each; that will make a wonderful article we can all appreciate. It is easier than you think.

Honeydew lists, little league, AYSO, scouts and other family activities; obligations to community organizations (religious, civic, charitable) all demand time and attention; military requirements mandate strict attendance protocols. But what about a few hours to let your mind relax? To get yourself into a pleasure space? Doesn't the stress of modern life create the need to un-focus on the important for a while? The contrast will allow you to re-engage with your demanding activities with new energy and drive.

I hope your Summer pursuits bring joy, your families cherished memories, and our hobby the satisfaction and relaxation as intended.

PCA Vice-President,  
Fred Ruby

## Notes From the Secretary/Editor



The Executive Committee has finally voted to initiate a contract with our current web developer to redesign the entire PCA website. We have seen previews of the new design and were very impressed. The cost to do all of the work involved will be around \$8,000. We have placed a "donate" option on the current home page for anyone who would like to make a tax deductible donation. The donation will be processed by PayPal and I will send all donors a receipt to use for tax purposes. We can sure use some help. If you are a user of the website as it now stands please consider helping us with this major revision.

I hope that the \$3.00 increase in dues for either of the mailed editions does not create a financial strain on anyone. Remember that the newsletter is available to all members for downloading and personally printing from the website. Why not save some money and opt for the ePCA membership at \$8.00 instead of one of the mailed editions? Where else can you get a quarterly newsletter with information on all things plastic village for the same price?

I would like to clarify the decision by the Executive Committee to prohibit an eBay seller's selling name in the free member classified ads. An ad containing a member's eBay seller's name may be placed in the For Sale section of the classified ads provided the ad is a paid ad at the current member word rate. That rate is currently ten cents per word. A member's eBay seller's name is not prohibited in display ads of any size. This allows you the option of submitting either a paid classified ad or a paid display ad that includes your eBay seller's name.

As you read on the front page of this edition, John Gottcent, the long running Associate Editor of the *Plasticville on the Boards* articles is "retiring". I am sad to see him go but this is a great opportunity for another member to continue articles under the same column name. John is more than agreeable to having another member continue the column but with that member's name on the byline.

John's last comment also indicates that he is very hopeful that if no member feels they can carry on his column that a new column on an entirely different subject can replace his column. I can think of two or three subjects that would make for great member reading: Littletown, Marx, Kleeware. There are many more subjects that would also make great reading.

For those of you who attended the Friday Show 'N' Tell at Spring York I believe that I can say that all of you felt that the meeting room in the Orange hall was far and away better than

our previous venue in the cafeteria. The fact that we were not competing with a room full of disinterested diners made for the most pleasant meeting I have attended. We are now authorized and scheduled to use that room on each Friday of a York meet from 11:00 AM until 12:00 Noon by the meet committee.

My congratulations to Dennis Palazzolo and Mike Marmer. Both of their layouts were featured in the July, 2014 issue of *Classic Toy Trains* magazine. Dennis' O gauge, 20' X 23', layout has a Southwestern theme that includes a four auto version of the Cadillac Ranch in Potter County, Texas. Mike's layout is S gauge and measures 9' X 13', much of which is dominated by a very large baseball field. Plasticville was very much in evidence on both layouts. Again, congratulations.

Did any of you see the movie *The Lone Ranger*? The one in which Johnny Depp played Tonto? If you did, and I did not based on reviews, were you aware that the railroad used in the movie was built from the ground up specifically for that movie. I wonder what that cost the producers! I was made aware of this fact by PCA member Reginald Henry. He sent me an email including the link I will give you shortly that read, "A railroad built from the ground up in New Mexico for the movie "The Lone Ranger.'". I was intrigued enough by his subject line to open the YouTube link he included in his email, <https://www.youtube.com/embed/mdXTXWpIYgQ> purely out of curiosity. I am glad that I did. You maybe also.

You have heard me ask this before but I am gonna ask again. Please save any stamps you receive in the mail either from the PCA or otherwise. Every stamp counts. Even the non-profit organization stamps you find on the "gimme" envelopes. I use unique postage stamps on packages and letters sent to you with the hope that you will save them and then return them to me when paying your dues or sending in a reimbursement check for parts sent to you through *The Parts Bin* program.

You, the PCA membership, are now my only source of used postage stamps for the kids. The upside-down airplane stamps, round stamps, and those with high face values are very difficult for youngsters to obtain. That is why I use them. I remember how difficult it was for me to acquire high face value stamps for my youth stamp collection.

None of the stamps you send are thrown away. I send what I feel is needed by those promoting youth philately to those parties. The remainder I send to the American Philatelic Society. The APS sends any stamps that they feel are not needed for their programs to veterans centers for use in the physical rehabilitation programs for wounded warriors.

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## July, 2014 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

The July 2014 Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 8:00 PM, Eastern time, on July 10 by President Doug Gilliatt. Those in attendance were; President Doug Gilliatt, Vice-President Fred Ruby, Secretary/Treasurer John Niehaus, Immediate Past President James Dawes, and founder Joe Kutza.

### **Old business:**

#### **Adding additional photos to the PCA website**

Webmaster Joe Kutza reported that he has yet to send any photos or the photo format criteria to the Associate Webmasters. Joe stated that he will send photos and the format criteria to the Associate Webmasters shortly. He also stated that any photos they return to him will be held by him rather than sending them on to the web developer due to the pending update of the PCA website. He will coordinate with the web developer when to send various photos.

#### **Website Revision**

A discussion was held regarding the overall cost to redesign the website. Webmaster Joe Kutza indicated that the current web developer quoted a total of \$8,000 to redesign the entire website. He also noted that the developer indicated that this was discounted due to the PCA being a 501(c)(3), tax exempt organization, from their usual \$10,000 fee for such a large project.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to authorize webmaster Joe Kutza to obtain a timeline from the current web developer to redesign the PCA website per the previously provided sample pages. The timeline is to include a start and finish date - month and year - as well as any intermediate dates at which they would require additional compensation.

The motion further stated that Joe will also determine from the developer if the redesign can be implemented incrementally, with each increment added to the current website as practicable.

He will also check with the developer to determine what type of contract has been used when redesigning or creating a new website for other clients.

A second motion was made and unanimously approved to make an initial payment of \$1,000 to the developer upon receipt of an Executive Committee approved timeline, verification as to whether incremental changes can be implemented on the current website, and a contract to redesign the website based on previous contracts for similar work used by the developer, if applicable.

An additional motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved for Secretary Niehaus to create a "donate through PayPal" option with an explanation that all donations will be used to update the website and are tax deductible. The motion further stated that he will instruct the web developer to add it to the home page of the PCA's website.

#### **The Parts Bin**

Secretary Niehaus reported that The Parts Bin received a substantial donation and that it included many HO pieces.

#### **Dues increase**

After much discussion it was decided that the additional membership cost to print all newsletters in color and charge accordingly would invariably cause a significant membership loss.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to

continue to offer the current three levels of membership.

A second motion was made seconded, and unanimously approved to retain the dues for ePCA membership at \$8, but increase the black and white membership to \$15, and the color membership level to \$45 for calendar year 2015 in order to offset the increase in both printing and postage costs.

A third motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to "grandfather in" the new membership rates for members who have prepaid their dues for 2015 and beyond. Those members will not be billed for the increase in dues until their prepayment period ends.

A fourth motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved stipulating that any prepayments of dues received after July 31, 2014 will be assessed at the 2015 membership rates.

#### **Update of Cancer Warning label web page**

Secretary Niehaus reported that the Information/Warning Label link has been updated to reflect Bachmann's formal response to the subject label.

#### **\$500 donation for website upgrade**

Secretary Niehaus reported that he has received a check for \$500 from the employer of the anonymous donor whose donation was noted in the previous Executive Committee meeting minutes.

### **New Business**

#### **Use of Skype for Executive Committee meetings**

It was determined that all Executive Committee members did not have the required technology to use Skype. Joe Kutza will investigate the possible use of WebEx or a non-fee alternative and report back at the next Executive Committee meeting.

#### **Inclusion of eBay selling names in classified ads**

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to disallow the inclusion of eBay selling names in classified ads in *The Villager*. The motion further stipulated that any member wishing to include their eBay selling name in a classified ad must pay the paid classified ad rate for members or have a display ad in the same issue of *The Villager*.

#### **Adding a link to the Eastern Division TCA's website on the PCA website**

Secretary Niehaus reported that the Eastern Division of the TCA had included a link to the PCA website on their website and asked that we add theirs to our website. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to have the editor request that the web developer add a link to the TCA's Eastern Division website to the Links/General page of the PCA website.

#### **Change of York meeting location to Orange Hall meeting room**

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to officially change the semi-annual Friday meeting at the York train meets to 11:00 AM in the Orange Hall meeting room. Secretary Niehaus noted that he has created signs to place on the meeting room doors to assure others using the room that the PCA has approval of the meet committee to use the meeting room from 11:00 AM until Noon on the Friday of future meets.

#### **Removing archived newsletters from website**

A question was presented to the Committee regarding the retention of all back issues of *The Villager* on the PCA website. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to retain all issues of *The Villager* on the PCA website.

**July 2014 Executive Committee minutes (continued)**

**John Deere grant**

Secretary Niehaus reported that he received a grant in the form of a check for \$1,000 from the John Deere Foundation with the stipulation that it be used to update the PCA website.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 PM, Eastern Time

Respectfully submitted; John L Niehaus

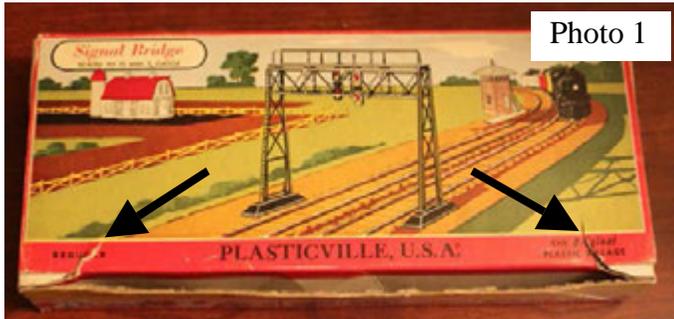
Secretary/Treasurer

Approved by the Executive Committee, July 15, 2014

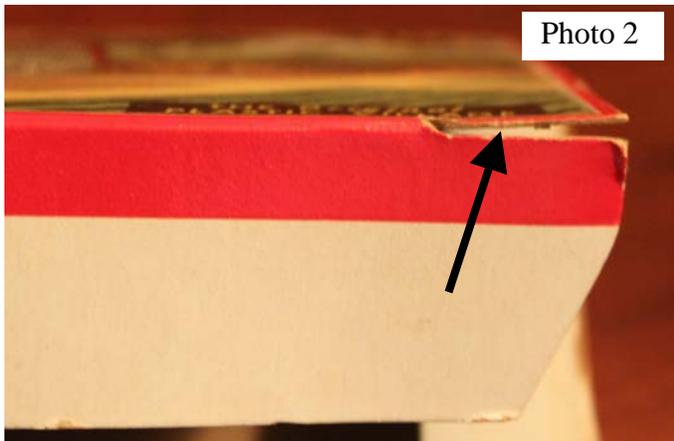
**How to Safely Open a Flip Top Box**

By John Niehaus

Have you ever wondered how top opening or opposite end opening boxes got into the shape shown in Photo 1?



You can blame it all on that little slot between the box top and the piece that slips down inside next to the front panel of the box. Photo 2



The slot is used to help prevent the accidental opening of the box during handling. It is quite often torn deeper when a person attempts to open the box as is very evident in Photo 1.

When you start to open a box the natural tendency of the flap is to tip inward towards the back of the box locking it under the flaps on the sides of the box. Any excessive force used to open the box at this point will quite possibly cause the slot to tear at its base as seen in Photo 1.

There is a simple and inexpensive means of preventing damage to this type of box. The only tool you will need is a penknife or another thin tool with a blade width less than the length of the slot as seen in Photo 3.

Here's how to open a top or end opening box without causing damage to it:

Insert the open blade of your penknife into the box vertically such that it is inside the box and between the front flap and the side flap. Be certain that the sharp side of your blade is facing toward the outside of the box if using a knife blade!

Now very gently pull up on the box top. The front flap should slide up your knife blade until the slot is fully visible as in Photo

4. Repeat the steps on the opposite side of the box top.

Once both slots are visible you should now be able to open the box retaining the pristine condition, or at least not contribute to additional damage to the box.



Be very careful if you are using a penknife with a sharp blade as you do not want to cut the box with this process. Always ensure that the sharp side of the blade is pointed outwards towards the side of the box. Not towards the end of the slot.



The tool that I carry at train meets is a small Swiss Army Knife. I use the nail file blade on it and revert to the knife blade only when it seems that the nail file blade is too thick. Both blades are only about 1/2 inch wide.

I must admit that I was unaware if this nifty trick until I saw a fellow PCA member use this method to open a pristine Plasticville piece's box.

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# Along the "HO" Line

## The HO-79 Fire House Kit

### And An Update to the HO Cream Colored Ranch

By Dominic St. John



Hello everyone, I'm going to touch upon an HO-79 Fire House kit that I picked up last year. It was, yet, another eBay listing. Once again I'm back to that place where the vast majority of my Plasticville HO has come from. I've been scanning those pages for too long now. Usually I see the same things over and over again. With all that scanning, it seems, I've developed a knack for being able to spot things that may be a little different to what I'm used to. That usually leads me to bid away in the hope of getting something new that deserves closer attention.



At first all I saw was just a very common Fire House in the early box. Then a number of small red plastic fire trucks and a small red car caught my eye. I've seen a lot of HO-79 kits. I've picked up my share of them. None of those ever came accessorized. This one definitely had my interest and I thought what the heck? At the very least I'll have another nice Fire House kit. That is pretty much what happened. I knew the Fire Vehicles were in the box because they were appropriate accessories and probably came from another place other than Bachmann. No matter to me I'm still bidding. Getting those fire trucks and car got me thinking.

I know in the O&S line the Fire House has its own fleet of fire trucks. I see them all the time on eBay. It's just been a wonder to me why the HO line never had its own. The HO-79 Fire House kit is found in the very first HO-A catalog. There is a simple paragraph describing its colors and dimensions. There is a red roof, white sides, red doors and a descriptive line telling of the "latest overhead doors for fast exit". Unfortunately there are no Fire Engines supplied to fulfill that "fast exit" operation!

There are certainly plenty of accessories made for and available in the HO line. Many items are related to the houses. You have signs, trees, fences and people. Telephone poles, light poles and crossing gates. That is just to name a few. Reading the pages of the HO catalogs will show all of the accessories you can use while building your own HO Plasticville city. Yet, there is no Fire Apparatus available for protecting the HO structures of that Plasticville city?

The only vehicles, I'm aware of, would be the cars supplied in the 2608 Gas Station with Auto. My HO Catalog 1958- F doesn't list the 2608. My HO Gauge Catalog-H 1960 does. I don't have the HO Catalog-G 1959 where I believe the 2608 Gas Station may have been introduced. The 1960 catalog doesn't describe the Gas Station as "new" which is a common sight when a new kit has been added to the line. (*The 2608 Gas Station was listed as a new item in the 1959 HO catalog . Editor*) So, was it not until 1959 before there was any type of motor vehicle facsimile created? Who made the cars for the HO Gas Stations? Anyone know? As you get into the later catalogs there are plenty of cars seen in a lot of the display photos. Some match the design of the cars supplied in the Gas Stations. Some are completely different. They came from somewhere. If not Bachmann, who?



Whoever it was, they certainly had a market for their wares. As for the Fire Trucks, Bachmann must have had built thousands

of the HO-79 Fire House. You couldn't ask for a better toy Fire House to park your plastic toy Fire Apparatus. Can you say these cars and trucks followed Plasticville and were produced to serve a market? Maybe a later article can touch on these a little bit more.

Over the years I have picked up a number of HO sized vehicles. Not because I was collecting them, most often they were included with something else I was after. Since picking up this particular kit with those red vehicles, it caused me to look at some of the cars and trucks I have already accumulated. I have a box where all these items reside. Looking into this stash finds some of the same Fire Trucks that were in the box with the Fire House. I also took three autos from three of my 2608 Gas Station kits just to do a little comparison.

When I found this kit on eBay, I saw that there was a Hook and Ladder truck, a smaller Ladder type engine, a small car and what looked like an antique steam operated pumper included.

When they arrived, and I was able to look closer at them, I could clearly see that two of them had their identification embossed into their molds. The Hook and Ladder truck is not marked with its name. I don't think that engine needs any explanation. The antique steam pumper type truck, at least that is what I think it is, might be easy to identify depending on your age? The third truck, which first looked to me like a ladder truck, has "WATER TANK" as well as a roll of fire hose and a water gun all embossed on its back. The small car is embossed with "FIRE CHIEF" on the two sides of its hood. The car looks a lot like a 1949 or 1950 two door Chevy Fleetline. That is the same 50's Chevy that I am very familiar with. When I went back into my box of stuff I found that I already had a Hook and Ladder, what I call the Steam Pumper and another fire engine with rows of hose and an axe molded on its back.

I took a look at the autos from the Gas Stations and all I could find was a single number embossed on the center of the roof underside. One car has the number 1 while two others have the number 2. Nowhere is the Bachmann name found on the autos. They are molded in the same colors as the color of the particular gas station they came from. They are a scaled in what looks to be a good size for their kit. They are made with a more solid plastic material and their colors are quite solid. They have no rolling wheels as their tires are molded in.

Now the four other pieces were found to be molded in red. They are a softer more pliable plastic. They're also somewhat transparent. When you hold them up to a light you can see through them just a bit. There are no rolling wheels on these. The four tires are also part of the mold. They seem smaller than what an HO fire Truck should be. When you place them in the overhead door opening, of the Fire House, they look lost in there. They are smaller than the Autos for the Gas Stations. I'm

pretty confident they're meant for HO as they are too old to be made for a smaller gauge. They have no other identifying marks on them, besides the two I've already mentioned. There are no numbers or names under the pieces either.

So now I am left with a dilemma. I have a box of cars and trucks and planes and trains with no means to identify them. The same goes for the Autos for the Gas Stations. I wonder where Bachmann got their vehicles. Did they make them or were they supplied to them by others? How come there are no Fire Vehicles in the HO line? Anyone who can help with info is



invited to share.

Now a little update regarding the cream colored Ranch I wrote of in the last Newsletter. I promised to look through my HO Ranch kits to see if I may have another in that same shade. I looked through 30 boxes. I went through the early kits and the later kits. I have plenty of the most common white shells. There are the yellow and blue shells in the early years. Dark green and salmon shells are plenty. What I originally felt was the rarest in my collection is a pastel pink shell. It is now demoted to runner up as I found no other cream colored HO Ranch. There has been a 2701 Railroad Work Car listed on eBay that looks to be a similar color. Its cost is a little too high for me or I would have gone after it by now. If it were to come down in price I may take a shot. Aside from that, I'm still confident that this Ranch with its cream shade shell and marbled posts for the side porch awning is a pretty scarce item. I've been buying Plasticville HO for a very long time and this is the first time I've ever seen or owned this shade of HO Ranch House.

Till the next time, enjoy the rest of the summer and I'll see you again.

Dominic

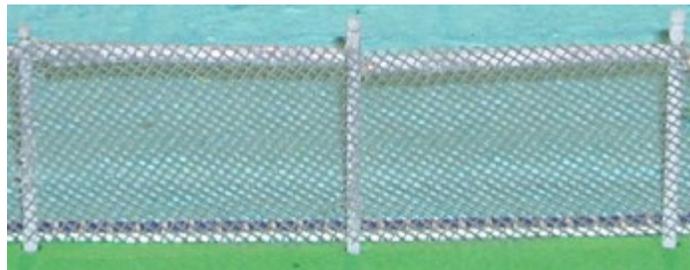
## How Do You Model Chain Link/Cyclone Fence?

Vice President Fred Ruby wants to know how you model chain link or cyclone fence on your layout.

Fred's fence is nylon fly screen, cut at a 45 degree bias for the fence material and BBQ bamboo skewers for the poles at the top of the fencing and the same, shortened, for the vertical poles, all painted silver".

Send a description of how you make your fence, along with a photo to [villagereditor@netins.net](mailto:villagereditor@netins.net) or mail your submission to the address in the box at the bottom of the front page of this newsletter.

All submissions will be published in the November edition of



*The Villager.*

Fred's fence is pictured above.

# Plasticville on the Boards

## Running a Train Show

By John Gottcent



Over the years, my favorite place to shop for plastic village buildings and accessories has been at area train shows. Though I've never been to York, I have gone to shows in St. Louis, Nashville, Indianapolis, and even my hometown of Evansville, Indiana. These shows usually bustle with activity and opportunity. (See Photo One).



Photo One

Some time ago, I decided to try my hand at selling at one or another of these shows. I've come to enjoy the opportunity to set up my stuff, chat with customers, and even occasionally get visited by family, as when my son and his kids showed up last year at a show in Illinois. (See Photo Two.)



Photo Two

So when Darrel and Linda Cato, who had run our Evansville train show, decided to retire in 2012, I felt a real sense of loss. That's when I and two friends, Mike Nickel and Larry Largent

(Larry took most of the photos accompanying this article) decided to take the plunge and try putting on a show of our own.

We formed the Evansville Train Show Club, and set about organizing our own show for last fall. This will be a snap, we thought, since we have several people who now can split up and share the work amongst ourselves.

How wrong we were. It didn't take long to realize the tremendous efforts undertaken by all who organize such events, efforts which the rest of us hardly ever see.

First we needed a venue. This or that location lacked one requirement or another, until a search finally led us to St. Paul's UCC on Evansville's west side, whose gymnasium looked like a pretty good site.

Then we needed dealers to attend the show and set up their wares. The Catos were kind enough to give us their old dealer list, but each of those persons had to be contacted personally and persuaded to join us on our first-time-out adventure. That meant phone calls, emails, and lots of postage for flyers.

Then we needed a club checking account. But you can't get that without a federal Employer Identification Number, even though we have no employees. So it became a case of filling out forms and waiting for the government to act.

That done, someone reminded us about insurance. We needed protection in case of accident or injury during the show. First we thought one of us could get a rider attached to our homeowner policies, but when that didn't work, we had to go searching for coverage at a price we could afford.

Then orders from dealers started coming in—so many, in fact, that we soon ran out of tables to sell. So it was off to Rural King to purchase more tables, which we've had to store at the home of one of our club members.

Finally done? Not even close. We still had to generate publicity around town, which meant more flyers and contacts with newspaper, radio, and TV outlets. We had to prepare an operating train layout and a play area for kids who would come to the show. (See the result in Photo Three.)



Photo Three

Photo Four



When the day arrived, however, our efforts paid off. A good crowd showed up (Photo Four), and the show was a great success. One of our dealers even sold all of his Plasticville (and he had a lot!) to a single customer who is setting up an elaborate train layout. That customer promised to be back next year looking for more.

So we'll be doing another show this November. If you'd like details about it, send me an email at [jandjgott@gmail.com](mailto:jandjgott@gmail.com).

Meanwhile, I've come away with a new appreciation for the efforts put in by other people over the years to set up the shows that allow us to sell our wares and buy new items for our collections. If you even decide to put on a show of your own, you'll see what I mean.

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

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**Bank** – Lamp & Globe (early; white or late; red, \$3.00), Front Canopy - \$3.00, Drive-Up Canopy - \$4.00

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**Frosty Bar** – Roof Sign - \$3.50, Stool

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**Large Gas Station** – Window Insert

**Hardware & Pharmacy (DH2, 1611, black front)** – Left Window Insert, Right Window Insert

**Motel – Flowers** – set of 3 on single sheet (you cut out) - \$1.50

**Small Supermarket** – Left Window Insert, Right Window Insert

**Large Supermarket** – Left Window Insert, Right Window Insert

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**1 1/2 Story House** – Antenna, Chimney Half

**Two Story House** – Antenna, Rooster Weathervane, Chimney Half, Porch Roof Post (please specify color)

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**Colonial Mansion** – Chimney Half

**House Under Construction** – 3 piece Sawhorse - \$2.50, Bucket, Hoe, Rake, Shovel

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**Split Level House** – Large Rain Gutter, Small Rain Gutter

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**Airport Hangar** – Windsock - \$3.00

**Fire House** – Roof Siren (late, larger size) - \$3.00, Chimney Cap

**Hospital** – Siren - \$3.00

**Police Department** - Chimney Cap - \$3.00, Front Lights - \$3.00, Antenna, Antenna Base

**Post Office** – Front Light - \$3.00, Roof Flag - \$6.00, Left Window Insert, Right Window Insert

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Questions – call or email me at judyp@atlanticbb.net. I'll get back to you

## Along the Other line - the K-Line K-103 Steam Whistle Station

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



It is in very nice shape, good color, no scratches, with both of the under the roof signs. My station has slightly off-white walls. The roof is green as are all of the add-on doors and windows. The loading dock is somewhat of a brick red rather than a darker brown. I am led to believe that it may have come in other color combinations but not have seen any others.



Well a happy summer to all. Got off to a bad start in western PA with the rain again, but it has been pretty nice except the second week of July with powerful storms in the Pittsburgh area.

My article this time is on the K-Lineville Whistling Freight Station. I bought it at a local train show in March 2014. I did not it was a whistle station, I thought it was a lighted station. I asked the guy who I bought it off if the light worked, he said yes. So I took his word for it. I got it home and much to my surprise the light did not work.

But when I hooked it up to an old Marx transformer that I have and touched the accessory terminal a very nice sounding steam whistle blew. I was very happy after hooking up a toggle switch to it as it was working great. Does anyone have the correct K-Line button for this piece? Please let me know.

I don't know if the guy knew what he was talking about. I think he bought it off of someone or traded it for something he had. Anyway, I thought I got a very good deal for \$10.

It is, effectively, the K-Line Freight Station but with the addition of the steam whistle. The non-whistling station is stock number K-4031. That piece was the first building my wife got me for Christmas when Lionel came back into my life. I decided to set the whistling one up on a 4 x 8 layout that I mess around with in the dead of winter in my basement.

I am very glad I had the chance to get it. I am trying to figure out where to put it on my Christmas layout this year. I think it will make a nice addition. I am going to try to plan out my big Christmas layout early this year.

Well that is about it for now. Happy railroading to all.  
Best Wishes to all Ken Honick.

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# Conversion of a CC-8 Country Church Into a Synagogue

By Fred Ruby #01-9 and Cindy Friedberg



My better-half, Cindy, and I wanted to build a series of dioramas to use on our local club's portable modular layout. Everyone else built the standard 48 inch wide by 24 inch deep module and decorated the blue foam board strip between the track and the front edge (about six inches deep) and the larger section (13 inches deep) between the track and the inside edge of the module for the 48 inch width. They have to set up and wire each item in their modules every time the club displays at a show. Cindy and I thought that leaving the front sections stationary, the six inch deep part, and just adding (removable) phone poles would suffice, but we wanted to be able to give the thirteen inch deep part of our modules different looks depending on the season, the show we were attending, and our own whims.

So we got some sections of half-inch blue board and cut them to 24 inches wide by 13 inches deep. To install these, we removed the 48 inch by 13 inch section at the back (track to inside edge of the module) section of blue board, leaving the space with a large gaping hole. We drop two of our scenes into place and we're done. We have seven scenes and are working on the eighth. As your editor pressures me, we will get around to articles on these as well as this first one.

This first one is representative of our (Cindy's) wildest imaginative exploit. You may like some of the others more, but this one never fails to get comments when displayed, because the idea of a "Jewish" Plasticville is almost unheard of.

## Choosing a Plasticville building to convert

The Littletown Colonial Church came with three steeple toppings: a cross, a weathervane and a Star Of David. Finding the weathervane or the Star Of David is quite rare. They were usually lost by the children who were the original owners. When Bachman Brothers took over the molds after buying Littletown, the need for the three toppings must have been seen as a needless expense. To the best of my knowledge, the Plasticville version only had the cross in the kit. Although the Town Hall and Schoolhouse weathervane should work (I think). Maybe a Barn weathervane could also be substituted for display. But not for our purpose.

So how does a Jewish house of worship get represented on a model pike? Conversion! The attached pictures and this article will help point the way to anyone wanting a slightly different building to display on a shelf, layout or diorama.

We started with a CC-8 Parish Church in good condition. We opted for the CC-8 church due to space considerations on the

module. Because we use this as a display for our local club's portable modular layout, we didn't need one in a box or pristine condition. Good shape externally is what counted. Five dollars is all it took to acquire this new start for our module at a local train meet. The following narrative should give directions if you wish to duplicate our efforts.

## How we did it

All of the stained glass window papers were removed. We then painted the insides of all remaining parts with flat black paint to prevent light leakage when the building is illuminated. Plain white wrapping tissue, held in place with a few drops of white glue, were added on the inside over the windows. The outside widow trim was highlighted in brown paint. The final step was to completely assemble the church using white glue.

Now for the Star of David: We acquired three clean, unused, wooden coffee stir sticks and lightly sanded them on all sides.

The sticks were then cut into six pieces 2 1/2 inches length and the cut ends sanded smooth. We then painted each piece with gold paint. Next, we glue three pieces, using CA glue, into a triangle with the first piece under the second, the second under the third and the third under the first.



To complete the Star: take the fourth piece and place it through the middle of the triangle and under the middle of one side of the completed triangle. Take the fifth piece and place it through the middle of the triangle and under another side of the triangle. Take the sixth piece and place it through the middle of the triangle and under the remaining side of the triangle. Glue each end of these remaining pieces with CA glue once the pieces are correctly aligned. The newly made Star Of David can now be affixed over the front door of the synagogue.



We used Microsoft PowerPoint to make a sign to place on each roof half as an additional detail.

The interior lighting is provided by a small bulb socket holding a #1447 18V bulb that we run on 9 volts, providing a soft orange glow. We wanted to use a readily available bulb and did not want to generate excessive heat plus at half-voltage the bulb NEVER needs to be replaced.

We incorporated a drop down door under the bulb holder just in case the bulb does burn out.

That's it! The CC-8 church has been converted to a synagogue /temple!





Is there a Plasticville citizen that can be converted into a Rabbi? SURE! We took a Plasticville Citizen Minister and painted him all in black. We added some cotton to his cheeks and chin for a long beard. For the tallit, the tassels Orthodox Jews wear at their waist, we took a few strands of white thread about 2 inches long and glued them together on both ends

with white glue. Once the glue was dry, we cut the glued string in half to create two 1 inch glued pieces. Each of these pieces were glued to each side of the "Rabbi's" vest/jacket. The last step was to trim each of the assemblies so that about 1/2 inch in length is dangling on each side.

What about a wife for the Rabbi? We took an appropriate Plasticville woman for starters. We then wrapped and glued tissue paper to the bottom of her dress hem to get her dress to ankle length. Her entire dress was painted black after the glue had dried.

Where is the Rabbi and his wife going to live? Due to space considerations we have put them in a Cape Cod house, with all interior surfaces painted black. It has had white tissue paper glued to the windows as was done with the church. Some cotton, with carefully added gray and black painted streaks, glued to the top of the chimney, give a fire in the hearth effect. We, again, used a 1447 bulb (18 volt rating) run at 9 volts for an orange glow with VERY little heat generated. The exterior was given a freehand repaint by Cindy to meet her whim and joy.

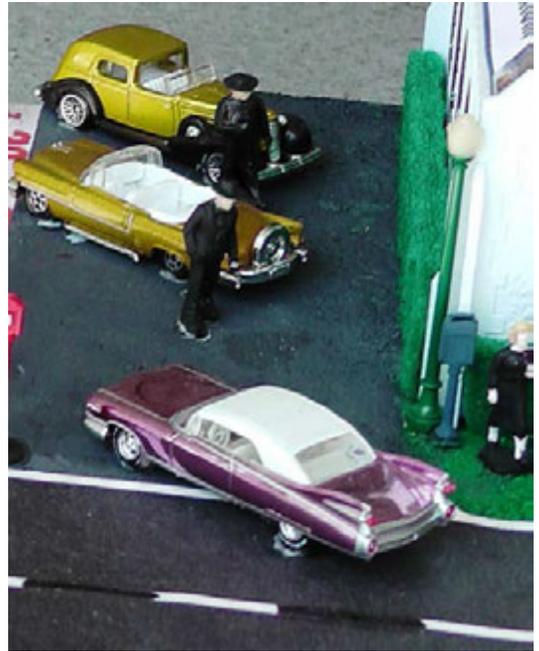


We have a synagogue, a rabbi and wife, and their home. Now, what were we to do with the remainder of our diorama? How about creating a Jewish Community Center!

We started with a Plasticville Playground. We added a blue painted Plasticville billboard with a custom printed insert advertising the "Friedberg Jewish Community Center". We placed Plasticville Citizens and other children, after painting them, around the pool to complete this part of the diorama.

The mermaid was found at a bar that places different animals on each drink so you know yours from the other patrons. I got squeals of joy from Cindy when I brought home that mermaid. "I know just what she's for! Thank you!" Her paint job on it generates a lot of comments.

As this is a synagogue in the late 1950's, we filled our parking lot with Cadillacs from the 30's and 50's. But as always, on an imagination-filled project, the decisions are all yours. A Plasticville street light looked right, as did a fire hydrant.



The hedges are a really neat detail. We found nylon scrub pads about 6 inches by 3 inches and 3/8 inches thick at the 99¢ store, 10 in a package. Just cut to height with scissors and glue to walls or your base.

The road is black paper glued down. But if done again, I would paint it directly on the base. Paper can expand and contract over time from exposure to humid and dry conditions which may cause the base to warp. The center stripe is a piece of pin-stripe tape from Pep Boys, with every other inch painted black using a Sharpie. That turned out to be the EASIEST way to get a dashed center stripe that I found. Just place a yard stick down on the road and darken from the left edge one inch, skip an inch and darken the next inch. Repeat to the end. Always start on the same side so when placed next to each other, the road's center line dashes are continuous and uniform. It looks great and takes very little effort. A road edge of the same tape marks the road edge at the shoulder. Similarly, the parking lot is created with pin stripe tape to mark the parking spots. The cars on our module are mostly Hot Wheels or similar from eBay and the 99¢ store. The vehicles are secured with white glue, but lessons learned tell me that CA (super glue) or a dab of hot glue would hold better – those little rubber wheels seem immune to really being grabbed by white glue.

Once your details are laid out and secured, you can glue the temple and the house to the board over their respective light bulbs.

### In closing

We use the same lighting method on all our dioramas. I found a two wire connector to use on the All Electronics' website ([www.allectronics.com](http://www.allectronics.com)) and have that same connector on every board with the other end used on a 9 volt power supply. That way we can change out the modules as desired (even within one weekend show or several times a day!) and only have to unplug the simple connectors, swap dioramas and connect any lights on the newly placed scene.



Making multiple connections from one power supply should be easy, but ask if you need guidance. Don't overload any one power supply with too many bulbs, etcetera.

I'll share a sound source that works great with this same voltage supply in a future article.

The carrying case for the diorama is constructed from three legal sized paper boxes. If you know anyone who works in an escrow company, make them your new best pal. You can collect several legal paper boxes a week as real estate transactions are all done on legal paper. Each case is approximately 14 1/2 inches wide (legal paper sized) by 25 1/2 inches long (one and a half boxes) by 11 inches tall (the boxes come this tall). Cut the one box and its lid in half to form two open ended boxes 14 1/2 inches wide, 8 1/2 inches long and 11 inches tall. Cut one end from one of the other boxes. Do the same with its lid. Use clear sealing tape to join the two modified boxes together, creating a box large enough to carry one of the dioramas. Start with a few small pieces of tape on the inside then run a continuous strip of tape down one side, across the bottom, up the other side, down the inside, across the inside

bottom, up the other inside side, up to the start over the top and down a few inches finishing up with a bit of an overlap. Finally run a continuous piece of tape around the top of the box, just below the upper edge. Repeat the same steps to create the larger lid. These turn out to be a lot stronger than one might think!

I also found it best to glue two pieces of scrap blue board (1/2 inch thick, 1-2 two inches wide and 20 inches long) about 1 inch inside the long walls of the carrying case. That allows your fingers easy access under the sides of the diorama's base for easy removal. It also leaves a bit of room so dangling wires have a safe place to rest.

I covered a bit more than the title suggests, but if you build



one of these modules for use at home or at shows, you will see that a scenery swap takes five minutes or less. A little more work up front? Yes, but not that much more. When we do a show, our display takes ten minutes from unloading to ready per module. The other guys take as much as two hours per module, depending on the detail level. Just something for you module folks to consider.

Questions? Send them to me at [pca\\_vice\\_prez@yahoo.com](mailto:pca_vice_prez@yahoo.com). I will do my best, or get Cindy to assist me with a meaningful response.

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## StoryTown U.S.A. #5010 Goosey Goosey Gander by Chris P. Matthy #01-73



Goosey, Goosey, Gander!  
Where shall I wander?  
Upstairs and downstairs  
And in my lady's chamber.

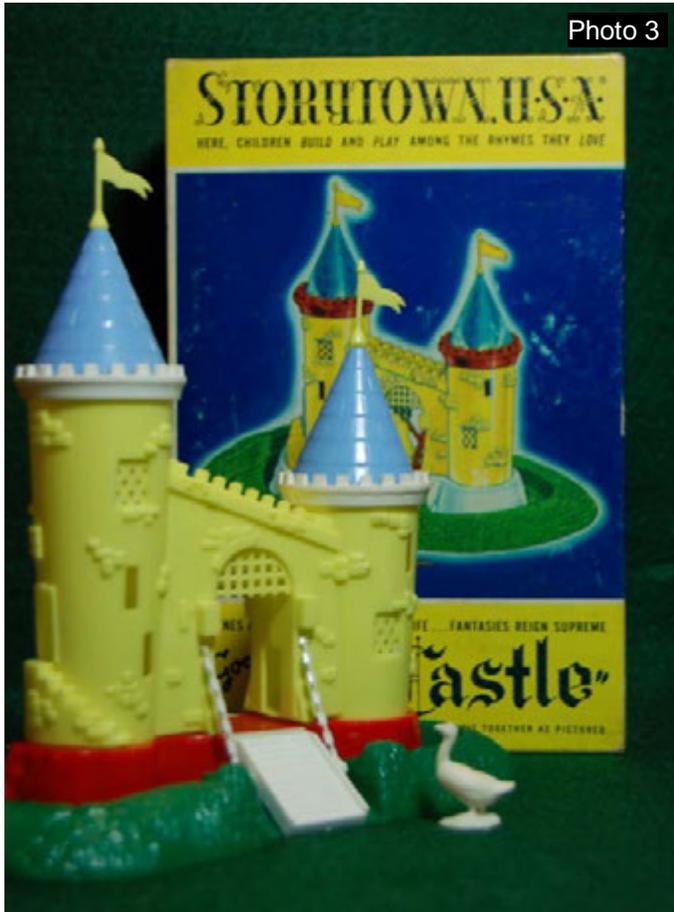


Photo 3

Charley Wood had the original nursery rhyme or fairy tale posted by each of his displays at Storytown U.S.A. near Lake George, NY. So it is more than likely that when the powers-that-be worked on the rhyme to be included with kit #5010 they may have been following Charley's lead by using just the first half of this rhyme.



Photo 1

According to "The Annotated Mother Goose" the second half of this rhyme was a blending from another rhyme, which was either about pulling legs off spiders or the murder of a Scottish cardinal whose body was hung from the castle walls -- take your pick! Or not!

Actually, I wonder if the association of Goosey with the castle at Storytown may have been a later addition for Wood. The early park brochure and map simply refers to this attraction as The Castle. Every fairy land needs a castle, don't you think?

Perhaps Goosey inherited this castle when a much more majestic castle was later built for Cinderella; or, perhaps as the park developed it made more sense to associate a rhyme with the scene; or, maybe the decision to work with Bachmann precipitated the need for a rhyme to go with each kit.

The original postcard (Photo 1) doesn't seem to show any inhabitants (even fiberglass), but Internet photos of the restored castle include a flock of geese and ducks (and feathers and duck-doo on the bridge).

In any case, a castle is part of our miniature fairy land. Its prototype is really very modest; if Wood was trying to compete with the Cinderella's Castle at newly-opened Disneyland he sure didn't show it (even the later Cinderella's Castle at Storytown USA was tiny). Notice in the post card picture that the "Castle" is dwarfed by the Gingerbread House in the distance.

The post card picture also suggests that the kit is a rather close representation of the original - except, do you see that winding staircase between the towers? The original Castle is actually a three-tower affair -- the third one is hidden behind the taller tower in the post card but obvious in the straight-on Internet shot. (Photo 2)

So in kit #5010 the Castle was simplified to have two towers with two building halves, a much simpler engineering problem. (Photo 3)

As with other kits, the two halves are held together cleverly by the base and tower tops. Even with just two towers, I would have liked to see the designers hold on to the whimsical lean of the towers; perhaps the assembly design discouraged that.

The clever design adjustment is that the opening to the stairway has become the main gateway, with the doorway in the tower eliminated. But it's also curious, because now there are no stairs to match the rhyme.

Getting beyond the basic shape, the kit details are a combination of what was there and some fanciful additions.

Starting at the bottom, we have the drawbridges and their chains, doubling the one bridge on the original. Further up, the walls show more masonry, window and door details. At the top



Photo 2

of the towers some fancy trim rings were added. As a nice touch the flags were retained at the top of the towers.

When it comes to variations, Goosey Goosey Gander's Castle is the only Storytown USA kit with four different color combinations, with a light blue and white joining the familiar red and yellow colors; more interestingly, each kit contains all four colors. Here are the variations:

1. Red walls & flags; yellow base; white tops, drawbridges & chains; blue rings;
2. Yellow walls & flags; red base; blue tops, drawbridges & chains; white rings;
3. White walls & flags; blue base; red tops; yellow rings, drawbridges & chains;
4. Blue walls & flags; yellow tops; white base; red rings, drawbridges & chains.

Note that the last two kits follow a different pattern than the first two. This is consistent in both Bill Nole's latest guide and our own PCA website. Not owning examples of all four I will trust this curiosity.

The flags, often missing, and the chains, often broken, are available as reproductions in all four colors. Unfortunately, the rings, also sometimes missing, are not.

Completing the kit are the familiar Plasticville pond, which this time actually approximates the original "moat," and Goosey himself, molded in white. Finally, the usual 1/2 sheet rhyme page is included.

As a bonus -- and as a teaser for a later article -- I have included a picture of an all blue castle. (Photo 4) If you have similar mono-color Storytown USA kits would you please let



me know.

There is no telling what inspired Bachmann, or Charley Wood, or both, to go with the four color schemes. Perhaps it was driven by the desire to include a white castle that would match the prototype and it just grew from there. In any case, it just means more fun for the Storytown USA collector. As stated earlier, every fairyland needs a castle -- but four are better!

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TCA, LCCA, LOTS, and other non-commercial meet dates accepted.

# Creative Use of Damaged Parts

## *Two-Story Apartment House*

By Edward L Johnson



As the summer begins my modeling activity usually slows down. I was perplexed on deciding material for this current issue. I had nothing started and no projects planned. I recalled there was a two story apartment house I had built before joining the PCA. **But where was it?** The majority of my “stuff” is kept in two storage units. Two hours were spent exploring the large unit to no avail. Another hour exploring the smaller unit was

also fruitless. Just when I was about to give up I looked up and there in plain view was a box labeled PV apartment house.

The model was constructed with the standard Plasticville Apartment house and a roof from what I suspect was a Marx passenger station. The model is complete so except for minor repair there was nothing else to do except to mount it on a base. Let's move on to the house.



**Front View.** The small terrace was removed.



**Left side.** Shows accumulated vegetation.



**Right side:** More vegetation.



**Rear View:** Modification for fire escape.



**Two lighted views:** I planned to illuminate the model but there was an intermittent short circuit that had to be found and corrected.

I found and fixed the short and added two lampposts.

BTW: It includes maid service.



The scenic materials are from what I have available. I'm trying to use up a lot of miscellaneous scenic materials. So fellow modelers have a safe and happy summer. Till next time  
That's all folks! Eddie J!!

## Pen Tips Painting Plastic Village Figures

The below is a Yahoo post conversation initiated by John Gottcent with responses from Sheldon Wotring and Jim McClenin. A PCA pen will go out to each.

Over the years I've noticed a problem when trying to paint various plastic village "citizens." Those made with hard plastic (like Plasticville or Lionel) take Testor's basic paints easily and dry in a jiffy. But those made with soft plastic (like Marx or K-Line) will take the paint, but remain sticky to the touch for months! Any tips on how to deal with this sticky paint problem?  
**John Gottcent**

The paint stays soft because of the softeners in the plastic

that keep it flexible. Have you ever noticed that Littletown or Marx soft people leave a dent when they lay against hard plastic. That's because of the softeners. This is why Marx and Littletown packed their people in paper bags. This protected the other pieces. The solution is to use paints designed for soft plastic such as those made for the flexible RC car bodies.  
**Sheldon Wotring**

I think solvent based paints react with the soft plastic figures in a way that prevents proper drying. The solution is to switch to acrylic paints.  
**Jim McClenin**

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Col Mansion (red roof) \$25, Country Church \$6,  
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### **Accessories**

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Fire Trucks (red, 1 pumper, 1 ladder truck) \$10 set - New: (yellow, 1 pumper, 1 ladder truck) \$15 set  
Shiny RED PV auto \$8, Hay Wagon w/8 stakes \$6, BBQs \$2.50 ea  
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CANOPY, SCHOOL WHITE LIGHT, HOUSE UNDER CONSTRUCTION SHOVEL, RAKE, HOE,  
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# Plasticville Boxed Sets 102

## The Early Sets

By Robert Spivey



Early Plasticville Units, although having limited components, primarily expressed Bachmann's readiness to enter into the holiday plastics market. In the late 1940's Bachmann had begun producing a large ( by O scale standards) picket fence and gate. Bachmann had received advice from their merchants that a growing number of Lionel clientele were buying up this fence, especially around Christmas time. Bachmann had been, up to that point, a producer of household products, and some military items like sunglasses. In fact, a few of their household products (called styles or forms) were advertised on pre-Plasticville box bottoms. Bachmann, having entered the holiday market, seized the opportunity to offer dedicated train related items. There were some very interesting small boxes of which I have never seen. One is picket fence and gate with two colorful trees pressed into a false bottom. Another is a Cape Cod house packaged in a flat box that seems to be about the size of a 78 rpm music record. Indeed, shortly before 1950, and perhaps as late as the Christmas season of 1949, Bachmann presented their first true boxed set.

The Community Unit, date of origin undetermined, was that very set. The set included a brown roof CC-7 toy church (the type with no belfry), and five Cape Cod houses with a box of house fence (later to be known as the HO fence). The structures were neatly separated by six 3 1/2 X 5 1/2 inch bottomless dividers; they will be termed cookie cutter style. There was one 3 1/2 X 3 1/4 inch cookie cutter which held the steeple and the fence. The set was packaged in a sturdy, dull yellow, lift off box ( 9 1/2 X 14 1/2 X 1 7/8). The set name was centered along the upper edge of the box top only. This set had no abbreviated designation; "PLASTICVILLE U. S. A.", and the primary slogan, "Built by YOUNG AMERICA", appeared on the box top. The smaller secondary slogans, "ANY CHILD CAN EASILY ASSEMBLE THESE UNITS", and even smaller, "ALL OF THESE UNITS ARE BUILT TO 1/4 SCALE", were both centered across the box top. The slogan, "THE TOWN THAT GROWS AND GROWS", was imposed over and artist's rendering of a quaint suburban neighborhood. A border of non repeating sketches captioned, "OTHER PLASTICVILLE U. S. A. ITEMS", were printed around all of the box panels.

The artist's rendering was one of a landscape which included at least one of every item that Bachmann had produced up to the making of this set (date of origin undetermined). It was a scene of a suburban block dominated by at least thirty Cape Cod houses, grouped around a church and a supermarket. A log cabin was set in a maple grove beyond. In the distance were rolling hills under a sky at dusk; a cloud bank was simply represented by using a single geomorphic line within which was left as white. The roads and paths were left as white. The flock of birds were incorrectly pictured as small. Overall the scene was very colorful, something that will not be done again for years. The neighborhood landscape will also become the corner forward sketch, faintly applied, and then overlaid by the letter box rendering of contents for each set up to 1959. This landscape theme would return to prominence in 1959, actually covering the entire box top. A sketch of a boy assembling a

Cape Cod house appeared off to the right of this landscape picture, and one of a girl placing a tree in a park fronting a supermarket appeared to the left. The boy would become a featured icon within a white circle on every box top until 1959. The girl would not. There was no list of contents on this box. These basic features of this set box would all be carried forth in varied forms for years to come.



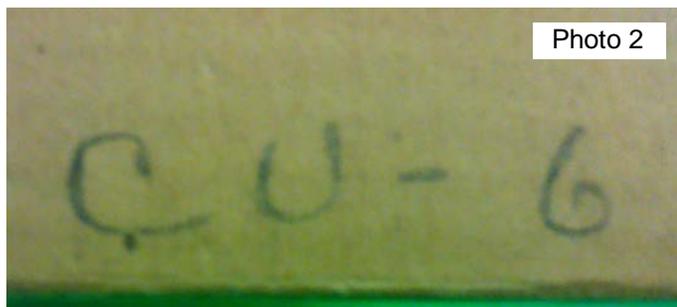
Photo 1

The House Unit ( HU-6), cataloged in 1950, (Photo 1) was packaged in the same box, however the set designation House Unit HU-6 was printed where Community Unit had first appeared. The box was semi gloss yellow. There is no list of contents on this box. The cookie cutter dividers remained the same as the Community Unit. The set included five Cape Cod houses, four maple trees, two glow in the dark lamp posts, a bag of shrubs, and two groups of house fence and gate which may not always have been individually boxed, all 1950. The packet of shrubs had its artwork of green applied in reverse to the inside of a flexible heat sealed bag. This bag was named, " Ornamental EVERGREEN BUSHES", and identified, " PLASTICVILLE U. S. A.". When boxed, the fence was packaged in the green HF-2 carton for individual sale items.

The House Unit (HU-6), cataloged in 1951, was packaged in the same box as the 1950 (HU-6). There is no list of contents on this box. The box retains five of the cookie cutter dividers like the 1950 (HU-6), and features one slightly longer cookie cutter divider about the length of a telephone pole. The set included four Cape Cod houses, four maple trees, four dark brown ( not marbled) telephone poles with diagonal braces, two boulevard lights, one white billboard with a monochromatic ad, a bird bath, two bags of shrubs, and a box of house fence and gate, all 1950. This set was more likely to have the fence individually boxed, but not the 1950 set.

Peach or turquoise Cape Cod houses would not have come in these three units. One royal blue house among others may have been in the Community Unit. One pastel blue house among

others may have been in the 1950 House Unit. The yellow house among others may have been in the 1951 House unit. The royal blue house has not been included in any 1951 set that I have seen.



Christmas Platform, Unit (CU-6), much like a dealer display, was cataloged in 1950. The unit was packaged in a sturdy unmarked shipping box with two tuck in flaps running down the middle of the face top of the box. This was not a lift off box. There was no colorful paper covering on the Christmas Platform Units' boxes. The only marking on the box was hand written "CU - 6" on one end panel only, as if a shipping dock employee rapidly marked a tall stack of completed units (Photo 2). The unique component of a Christmas Platform Unit was the base. It is an exceptionally nice, stout, factory finished pasteboard platform ( 20 X 13 inches). The CU-6 platform outlined a footprint for a scene at a fork in the road. There was a blank rectangle labeled, "HOUSE", on the left fork and one labeled, "LOG CABIN", on the right. These were to be covered precisely with the centerpiece buildings: one red roof Cape Cod house, and one log cabin.

There were also blank circles on the platform labeled, "PHONEPOLE", "PHONEPOLE", "TREE", "TREE", "TRELLIS", and "BIRD BATH". The accessory components

were two phone poles, two evergreen trees, rustic fence and gate, a trellis, and a bird bath, all 1950. The contents were crisply wrapped and tucked into five separate sheets of green tissue paper.

Christmas Platform Unit (CU- 10), cataloged in 1950, was the same as the (CU-6) except there was a toy church, 1950, in the place of the log cabin. The same base from the (CU- 6) was used, except the church was to be placed in the rectangle labeled for the log cabin.

Under the Tree on Christmas Unit (CU-9), cataloged in 1951, was a 20 X 13 inch platform consisting of a Cape Cod house, a barn, an outhouse, a yard pump, a birdbath, a barbeque, a maple tree, and two telephone poles, all 1950.

Under the Tree on Christmas Unit (CU-7), cataloged in 1951, was a 20 X 13 inch platform consisting of a Cape Cod house, a bridge and lake, an outhouse, a wishing well, two lampposts, two maple trees, two evergreen trees, four telephone poles and a billboard with a monochromatic ad, all 1950.

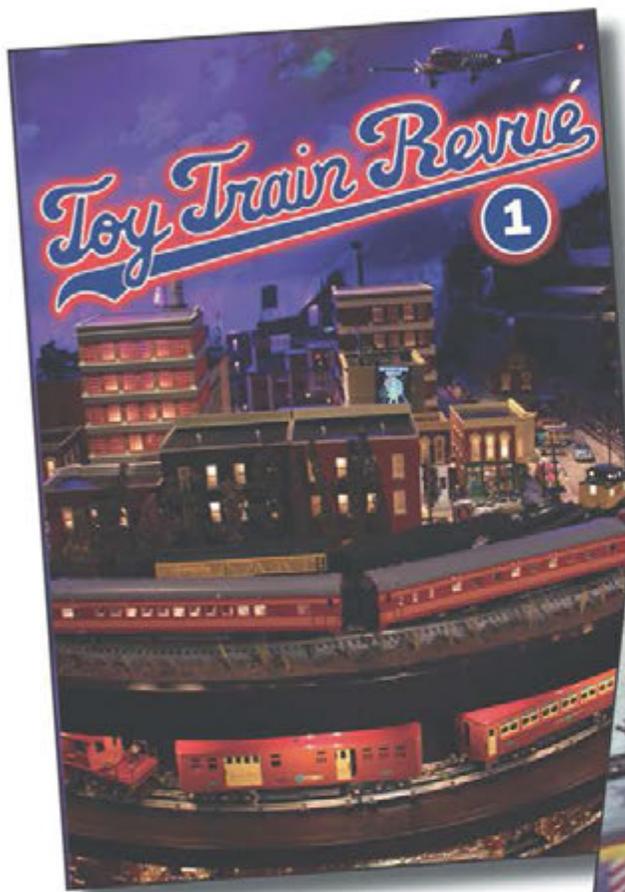
There were five kits which were named units however they were packaged in standard individual type 2b boxes. They are Railroad Accessories Units (RA-6) and (RA-7), Yard Accessories Unit (YA-9), House and Yard Accessories Unit (HY-6), and one of the box variations for the log cabin (LC-2). There was also a Railway Accessory Unit (RA-5) packaged in a red white and blue type 1 box.

In summary, the early sets were typified by Bachmann's patented method of outside braced interlocking parts, and by the multiple use of the same box. The inside style snap together tabs were to come when the supermarket would be included in a second generation of boxed sets. That re-imagination of larger and more diversified sets would keep pace with Bachmann's product development throughout the 1950's decade.

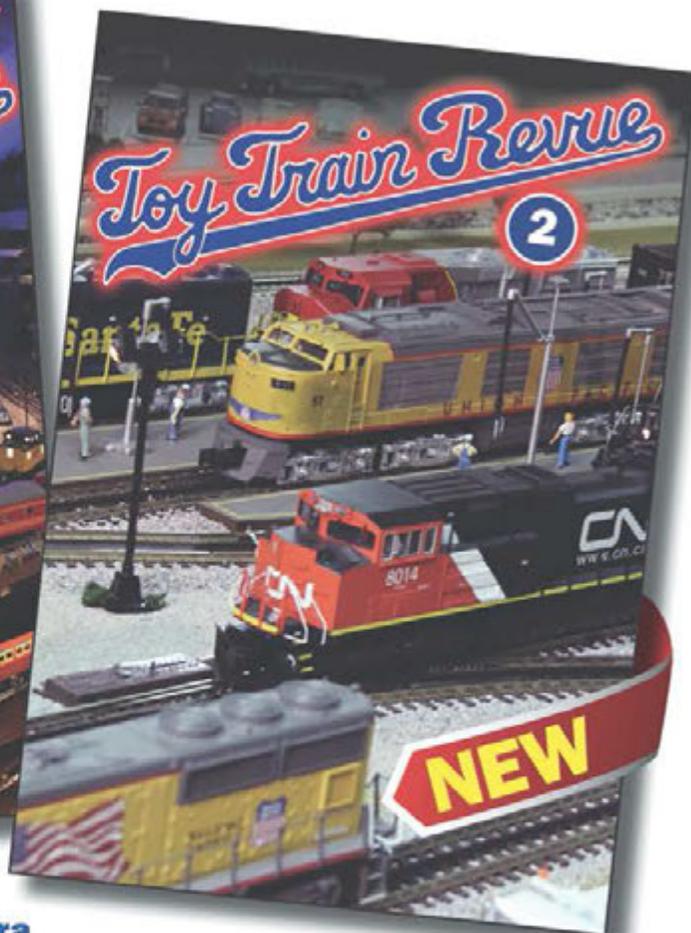
As a closing thought; remember that large picket fence and gate mentioned earlier in this article? Curiously, that item never made it into any boxed set in any era.



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## What Members Are Saying

I have a question. I receive The Villager in the mail, and noticed that it looks like regular postage was put on the envelope. I believe Plasticville Collectors Association is a non-profit organization. I would think that PCA would pay a greatly reduced price for any mailing, such as for any non-profit organization. Has that ever been looked into? Thanks for your time. Rick Martinek #01-19. *(As your Secretary/Treasurer I have looked into how to reduce the cost of mailings on many occasions. The last time was this June. The problem with reduced postage is that the non-profit organization has to presort the mail as well as have a sufficient amount going to the various zip codes to qualify for those reduced rates. As we are an association of just under 500 members we do not qualify for those reduced rates. John)*

Did K-line make the green & white chicken coop? Like the Marx one? Was it made in HO also? Rich Kotowski #13-818 *(K-Line, using the original Marx molds, created the barn and chicken coop in green and white as well as a brown and white version. Generally the barn had one color walls and the chicken coop the opposite. Other times the walls for both structures were the same color and the roofs the other color. But, with K-Line near the end of their life anything was possible. The only combination I have not seen in a box is all the pieces the same color. Neither Marx or K-Line made an HO version. Actual prototype chicken coops were generally not as tall as other farm buildings and sometime not even tall enough for a person to fully stand up inside. I know this for a fact, as I cleaned many a chicken coop for my neighbor during my high school years. Editor)*

One aside for the latest newsletter, the article on the RS-7/RS-8, I am pretty sure that in addition to having a hole in the roof the chimney on the RS-7 is slightly larger. Matthew Harvazinsky 11-682 *(Matthew may be onto something here as I also believe that the length of the part of the chimney that inserts into the roof is slightly longer on the chimney for the roof that has the through hole. Editor)*

... The signal bridge parts are just what I needed, as far as the Littletown parts they will have a good home. I have a soft spot for loose Littletown parts, I have completed a few buildings with "parts box junk". The parts seem to find me. ... I have some nice Plasticville in original boxes, but all my Littletown stuff is all rescued from the junk box. It feels good to save a building and give it a new life. ... Thanks so much for the Parts Bin it has helped me a lot! -Jason Rackawack #12-787.

... Anyway, I accessed the site and read thru this PCA quickly ... I will print out this issue when we get back home. And, I will print out the page with Jay's shared pictures of the Plasticville churches in the original shipping box to show him. I hope this will be OK that I give him the page? ... I liked the Egyptian play mat -- a neat piece. Like the story book re: .....Amelia -- might order that for a dear old friend Amelia -for her to gift one of her granddaughters. Sounds like a nice story. I remember when I first traveled on a (real) train (not meaning the NYC subway I took to work into Manhattan) ----- I traveled from Manhattan to Boca Raton station in Florida when I was 19 -to visit my mom. A wonderful trip. Geraldine Scott #04-321

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## What Members Are Saying, With Pictures

The lady who created the synagogue from a CC-9 church got it about 85% right. The people look good but the church still looks like a church. I don't think any of the existing Plasticville buildings can be kitbashed into a synagogue.



Bachmann/Plasticville should create a synagogue from scratch. I am certain that a lot of people would buy it. Jeffrey Wayne Gardner #09-578. *(I have been in contact with Bachmann's VP of Marketing regarding the issuance of a synagogue or other never before produced O/S buildings. His comment has been that Plasticville is such a small part of the overall sales and profit for Bachmann*



*Industries that they do not feel that a synagogue would generate enough sales to cover even the cost involved in designing and then creating the necessary molds. He further stated that they are presently looking at repurposing existing molds. I would tend to believe that Bachmann may be considering modifying an existing mold in order to create a never before produced building, but I am uncertain.*



*I also performed a Google search for synagogue images and have included three with this response. As one can see from the photos, synagogues come in all shapes. With the marked differences in the three buildings illustrated I can very easily understand why Bachmann may have a difficult time designing a synagogue that would be a good seller. Editor)*

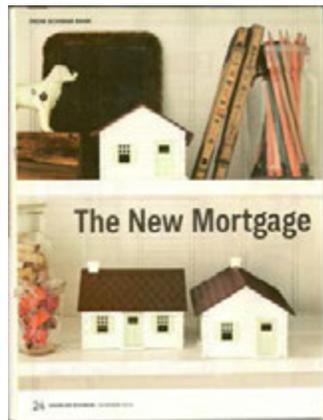
Connecticut Hobbies buildings in York report - I believe these are the buildings Gilbert used for the All Aboard plastic sectional layouts -- there was a ranch, a 2-story and a barn, various colors, that I know of -- have multiples of them -- they



fit the house/barn plots on the layouts -- they were available for a while from Hobby Surplus in CT, the place that had all the surplus Flyer stuff -- my guess would be a local firm contracted by Gilbert -- I have a complete 6-section layout I'm going to include as part of my larger Flyer layout. Chris Matthy #01-73 *(Chris is correct - to a point. Hobby Surplus acquired a very large amount of the buildings except for the roofs. Somehow that company was able to have roofs made, from what I can determine, on the original molds. They then packaged the buildings in a poly bag with a white header on which was printed Connecticut Hobbies. I am unaware as to why they chose to use the name Connecticut Hobbies on these buildings rather than Hobby Surplus. Check out Vol. 4, numbers 1 & 2 of The Villager for an in depth article on the Connecticut Hobbies buildings. Editor)*

They shrunk my Cape Cod? In the latest edition (Summer 2014) of Charles Schwab's *On Investing* they have an article on the New Mortgage Rules. I have scanned two pages of that article and attached them. As you can see in the first scan they have made good use of three of the current Cape Cod houses with white walls, brown roof and cream trim. But in the next scan, they shrunk the Cape Cod! I didn't think the house could get any smaller but what did I know. Reminds me of the mini houses I've seen on the Internet.

Also on a sort of related issue, I know the color of the chimneys on the Cape Cod Houses are supposed to match the walls but on the the boxes of the 1502 and 1630, the walls are peach but the chimney is white. I guess the folks at Bachmann didn't get the word. I'm sure this has been noticed before but I just spotted the other day. Don Huovinen #11-714



# The Parts Bin

## A PCA Membership Benefit

Various parts are available for the buildings listed on this page and are offered free to members on a first come first served basis. The only cost is the packaging and postage to mail the pieces requested. Send an email to secretary@plasticvilleusa.org listing the pieces you wish or send your list to: The Parts Bin, 601 SE Second Street, Ankeny, Iowa 50021-3207. Please be as specific as possible with your request: part color; window color; front, rear, left, or right walls in your request . **There are no complete buildings in the listing below - only parts.**

### Note!

New additions are listed in BOLD - Additional parts added to previous listings are underlined

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CC-9 Church  
1901 Union Station  
GO-3 Large Gas Station  
BK-1 Bank  
1908 Split Level House  
LH-4 2 Story House  
LC-2 Log Cabin  
GO-2 Small Gas Station  
SM-6 Small Super Market  
RS-7 Suburban Station - no signs  
PO-1 Post Office - no flags  
SM-7 Large Super Market  
1615 Water Tank - no spouts  
CC7 & 8 Churches  
1906 Factory  
SW-2 Switch Tower - no signs or smokestacks  
C-18 Cathedral  
PD-3 Police Station  
FB-1 Frosty Bar  
1622 Dairy Barn  
1408 Windmill  
1623 Cattle Pen  
1617 Farm Buildings  
MH-2 New England Rancher  
1407 Watchman's Shanty  
1900 Turnpike Interchange  
1803 Colonial Church  
DH-2 Hardware & Pharmacy  
1620 Loading Platform  
1853 Drug Store  
AP-1 Airport Hangar  
AD-4 Airport Administration Building  
SC-4 School House -no weathervanes or lights  
PH-1 Town Hall  
DE-7 Diner  
1618 TV Station - no globes  
BN-1 Barn  
FH-4 Fire House  
HP-8 Cape Cod  
HS-6 Hospital  
1621 Motel  
SG-2 Signal Bridge  
1629 Bungalow  
1624 House Under Construction  
CS-5 Chain Store

1504 Mobile Home  
BL-2 Bridge & Pond - specify lt, med, dk green  
CF-5 Picket Fence  
1957 Coaling Tower  
WG-2 Crossing Gate  
WG-10 Platform Fence Gate  
1703 Colonial Mansion  
YW-4 Yard Pump  
**RF-1 Rustic Fence**  
**LM-3 Station Platform**  
**Park Bench**  
**Shrubs**  
**BB-9 Billboard**  
**SL-1 Boulevard Light**  
**Miscellaneous doors & windows**

#### \*\*\* HO PLASTICVILLE \*\*\*

HO-59 Ranch House  
HO-74 Super Market  
HO-76 Drug and Hardware store?  
2611 Cattle Pen  
2617 Cape Cod House  
2608 Suburban Station  
2904 Drive-In Bank  
2101 Block Signal,  
HO-73 Signal Bridge  
2904 Toy & Hobby Shop roof  
2700 Coaling Station  
2801 Factory - water tower  
2901 Split Level wall - A/E  
2976 Contemporary House  
2907 New Car Showroom  
Barn  
School House  
Police Station  
Post Office  
Railroad Work Car  
Coaling Tower - E/G wall only  
**Gas Station**  
**Cathedral**  
**Street Signs**  
2673 instruction sheet  
45972 instruction sheet  
**Various doors and windows**  
**\*\*\* SKYLINE \*\*\***  
House

#### \*\*\* LITTLETOWN \*\*\*

101 Super Market  
111 Loading Platform roof  
112 School House  
**113 Church**  
**108 Gas Station**  
110 Ranch House  
**Slide, lounge, pool, umbrella table**  
**\*\*\* MARX \*\*\***

#### Barn

Railroad Station - roof  
**Super Market**  
**Gas Station**  
**Rustic Fence**  
**Church - roof only**

#### \*\*\* STORYTOWN \*\*\*

Jack & Jill base - damaged (last call)

#### \*\*\* MISCELLANEOUS \*\*\*

Post type mailbox w/base kit - HO  
Woman hanging laundry kit - HO  
AHM power poles - HO  
ATLAS HO fence - unassembled  
Frosted Flakes billboard - frame only  
? Street & RR signs - HO  
Tyco 869 Horse Depot w/horses - no car  
Tyco 9088 Operating Crossing Gate  
Tyco railroad signs  
**Lifelike billboards - HO**  
**Guidancetown USA building parts**

#### EMPTY BOXES

2806 HO Suburban Station  
2617 HO Cape Cod  
2803 HO House Under Construction  
FH-1 Firehouse  
SC-4 Schoolhouse  
Build A House - red  
BN-1 Barn - green printing  
2806 Suburban Station  
2807 Gas Station  
2907 - New Car Showroom  
45534 Pink Lady Boutique  
45521 Rural Station  
45526 Joe's Pizza & Video Store  
45522 Bud's Convenience Store

Donations to The Parts Bin are a Win-Win proposition!

Donors receive a tax receipt from the PCA for the parts they donate. Members have the opportunity to acquire needed parts.



## Welcome New Members

The following individuals' names have been added to the Plasticville Collectors Association membership roster as of July 1, 2014. Their names are now permanently listed in the on line roster.

Patricia Olshefski, Wasington, DC  
Timothy P Cox, Novi, MI  
David R Epperson, Signam Mtn, TN  
Roger A Young, Poplar Ridge, NY  
Ronald F Slowik, Ellicott City, MD  
Martin J Molloy, Albuquerque, NM  
Vincent T Ryan, Darien, IL  
Justin C Krause, Muncie, IN  
Dale E Griebel, Sherwood, AR  
Lester "Bruce" Taylor, Newport, WA  
Michael R Egan, Portland, CT  
Jeffrey M Olin, Windsor, NY  
James E Sutherland, Rochester, NY  
Nicholas J Alexandroff, West Mifflin, PA

## 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, 2014.

John P Mead, Detroit, MI  
Ray D Stoudt, Ephrata, PA  
David J D'Ardene, Fernandina Beach, FL  
Allan J Johnson, Maugansville, MD  
Dennis Brennan, Independencem MO  
David I Hoffman, Fairfax, CA  
Willard Draper, DeKalb, IL  
Byron A Heidenreich, Bloomington, IL  
Charles B Young Jr, Franklinville, NJ

## **Pen Tips Removing Glue**

A PCA pen would go out to Any Mouse for their tip below but since Any Mouse is not listed in the membership I am at a loss as to whom to send the pen.

**Has anyone ever tried using household bleach to melt glue. Works on some glues, doesn't seem to harm windows, colors, etc. Try it. Any Mouse**

Pen Tips are short helpful hints or suggestions sent in by members and used as space fillers in the newsletter. Send your Pen Tip to [villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org](mailto:villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org). A PCA pen will be sent to you when your tip is published.

## The PCA Corner Store

### **Items for sale by the PCA**

Send a description of item you wish to purchase and a check or money order, payable to Plasticville Collectors Association for the total amount to Plasticville Collectors Association, 601 SE Second Street, Ankeny, IA 50021-3207.

#### **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 silver barrel with blue soft grip, black ink ballpoint pen with silver accents. The pen is imprinted **Pasticville Collectors Assn, [www.plasticvilleusa.org](http://www.plasticvilleusa.org)** in two lines in blue ink. \$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.

**Only 6 black and 4 blue remaining.**

#### **PCA Ball Caps**

Dark Blue, Velcro-back ball cap with white PCA logo embroidered on the front. \$8.50 plus \$4.50 P&H.

**Only 10 remaining**

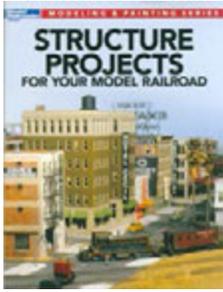
#### **"Welcome to Plasticville" billboard inserts**

Six identical inserts, sized to fit Plasticville billboard frames depicting a 50's vintage auto passing a billboard on its way into town with the same greeting. Printed on white cardstock. \$5.00 postpaid. There is no charge if the PDF file is requested and sent by email.

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

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

## Product Reviews



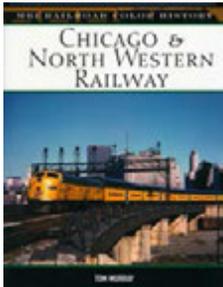
**Structure Projects for Your Model Railroad**, various authors, published by Kalmbach Books' Model Railroader Books division, 88 pages, perfect bound, 8 1/4 X 10 3/4 format, \$19.95; color illustrations throughout.

At last, a review of a book for you who are HO modelers! This book is one of a series published under Kalmbach Book's Model Railroader Books division's Modeling and Painting Series. It contains a total of nineteen different projects with each project as a separate chapter. The projects are presented by various authors. The chapters vary in length from two to nine pages. Most of the chapters are around four to five pages in length.

Surprisingly, the author of two of the chapters is a woman. This is the first time in many years that I have seen articles authored by a woman in any model train publication; at least larger scale train publications.

Do you need a dilapidated barn or abandoned house on your layout? Then check out her chapter on rundown structures. It describes how to make asphalt type roll roofing siding for vertical installation over the gapped board vertical wood siding, how to weather the sheet metal roofing, and overall weathering to make the structure look in very poor repair.

Her other chapter deals with painting, texturing, detailing, and weathering brick and stone. I feel it is one of the best articles I have seen especially, related to weathering stone.



**Chicago & North Western Railway**, Tom Murray, 160 pages, hardbound, 8 1/2 X 11 format, \$36.95. Published by Voyageur Press, part of the MBI Railroad Color History series. Color and black and white photos throughout.

For those of us in the Midwest and especially those in northern Illinois, the Chicago & North Western Railway seemed to be everywhere.

This book begins with the customary acknowledgments and introduction. It also has a short dedication as well various information relevant to the original publication of the book along with paragraphs describing the photos and illustrations on the front cover, frontispiece, title pages, and back cover. The back cover is of interest as it illustrates a 4-6-4 Hudson, one of only nine locomotives delivered to the Chicago & North Western with streamlining.

The book contains a total of eight chapters. Oddly, the eras of the first two chapters overlap as chapter one relates to the genesis of the North Western from 1848-1874 while the second chapter relates to the generation of a regional network from 1870-1893. The remainder of the chapters are related to specific eras except for chapter 6 with has the title "C&NW's Passenger Trains" which has no era associated with it. I understood the overlap of the eras of the first two chapters after reading the book.

All of the chapters are copiously illustrated with archival

The longest chapter is number sixteen. It describes in detail how the author built a model of a prototype two bin concrete grain elevator. Not only does he describe his building process but goes into some detail as to what the functions are of various pieces of the prototype. I can only imagine how many hours the author put into making his extremely highly detailed model.

The last chapter in the book is one of the shortest at two pages. It details how to create a demolished - bulldozed - house. Although there is only one page of text and three photos there is adequate information to give one an idea as to how to create a similar scene on their layout.

Another chapter of interest to me bears the title, Expand a Town With Digital Buildings. It discusses how to take photos of actual buildings in the locale modeled on one's railroad. It then describes how, with digital manipulation using Photoshop or other photo editing software, those photos can be added to a layout as backdrop of structures.

As this book is a Model Railroader Books publication it contains HO projects yet there is a wealth of information in it that applies to all scales. I enjoyed reading the various projects and came away with ideas that I may use in the future.

**Structure Projects for Your Model Railroad** can be purchased from Kalmbach Books through their website at <http://www.kalmbachstore.com>. It is currently listed on their website at \$19.99. Their toll free order number is 800-533-6644. It is listed on Amazon's website for as low as \$13.32 and on Barnes & Noble's website at \$17.99.

photos. All of the photos have a sometimes lengthy paragraph describing the photo as well as an attribution as to the photo owner and in some instances who actually took the photo and for what purpose. I find that if the photo attributions are of a museum that I may then search the Internet to see if the museum has a website and peruse the site.

In addition to the photos there are numerous illustrations of timetables, route maps, and advertisements. Of great interest to me was an advertisement for the Proviso, Illinois switching yard. Between the ad text and the illustration caption I now have a greater understanding as to just how massive this yard was. The ad also notes that the Proviso yard project was a 16 million dollar project and that was in the early 1920's as the yard opened in 1929.

I have always been a fan of the Chicago & North Western Railway and this book helped me to better understand one of the longest lived independent railroads in the country. If you are interested in a well written and very well illustrated history of the Chicago & North Western - not the Chicago and Northwestern as some may believe is the correct name - then this book may be the book for which you have been searching.

**Chicago & North Western Railway** is available from Voyageur press through their website at <http://voyageurpress.com> or <http://qbookshop.com>. You can also order by telephone at 800 458-0454. The book is currently listed on their website at \$27.71. Listed on this book's web page are various online sellers as well as e-book links.



**MyStudio, model MS20, table top photo studio**, by Pro Cyc Inc, \$249.95.

As noted in the name this is a table top photo studio that goes well beyond the usual portable, fold up type studios in a box.

The MS20, when completely assembled, is four pieces. These are the cyclorama background, an overhead light and reflector assembly, and two bounce cards.

The cyclorama is best described as one quarter of an open top box. The legs of the walls are approximately 20 inches long. The height of the walls is nearly 12 inches. The intersection of the two walls is rounded as is the intersection of the walls and the floor. This allows for a photo with none of the usual visual intersections of walls and floor generally seen in most amateur photos. The diagonal distance from one corner to the other is over 26 inches. I will explain why I include this measurement later.

The overhead reflector assembly is slightly over 20 inches wide. It is free standing and contains a 15 watt, 5000K "daylight" fluorescent bulb. It is color corrected to eliminate the yellowish color seen in many photos taken without a flash.

The white bounce cards are 9 inches by 12 inches and come with locking easel backs that must be one-time installed by the person assembling the studio. They are used to bring out the highlights or more effectively shed light on a specific aspect of the photo subject.

Included with the studio is a CD containing setup and assembly instructions, product demos, tips and techniques for taking great photos and a bonus video. The bonus videos include two on how to shoot photos in manual mode and one containing ten steps to becoming a better photographer. I have been taking photos for years but still consider myself an amateur and when I viewed these three videos that was pretty much reinforced my view. They are informative and I recommend

viewing them especially if you don't know f-stop from ISO.

Being a bit old school and assembling many things over the years for myself, the wife, and kids I prefer to have the instructions in my hand when assembling an item. Thankfully the studio also comes with two pages of written instructions, a page of photos to accompany the instructions, and a page of photos showing the fully assembled studio from various angles. Also included is a double sided sheet of printed camera tips.

All that is needed to completely assembly the studio is a flat blade screwdriver and a crescent wrench or 7/16" wrench or nut driver. I assembled the entire studio in less than an hour. My assembly method is to read an instruction step, obtain the listed materials, read the instruction step again, verify that I have the correct materials, then physically complete the step. You may find that you will assemble the entire studio in less time, based on your method.

All in all, this is a great studio for those who wish to create photos that are far and away better than with the small portable fold up studios. It is definitely better than taking photos of an item, especially to place on eBay, on a dining room table, the deck railing, or the family dining room table.

I feel it will work well, not only for small items but also for photographing larger items up to the 11 inch height of the walls.

It should be great for photographing nearly every toy train engine or rolling stock with the over 26 inches of diagonal horizontal distance at your disposal.

Have you ever thought of creating a guide to a specific item or range of items? The cost to have photos taken by a professional photographer can be quite high. You can take your own photos using the MS20 and eliminate that cost from your overall production costs.

A larger size studio, model MS32, is available for those who need something larger than the model MS20. The walls of the MS32 are 32 inches long.

At some point in the future I intend to yake photos of pieces in my collection that are not in the PCA website's photo archive.

This is the best studio that I have found for taking photos that works exceptionally well for one who is not a professional photographer but wants professional results

I will definitely use it when taking photos to put on the PCA website.

**MyStudio, MS20** is available directly from the manufacturer at <http://www.procyc.com>. The list price is \$249.95 but it is currently listed in their on line store with a sale price of \$219.95. Their phone number for orders is 503-723-7448. Their mailing address is Pro Cyc, Inc. 9811 SE Lawnfield Road, Clackamas, OR 97015.

A quick search of Amazon found it listed, new, \$179.95. It is also listed on the [bhphotovideo.com](http://bhphotovideo.com) and [adorama.com](http://adorama.com) websites for \$179.

**Note:** The photo of the studio with this review is from the Pro Cyc website. I did not feel that I had a suitable place to take a photo of it when fully assembled due to its size.

## Are You a Collector of Marx Buildings?

If you are a collector of Marx buildings why not share your knowledge of those buildings with your fellow PCA members. Contact [villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org](mailto:villagereditor@plasticvilleusa.org) for more information on how you can become one of the PCA's Contributing Editors. There is always room for more Contributing Editors.

## 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.

### **Wanted**

Small 1976 and 1979 Plasticville catalogs. Large 1977 Plasticville catalog. Brown marbled water tower spout. White chicken weathervane for 2 Story House, 2 original green farm wagon stakes. Buildings from K-Line train sets. #01-03 John Niehaus, 601 SE Second St, Ankeny, IA 50021 Phone 515 771-6888 after 7:00 PM. Johnln@netins.net (Aug 14)

White chimney for small Littleton house. Desire original, not Plasticville or repro. Cape Cod house with peach walls, brown roof and trim. #13-818 Rich Kotowski, 2836 Hunter St, Angels Camp, CA 95222-9836 rnlkotowski@yahoo.com (Nov 14)

White Plasticville horse. #04-312 Tom Landis, 3401 Davidsburg Rd, Dover PA 17315 tom.landis16@gmail.com (Aug 14)

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 (Nov 14)

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 (Nov 14)

Jack and/or Jill figure for #5012 Story Town Jack & Jill set. Figure/s must be undamaged. #05-378, Charles Nadraus, 175 Neighborhood Rd, Mastic Beach, NY 11951 Phone 631 281-7675 tsquare819@aol.com (Feb 15)

Diving board for #1406 swimming pool, complete TV antenna for #1618 TV Station, Light Blue roof for 3HP-8 Cape Cod. Issue #10 Plastic Village Gazette. #10-663 Larry Madaj, 3621 Forest Dr, Lupton, MI 48635 larrymadaj1941@gmail.com (Feb15)

Oil can rack for large or small Plasticville gas station. #14-847 Jim Falatek, 812 Stonybrook Dr, Norristown, PA 19403 jjfalatek9876@verizon.net (Feb 15)

BK-1 Bank side and front canopies, BN-1 Barn green weathervane, PD-3 Police Station antenna and front lights #10-665 Henry Yesionek, 4009 Bublanc Ct, Murrysville, PA 15668 yesionek2006@comcast.net (Feb 15)

Plasticville and breakfast cereal premium vehicles and any other unique vehicles. #07-481 Nan Cashour, 6500 Schneider Dr, Middletown, MD 21769 Phone 301 371-7258 (Feb 15)

Skyline: house front wall w/2 red windows & flower box, white chimney. Will buy or trade for other Skyline parts for my wants. Kits wanted: K-20 house with red, blue, or green roof/accessories. K-10 house with garage in blue, green, or maroon roof or accessories. Also box for K-10 #07-498 Gary Weickart, 185 Maple St, Islip NY 11751 gweickart@aol.com (Feb 15)

Various parts and boxes. Email me for a list. #12-747 Patricia Mills, 427 Birch Rd, Hellertown, PA 18055-1901 donald.a.mills@verizon.net (Feb 15)

Light gray water spout for 1615 Water Tank. #05-348 Peter Pucak, 4725 Schurr Rd, Clarence, NY 14031 Phone 716 759 - 2988 ppucak@business.buffalo.edu (Feb 15)

Looking for Beemak HO plastic building kits. Do not need to be complete. Also empty Beemak boxes. #01-15 Chris Frey, 243 memorial Blvd, Newmanstown, PA 17073 cfrey57@aol.com (Feb 15)

Complete upper rear wall for 1607 Apartment House; White roof and stools and yellow sign for Frosty Bar; gray doors for orange roof Airport Hangar. #10-647 Al Hery, 229 Suzanne Dr, Shreveport, LA alhery202@yahoo.com (Feb 15)

2 maroon doors for apartment house, stairwell roof hatch (1/2 section), white corn crib base, fire department roof siren, red antenna support (split half to hold antenna), Boxes: HP9 Blue Cape Cod, RH-1 Pink/Grey Ranch, RH-1 Yellow/White. #05-356, Don Rosa, 7670 Sly Park Rd, Placerville, CA 95667 (Feb 15)

Plasticville autos. Aqua and black with or without hood ornament. #11-725 Kevin Szafranski, 14 Metzger Dr, Orchard Park, NY 14127 kds71@netzero.net (Feb 15)

Looking for O/S scale parts with no breaks or glue: Need 1 Gray ladder for 1615 Water Tank. Need 1 White Wheels and Axle for Old Plasticville Automobile. Need 2 Gray Wheel set for modern Plasticville farm Jeep. Need Entire Black Signal Bridge without

box, I have an empty box. #12-787, Jason Rackawack, 503 Race St, Catasaugua, PA 18032-1114 rack776@yahoo.com (Feb 15)

Original, unbroken Littletown parts: any/all of: boulevard lamp; 2 Cape Cod cottage trellis fences; 1 Jewish star , 2 weather vanes, #05-359 Mark Lembersky, mark290638-rail@yahoo.com, FAX 206 935-8973 (May 15)

PV: 2 hospital beds, gray ranch house front wall, few broken tree bases - damaged but useable OK. Littletown: yellow Cape Cod chimney , lt. green ranch house chimney, white side wall w/2 large windows. Amloid: ranch with gray or green roof, any color roof only. Joe Endicott, #01-50, 13 Bradford Pl, Turnersville, NJ 08012. Call 856 534-8919 joe\_endicott@comcast.net (May 15)

Dark Salmon Ranch House back wall. #01-16 Yvonne Flory,

## For Sale

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 14)

HO lot: Post Office - complete, Cape Cod - complete, Hardware-Pharmacy - no inserts, 5&10 - no inserts, Supermarket - no door or inserts. \$10 Andrew Ferone, PO Box 124, Wyckoff, NJ 01481 Phone 732 859-1606 ajtrains@optimum.net (Aug 14)

Empty boxes good condition no damage or missing flaps; 1402-79 switch tower, 1407-79 watchman's shanty, LM 3 freight station, 1624 house under construction, 1620 loading platform ( 3 of them), 1901 union station, 1623 cattle loading pen, 1615-100 water tank(gray top), 1804 greenhouse, 1619 citizens, \$60, UPS or USPS. #08-560 Kevin O'Connor, PO Box 1723, Eastsound, WA 98245 (Aug 14)

Large selection of Plasticville boxed, unboxed, glued and lots of parts. Send me an email with your wants trainmanvb@msn.com. Also will be listing on eBay under Marxieboy so do a search to see my listings and eBay store items. #08-548 Dan Palaschak, 13625 North Emberwood Dr, Sun City, AZ 85351 Phone 757-449-0289, trainmanvb@msn.com (Aug 14)

5607 Interceptor Squadron with box, missing runway. Yellow airport. \$100. 1932 Dairy Barn complete with box, red walls,

## 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 (Nov 14)

Marx Fire House Roof. Have light gray roof . Want red roof. #09-572 W Douglas McHan Jr, 113 New Milford Tpk, New Preston CT, 06777. robbie\_eggs@yahoo.com Put Marx Fire House in the subject if sending an email. (Nov 14)

Small Plasticville parts: bought, sold, TRADED! Numerous

415 E Monroe Ave, Orange CA 92867 floryk@yahoo.com (May 15)

Lil House Wonderful, My Dolly's House, Ideal, Marx, etc.: furniture and other small hard plastic items. #04-321 Geraldine Scott Geraldine@Collector.org (May 15)

Red floor jack for K-Line or Marx Gas Station , Antenna for Plasticville HO Police Station. #10-628 Ken Honick, PO Box 515, Buena-Vista, PA 15018 (May 15)

King's Plasticville Corner Store gray L shaped wall part C and white roof - Plasticville acceptable. King's Mobile Home blue base and cream back with small window (small part). 45971 Rural Two Story House gray chimney. #09-584 Wesley Kidd, 105 Linda Ct, Jeannette PA 15644 Phone 724 744-3668 wrkidd2000@yahoo.com (May 15)

white roof. \$10. Cornerstone ® Route 66 motel built-up with lighted neon sign, office, motel cabin. Never opened. \$85. All buildings plus postage. #04-331 Email rwdise@gmail.com Ronald Dise. (Nov 14)

Plasticville reproduction paper inserts for windows or rooftops, 13 different: 5&10 store, drug store, large & small gas station, suburban station, loading platform, large & small supermarket, corner store men's, post office, motel flowers, hardware/pharmacy. Each building set \$2.95. #14-834 David B Hollingsworth, 2612 Kanawha Ter, St Albans, WV 25177-3218 Phone 304 543-2697 dhollingsworth2701@yahoo.com (Nov 14)

No boxes: Yellow/Gray Diner \$5. Littletown Spruce Trees, UNOPENED box, \$30. NOS School House lights postpaid \$10. NOS School House weathervane postpaid \$7. Near mint Plastic Village Gazette #3, postpaid \$6. Contact me before sending payment for postpaid items. #00-3 John Niehaus, 601 SE Second St, Ankeny, IA 50021 Phone 515 771-6888 10:00 AM-8:00 PM. johnln@netins.net (May 15)

Airport Hangar w/jet planes VG, box item in excellent+ condition \$75 postpaid. White sides, orange roof and grey doors. Jets are in original perfect condition. Limited edition LCCA Municipal airport made in 2005 item No 45986-LCCA (airplanes not included) with an orange roof, blue sides, and orange doors \$33 postpaid #09-580 David Starre, 5105 Herman Ave, Cleveland, OH 44102 Phone 216 631-6100 (May 15)

small parts available; lights, antenna. I need Hospital furniture, Playground, and House Under Construction parts. Let's exchange lists of needed parts! See my display ad in this issue. #07-491 Mike Maslowski, 108 s Lincoln Ave, Wenonah, NJ 08090. mmaslowski@verizon.net (Feb 15)

My Christmas Platform (CU-6 in excellent plus condition for your Christmas CU-7 or CU-9 in near good condition with an undamaged box. My Marx Glendale plastic signboard or my Littletown plastic Station signboard for your Marx Diner signboard. My whole Marx church steeple for your Marx Factory side awning. #02-154 Robert Spivey, PO Box 33484, Decatur, GA 30033. (Feb 15)



**Plasticville**<sup>®</sup>  
USA



**RANCH HOUSE**  
Item No. 45156  
MSRP \$20.00  
(5.5" W x 1.5" H x 2.5" D)

## RANCH HOUSE WITH NEW "DRESSING"

Bachmann's HO scale Ranch House Building Kit is now offered in a new cream and brown paint scheme. It will look right at home in a neighborhood with our classic Split-Level and Contemporary House Building Kits. Visit your favorite hobby dealer to make the Ranch House an appetizing addition to your *Plasticville*<sup>®</sup> U.S.A. collection.

**SHIPPING LATE 2014**



**SPLIT-LEVEL HOUSE**  
Item No. 45213  
MSRP \$26.00  
(6" W x 4" H x 4" D)  
**SHIPPING NOW!**



**CONTEMPORARY HOUSE**  
Item No. 45432  
MSRP \$29.50  
(9" W x 3" H x 4" D)  
**SHIPPING NOW!**



Bachmann Industries, Inc. • 1400 East Erie Avenue • Philadelphia, PA 19124 USA • [www.bachmanntrains.com](http://www.bachmanntrains.com)